

2011 - 12 Investment Project

RB12-00040-3



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

This is a record of your completed regional base level funding 2011-12 Caring for our Country project. This record was generated on 16/05/2011.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Project title

Please provide a title which clearly indicates what your project will achieve

Protecting Kangaroo Island from invasive species, Phase 2

Project Summary

Please provide a short description of your project. This summary will be used to communicate about your project e.g. in media announcements and in the Funding Agreement. The information should be consistent with what you give later in the application.

Protecting Kangaroo Island from invasive species, Phase 2 will manage and eradicate high risk pest plants and animals. It will:

1. Complete feral goat and deer eradication and develop an information package for other regions considering similar actions
2. Continue to implement a comprehensive management strategy for pigs across land tenures using identified management units, and a range of traditional and new control measures
3. Continue control and eradication of WoNS including gorse, blackberry and bridal creeper.

Proposed duration

Proposed start date (mm/yyyy)

07/2011

Proposed completion date (mm/yyyy)

06/2013

State:

South Australia

NRM Region:

Kangaroo Island

Regional Body:

Kangaroo Island NRM Board

Are you authorised to act on behalf of the selected regional body?

Yes

If dividing your base-level project into separate projects, describe how the projects are linked or integrated.

The KI NRM Plan Here to Stay-For our children and grandchildren 2009 (the Plan) is the foundation of all KI NRM Board projects. The Plan was developed by the Board in consultation with regional community, industry and stakeholder groups. It sets the direction for managing the Island's natural resources to benefit its social, economic and environmental future.

Using program logic projects have been developed to achieve the goals and outcomes of the Plan. The projects seeking funding through the CfoC regional allocation deliver core business for the Board, focusing on best managing regional NR assets at a landscape scale and across land tenures, together with the community, industry and stakeholder groups. The Board reviewed all projects requiring funding and selected these projects as being the highest priority for the region. Remaining high priority projects will seek funding through other sources such as the CfoC Open Grants and South Australian Government.

The projects are:

1. Catchment to Coast2-Ecological restoration from Cygnet River to Nepean Bay
2. Protecting KI from invasive species, Phase 2
3. Delivering the recommendations of the Eastern Plains Fire Trial, KI

Together they deliver best management of biodiversity, primary production, soils, freshwater and coast and marine systems and manage the processes that threaten them.

Project managers have developed the projects together to deliver the Plan. They meet bi-monthly to discuss progress and possibilities for integration and report to the Board quarterly on their delivery. Project outcomes are promoted jointly through the Board's communication strategy and through each projects communication strategy sitting under the Boards. Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improving project performance is overseen by the Board and further refines strategies to deliver the Plan in the future. Thus the projects are linked through their foundation, development, promotion, implementation and evaluation.

Please identify any other projects that are linked to this one, and any projects (for example, new Caring for our Country, existing or new State/Territory projects) that you are aware of that may have synergies with this one.

Previous funding from CfoC, National Feral Animal Control Program (NFACP), the South Australian Government, and the Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre (IACRC) over the last five years has provided the solid foundation on which this project will build.

Kangaroo Island is a demonstration site with the IACRC working to eradicate goats and deer, and implement co-ordinated pig management. We have been involved in trials of new control techniques including Pigout, Hogone, Boerbuffets and Hoghoppers for feral pigs and Eradicat baits and and cat tunnels for feral cats.

Protecting Kangaroo Island Phase 2 (PKI2) builds upon significant weed planning, research and on-ground work undertaken by a community based weeds management group, programs funded through NAP and NHT, Government of South Australia and CfoC. Mapping, risk assessments, control trials, bio-control agent distribution, and control activities have all been previously completed by these projects and the KI Weeds Community Group. This project takes full advantage of the success of these projects.

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SECTION : APPLICANT DETAILS

The *Applicant Details* are required for the legal entity with whom the Australian Government will form a contract, if this project is successful.

Organisation details

| | |
|--|--|
| Organisation Name | Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board |
| Organisation/Company ABN | 86052151451 |
| Is your organisation registered for GST? | Yes |

Entity type

State Government Other Incorporated Entity

Applicant contact information – primary contact person

The primary contact person should be a person in the lead organisation who is readily contactable in April-July 2011 during the project assessment period and will be involved in the day-to-day management of the project.

| Name | Title | First name | Last name |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Name | Ms | Rebecca | Mussared |
| Position in organisation | NRM Support Officer | | |
| Business phone number | 0885534303 | | |
| After hours phone number | | | |
| Fax | 0885534399 | | |
| Mobile | | | |
| PO Box/Street Address | 35 Dauncey St | | |
| Town/Suburb | Kingscote | | |
| State | South Australia | Postcode | 5223 |
| Email | rebecca.mussared@kinrm.com.au | | |

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Authorised person – person who will sign the contract

This is the person with power to bind the organisation in a contract for the value of this project.

