

Optimising kangaroo management in South Australia



Background

The Kangaroo Partnership Project was supported by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, with funding from the South Australian Government's Landscape Priorities Fund, and facilitated by an independent coordinator.

The project aimed to address the 'wicked' issue of high kangaroo populations posing risks to animal welfare, conservation and land management, cultural values, and the livelihoods and mental health of local communities.

The project stemmed from record kangaroo populations across South Australian regions in 2017, which resulted in massive die-offs due to the years of drought that followed.



A partnership approach

A major success of the project is its partnership approach which allowed for collaboration between stakeholders who shared an interest in kangaroo management but brought different perspectives and approaches to this complex issue.

Two workshops at the start of the project brought potential partners together to define the project themes and priorities:

- Animal welfare
- Economic development and livelihoods
- Environmental conservation, landscape management and sustainability
- Improving social licence (community understanding and acceptance)
- Moving forward together, engagement and alignment

These themes were integral to how the project progressed, including the assessment criteria for the KPP grant program (see funded projects below).

Partners



Funded projects

1 Land manager collective

Aim: This project, led by a collective of neighbouring land managers, aimed to establish a network to manage kangaroo populations at the landscape scale within the Gawler Ranges region.

Outcomes: The group was successfully brought together to discuss kangaroo management with local government and Landscape Board staff. The group trialled the use of purchasing harvesting tags to encourage harvester management on their properties to varying success, and subsidised kangaroo meat for local social enterprises to increase local consumption and provide a healthy, local source of protein for the community.

Next steps: The group intends to become a self-sustaining network that will continue on beyond the life of the KPP, and inspire similar groups to form in other regions.

2 Pathways for increasing kangaroo value

Aim: This project by Australian Wildlife Services worked to understand pathways to increase kangaroo value through improved quality, product diversity, and consistency.

Outcomes: The team found that high-value kangaroo products depend on better quality and more accurate product description branding and product diversity, and increased reliability of supply. You can access the report on our webpage or by scanning the QR code below.

Next steps: A workshop presenting the findings to stakeholders is planned for October 2023.

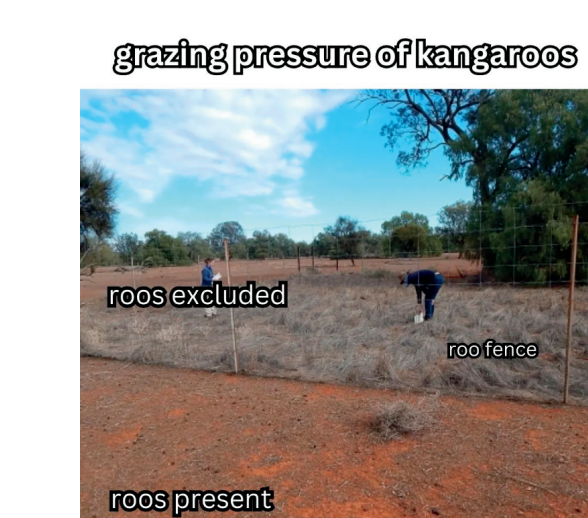


3 Awareness and education campaign

Aim: This project, led by the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, aimed to increase community awareness of kangaroo management.

Outcomes: The campaign - A Kangaroo Conversation - quickly garnered an impressive and engaged audience. Follow the campaign via the QR code below!

Next steps: This project has been extended until the end of 2023. If you or someone you know is interested in giving input or contributing to the campaign, please reach out to Madeline McShane (madeline.mcshane@ncssa.asn.au).



Challenges

Theme	Challenges
Animal welfare	
Economic development and livelihoods	
Environmental conservation	
Improving social licence	
Moving forward together	

Next steps for the KPP

1. Support land managers to manage kangaroos on their properties and at a landscape scale.
2. Facilitate knowledge sharing with NRM organisations on a state and national level and work with relevant stakeholders to support alignment and collaboration.
3. Facilitate community education and increased awareness and understanding.
4. Provide support to on-ground and future facing projects that explore and trial pathways to improve kangaroo management.
5. Provide guidance to relevant external projects that have clear implications for kangaroo management, e.g. industry development projects.

National priorities

1. National coordination and leadership.
2. Land manager support and community engagement.
3. On-ground innovative projects and research.
4. Industry development.

