

ACROSS THE

Edition 109

OUTBACK

OCTOBER 2025



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Presiding Member update

Greetings,

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Across the Outback* publication, proudly presented to you by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.

The many extra pages in this edition are worth a close read given they include our Achievements Report for the 2024/25 financial year.

Noting the constant nature of our work with community in protecting, managing, sustaining and restoring the natural values across the SA Arid Lands, capturing stories for our stakeholders is only ever a 'moment in time' update. Seeing a full year of progress and achievement is always enlightening and a wonderful way to take stock of our efforts, the impact of investment, and feel a little proud of the outcomes in the region. With community and our many partners, we continue to tackle the natural resource management complexities quite unique to SAAL, and we are grateful for the shared responsibility with land managers, partners and communities in doing this work.

Our region is diverse in landscape and weather, and we still face dry conditions alongside life-giving floodwaters. The recent rainfall in some parts of the region and floodwaters are a reason to celebrate and look forward to some good years. At the same time, we are working with landholders to reduce the impact and pressure of feral animals, unwanted weeds, and native animals that come and go with the ever-changing conditions.

From late November, we will provide an opportunity for input to our revised five-year Strategic Landscape Plan (2026-2031), which you may have already had input into, via your engagement with our programs, events, applications for projects or connection with the district landscape groups and district action planning.

However you are engaging with the work of the board, thank you. I know you will enjoy this edition and the many stories and outcomes within it.

Douglas Lillecrapp



General Manager update

Hello readers,

This 'extra' edition features our recent achievements outlined against the five strategic priorities in the SAAL Board Strategic Plan.

While some in our region are celebrating the rains, floods and improved conditions, others remain in a tense standoff with Mother Nature for more sustained rain. Our teams are ever mindful of this and are ready to work with you.

We continue to work hard to leverage extra funding to take the pressure not only off country, but land manager's hip pockets and time. Many land managers are working closely with our teams to attack pest plants and animals, soil erosion and monitor the health of our region through the presence of healthy native species, water resources and systems.

Our partnerships with industry, the SA Drought Hub, neighbouring landscape boards, PIRSA and DEW are yielding some great outcomes at a landscape scale and are ensuring the priorities across our region are well understood for prioritising future efforts.

The board continues to advocate for attention to the issues that, if not prioritised, will impact us significantly. The board, together with other statutory boards and peak bodies, are amplifying the concerns of the outback community to ensure its issues and challenges are heard and considered at a State and Commonwealth level.

Please enjoy this read and share it with friends. There's plenty to celebrate, much to learn and a clear road map for the year ahead.

Jodie Gregg-Smith

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to country and commit to working with the First Nations People of the SA Arid Lands as we undertake our business on this shared and sacred country.

Cover image:
A Sturt's Desert Pea sits amongst pink everlastings at Mt Sarah Station. Photo by Aaron Smith.

Background Image:
Oodnadatta Track, Isaac Forman, SATC
Artwork: Marika Davies

Snaking the way to regeneration... an aerial image of the Frankenpitter in action

Trial to reintroduce perennial pasture

A revegetation trial in the state's northern-most cropping area is underway near Hawker.

Designed to build plant diversity, soil health and restore landscape function, the project offers an opportunity to trial and showcase rehabilitation methods suited to arid regions of Australia.

The property, owned by Saul Webb and Louise Watson is located east of Jarvis Hill Range and has a creek drainage line running north through the paddocks. It has 1000 breeding sheep.

The six-hectare revegetation plot is located in Ration paddock. Slowly recovering after years of grazing and cropping, the soil is fertile with good structure - predominantly heavy clay and clay loam at the surface. Deep sands to 40cm can be found in the drainage channel.

Saul had wanted to transition some of his cropping paddocks to perennial pasture paddocks – especially in the face of climatic changes to more summer rainfall storms and extreme weather events.

Following fencing to exclude grazing pressure, the area was cultivated with 15cm deep rips to improve rainfall infiltration. They were fortunate to receive 77mm of rain in July and soil testing that happened shortly afterwards recorded moisture infiltration to just 15cm on the hard, scaled surface areas and down as far as 50cm in the adjacent cultivated strips.

A Frankenpitter was used to create furrows and seed with native grasses, chenopods and other shrubs and overstory in August. They included Thorny Saltbush (*Rhagodia spinescens*), Climbing Saltbush (*Einadia nutans*), Curly Windmill grass (*Enteropogon acicularis*) and numerous *Atriplex* species.

Soil samples collected from two pits will be used to monitor changes in carbon and salts due to the revegetation treatments and photo monitoring will be used to assess change.

While an improvement in ground cover is expected from the project, it is also hoped that a perennial seed bank of locally suitable native plant species can be built.

In addition, best practice guidelines for revegetation methods in the SAAL region will be developed, including the costs and methods involved in these projects. The findings will be shared with the wider community as part of a future stickybeak day to be held on the property.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.



Above: North Flinders Community Landscape Officer Claire McKenry and Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator Andrea Tschirner complete soil tests at the start of the project.

Left: Rows of cultivated seed have responded to winter rain.



Levy funds critical to manage the landscape

Collection of the Landscape Levy allows the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board to oversee the management of a landscape that covers more than half of South Australia.

Together with a water levy, it provides critical funds for the board to undertake on-ground works to meet its responsibilities under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. It also provides an opportunity to leverage further significant funding from government and industry.

The combined investment allows for the management of pest plants and animals, precious water resources and support for sustainable industries dependent on natural resources. The board works to preserve the region's natural biodiversity through community participation in the planning and delivery of its regional and district level programs.

You can see the activities funded through the board's combined funding in the past financial year summarised on pages 13-24.

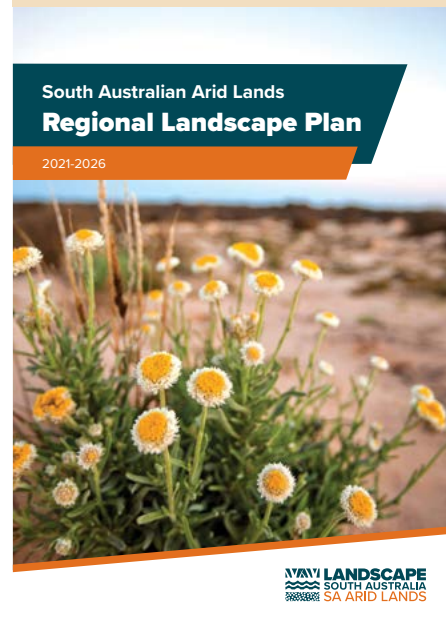
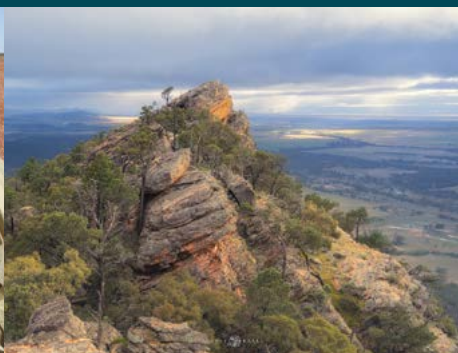
All landowners in the SA Arid Lands region are charged the regional land-based levy. The board collects the levy from landholders located outside a council area and local councils collect the levy from ratepayers on behalf of the board.

Find out more about the landscape and water levies on the board's website: www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/about-us/landscape-and-water-levies.

A review of data that resulted in some landholders receiving a first levy notice last year has continued to be refined, meaning additional levy payers are likely to be identified.

Continual system improvements mean some readers will receive a new or updated notice. These charges will not be backdated.

If you receive an account this year for the first time, and believe your data may be incorrect, please let us know by emailing the board at saallandscapeaccounts@sa.gov.au with your customer number on the invoice and your concerns.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE BOARD'S NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is currently updating its five-year Regional Landscape Plan and is seeking your input.

The plan sets out the board's strategic priorities, focus areas and key outcomes over a five-year period. It provides direction for the delivery of the board's projects, programs and partnerships in the region.

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (LSA Act), the board must review its Regional Landscape Plan once every five years and report on its success in maintaining, protecting, improving or enhancing the state of landscapes at the regional or local level.

It needs to specify five strategic priorities that are based on local priorities and needs, scientific and other expert information and advice, Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and other relevant information, evidence and factors.

In November, the board will release a draft plan based on internal feedback from board staff, members of the board and each of the seven District Landscape Groups.

Community consultation opens on Friday 14 November and feedback can be provided through a survey or by emailing your submission to saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

Submissions will close on Saturday 31 January.

Consultation details are available on the board's website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal



Partnerships central to species recovery

Partnerships and shared learning are central to the success of the board's *Discovery4Recovery* project, which has a range of activities to protect threatened species..

Three of the project's target species: the Desert Greenhood (*Pterostylis xerophila*), Arckaringa Daisy (*Olearia arckaringensis*) and Idnya (*Western Quoll*) have partnerships with First Nations, with on-Country knowledge sharing sessions held and opportunities to join field surveys.

These activities have seen board staff work alongside more than 50 people from nine different organisations in shared learning exercises with environmental benefits.

Threatened flora surveys that focussed on the Desert Greenhood in areas of the Gawler Ranges and the Arckaringa Daisy near Coober Pedy have worked on identification of species and identifying key habitat features.

Alongside the SA Seed Centre, Nature Foundation, National Parks and Wildlife SA, Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation, the hunt for the vulnerable Desert Greenhood uncovered growth that could be one of three species of *Pterostylis*. The group is now waiting for winter rain combined with warmer weather, so they can return to the known location to re-survey the sites and identify which *Pterostylis* species are present.

Board staff partnered with Bush Heritage and the SA Seed Centre to survey for Arckaringa Daisy, an endangered species known to occur on only two properties in the Marla Oodnadatta region.

These surveys involved population counts of previously recorded plants to monitor their survivability, as well as searches for new populations in suitable habitats. Encouragingly, the population count was higher than in previous surveys, suggesting the species is doing well and some new daisy locations were discovered.

Nantawarrina Rangers, staff from Arkaba Conservancy and the National Parks and Wildlife Service SA joined an Idnya trapping on Arkaba Station earlier in the year. The event was designed to monitor the spread and survival of Idnya that are moving outside of the initial reintroduction site on Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

Rangers had opportunities to set traps and collect measurements. The Rangers and Arkaba staff who joined the event were able to name Idnya as part of the exercise, with hopes that newly named Idnya Bruce, Betty and Bonzo may be recaptured in future monitoring events.

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

Arckaringa Daisy





Springs Monitoring

The development of a method for assessing and monitoring the ecological condition and health of Great Artesian Springs was the focus of a recent field trip.

