

2025/26 SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

Grassroots Grant Successful Applicants

PROJECT	APPLICANT	AMOUNT AWARDED	PROJECT SUMMARY	DISTRICT	Board Priority identified in the application
Andamooka Town Memorial Park Revitalisation Project - Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement	APOMA Andamooka Progress & Opal Miners Assoc Inc	\$17,154	The revitalisation of the Andamooka Town Memorial Park will ensure the rare and threatened species found in the town continue to thrive amid increased effects of climate change and settlement. This project will work with local indigenous residents to identify and propagate endemic plants for local gardens. It will assist in ecological education for primary school students and provide a space where people can quietly interact with nature. Kristen Messenger of Bugs & Slugs will provide advice and use the park for a micro-biome study of insect numbers and behaviours in relation to weather patterns.	Kingoonya	
Preventing increases in the European rabbit after predator control	Ecological Horizons	\$10,000	Rabbit abundance has increased at the Secret Rocks Pastoral Lease since exclusion zones for cats and foxes were established. Funds will be provided to treat rabbit warrens across the lease in the hope that herbivore pressure will be reduced during the dry conditions.	Gawler Ranges	
Culinary Bush Food Garden (Quorn)	Spirit of the Flinders Pty Ltd	\$4,000	A publicly accessible, culinary-focused bush food garden will be established on privately-owned land adjacent to the Spirit of the Flinders Maker's Centre and Bakery in Quorn. The garden will show how edible native plants can be used in small-scale home gardens, promoting water-wise gardening. Plantings will include native lemongrass, muntries, bush banana, quandong, and desert lime, selected for their hardiness and their culinary and creative value. Interpretive signage will accompany the plantings to support education about species identification, cultural significance, and culinary applications. The space will complement the nearby Quorn Bush Food Garden and show how native species can be used for landscaping.	Port Augusta-Quorn	

Pithi Kawi Bush Food Garden Dutchman's Daisy and Native Grasses Signage	Quorn Community Landcare Group	\$4,150	This entrance and educational value of Quorn's Bush Food Garden will be enhanced through mass plantings of the rare Dutchman's Daisy (<i>Senecio Megaglossus</i>), alongside complementary low-growing local native species. A rare native plant known for its resilience, delicate flowers and role in local ecosystems, the Dutchman's Daisy plantings will create a visually appealing and ecologically significant feature. The project will propagate local genetics and plant in mass plantings with complementary other low growing local species. It will include installation of irrigation piping, protective plant guards and interpretive signage. The signage will focus on the daisy and native grasses, providing educational content about the ecological roles, traditional uses and cultural significance, helping to raise awareness.	Port Augusta-Quorn	
A better understanding of native plant foods as an alternative income in a changing climate .	South Australian Native Foods Association	\$2,900	The South Australian Native Plant Food Association (SANFA) will run workshops to encourage landholders in the Port Augusta-Quorn district to incorporate native plant foods into their agricultural practices, offering a sustainable and climate-resilient alternative. The project will involve the creation and distribution of new banners, a poster and informative fact sheets that will be available in print and on the SANFA website. By promoting the industry, SANFA is supporting regional economic development and providing growers with new opportunities for diversification. The adoption of native plant foods will lead to more sustainable land use, preserving the natural landscape and biodiversity.	Port Augusta-Quorn	
Hiltaba Weed Control	Nature Foundation	\$1,637	A weed control project on Nature Foundation's Hiltaba Nature Reserve will focus on two declared invasive weed species: Horehound (<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>) and wheel cactus. Horehound is an invasive weed species declared under the Landscape SA Act. It is a problematic agricultural weed and can also invade native ecosystems in arid landscapes, outcompeting native vegetation and choking watercourses. Wheel cactus is also a Weed of National Significance (WONS). It is drought tolerant and highly invasive in arid ecosystems, forming dense infestations that displace native vegetation. These infestations can also provide harbour for pest animals such as rabbits. Herbicide will be used to control both declared weed species to reduce the spread and allow native vegetation to regenerate.	Gawler Ranges	
Idnya/Western Quoll Dispersal on Arkaba Station	Arkaba Environmental Projects Ltd	\$7,485	The population of Idnya/Western Quolls establishing on Arkaba Station will be further protected with a short-term cat trapper and removal program on the Elder Range on the western side of the property. It follows the removal of 1000ha of rabbit warrens in mid 2024 to create a 'low cat density land bridge' to assist the quoll dispersal. While quolls were recorded there in the 2025 survey, cat numbers were high and Arkaba's own camera traps and guide sightings have also shown a higher level of cats on the property. The tenuous number of quolls on the Elder Range will be protected with a short-term cat removal program using a professional trapper later in 2025 or early 2026, to build on the rabbit removal work already undertaken, prior to the 2026 Quoll Survey.	North Flinders	