Is the authorised person the same as the proponent organisation contact person (details in above

| | Title | First name | Last name |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name | <input type="text" value="Mr"/> | <input type="text" value="Bill"/> | <input type="text" value="Hadrill"/> |
| Position in organisation | <input type="text" value="Regional Manager"/> | | |
| Business phone number | <input type="text" value="0885534400"/> | | |
| After hours phone number | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Fax | <input type="text" value="0885534499"/> | | |
| Mobile | <input type="text"/> | | |
| PO Box/Street Address | <input type="text" value="37 Dauncey Street"/> | | |
| Town/Suburb | <input type="text" value="Kingscote"/> | | |
| State | <input type="text" value="South Australia"/> | Postcode | <input type="text" value="5223"/> |
| Email | <input type="text" value="Bill.Hadrill@sa.gov.au"/> | | |

Applicant contact information – secondary contact person

The secondary contact person should be a person who is readily contactable in April-July 2011 and will only be contacted where the primary contact person is unavailable.

| | Title | First name | Last name |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name | <input type="text" value="Mr"/> | <input type="text" value="Grant"/> | <input type="text" value="Flanagan"/> |
| Position in organisation | <input type="text" value="Land and Water Program Manager"/> | | |
| Business phone number | <input type="text" value="0885534300"/> | | |
| After hours phone number | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Fax | <input type="text" value="0885534399"/> | | |
| Mobile | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Email | <input type="text" value="grant.flanagan@kinrm.com.au"/> | | |

SECTION : TARGETS

Which Caring for our Country target(s) does your project address?

(Your project will be assessed against how well your project addresses these target/s .)

Biodiversity and Natural Icons

- Reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals
- Reducing the impact of Weeds of National Significance

What part of the selected target/s will your project meet?

Reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals

- Which pest species is your project targeting? **PKI2 aims to eradicate goats and deer and reduce pig damage by coordinated, strategic landscape management. Feral goats graze native vegetation, including Allocasuarina verticillata sole food of the glossy black-cockatoo. PKI2 aims to eradicate feral goats from the last 2 management units by 2012 (5 of 7 are complete) removing their impact on biodiversity. To ensure eradication monitoring for vagrants and vegetation recovery will continue for at least 12 months post eradication. The project will work with the community to implement domestic goat management protocols to minimize risk of escapees. Feral deer destroy native vegetation and spread disease. Eradication may be possible by 2013. Monitoring indicates a large population reduction with an elusive few left. PKI2 will monitor for signs after eradication to ensure success. PKI2 will work with the community to apply and manage regulations. Once eradicated the impacts of feral deer on biodiversity will be removed. Feral pigs spread diseases including Phytophthora cinnamomi, destroying native habitat. This project will co-ordinate feral pig management across KI, improving control strategies using baits. Annual monitoring programs assess comparative trends in population size and damage mitigation of pests. The National MERI framework is used to assess project success and stimulate adaptive management.**

- How many land owners/managers will increase their uptake of pest control options under your project?
85

Will your project reduce the impact of pests on:

- Critically endangered and endangered species and communities **Yes**
Area over which pest control will take place **56000** hectares
- High quality native vegetation on agricultural land **Yes**
Area over which pest control will take place **48000** hectares
- What evidence exists to show that your activities will reduce the impact? **The most commonly eaten plant based on dietary analysis of goat rumen is Allocasuarina. Vegetation monitoring within the distribution of feral goats over the last 4 years suggests that Allocasuarina regeneration is substantially higher in areas where goats have been removed. Photo points show clear signs of considerable cover increase in areas that once had high goat density. Fallow deer, although a recent introduction and relatively small population, appear to be destroying young trees, particularly during the rut, and move along creeklines distributing P.cinnamomi. With a decline in the population this impact has declined and eradication will eliminate all chance of future impacts. The impacts of pigs are well known from work in other regions and from observation. They move and forage along creeklines rooting for roots, fungi and invertebrates across large areas, including habitat for the endangered southern brown bandicoot (Isoodon**

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obesulus) and *Eucalyptus paludicola*. They destroy pasture by rooting up soil, and are known to eat crops. Coordinated control and reduction in population size has been shown to reduce the impacts as described. To date the project has been developing the most effective control techniques for KI conditions which will be implemented fully in the next two years.

- Do you have a draft plan to maintain the site as an on-going best practice management site? **Yes**
- Have you discussed your project with the Australian Pest Animal Strategy coordinator? **Yes**

Reducing the impact of Weeds of National Significance

Which of the following Weeds of National Significance does your project address?

- Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate) **Yes**
 - Hectares of core infestation under management control **0** hectares
 - Hectares of outliers controlled **300** hectares
 - Hectares of containment lines managed **0** hectares
- Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) **Yes**
 - Hectares of core infestation under management control **800** hectares
 - Hectares of outliers controlled **0** hectares
 - Hectares of containment lines managed **0** hectares
- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) **Yes**
 - Hectares of core infestation under management control **0** hectares
 - Hectares of outliers controlled **370** hectares
 - Hectares of containment lines managed **0** hectares
- Are the activities you are undertaking in-line with a nationally agreed strategic plan? **Yes**
- Have you discussed your project with the relevant WONS coordinator? **Yes**

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SECTION : PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities proposed

Please, clearly identify what activities this project will carry out.