As part of the board's responsibilities under the Regional Landscape Plan and the Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area (the WAP), the board's water and ecology teams visited a number of mound springs to trial methods for ecological assessments of Great Artesian Basin springs.

The work was undertaken in partnership with the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation Rangers, who attended and guided staff to spring sites and participated in scoping a potential monitoring project for longer-term assessment work.

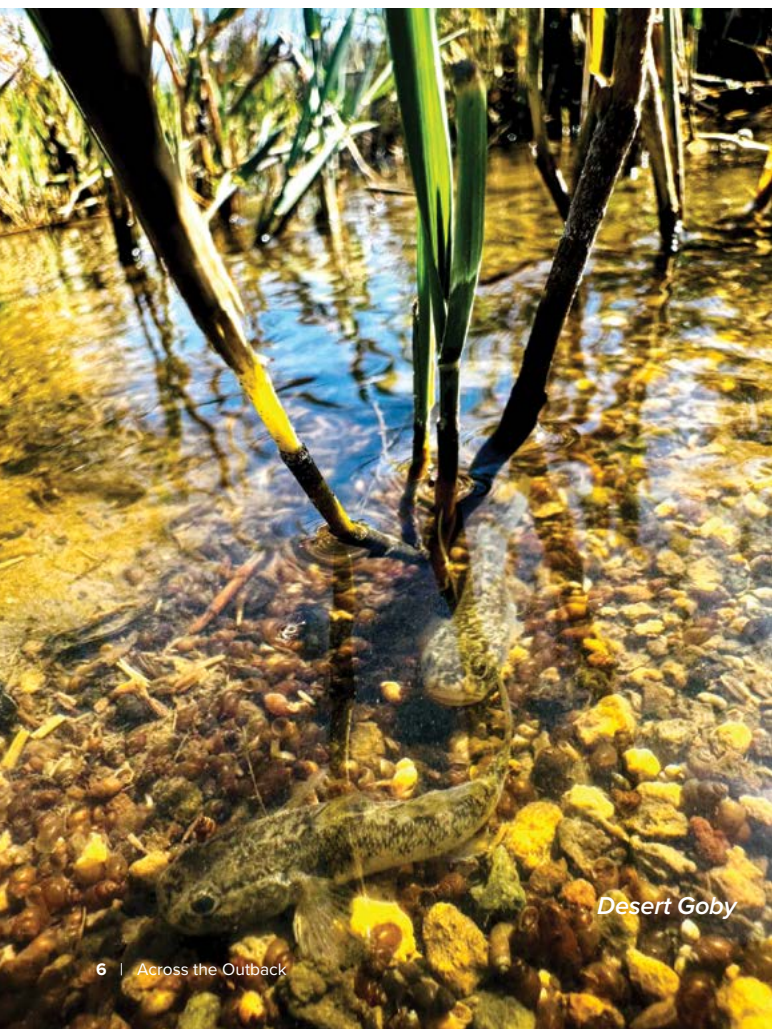
During the week-long trip in August, the teams visited seven different spring groups on Arabana country, including Gosse and Emerald Springs, Strangways, Francis Swamp, Levi and Freeling Springs.

While different methods were trialled, the focus was to collect data on wetland vegetation coverage and health, the presence and absence of endemic spring invertebrates such as isopods and snails; native fish, water quality and threats to the health of the springs.

SAAL staff will now look to refine the methods and ongoing requirements for the project. With more than 5000 individual springs within the SAAL footprint of the Great Artesian Basin, this will not be an easy task.

Part of this refinement will identify which springs are suitable for longer-term monitoring, particularly for spring flows and wetland areas, which will contribute to understanding if the implementation of actions in the WAP have been effective in protecting springs from water extraction.

The Springs Monitoring Project is proudly supported by BHP and is delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.



Desert Goby



Endemic GAB Springs Isopods at Emerald Springs



Prickly Acacia

LIFE GIVING FLOODS BRING UNWELCOME PESTS

The slow spread of Outback floodwater from torrential rains in Western Queensland earlier this year, has revived native pastures across the Channel Country.

It has also introduced heightened biosecurity risks.

As flood waters begin to recede in some areas of the Marree-Innaminka district, the conditions continue to be favourable for the breeding and range of feral animals including pigs, camels, donkeys and wild horses.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to report sightings and impacts to the board or to feralscan.org.au to guide planning for an expanded aerial control operation, due to be undertaken in the coming months as part of the board's *Wetland Wonders* project.

Landholders will be contacted to discuss how they can receive aerial support and partner to expand the range of the aerial pest control operations.

Through [feralscan](http://feralscan.org.au), landholders can record sightings, location data, damage caused by pest species and control efforts undertaken. All reports through this channel will help to increase landscape-scale knowledge of the pest impacts post flooding.

In addition to pest animals, there is a heightened risk of spread for declared weed species such as Buffel Grass, Noogoora Burr and potentially Prickly Acacia.

The spread of Prickly Acacia (*Vachellia nilotica* subsp. *Indica*), a weed of national significance (WONS), is of particular concern. Not currently known to be widespread in South Australia, once established it can spread quickly and will then degrade native grasslands and pasture species.

If this species is sighted, landholders should notify the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, who can provide advice for its removal and destruction.

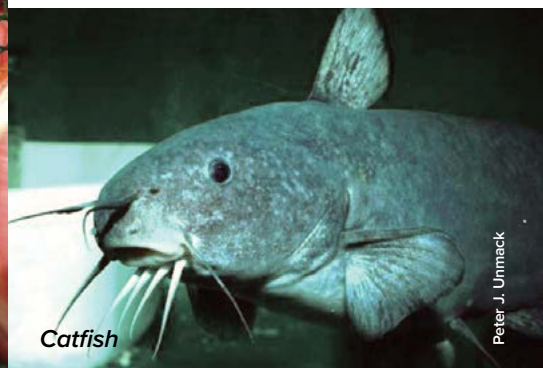


feralscan.org.au

Wetland Wonders is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



Gambusia



Catfish

Peter J. Unmack

Flooding a risk to fish diversity

Current flooding in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar wetland could impact the fish diversity and increase the risk of invasive pests.

Through the Wetland Wonders project, the board is monitoring native fish diversity and abundance in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar region to ensure levels are maintained within the Ramsar criteria. This included monitoring for any declines in native fish diversity and identifying any threats to native fish.

The latest fish survey at the wetland was undertaken by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) late in 2024. The next survey will be in 2026.

The survey recorded 2067 fish at eight sites. They included 10 native species and invasive species gambusia and goldfish. While the observed species diversity was within the expected range, the abundance of native species was lower in comparison to past surveys.

The Cooper Creek catfish (*Neosiluroides cooperensis*) was not recorded during the survey. An endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, it is only found in the Cooper Creek system. It was last recorded in surveys in 2022.

Turtle numbers did increase however. Recorded in low numbers in the previous two years, the 2024 numbers saw a threefold increase, with 20 recorded at each site in the most recent survey.

Sleepy Cod was not detected at any site and has not been detected in the system since 2021. Gambusia and goldfish maintained their previous distributions in relatively low abundance.

A tropical fish native to northern Australia, Sleepy Cod were introduced to Coongie Lakes and are now considered a pest. They prey on region's native fish and are the biggest threat to the Cooper Creek catfish.

Gambusia, also known as Mosquito fish, was introduced to Australia from Northern America to control mosquitoes. It outcompetes native fish for resources and preys on eggs or small fish.

A risk of the current flooding event is the further spread of Gambusia or a return of Sleepy cod to pools or areas where they are not currently established.

It may also increase the spread of pest weeds such as Buffel Grass and Mimosa Bush, which can pose a risk to native fish by changing the natural landscape and competing with native plant species.

Controlling weeds and pest animals protects the unique and important ecosystems and species the RAMSAR region supports.

Rangers caring for Country

Indigenous Rangers caring for Country undertake important cultural and environmental work. To celebrate their efforts, Ranger teams from across the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) region gathered on Finnis Springs to share their successes and learn from each other.

The third SAAL Indigenous Ranger Gathering held was the largest yet, with Arabana Elders, Rangers and community welcoming ranger teams from across the region to Finnis Springs Station.

The Indigenous Ranger Gathering was held on Arabana Country.

Ranger teams from Arabana, Kokatha, Nantawarrina, Kanku-Breakaways, Mt Willoughby, Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation and Far West Coast were welcomed to Arabana Country by Elders Joey Hull and Betty Larkins.

Throughout the three-day event, rangers shared knowledge with established teams and supported new teams and new rangers. The gathering provided an opportunity for networking, sharing of ideas, informal training, and building pride and recognition in the collective work of rangers.

Ranger groups shared aspirations of teaching youth and reconnecting people to Country. Learning from the broader community was shared, alongside learning about Finnis Springs and Arabana Country.

The first day's activity was held in the School House that housed Arabana learning from the 1930s onwards.

Groups shared stories of recent on-Country projects before they learned about camera trapping under the guidance of Arid Recovery's Caitlin and Lauren, who shared how to set up cameras to answer land management and ecological questions.

Arid Recovery Land Management officer Nathan explained best practice protocol for cage trapping to maximise the success of feral cat trapping events. This protocol was tested in an overnight cat trapping event.

A session on story telling using cameras and media was delivered by staff from the Indigenous Desert Alliance before a Ranger-to-Ranger session for sharing ideas and networking.

Rangers joined a tag-a-long tour across Arabana Country the following day, visiting Kati-Thanda Lake Eyre and The Bubbler at Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park which is the site of an Arabana Dreaming story. They also visited paleobotany fossil beds and other mound springs.

The gathering closed with a quiz night focussed on Arabana Country, plant identification, venomous creatures and scats and tracks.

Held annually since 2023, the ranger gatherings provide opportunities to build relationships and offer younger people a chance to see what a ranger role encompasses.

Hosted by Arabana Rangers at Finnis Springs, the event was jointly delivered by the [Indigenous Desert Alliance \(IDA\)](#), the [SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](#) and Arabana Aboriginal Corporation, with funding support from BHP.

Female rangers play an important role in caring for Country. Pictured at the gathering were, from left, Dorothy McKenzie, Isabelle McKerlie, Claire McKenry, Laura Mitchell, Alice Allington, Dallas Kennedy, Jenny Warren, Shontelle Lennon, Keisha Lennon, Tori Love, Cherie Gerlach, Kaye Swain, Chevahn Hoad, Ashlyn Wanganeen, Estelle Miller, Leonie Warren and Janet Walton.





A



B



C

A Kanku Breakaways and Mt Willoughby Rangers, from left, Chevahn Hoad, Shontelle Lennon, Kaye Swain, Dallas Kennedy, AJ (Grant) Burns, Jonathon Fatt-Clifton, front, Janet Walton and Keisha Lennon.