Hawker Childhood Service Centre - Bringing New Experiences to Bush Children	Hawker Childhood Service Centre	\$2,600	Hawker Kindy will use funding to provide children with educational experiences such as Bugs N Slugs with Kris Messenger or Nitro Nat Educational Science to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and enhance childrens' learning in ways that are not available in their everyday lives. Funds will also be used to revitalise the kindy's outdoor space through the purchase of native plants and soil to create a welcoming, sustainable, and engaging natural environment. In doing so, the areas will create different learning opportunities that connect children with their natural surroundings along with a stronger sense of community among the children and their families.	North Flinders	
Management prioritisation of kutha ngarrawa (mound springs) in the Arabana Native Title determination area.	Arabana Aboriginal Corporation	\$14,000	This project will engage 10 Arabana Traditional Owners and Arabana Rangers in a two-day workshop in Port Augusta to develop a prioritisation list of 50 kutha ngarrawa (mound springs) on the Arabana Native Title determination area. The list will guide management priorities for the AAC and establish management priorities for stakeholder groups. While considerable environmental management is underway on SA's mound springs by many stakeholders, there is no consolidated list of priority springs to guide management programs. The springs have a DCCEW biodiversity and a cultural ranking in 'The Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Significance of Mound Springs in South Australia', however the latter hasn't been reviewed for 40 years and there is no clear correlation between the two rankings. Doing so would combine environmental and cultural values to support management decisions related to the springs.	Marla-Oodnadatta	
Arid Recovery and Kokatha community event	Arid Recovery	\$5,600	Arid Recovery and Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) will partner to deliver a two-day community event that fosters connection to Country, cultural exchange, and ecological awareness. To be held at the Arid Recovery Reserve on Kokatha Country during the spring school holidays, the event will welcome residents from Roxby Downs and surrounding areas on Day one, followed by a Kokatha-only gathering on Day two. The format and activities for this day will be guided by KAC, with Arid Recovery available to support. Activities may include rock art, wood carving, bush food tastings, and storytelling around a campfire which aim to share Kokatha cultural knowledge, foster respect for Country and build awareness of the region's ecosystems and threatened species.	Kingoonya	
Establish a Bush Tucker Garden	Andamooka Primary School	\$2,700	Andamooka Primary School will build and establish a simple Bush Tucker Garden to help connect all students to the bush foods that can thrive in the local environment. The project will connect with local Aboriginal Woman Donna and Landscape Group representative Leila to source the right physical structure, soils and native seeds to propagate bush foods with the original stewards of the region, the Kokatha and Kuyani people. This will complement the arid zone garden and allow students to discover the wonder of growing and eating their own produce. Students will be taught how to establish, maintain, take care of and then harvest the resulting produce in sustainable ways.	Kingoonya	

Marine Education for Local Schools and Community	Port Augusta Coastcare	\$6,600	The Marine Discovery Centre (MDC) will deliver an engaging environmental education program that includes a series of school incursions and a community education event designed to increase awareness of marine environments, promote sustainability, and inspire conservation action among young people and the broader community. The incursion program will provide a hand-on curriculum-aligned marine education experiences to primary and lower secondary students. Delivered by experienced marine educators, the sessions will include interactive displays, touch tables, and digital tools. Students will explore marine biodiversity, climate change, plastic pollution, and ocean sustainability in a fun and memorable way. The MDC program is aligned with the Australian Curriculum.	Port Augusta-Quorn	
Bird-only watering stations to mitigate heatwave impacts on native birds at Witchelina Nature Reserve.	Nature Foundation Limited	\$10,000	This project will add value and complement an existing project to assess the importance of rocky habitats on Witchelina as heatwave refugia for native birds by constructing two 'bird-only' watering stations close to identified sites. Each would be kangaroo and goat proof and will include a corrugated iron roof to collect water in a storage tank. A solar pump will supply water from the tank to an elevated trough, with remote cameras installed to monitor use. These refugia are important because many bird species suffer tremendously during mega-heatwaves in the arid zone and can die enmasse without somewhere to shelter with shade and water.	Marree-Innamincka	
TAC Feral Animal Control	Tjirilya Aboriginal Corporation (TAC)	\$7,000	This project within the Tjirilya Aboriginal Corporation (TAC) Indigenous Protected Area will place cameras in strategic places to assess and analyse the number and location of feral animal species before introducing control measures. TAC received advice from partners at Bush Heritage Australia that it is preferable to have a statistical basis for feral animal presence prior to attempting control measures. Monitoring will be undertaken by Indigenous rangers who will then implement control measures according to the statistics recorded by the cameras and the analysis created with the help of Evorta. An advantage of the camera placement will be recordings of other fauna, including threatened species targeted under TAC's Plan of Management.	Marla-Oodnadatta	
Dunjiba Buffel Grass Management	Dunjiba Community Council	\$20,000	Buffel grass is increasingly visible around Oodnadatta. Worried for the health of Country, Dunjiba Community Council will empower community members to take an active role in its control. Buffel will be mapped in the township and surrounding commons and adjacent leaseholders will be invited to participate in strategy meetings to encourage a collaborative approach. This project will include training in safe work practices with chemicals and tools, use of monitoring systems and plant identification to help to equip the community to deliver wider pest species management as well conservation of native grasses. This project will empower the community to contribute to a broader regional approach to pest species management.	Marla-Oodnadatta	