B Indigenous Desert Alliance's Luke Sweet, Shontelle Lennon and Laura Mitchell.

C Arid Recovery staff Nathan Manders, Caitlin Rutherford and Lauren Young presented on land management topics.

D Rangers looked at rock holes during the tour on day two.

E Far West Coast Rangers, from left, Tory Ware, Ronald Freeman (back), Charlie Coleman, Alex Fraser, Estelle Miller, Greg Crammond and Ashlyn Wanganeen.

F Kokatha Rangers with BHP staff, from left, Rosie Maughan Zak Johnson-Thomas, Graham O'Toole, Shaqkodan Warreen, Locky Kay and Courtney Proctor.

G Arabana Rangers hosted the Gathering at Finnis Springs Station. Pictured were, from left, Phillip Stuart, Stanley Wingfield, Zaheer McKenzie, Hayden Stuart, Rodney Dodd, Tristan Stuart and Joey Hull.

H Nantawarrina Rangers, from left, Viv Sansbury, Cameron Johnson, Bruce Wilton, Arabana Elder Rodney Dodd, Ian Johnson, Damien Coulthard and Arabana Elder Joey Hull.

Images thanks to Luke Sweet from Indigenous Desert Alliance and Tori Love.



D



E



F



G



H

LANDSCAPE GROUP NEWS

KINGOONYA

There's been plenty happening in the Kingoonya district, keeping Landscape Group members and the community busy.

A number of landholders learnt the fundamentals of landscape rehydration at a workshop in Kingoonya in May. Participants at that workshop are collectively responsible for managing an area of 28,566km².

The International Rangelands Congress pre-conference bus tour spent an evening at Arid Recovery learning about the region's Arid ecosystems and the critical work Arid Recovery staff are doing for threatened species. Passengers were also lucky enough to see a Western quoll.

Andamooka residents were fortunate to have snake expert Julian Craig visit with his 'Things that Bite N Sting' presentation. Julian provided a community workshop session before delivering two sessions for students at the town's primary school.

This year's SAAL regional board meeting was held in the district in June. Community members

and local land holders had an opportunity to meet with board members over a barbecue held at the Andamooka Hall. During their visit to the region, board members learnt about projects happening on properties managed by Kokatha Pastoral and visited Arid Recovery.

The group has welcomed two new members Sarah Simmons and Eva Kozberski. Sarah joins the group with extensive pastoral and land management knowledge working across the Kingoonya district, while Eva joins as an Environmental Technician at Prominent Hill, adding to the group's ecology and land management expertise.

They attended the joint meeting with the Marla Oodnadatta Landscape Group in Coober Pedy late in August which included an opportunity to review of the board's Regional Landscape Plan.

Tori Love; 0408 807 498
Victoria.love@sa.gov.au

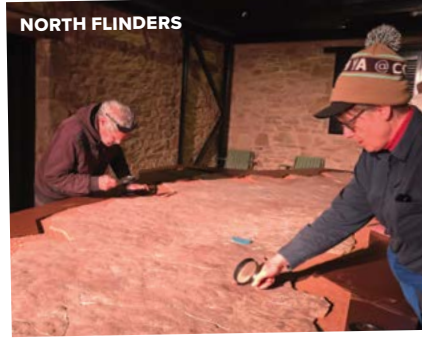
PHOTO: Passengers on the International Rangelands Congress pre-conference bus tour learned about arid ecosystems and the work Arid Recovery is doing for threatened species.



PORT AUGUSTA-QUORN



KINGOONYA



NORTH FLINDERS



GAWLER RANGES

PORT AUGUSTA/QUORN

The Port Augusta-Quorn group welcomed new member Garret Miller at its meeting in Quorn on Friday 1 August.

A Stirling North resident, Garret works in the exploration industry and has a great passion for community involvement in environmental projects.

During the meeting, members reviewed and gave feedback to the board's Regional Landscape Plan, which will help in the development of the new strategic plan to guide the board's work for the five years from 2027.

Members also worked through the group's actions for 2025-26, which will see it support community groups and landholders as part of its District Action Plan.

Four schools and kindergartens received funding as part of the group's Growing Native Gardens initiative and as the weather warms up, you should start to see new growth at Port Augusta West Primary School, the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise, Flinders Children Centre and Quorn Area School. The group is hoping to run the program again in 2025/26. Keep an eye on the Quorn Mercury and the board's website and socials for more information.

Brett Devitt; 0409 753 495
Brett.devitt@sa.gov.au

PHOTO: The SAAL Landscape Board returned to this year's Quorn Show.

NORTH FLINDERS

Feedback from North Flinders Landscape Group members about tourism impacts at the June meeting in Hawker will result in water availability and the use of drones being added to the Top 10 Travel Tips promotion.

Members also received an update on the Flinders Ranges World Heritage bid.

Tourism impacts are one of the group priorities and these impacts were also discussed with members of the Marree-Innaminka Group in their combined meeting in August. The meeting also included an update on the Kangaroo Partnership Program and ecology programs and discussion about the board's five-year Regional Landscape Plan.

North Flinders group members are discussing ways to improve community awareness of threatened plants and animals and how citizen science could help with the district's ecology projects.

Pest animals are also discussed regularly, and the group has purchased RHDV K5 for distribution to landholders in response to increased rabbit numbers. Please contact Claire to access the virus.

The group's next meeting will be held in Copley on 13 November.

Claire McKenry; 0439 051 085
Claire.mckenry@sa.gov.au

PHOTO: Members of the North Flinders Landscape Group joined with members from the Marree-Innaminka Group for a combined meeting in August.

GAWLER RANGES

The Gawler Ranges Landscape Group met at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden on Friday 15 August.

The meeting was an introduction to new members Wendy Wallagde and Victoria McCarron, with Puck Van De Kant also a new group member.

The meeting provided an opportunity for group members to review and provide feedback on the board's Regional Landscape Plan.

Members also reviewed group project initiatives, including the provision of feral cat traps to landholders and Growing Native Cover program for pastoral landholders. Applications remain open for both initiatives.

Following the departure of long-term Gawler Ranges Community Landscape Officer Chris Fulton, Nick McInerney has been appointed to the role.

Nick has a Diploma of Regenerative Agriculture and has spent the past five years learning about sustainable land management and food systems. He has worked in education and on broadacre and small-scale

farms in the Mid North and is passionate about community development.

Six volunteers from the 4WD Association returned to the region in September to undertake a pepper tree cull along Depot Creek. This infestation needs ongoing control that has been supported by a previous Grassroots Grant and by volunteers.

The group's next meeting will be held on Friday 5 December at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Anyone interested in getting involved in land management and community development in the Gawler Ranges, or those wanting to learn more about the role of the Gawler Ranges District Landscape Group, is welcome to attend.

Nick McInerney: 0477 307 038
Nicholas.mcinerney@sa.gov.au

PHOTO: New Gawler Ranges Community Landscape Officer Nick McInerney is getting out into the region, including a visit to Mt Ive.

MARLA-ODNADATTA

Marla-Oodnadatta Landscape Group members joined local pastoralists for a Central Australian Pastoral Networking Dinner held in Marla. The dinner was a chance to share knowledge between pastoralists and researchers from Northern Territory and internationally, and featured presentations from central Australian producers and extension staff.

Community Landscape Officer Tori Love supported the International Rangelands Pre-Conference tour that welcomed 19 International delegates to the district. Highlights of the visit included a networking dinner at Marla, a visit to Gorries Bore on Wintinna, Pootnoura Channel stop with William Lennon from Mt Willoughby, a guided tour of Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park with Park Rangers Jonathan, Josh, Keesha and Chevahn and a visit to Mt Barry.

Tori also visited the Neales River catchment on The Peake with landscape ecologist Richard Marver to check on erosion mitigation works.

With Kati-Thanda Lake Eyre drawing crowds to the Oodnadatta Track, copies of the revised String of Springs publications have been delivered to Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy, Coward Springs, Marree and Roxby Downs.

Group members received a Sustainable Agriculture update at the May meeting, while a joint meeting with Kingoonya Group members was held in Coober Pedy in August. At the later meeting, members reviewed the Regional Landscape Plan and learned about some of the region's unique insects during a presentation from entomologist Kris Messenger.

Tori Love: 0408 807 498
Victoria.love@sa.gov.au

PHOTO: Members of the Marla-Oodnadatta and Kingoonya groups met for a joint meeting in August.



MARREE-INNAMINCKA

Members of the Marree-Innamincka Landscape Group met at Wilpena Pound in August in a joint meeting with members of the North Flinders group.

With both groups listing tourism impacts as a priority area, the joint meeting provided an opportunity to discuss strategies to manage the impacts from increasing tourism numbers.

Members from the northern parts of the district have been unable to attend meetings in person due to ongoing flooding.

Planning is underway for a Plant ID and Nutrition Value roadshow through the district in 2026 with Longreach-based pasture health consultant Jenny Milson, who is currently working with flooded pastoral businesses in the channel country.

Also being developed is a resin sample of buffel grass and similar-looking native species for loan to communities, contractors and friends groups to help them accurately differentiate between the species when conducting monitoring or control activities.

The group's next meeting will be held online on 5 December.

Alice Allington: 0436 403 682
Alice.allington@sa.gov.au

PHOTO: Marree Innamincka group members joined North Flinders Landscape Group for a meeting and tour of the Nilpena-Ediacara National Park.

NORTH EAST PASTORAL

Members of the North East Pastoral Landscape Group met in Yunta in August, to provide feedback on the review of the board's five-year strategic plan.

During the meeting they also reviewed the actions in the NEP District Action Plan to decide on workshops to deliver in the next year. As a result, planning is underway for a district weeds workshop that will be held in Olary. Local residents can also look forward to workshops on feral animal control and grant writing.

The National Tree Day event at Olary had good community support. While the community cricket event was cancelled due to wet weather, 22 volunteers planted 37 new trees and shrubs to beautify the public toilet amenities.

Board staff are working with landholders dealing with the impacts of feral pigs, with numbers on the rise in the district. Learn the signs and impacts by searching feral pigs on our website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/SAAL and report sightings on FeralScan at www.feralscan.org.au

If you are interested in the work of the group, regular updates are provided in the North East News, while the group's next meeting will be held at the Olary Hotel on Friday 11 November.

Ryan Hayward: 0459 762 603
Ryan.hayward@sa.gov.au

PHOTO: Local volunteers planted trees and shrubs as part of a National Tree Day event in Olary

Funds for well repairs

The latest Australian Government program designed to conserve Great Artesian Basin water is already helping bore owners maintain delivery infrastructure and reduce water wastage.

The Great Artesian Basin Water Security Program (GABWSP) will provide up to \$5m over four years in South Australia, with the funding allocation divided over each year of the program.

Well owners in the Great Artesian Basin are encouraged to lodge an expression of interest as soon as possible to take part in the program, which will end in June 2028. Grants can be used to rehabilitate, plug, pipe or replace old uncontrolled or leaking bores and surface infrastructure, covering up to 50 per cent of total eligible project costs.

SAAL Senior Water Resource Officer Aaron Smith said eligible projects must be planned and spread over the life of the program. It follows the IGABDR program for which there was a rush of projects in the final year, which can place bore owners at risk of missing out and the potential for funds to be left unspent.

The board's water staff can assist landholders to submit a grant application. An online EOI form can be found on the SAAL website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/SAAL under the water tab, or by using the search function with gabwsp. You can contact Aaron Smith for further information or support on 0417 643 956.



Repaired bore cap Camel Bore

CLEARER GUIDELINES FOR WATER AFFECTING ACTIVITIES

An updated board policy will provide clarity around which Water Affecting Activities require a permit providing clearer guidelines for land managers and making proposal assessments easier to review.

The Water Affecting Activities Control Policy outlines the management of surface water and the non-prescribed groundwater

in the SAAL region. It aims to ensure activities do not have detrimental harm to the environment, cultural heritage and other users.

Initial drafts of the policy are now complete, and these will be reviewed by the Department for Environment and Water and other

landscape boards before being released for community consultation and feedback early in 2026.





Achievements Report

2024-2025

Leading the way to biodiverse and productive landscapes in a changing climate

Each year the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board delivers projects and programs across its five key priority areas and we are pleased to feature a snapshot of its key achievements for 2024-25.

The South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board works across Outback SA and partners with community, industry, traditional owners and government agencies to ensure a sustainable approach is taken to manage, protect and restore soils, water, and native plants and animals.

The board works to ensure there is a balance between the needs of regional communities and the sustainable management of the environment.

It also operates as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection and animal and plant control activities.

The board's work is funded through a collection of a land-based Landscape Levy and a water levy, which allows the board to leverage state and federal government funding.

The board has five strategic priorities:



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION



WATER MANAGEMENT



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

The SA Arid Lands region

525,000 km² or
52,500,000 ha



26,000
people live here

Average

annual rainfall
100-250 mm



Traditional Owner Groups

Adnyamathanha, Antakirinja
Matu-Yankunytjatjara, Arabana,
Barngarla, Dieri, Eringa, Gawler
Ranges, Irrwanyere, Kokatha,
Kuyani, Malyankapa, Ngadjuri,
Nukunu, Tjajiwara Unmurru,
Wangkangurru/ Yarluyandi,
Walka Wani, Wilyakali,
Yandruwandha/Yawarrawarrka



Main industries

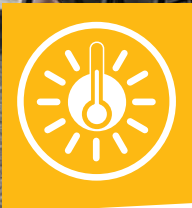
Mining,
Pastoralism,
Renewable energy,
Tourism



Major centres

Port Augusta, Quorn, Hawker,
Woomera, Roxby Downs,
Andamooka, Coober Pedy,
Marree, Leigh Creek





Quorn's Carbon in the Rangelands workshop

Climate resilient region

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

Carbon and emissions better understood following workshops

The understanding of carbon and its role in emissions reduction has increased with the delivery of a number of workshops and presentations across the region.

More than 90 people have attended and gained a clearer understanding of emissions reduction and carbon farming, having attended one of seven carbon workshops across the SAAL region.

The board's Carbon Outreach Officer is supporting land managers and primary producers to make decisions to reduce emissions and provide access to clear and consistent information on carbon farming and low-emissions technologies and practices in relation to the rangelands environment.

Delivered as 'Carbon 101 – Carbon in the Pastoral Zone' and 'Carbon in the Market Supply Chain', the workshops were held in Port Augusta, Bindarra, Quorn, Cradock, Kingoonya and Olary.

A further five workshops will be held before April 2026 in the region.

SAAL's Carbon Outreach Officer Jade Leyden said carbon farming had become an increasingly confusing and ambiguous term for Australian producers, particularly in a rangelands context.

She said the locally-run workshops were helping to clear the air about carbon credits, tax and market access and identify practical first steps for pastoral businesses.

"Knowing your carbon account is the low-cost, low-input way to be business-ready for a low-emissions market," she said.

"Carbon accounting tracks what goes in, what's emitted, and what leaves in your product. Completing a carbon account is free and leaves businesses with total net emissions and emissions intensity, which is needed for comparison and benchmarking between businesses."



A landscape rehydration workshop delivered in Kingoonya with the Mulloon Institute



The Pastoral Field Day in March drew more than 600 landholders from across the region



North Flinders landholders heard from Mexican rancher Alejandro Carrillo at a Regenerative Grazing workshop at Cradock



Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation and Kokatha Pastoral were supported to develop an Ecologically Sustainable Rangelands Management (ESRM) Plan



1 Ecologically Sustainable Rangelands Management (ESRM) plan developed with Kokatha Pastoral and Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation

5 training/capacity building/ awareness raising events hosted with 691 total participants

1 revegetation on-ground trial/demonstration delivered

30 soil tests completed



6 Carbon Outreach workshops delivered with 91 total participants





Water management

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

Valuable insights from water trials

Five trials underway in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area to investigate water usage are providing valuable insights in the water use of stock and other animals, alongside metering technology, vegetation profiles, and seasonal influences.

Being trialled until the end of summer 2026, the information will be used to develop a Water Accounting Implementation Plan by the Department for Environment and Water.

The trials are being undertaken on two cattle properties in the Marla-Oodnadatta district and one in the Marree-Innaminka district, as well as two sheep trials in the Kingoonya and Marree-Innaminka districts.

Since trials began in November 2023, seasonal conditions have demonstrated the challenges of managing water on pastoral properties.

The trials consider all water removed from the trough, including non-stock species and evaporation. On cattle properties the average water usage ranges between 20-litres per head per day (L/h/d) in winter, and 60L/h/d in summer. The two independent sheep trials monitoring the use of merino and dorper sheep have shown that on average, water usage is 5L/h/d in the cooler months and up to 12L/h/d in summer.

Camera monitoring technology installed at the water points have shown that water taken at the sheep trial sites is also influenced by a high-take from other species, mostly kangaroos, which are presently in high numbers south of the dog fence.

The benefit of the trial is that participants and SAAL staff can understand the total water usage from a trough, which is influenced by both stock and non-livestock species and other losses.

Site visits undertaken as part of the trial have also enabled SAAL staff to work with landholders on trough water sampling, paddock vegetation assessments and to gather additional data that will feed into the overall results.

Ongoing updates are presented to the board's Water Accounting Advisory Committee, who will view the results and feedback and discuss potential opportunities. The committee has provided ongoing guidance and advice throughout the trial.

The Department for Environment and Water will use the results to develop a Water Accounting Implementation Plan which will specify the allowed options for water accounting in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area in line with the [South Australian Licenced Water Use Metering Policy](#).

Blanche Cup

Monitoring of GAB Springs has been undertaken in partnership with traditional owners, land managers and the Friends of Mound Springs



Desert Goby



The Bubbler

9 land managers directly engaged in water management initiatives

2 water accounting trials initiated during FY25 making **5** total projects underway

2 Water Affecting Activities (WAAs) applications granted, **16** permit enquiries addressed and **1** site visit



52 WAA Best Practice Operation Procedure (BPOP) risk assessments

2 compliance visits

1 mine/proposed mine sites visited

15ML/year of water savings from water projects



2 infrastructure projects and **4** non-infrastructure projects completed

1 watercourse erosion management project completed

1 large feral herbivore survey completed





SAAL staff supported tours that travelled through the region to the International Rangelands Congress



Landholders were supported to know their soil through workshops across the region

Sustainable land management

Preparing the landscape for hydration

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

Landholders from the Kingoonya, North Flinders and North East Pastoral districts gained more confidence in principles of landscape rehydration following workshops held at Kingoonya and Mt Victor Station in May.

The workshops were delivered by the Mulloon Institute.

The first, held at Kingoonya, offered a day of learning about soil hydrology and landscape processes impacting native pastures and land condition. Land managers from 11 pastoral properties who collectively manage 28,566km², learned about track maintenance and repair, planning fencelines, track improvements and understanding the impact livestock behaviour has on soil health.

The workshop included a mix of paddock site visits and classroom exercises and was offered after members of the Kingoonya District Group identified soil conservation and landscape rehydration as priority learning areas.

The second workshop, held at Mt Victor Station in the North East Pastoral district, was offered as an advanced bootcamp. It provided follow up to a workshop held at Boolcoomatta in 2024 and was delivered in an area with active and historical erosion challenges.

The bootcamp gave land managers a sound understanding of landscape rehydration principles and an opportunity to further their understanding of ways to improve water retention, reduce erosion and plan rehabilitation activities to effectively improve the small water cycle with increased vegetation and healthier soil outcomes.

The mixture of hands-on activities, sharing of experience and discussion kept attendees engaged. It was attended by 16 people, representing eight pastoral properties and the mining and conservation sectors.

The workshops were supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate Smart Agriculture Program and the South Australian Government's Landscape Priorities Fund.



North East Pastoral landholders discussed landscape rehydration concepts during a workshop at Mt Victor



Western Grey Kangaroos at Dutchmans Stern



Landholders have been supported to manage increasing feral pig numbers



73 ground baiting injection services delivered across **7** districts

94,650 wild dog baits distributed

120 participating properties for ground baiting

2 Rangelands Goat Management Working Group Meetings held

7,733 feral goats controlled (including **3,696** undersized goats). In total, this has saved **6,186.4kg** of dry matter a day per animal

100 feral goat meat trialled as baits for control of foxes and wild dogs

300 fox baits provided for **3** properties

60 kg of pig baits provided to **1** property

84 volunteers supported contributed **3,782** volunteer hours for weed control and natural resource management

4 Kangaroo Partnership Steering Committee meetings held

6 EOI grants awarded worth \$130,628.26 to develop projects to sustainably manage kangaroos

19 properties supported to adopt Sustainable Agriculture practices

78 participants on the International Rangelands Congress bus tour

1 Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) project assessed

3 soil extension workshops hosted and **2** soil demonstration sites supported



Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced

Partnering to protect the Idnya on Kokatha Country

Knowledge sharing is key to the protection and monitoring of the Idnya (Western quoll) as part of the board's *Discovery4Recovery* project.