Andamooka Airstrip Native Corridor: A Climate-Resilient Buffer Zone	Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association Incorporated	\$10,000	Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association will establish a native vegetation buffer zone around the upgraded Andamooka Airstrip to enhance climate resilience, suppress dust, and restore biodiversity in this exposed area. Integrating native vegetation will stabilise soil, improve ecological values, and create a more welcoming and sustainable landscape. A community planting day will engage volunteers and strengthen local ownership and funding will support the work of a landscape designer, the purchase of native plants from the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, biodegradable guards and mulch, signage and water supply for establishment. Plantings will focus on attracting small native fauna such as insectivorous birds, pollinators and arid zone reptiles.	Kingoonya	
Feral Animal Protection for Copley Botanic Garden	Copley & Districts Progress Association Inc	\$20,000	This project will protect the Copley Botanic Garden, which was established in 2020. Involving more than 1000 volunteer hours from residents of Copley and the surrounding areas, the garden now consists of more than 600 trees and shrubs on dripper irrigation. However, in the past 12 months, the garden has been damaged by feral horses, with plants eaten by stray sheep and cattle. Irrigation equipment as been damaged and replacement costs are nearing \$1000. The project will install a rural fence along the perimeter of the established garden with several access gates and will protect the garden, plants and irrigation from feral animals and kangaroos, and ensure its long-term success.	North Flinders	
Feral cat and Native species Monitoring and Data Collection	Jumbuck	\$4,543	Monitoring cameras will be placed on Mt Victor Station to collect data on feral cat activity to better assist landholders in pest management strategies. With an increase in feral cat population and the lack of data on native wildlife, landholders have access to a limited toolbox to tackle the issue. This project aims to contribute to the region's database of native animals and the impact caused by feral cats. Already known is that feral cats impact sheep and cattle health through the spread of Toxoplasmosis, causing productivity loss during lambing. While sheep and cattle develop immunity, native species do not. The benefit of knowing exactly what native species exist will create a strong baseline, allowing the community to ask for assistance with more advanced pest management technologies such as Felixer trials.	North East Pastoral	
Feral Goat Management	Yunta Race Club Incorporated	\$2,646	This project involves the purchase of a loading ramp to use with a goat trap yard at the Yunta Race Club. Club volunteers have planted more than 200 native trees and shrubs, but feral goats are damaging them, creating bare ground and additional dust. Club volunteers temporarily fenced with electric fences and tree guards and while this reduced damage, it did not eradicate the problem. The goat trap yard will be used at an existing trough and is designed to reduce feral goat numbers and their impact on the township and surrounds. Adjoining landholders will hold trapped goats while enough are collected to fill a truck or top up one that is close to full. All proceeds will be donated to community.	North East Pastoral	

Cultural Connections Camp to Maree Aboriginal School	Andamooka Primary School	\$4,960	This project will allow Andamooka Primary School will take its 12 older students to Marree Aboriginal School to help them connect with the Local Aboriginal Elders and Custodians of the Region The trip will help them understand the significance of the Cultural connections to their lands which are transferable to their local backyard in Andamooka. Topics such indigenous animals, sustainability and bush tucker will be explored and taught.	Kingoonya, Marree-Innamincka	
Woomera Nature Play Space	Woomera Area School	\$5,000	This project will support the development and implementation of a Nature Play Space at Woomera Area School, in partnership with the local community. The first natural play space in the town, this space has been designed in consultation with students and will significantly enhance educational and recreational opportunities, the play space will include diverse features such as water play, a yarnning circle, a rest/hide area, timber play structures, a local habitat, a dry waterway, and a beach sandpit. Additionally, the space will incorporate Quandong trees and other bush tucker plants, celebrating our region's unique flora. The school will collaborate with Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation to ensure culturally respectful planning, design and implementation.	Kingoonya	