Monitoring Idnya populations expanding from known reintroduction sites is just one facet of the project, but one that is driven by partnerships and collaborative delivery.

One of those key partnerships involved a monitoring location outside the Arid Recovery fenced reserve north of the Olympic Dam mine site within Kokatha Country.

The 12,300-hectare reserve is home to Australia's largest predator-proof fenced area, designed to exclude feral cats, foxes, and rabbits. Arid Recovery successfully reintroduced 12 western quolls in 2018, and they are now thriving and have been observed escaping the predator-proof fence into the surrounding landscape beyond the reserve.

Arid Recovery currently conducts feral animal control targeting feral cats in a buffer zone up to 5km from the reserve with trapping, shooting, baiting and use of Felixers.

SAAL has partnered with Arid Recovery and Kokatha Pastoral to monitor the activity of quolls, as well as other threatened species like plains mice (*Pseudomys australis*) and introduced species such as feral cats. This monitoring extends beyond the Arid

Recovery reserve, covering the broader area of Kokatha Pastoral's Roxby Downs and Andamooka stations.

Ecologists from SAAL and Arid Recovery delivered a two-day on-ground workshop with Kokatha Pastoral staff to set up monitoring cameras, as well as camera servicing and data analysis. Data will be useful for understanding the activity and survival of these threatened species outside the predator proof fence, particularly their interactions with cats and foxes.

To support ongoing learning, Arid Recovery ecologists developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document, which was distributed to attendees. Fifty cameras were deployed during the workshop on both sides of the Arid Recovery fence.

A follow-up workshop will further train Kokatha staff in camera maintenance – such as checking devices and replacing SD cards – as well as in downloading, analysing, and recording data from the captured images.

Through the project, board staff and Arid Recovery will continue to provide support to Kokatha Pastoral staff as they gain skills to independently monitor these threatened species.

Discovery4Recovery is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

SAAL has partnered with Arid Recovery and Kokatha Pastoral to monitor the activity of Idnya and plains mice outside the Olympic Dam reserve





Kowari was the focus of a fauna survey in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar site



Quoll trapping was undertaken on Arkaba Station in April



Searching for Desert Greenhood orchids in the Gawler Ranges



Dean Hooper and Declan Morris deploying a song meter on Gum Glen in the search for the Plains-wanderer



Dieri elder Frank Warren and Dieri Aboriginal Corporation CEO Kirsty Dadleeh joined the board's Senior Water Resource Officer Aaron Smith to present to the International Rangelands Congress on a co-designed springs fencing project

844,636 hectares of aerial control programs targeting feral pigs and large feral herbivores in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar site

3 Fauna surveys in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar site targeting Kowari and native fish

1 feral pig pest animal survey in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar site

38 participants involved in stakeholder engagement including educational activities

271,875 hectares of aerial control programs targeting foxes

1 fauna survey targeting Idnya (Western Quolls)

1 flora survey targeting Arckaringa Daisies

1 camera survey of pest animal activity

2 Citizen Science projects for Idnya and Plains-wanderer launched

15 Fauna surveys targeting Plains-wanderer

6 Stakeholder engagements hosted for Plains-wanderer survey and information sharing

85 song meters deployed to detect Plains-wanderer and **1** dataset analysed

2 feral cat management events supported at Innamincka and Iron Knob



Ladies from across the region came together for an Outback Ladies Muster in Hawker



People and partnerships

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes

District groups connect communities with the board

District-based landscape groups play an important role in connecting communities with the work of the SAAL Landscape Board. Members of the board's seven groups play a key role in supporting the sustainable management of their district's natural resources. They work within their local communities to ensure implementation of the board's five-year plan and increase community awareness of board programs. Each group has up to seven members who are appointed by the board.

Recently, landscape group members have provided local level input to the regional landscape planning and delivery process.

While the main focus of landscape groups is program delivery, groups also have an important role in local level policy development that can be considered in a regional context by the board.

Members provide local knowledge, based on community views and perspectives, on issues related to the board's business, policy development, future planning and development of the regional plan. They advise on the delivery of natural resource management programs and participate in and host on-ground workshops.

Groups also play an important role in supporting communities. When running events and workshops, landscape groups will partner with local progress associations, the Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA), land managers and small local businesses.

Members have a range of skills and knowledge including primary production, land management, soil conservation, Aboriginal heritage, natural resource management, industry and tourism.

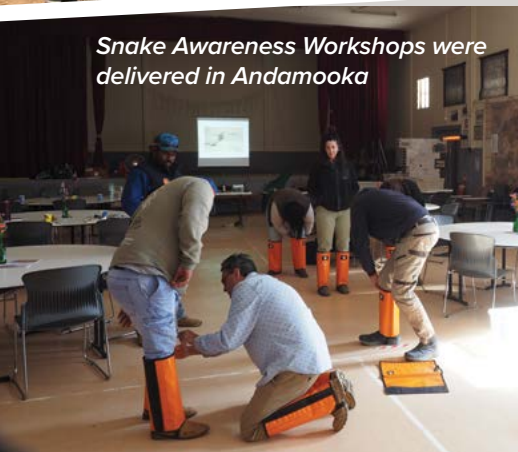
Find out who your local landscape group members are at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/about-us/our-board/landscape-groups

The Gawler Ranges and Port Augusta Quorn Landscape Groups came together for a joint meeting that included a tour of the South Middleback Ranges minesite at Iron Duke





Family Fun Days drew families to events held across the region. The Murrumbidgee district gathered at Aroona Dam near Leigh Creek for a Kayaking and Fishing Day



Snake Awareness Workshops were delivered in Andamooka



An Indigenous Ranger Gathering was held on Nukunu Country in August 2024



The SAAL Board held a community meeting in Roxby Downs and visited neighbouring towns and properties

23 Landscape Group meetings across all
7 Landscape Districts

24 landholder capacity building/extension activities delivered

7 community education events delivered

12 nature education events with schools and teacher professional development



18 grassroots grants awarded worth \$143,102.72



3 Aboriginal Engagement workshops to build relationships with Traditional Owner groups

1 Indigenous Ranger Gathering hosted

6 Family Fun Day community events supported by the CLOs

3 Kids On Country™ events supported

4 Across the Outback editions delivered to
1,118 subscribers

An increase in **726** Facebook followers and
92 Instagram followers

Supported **20** people to attend the International Rangelands Congress to learn from **700** rangelands managers from **50** countries



Projects – Looking forward

LANDSCAPE PRIORITIES FUND

Resilient Rangelands – Managing Biosecurity threats for climate resilient landscapes

This project addresses the significant threat posed by feral goats, feral pigs and wild dogs to the condition and resilience of rangelands ecosystems and agricultural enterprises. It addresses total grazing pressure impacts on biodiversity and pastoral production.

Statewide Rangelands Goat Management Strategy

This project delivers landscape scale goat management by establishing a formal network and working with the region's land managers, in collaboration with industry, neighbouring rangelands landscape boards, First Nations and policy makers.

Sustainable Use of Undersized Goats to Protect Native Habitat and Pasture

This joint venture between Zoos SA and landscape boards makes use of protein from harvested feral goats. It involves humane, on-site destruction and processing of undersized or unfit-to-load animals to feed carnivores at the Zoos SA sites, while reducing goat impacts.

Sustainable Land Management

Working with land managers to increase native vegetation and biodiversity, this project positions the region to take part in the Nature Repair Market outlined in the Federal Government's Nature Positive Plan and provides opportunities for increased restoration of groundcover and critical habitat protection. It provides information and works with land managers on emerging nature repair markets, native vegetation restoration projects and land management practices to increase groundcover and biodiversity.

Kangaroo Partnership Project – improving landscape and community resilience in South Australia (KPP)

Building on the partnership developed by the previous project, this project further refines efforts on over-abundant kangaroo management priorities, explores and trials new pathways, offers knowledge sharing opportunities to increase public understanding of kangaroo management and increase social licence to achieve positive outcomes. Also funded by the SA Drought Hub.

LEVY FUNDED

Native Not Noxious

This project aims to reduce population sizes, establishment, distribution and impacts of weeds that align with board priorities and district plans, as well as State legislation, frameworks and policies.

Biteback – Wild dog management

The board runs a comprehensive Wild Dog Management program in partnership with landholders. Twenty-one wild dog local area groups are supported to implement the best practice guidelines for baiting and wild dog control.

BHP

Great Artesian Basin Springs

This project will see a monitoring protocol developed to expand knowledge on the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) Springs. It includes establishing baseline conditions, identifying the occurrence of threatened plants, using sensitive indicator plant species to measure spring condition and determine threats. It will enable staff, volunteers and First Nations groups to individually collect springs data.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Monitoring Plains-Wanderer to Track Trajectory (Saving Native Species Program)

Partnering with Bush Heritage Australia and Birdlife Australia, this project improves understanding of Plains-wanderer distribution by deploying bioacoustic equipment in known habitat and analysing call data. A management guide will be developed for landholders with known Plains-wanderer habitat and updating a species distribution map.

Great Artesian Basin Water Security Program

Funding for the rehabilitation, maintenance, and replacement of wells and associated distribution networks available on a cost sharing basis for landholders accessing water from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). It is administered in partnership with the Department for Environment and Water.

NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST

Discovery4Recovery

This project continues monitoring of quolls and reducing threats by targeting pest species, monitoring the Arckaringa Daisy and key populations of the Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon to understand population trends and guide management actions. Surveys for Desert Greenhood will determine population and extent and provides opportunities for First Nations groups and other organisations to participate in conservation of EPBC-listed species.

Wetland Wonders

Threats to the Coongie Lakes Ramsar values and beyond will be protected through a focus on impacts by feral animal and priority weed incursions, particularly after flood. On-ground management informed by a Strategic Adaptive Management process is being implemented in collaboration with land managers. Monitoring will involve traditional owners and community volunteers and aims to fill knowledge gaps in past and existing monitoring data.

Building Pastoral Sustainability

Pastoralists are supported to adopt sustainable practices that improve ground cover, soils, and landscapes. Information will be provided to help them reduce emissions, and plan, implement and monitor practices such as rotational grazing, soil erosion works and carbon accounting. Soil demonstration sites showcased in previous projects will be revisited to build a better profile and understanding of the region's soil carbon. The project focuses on building the knowledge and capacity of pastoralists through events and peer-to-peer learning.

Landscape SA Carbon Outreach

This project provides land managers with the latest information to understand carbon accounting and low emissions technologies and practices. Tailored training is offered to pastoralists, First Nations, and conservation land managers, and board staff are upskilled to be independent advisors for emissions reduction. *This program is also funded by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources*



The time is right to hear a Plains-wanderer

The hunt for the Plains-wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) is reaching far and wide and recent rains means it is a promising time to hear their calls.

Song meters have been placed on properties in the Kingoonya, Marla-Oodnadatta, Marree-Innaminka, North East Pastoral, Port Augusta-Quorn, Flinders Ranges and Gawler Ranges districts of the SA Arid Lands, as well as in the Northern and Yorke region.

The work is part of a two-year project looking to track the trajectory by capturing new records of the species, which is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Plains-wanderer calls are most likely to be heard when looking to attract a mate in the breeding season. These calls are clearest at sunrise and sunset. The call of the female Plains-wanderer is most distinctive, sounding like a deep repetitive 'ooming' noise. You can hear the sound by following the QR code on this page.

Unlike other birds, which have a specific breeding season, the Plains-wanderer breeds when conditions and resources are right. This is generally tied to times following good rainfall when plant conditions improve and insect numbers increase.

SAAL Community Ecologist Declan Morris said he was hopeful that breeding calls would be captured on the song meters this season.

"Heading into spring and summer, people might be more likely to hear their distinctive calls around dawn and dusk, or even be lucky enough to see a bird or a breeding pair together on plains or on outback roads," he said.

"Unlike other species, the female is the most colourful. It can be distinguished from the male by the black and white checked collar around its neck."



Hear a Plains-wanderer call

Plains-wanderer: Revisiting the baseline is funded by the Saving Native Species program from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and is delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, Bush Heritage Australia and Birdlife Australia.

HERE'S A FUN FACT

Unlike most birds, it is the male that is responsible for raising the chicks. Once the female has laid the eggs, the male incubates the chicks while the female moves into a new territory to start the process again. When conditions are right, she may produce multiple clutches in one season.





A presentation by Snake expert Julian Craig was very popular

FRRR community-focussed program wraps up

To support the resilience of remote communities, the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board delivered a range of events over the past three years.

Supported by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund as part of the Community Impact Program, the events focused on families, traditional owners and young people.

More than 2000 people from across the region attended the 10 events hosted by the board in partnership with local businesses, progress associations and community groups.

PASTORAL FIELD DAY

The Pastoral Field Day provided a platform to share knowledge, boost social interaction and showcase innovations and drought resilience practices.

It offered speaker sessions, trade stalls and children's activities. Speakers discussed climate adaptability, business and personal resilience and community cohesion.

The event included the launch dinner for the ICPA State Conference the following day.

OUTBACK LADIES MUSTER

Attracting 90 women to Hawker, this event was timed to celebrate International Rural Women's Day. Designed by the region's women for the region's women, it included a mix of creative activities, personal and professional development to build personal and family resilience, inspiring speakers, pampering sessions and social activities.

As a women-only event, the atmosphere allowed women to build their leadership skills, networks and strengthen their social support systems.



Quandongs



Above: Outback Ladies Muster: The event included speakers and presentations

QUANDONG FESTIVAL

The Quorn Community Landcare Group was supported by board staff to offer social and agricultural events designed to encourage higher rates of innovation by celebrating sustainable living, farming and bush foods as part of the town's Quandong Festivals.

The events in 2023 and 2024 provided an opportunity for community members to identify innovative ways to build drought resilience through diversification and promoting an emerging native foods industry.



Top left: North East Pastoral Family Social: At a presentation from WSB Distributors' Royd Fernandez were, from left, Lisa and Cameron Crawford, Andrew, Darcey, Aaron and Amber Crowley and Lachie Riggs with Harry.

Bottom left: Oodnadatta Family Fun Day: Port Power's Sachi Syme, left and Ashleigh Woodland, right, with Olivia, Gracie and Bonnie Williams.

Centre: A Night at Mt Little: Kris Messenger shows Ryan and Liam Gill of Mern Merna Station bugs and slugs from her collection.

FAMILY FUN DAYS

Six Outback Kids and Family days were held in locations across the region to provide the opportunity for regional and remote families to attend. Each event included educational and fun activities for children and a resilience building component. More than 400 people attended the events at Hawker, Mannahill, Oodnadatta, Iron Knob, Leigh Creek and in the Gawler Ranges.

Ten per cent of the budget for each event was included for infrastructure upgrades to community facilities willing to host the events.

Events included:

- An Evening at Mount Little Family Fun Day, at which Mary O'Brien delivered her 'Are you Bogged Mate?' presentation. Children were entertained by Bugs n Slugs before wood fired pizzas and live music.
- Kayak and Fishing Day at Aroona Dam, which included kayak lessons, fishing competition and barbecue lunch followed by a dinner at nearby Leigh Creek.
- North East Pastoral Family Social at Mannahill. The day included Animals Anonymous, virtual reality headsets, face painting, native plant stall and giveaways, native bird display and agricultural drone demonstration with an evening campfire and live music.
- Wilcherry Golf Day near Buckleboo, which supported the Gawler Ranges Progress Association. Forty golfers were joined by their families for an event that offered children's activities with Animals Anonymous and virtual-reality headsets that showed an up-close farming experience.
- Oodnadatta Family Fun Day attracted 150 attendees from the town and surrounding pastoral properties. It included a coaching clinic with Port Adelaide Football Club players, yoga, craft table, plant walk with Dunjiba Community Council and ended with dinner and live music at the Pink Roadhouse.
- Iron Knob Family Fun Day supported the reopening of the Errappa Youth Camp and offered Animals Anonymous, face painting, balloon twisting, catering and live music. It was offered in partnership with the Iron Knob Progress Association.

All events offered through this project were supported by FRRR, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



Kayak and Fishing Day: Canoe the Coorong guides provided a briefing and guided tour for residents of the Marree Innamincka district at Aroona Dam.

Iron Knob Family Fun Day: Errappa's Dave Hickman speaks with Lea Botting from Animals Anonymous holding a saltwater crocodile at the event, which also marked the reopening of the centre.

Wilcherry Golf Day: VR headsets were popular with the non-golfers.



Bioregional planning underway in the region

A pilot project incorporating biodiversity data into land use planning and decision making is underway in the SA Arid Lands region.

Bioregional planning aims to better inform land-use decision making and sustainable development, so threatened native flora and fauna species are not adversely impacted. It will not impact existing land tenure rights.

The project is being led by the Department for Environment and Water and the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Two project sites have been selected due to their high biodiversity values and potential for renewable energy or mineral development.

The first is located west of Port Augusta and Whyalla in the Gawler Ranges and the second, northeast of Yunta to the NSW border.

As a pilot, the emphasis of the project is on data collection and building the scientific evidence base to guide decision-makers. Clear conservation and restoration priorities backed by science can lead to quicker and smarter land-use decisions that benefit the environment and support sustainable development.

Targeted field surveys will be undertaken until December 2026 to fill data gaps on species that are threatened or of conservation concern. Landowners in the pilot areas may be contacted for site access permission.

Landowners with information about threatened species or other biodiversity knowledge relating to the pilot areas are asked to join the project's iNaturalist site at inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/sa-bioregional-planning-pilot-project or scan the QR code below.

More information about the project is available from Melissa Riessen on 7421 0243 or melissa.riessen@sa.gov.au.



Slender Darling-pea (Swainsona murrayana); is one of several threatened species targeted in the surveys

Grassroots Grants fund community-driven projects

Dunjiba Community Council will map Buffel Grass infestations around Oodnadatta and support community members to take an active role in its control.

Training will be provided in safe work practices with chemicals and tools, use of monitoring systems and plant identification to help deliver management of pest species and conservation of native grasses.

This project is one of 21 funded in the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board's Grassroots Grants Program for 2025/26. Each of the region's seven districts are represented in the funding.

Funding has also been provided to support camps and workshops; town park revitalisation; treatment of rabbit warrens; establishment of bush food gardens and planting of native vegetation; weed control; cat trapping; and monitoring and removal of feral animals.

A perimeter fence will be installed at the Copley Botanic Garden to protect the garden, plants and irrigation from feral animals and kangaroos and ensure its long-term success. The garden, established in 2020, was damaged by feral horses and wandering sheep and cattle, which destroyed plants and damaged irrigation equipment in the past 12 months.

At Witchelina, south of Marree, two bird-only watering stations will be developed to provide heatwave refugia with shade for native birds. Kangaroo and goat proof, they will include a corrugated iron roof to collect water in a storage tank and a solar pump to supply water from the tank to an elevated trough. Remote cameras will be installed to monitor use. This grant value-adds to a larger project that is assessing the importance of rocky habitats for native birds on the Nature Foundation property.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board chair Douglas Lillecrapp said all funded projects address one or more of the board's key priorities and align with the goals of the Grassroots Grants program. These include community capacity building, pest and weed control, biodiversity protection and monitoring, along with land and water management.

"It's great to see applications for projects to protect native vegetation and manage pest species across many different districts," he said.

"Plans to plant out the Superb Groundsel in Quorn's Bush Food Garden is an important step to protect the species classed as vulnerable across the country, but endangered in South Australia due to its limited footprint in the Dutchman's Stern Conservation Park.

"Cat trapping and removal at Arkaba Station will support the expansion of the Idnya (Western Quoll) population that is monitored through the board's Discovery4Recovery project.

"I'm also encouraged by the number of landholders looking to form partnerships to care for Country and educate future generations to do the same."

This was the sixth round of the Grassroots Grants, an annual funding program that was introduced with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

For more information on the projects now underway, visit www.landscapesa.gov.au/saal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11-12 OCTOBER

Koonamore Vegetation Reserve 100 year celebrations

17 OCTOBER

Port Augusta-Quorn Landscape Group meeting 24, Port Augusta

22-23 OCTOBER

SAAL Landscape Board meeting 33

13 NOVEMBER

North Flinders Landscape Group meeting 78, Copley

13 NOVEMBER

Carbon and the Nature Repair Market Workshop, Copley

14 NOVEMBER

North East Pastoral Landscape Group meeting 56, Olary

1 DECEMBER

Aboriginal Engagement Network meeting, Port Augusta

5 DECEMBER

Gawler Ranges Landscape Group meeting 73, Port Augusta

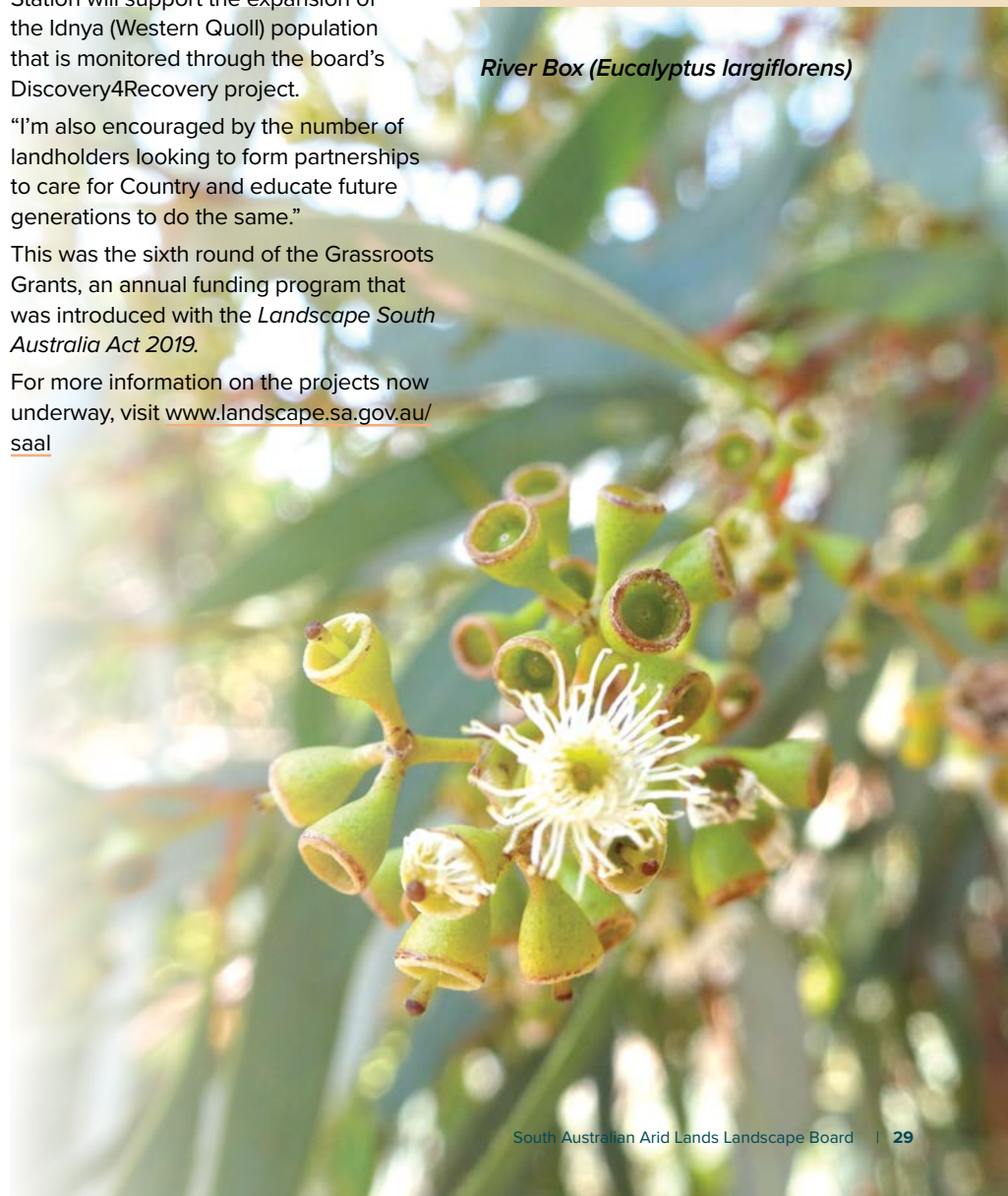
5 DECEMBER

Marree-Innaminka Landscape Group meeting 86, online.

7 DECEMBER

Port Augusta-Quorn Landscape Group meeting 25, Quorn

River Box (Eucalyptus largiflorens)



Goats mustered in record numbers

Feral goats remain a high priority for management across the region, with Meat and Livestock Australia reporting record numbers being mustered to market from South Australia. As a result, there are positive impacts across vegetation retention, increased livestock productivity, soil conservation, water use, and habitat protection.

The board is trialling different initiatives to support the removal of goats from the landscape which has seen several properties involved in the ethical and humane removal of small and unmarketable animals to provide a sustainable food source for the carnivores at Monarto Safari Park.

In a separate initiative, a recent operation to remove more than 400 animals from the Barrier Highway corridor resulted in carcasses being sent to Peats Soils after being collected in a 'Bio-Bin' to be added to soil composting.

Reducing wastage, and supporting sustainability through circular economies, where the lawful and humane destruction of overabundant native or feral animals is important to the board and has been widely welcomed by participating land managers.

The board has a duty to manage pest plants and animals in a range of public corridors and endeavours to work with Australian Rail Track Corporation, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, SA Police and land managers to safely undertake these activities. Where animals are moving between public and private lands, the board will continue to work with land managers on shared responsibility for the removal of goats.

Other work the board is coordinating is the meeting of the Statewide Rangelands Goat Management Working group. This involves industry, the conservation sector, all levels of government and land holders to optimise opportunities for improved coordinated effort and common interpretation of the laws on goat management. The working group also informs future policy around the management of goats, in accordance with environmental, biosecurity, farming and market options, and sustainable land management outcomes.

Emerging priorities in the near future for the board and neighbouring regions and partners, will be to support landholders with aerial mustering of animals from difficult to reach parts of the region where goat numbers are high, for market or destruction. These activities will be alongside supporting education, workshops and resources around the holistic approach to feral goat management to accomplish outcomes in soil health, vegetation, livestock production and biodiversity.



EP Landscape Board



EP Landscape Board



BITEBACK NEWS

Biteback update

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is facing its second year without industry co-investment in the Biteback program, which had been co-funded for many years.

While the cost of this program was covered by the board to reduce the impact to land managers last financial year, the board cannot continue to fully resource the Biteback program in the absence of industry investment.

The sustained decline of wild dogs inside the fence, and reduced numbers and impacts over time have come from the existing effort and practices and these efforts cannot cease. Sustained effort toward eradication is critical while evidence and impacts of dogs remain.

Partnership with the Dog Fence Board, Livestock SA, PIRSA, neighboring landscape boards and other key stakeholders will remain the objective until the long-term investment toward predator control can be achieved.

The board is currently exploring some cost recovery requirements for participation in the Autumn bait injection services and has engaged with a focus group of land managers from across the region to understand and consider the impact of this against current conditions and the increased risks of non-compliance, at a time where dog numbers and impacts are increasing.

DOG IMPACTS

Reported sheep losses to wild dog attacks are at their highest level since the 2023/24 reporting period, and numbers are rising.

Fifty reports of stock losses were reported to the board in 2024/25, and while this number is comparatively low, it is five times higher than the previous financial year. This highlights the need for continual preventative control, even when dog sightings are low.

The losses coincide with an increase in wild dog sightings with reported attacks occurring to both sheep and cattle. The districts most affected areas are the North East Pastoral, North Flinders and the southern area of the Marla-Oodnadatta district

SPRING SERVICES

During the recently completed spring injection services, 17,070 baits were injected and 11,130 manufactured baits have been collected.

This number is well under the number of baits required to meet the region's minimum baiting level.

Complacency in proactively controlling dogs can quickly result in dogs re-establishing and undoing the hard work years of control landholders have undertaken to minimise dog numbers and stock losses.

Landholders are encouraged to contact SAAL Biosecurity staff to understand their minimum baiting requirements or if they are unable to source meat for baits. The mandatory baiting level for a property ensures there is a landscape-scale approach to reducing wild dog impacts inside the dog fence. Both an active and precautionary control measure, baiting is legally required to be undertaken.

TRAPPER PROGRAM

The Biteback program has been supported by a trapper program administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA. Funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments, Dog Fence Board, industry and landscape boards including SAAL, this program is funded for an unknown period. There may be limitations to accessing the trapper program and other aerial baiting operations with the loss of co-investment by industry this year. These strategies are also a priority for the partners supporting wild dog control to restore the appropriate level of investment to achieve effective integrated management.

Operating since 2019, the trapper program has removed more than 920 dogs from across the SA Arid Lands, Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands and Riverland and Northern and Yorke regions.

To access dog trappers, landowners should first check they are eligible at pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/introduced_pest_animals/find_a_pest_animal/wild_dogs_and_dingoes/trapping_wild_dogs_in_sa. Once confirmed, please contact lindell.andrews@sa.gov.au or 08 8429 0831.

DOG FENCE

More than 1070 kilometres of the SA Dog Fence has been rebuilt since the upgrade began in May 2020. Work is underway on a further 225 kilometres and contracts to build the remaining 205 kilometres have been awarded.

Originally forecast to be completed in June 2024, the project has been extended due to extreme weather events and contractor shortages. It is now expected to be completed in June 2026.

Construction on a new 290km wild dog fence will soon begin along the southern section of the SA-NSW border. Led by the SA Dog Fence Board, in partnership with the New South Wales Government, it is designed to improve wild dog management and livestock protection across both states.

The new fence will be constructed under the Dog Fence Act 1946 (SA), ensuring it receives the same level of legislated protection and ongoing maintenance as the 2110km SA fence. It will significantly strengthen wild dog control, improve the effectiveness of baiting programs, and support the long-term viability of sheep and cattle enterprises across the two states.



Detailed measurements of arid shrubs and trees over an extensive period has enabled an understanding of their life cycles



Long term monitoring sites were installed soon after the reserves' construction

A century of research in the North East

The Koonamore Vegetation Reserve (KVR), a 400-hectare site in the North East Pastoral District, is celebrating 100 years as a research site for rangelands vegetation. To celebrate the remarkable milestone, a weekend of guest speakers and site tours will be held on October 11-12, with the event centred around Yunta.

HOW IT BEGAN

In 1925 an overgrazed 400-hectare area on Koonamore Station was fenced to permanently exclude sheep and rabbits, led by Professor TGB Osborn from the University of Adelaide. This followed concerns about serious degradation of the soils and vegetation resulting from pastoralism and impacts from pest species including rabbits. Equally important was a new theory of vegetation succession derived from North American work early in the century.

Professor Osborn was concerned with whether overgrazing by domestic and feral herbivores would result in return of the original vegetation.

His plan was to study the regeneration of natural vegetation, particularly saltbush and trees in an overgrazed area, when grazing influences were removed. He hoped to study the effect of grazing on the regeneration process, the ecology of the area and the species most valuable economically.

Although the concept of succession and the scope of ecology have developed and changed in the past 100 years, it was his interest that led to the development of the reserve and many other long-term vegetation studies. Researchers visiting the reserve installed permanent charted quadrats to observe vegetation changes. Extensive permanent quadrats were established, supported by fixed photopoints. Many of the fixed points have been sampled regularly to the present day, providing us with a picture of a century of change.



Dr Russell Sinclair with students



University students measuring long-term site in 2024



Soil pitting trials to slow erosion on Koonamore station

THE CURRENT DAY

Post graduate studies and research continues today with the area studied featuring low sand dunes, alternating with sand plain and harder loam soils with travertine limestone on the flats. It is home to a low open woodland, Mulga (*Acacia aneura*, *A. burkittii*), *Eremophila* spp., Blackoak (*Casuarina pauper*) and a mixed community of False Sandalwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*) and Bullock Bush (*Alectryon oleifolius*). Understorey shrubs, which also form low chenopod shrubland communities in some areas, include Bladder saltbush (*Atriplex vesicaria*) and Bluebush (*Maireana sedifolia*) along with other other chenopod shrubs grasses, eremophilas and ephemeral herb cover.

Quadrats, some almost 100 years old, are revisited once every three years and the reserve is checked annually for rabbit activity, with all burrows recorded, fumigated and filled. A transect across the reserve and beyond is walked annually to record kangaroo droppings, as an indication of kangaroo activity in and outside the reserve.

Permanent plant transects across fences are re-read intermittently to record shrub density inside and outside the fence along with other monitoring projects.

Much of the current work is undertaken by volunteers, who visit to reserve annually in November to remap quadrats, check rabbit activity, retake photopoint photos and complete general monitoring and maintenance work.



The Rasheed family have been trialing soil conservation works in adjacent paddocks



Rain at Osborn



Bindyi Cottage

THE PEOPLE OF KOONAMORE RESERVE

The continuity of records is largely due to the efforts of Miss Constance Eardley, a lecturer in the Department of Botany, who organised annual visits by students and staff to take records and maintain the Koonamore Vegetation Reserve (KVR) for 30 years from 1937. The details recorded on the Koonamore field trips is valued by researchers across many biological disciplines.

The rate of sampling at KVR started to decline in the 1950s and ceased entirely for several years in the mid-1960s. It was reactivated by Dr Russell Sinclair who was the manager of the reserve from 1974.

In addition to restarting the recording program, Russell also began a sustained effort at rabbit control. Although the Reserve was fenced with rabbit-proof netting, the rabbits were never eradicated and the population fluctuated greatly with the seasons.

Since 1975, rabbit numbers have remained low with control work. This resulted in increased seedling establishment of several tree and shrub species which had showed little previous regeneration.

Koonamore Vegetation Reserve records now contain a history of the vegetation for 50 years without sheep grazing, followed by more than 30 years without significant grazing by either sheep or rabbits. Native species such as kangaroos and emus have never been excluded, as they can jump the fence and their numbers vary with the seasons.

The photopoint collection contains more than 8000 photos, from about 80 photopoints. Five large quadrats and seven smaller ones are regularly remapped.

The monitoring work at KVR and the curation of its records continued under the direction of Dr Sinclair until his passing in 2024.

THE PROPERTY OWNERS

Nick and Penny Rasheed bought Koonamore Station from the McLachlans in 2002, aware that an area had been locked up from grazing.

Since taking on the property, Nick has worked with students on their annual field trips, providing an insight into the work that is happening on the property outside the fenced reserve.

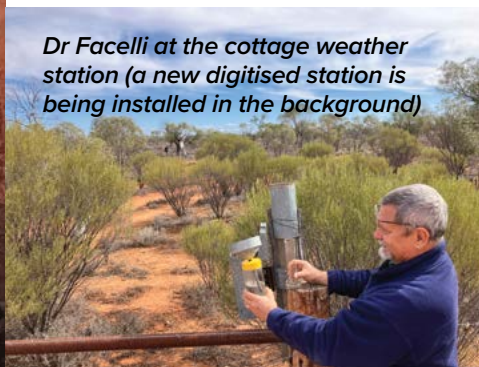
A long-time supporter, he regularly clears around the fencelines and worked with members of the Yunta Rifle Club to cement the Bindyi verandah. As a member of Yunta Race Club, he will also return to the reserve shortly to redo the garage.

"I think the work happening at the reserve is interesting and as one of the oldest in the world, it's quite amazing."

Nick Rasheed



The reserve and the surrounding areas provide an insight into the biological history of the region. This soil profile reveals depositional activities from tens of thousands of years ago



Dr Facelli at the cottage weather station (a new digitised station is being installed in the background)



Group visit to rehabilitate scale site

Pastoral Board news

New guidelines to amend the maximum stocking rate on a pastoral lease have been approved by the Pastoral Board.

The guidelines were developed in consultation with Livestock SA, landscape boards, the Conservation Council of SA, the Native Vegetation Council and the Department for Environment and Water.

The Pastoral Board is responsible for ensuring pastoral leases are managed sustainably and must consider whether increases to stock numbers on a lease would adversely impact land condition or cause increased risks to long term sustainable land management. It understands that improvements on a pastoral lease may enable lessees to increase stock numbers in a sustainable manner.

The stocking maximum for each pastoral lease is specified on the lease title and is the maximum number of stock allowed to be carried on a lease at any time. It is considered during the Pastoral Board's land condition assessments, undertaken every 14 years. Lessees can also approach the board to seek an amendment outside the assessment cycle.

The guidelines outline a staged approach to ensure a lease can sustainably carry the proposed stocking increase. The board may provide a temporary approval of higher stock numbers, with regular reporting of condition by the lessee over five years. If the board is satisfied that higher stock levels are sustainable, the board may agree to alter the defined stock maximum.

Approvals may also be required to carry higher stock numbers under other legislation, such as a clearance under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* or increased water use under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* regulates water taken within the Far North Prescribed Wells Area through the corresponding Water Allocation Plan. At this stage, unallocated ground water in the area has not been authorised for release and therefore permanent increases to stocking maximums cannot be considered at this time.

In exceptional seasonal conditions, lessees can apply for a temporary increase in a lease's stock maximum when abundant feed is available for short periods.

The guideline and the application form can be found on the Pastoral Board's webpage:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/pastoral-board

Before applying, lessees are advised to contact the Pastoral Unit to discuss their plans on 8429 0333 or via email at DEW.Pastoral@sa.gov.au



Increased strategic roadside weed control

Declared roadside weeds in the SA Arid Lands region have been subject to greater control in a new project that partners with neighbouring Landscape Boards to control weeds.

Coordinated efforts have been designed to manage and control pest plants such as Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Cenchrus pennisetiformis*), African Rue (*Peganum harmala*), African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis* sp.) and other declared weed species at a landscape scale, beyond the boundaries of SAAL.

With support from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, an additional \$300,000 has been allocated for control work of pest weeds along state-managed road corridors in the SA Arid Lands, Northern and Yorke and Eyre Peninsula Landscape regions, covering more than 60 per cent of the State.

Roadside weed control has been carried out at strategic locations across the SA Arid Lands region to prevent new weed incursions and protect high-priority natural assets. A risk-based assessment is used to identify and target the most significant infestations.

Over the past year, control efforts have focused on key transport routes, including the Augusta Highway south of Port Augusta,

Eyre Highway to the boundary of the region, the Outback Highway from Hawker to Leigh Creek, Flinders Ranges Way from Stirling North to Hawker and Tea Tree Road from Yunta to south of Arkaroola. Spot control was also undertaken on the Barrier Highway and around Innamincka and areas of the Strzelecki Track.

Additional work is planned on roadsides in the Northern and Yorke and Eyre Peninsula regions.

Landholders have a requirement to manage and control declared weeds on their properties, while the State Government is responsible for the strategic control of weeds on the roadside.

If your property borders a state-managed road in the SAAL region and you are planning or undertaking strategic control efforts at the property scale, you are encouraged to contact the SAAL Landscape Board to discuss potential collaboration.



Additional funding has been allocated to roadside weed control

GET INVOLVED IN SPECIES HUNT

The SAAL Landscape Board has two citizen science projects underway tracking the critically endangered Plains-wanderer and the threatened Idnya (Western Quoll).

Board staff have received information from the community relating to sightings or suspected sightings of the Plains-wanderer, which has helped to determine ongoing song meter placement.

“The information received from the community has greatly helped us learn more about the species,” community ecologist Declan Morris said.

“Any bit of information helps, even if you are unsure or have historical information you suspect features the Plains-wanderer.”

Posters have been placed across the SAAL region with a photo of the bird and the likely landscape on which you will find them.

The Idnya citizen science project is seeking sightings of the native marsupial outside of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges

National Park and already there have been three sightings uploaded.

Reintroduced to the central and northern Flinders Ranges after becoming locally extinct, the Idnya’s several breeding cycles means they have now dispersed beyond their original release sites in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park and onto surrounding private properties.

As part of the board’s Discovery4Recovery project, ecologists are looking to map the current species range.

You can find out more about these Citizen Science projects through the board’s website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/get-involved/citizen-science

ACROSS THE OUTBACK

Across the Outback is prepared and edited by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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Be alert for feral pigs

Increasing numbers of feral pigs (*Sus Scrufa*) have been reported in areas of the SA Arid Lands region. Without effective control measures, these invasive pests cause significant impacts to the environment and agricultural industry and pose a heightened biosecurity risk.

The SAAL Landscape Board is working with state and national governments and industry partners to leverage further support given flooding in the far north east of region, which will generate greater numbers of feral pigs in a short time. Pigs are also an issue in the North East Pastoral and an emerging issue in the North Flinders and around Quorn.

As vectors for disease such as Brucellosis and Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), which were recorded from samples taken in previous control operations, pigs look healthy while transmitting disease to livestock, native species, and humans and domestic pets/working dogs.

Highly adaptable and fast-breeding, sows can produce two litters per year under ideal conditions, with up to 10 piglets in a litter. As a result, populations can grow by as much as 86 per cent annually. Don't assume one or two pigs indicates low numbers – any sighting should lead to reporting and action.

Coordinated, proactive control using a combination of control methods is required to control feral pigs. Ground shooting alone has been shown to be ineffective at reducing populations once they establish and breed, making future monitoring and control efforts more difficult. A combination of baiting and trapping is required to achieve meaningful impact and reduce populations.

The best defence is early detection, with smaller numbers easier to control. Highly mobile and intelligent, feral pigs are hard to detect and trap once populations are established.

Control should start with monitoring pig activity using the FeralScan app. The app will enable you to remotely log data, monitor movement patterns and the number of pigs in your area, helping determine where to direct control efforts.

The SAAL Landscape Board has motion-activated cameras available for loan to help monitor pig activity, enabling you to plan control measures effectively.

Landholders can access subsidised baits which need to be deployed using a pig bait feeder. The board has bait boxes, pig traps and panels available for loan and biosecurity staff will help you select the best setup for your property.

To seek advice about control of these feral pests, contact biosecurity staff on 8429 9666.