Include the proportion of the budget for each of the following activities (if applicable).

Target: Reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals

This on going project will complete vertebrate pest eradication and continue with control and biosecurity activities. It will:

1. Implement the management plans for domestic animals with known pest risks including deer, goats and ferrets
2. Ensure management procedures for domestic deer and goats are in place and undertake annual monitoring and risk assessment of farms. (\$20,000 for 1&2)
3. Continue promoting biosecurity awareness through various communication avenues. (\$5,000)
4. Complete eradication of goats and deer from KI and develop an information package for other regions considering similar actions. (\$588,000)
5. Continue to implement a comprehensive management strategy for pigs across land tenures using identified management units, a range of control measures including Boerbuffets, PIGOUT[®] baits, trapping and hunting. Additional funding will be needed to maintain this action which will be sourced from the IACRC (0.6 FTE). (\$75,600 IACRC in-kind)

Target: Reducing the impact of Weeds of National Significance

Summary: This project will reduce the impact of three Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) currently threatening biodiversity and natural icons on KI by implementing proven management strategies, monitoring results and encouraging community involvement in weed management.

Gorse and blackberry, currently sleeper weeds on KI, can be eradicated. Gorse populations in central KI are invading remnant vegetation and pastoral areas. The Board recently signed a 25-year MOU with the National Gorse Task Force to eradicate gorse from KI. Blackberry is more widespread in pockets across KI and threatens riparian vegetation. Five -year management strategies were developed for both species with previous CfoC funding. This project will continue monitoring and control work, and manage impacts according to the strategies' recommendations.

Bridal creeper is a serious widespread weed which has smothered remnant and riparian vegetation across KI, particularly on the eastern end. The Board, agencies and community groups have invested significant resources in restricting its spread and successfully developed the spore water method for applying bridal creeper rust, *Puccinia myrsiphylli*. This project aims to minimise spread by removing western outliers and controlling the eastern end of the core infestation to prevent the establishment of bridal creeper in high value clean remnant vegetation on western KI. Resource advantages of this project lie in continuing, and thus not wasting, previous national, state and regional investments; and preventing much larger expenditures in the future if infestations are left unmanaged.

WoNS Project Activities

1. Assess the effectiveness past control activities and determine control actions and priorities for the annual weed control periods of Autumn and Spring (gorse, blackberry and bridal creeper). (\$20,350)
2. Increase public reports of targeted weeds through media opportunities. (\$1000)
3. Control blackberry infestations (11 sites) in accordance with the Regional Management Plan. (\$10,000)
4. Control gorse infestations (6 properties) in accordance with the Regional Management Plan. (\$10,000)
5. Control regional outlier infestations of bridal creeper. (\$15,000)
6. Suppress the core bridal creeper infestation to prevent further spread. (\$5,000).

Explain why you have selected these activities and how they will lead to improvements in terms of each selected target.

Please address each target and support claims that the activities and the practices are relevant, the best available or technically feasible in your area.

Activities for PKI2 have been developed considering the current CfoC Business Plan targets and the KI Natural Resources Management Plan. Aligning project activities with both Plans ensures that the project will work towards completing regional goals as well as contributing to CfoC investment priorities. Activities for the project have been developed by experienced staff using the best scientific knowledge available. This means that they are realistic, achievable and will provide on-ground benefits for the region.

CfoC target: Reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals

This strategy aligns with two objectives of the Australian Pest Animal Strategy:

Objective 2.3 To reduce the spread of pest animals to new areas within Australia

Objective 3.2 To identify and manage the impacts of pest animals on key assets ie islands.

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Over the last five years the Board has invested substantial resources in planning and implementing the 'Repel the Invaders' biosecurity program with considerable effort into the development of the biosecurity strategy, which aims to prevent the establishment of rabbits, foxes and other pests, the eradication of goats and deer, and the control of feral pigs and feral cats. The program has had significant success due to previous investment and in-kind contribution by the Australian and South Australian Governments, the IACRC, KI Council and community, including Friends of Parks. This investment has confirmed that eradication of goats and deer from KI is feasible within 1-2 years and that pig control can be effective. In addition, the Board is aware that prevention of pests is cheaper and easier than management once an incursion has occurred as exemplified by the costs of the Tasmanian fox eradication currently underway.

CfoC target: Reducing the impact of Weeds of National Significance

Gorse and blackberry are not currently wide spread on KI and therefore are realistic eradication targets. Neighbouring regions with similar climates face major costs and significant environmental and economic impacts managing gorse and blackberry. We now have the opportunity to prevent this expense on KI. This is supported at the national level with KI being identified as a state eradication target for both of these WoNS. KI has also been identified as a core infestation for bridal creeper at a national level. However the western portion of the Island remains free from bridal creeper. For this reason managing the eastern 'core' infestation and removing western outliers remains a regional priority to prevent future spread into high value remnant vegetation found on the western end of the island, while also reducing the impacts in infested areas within the region.

Getting it right now and completing the tasks already underway will result in long term savings and ensure the continued commitment of organisations and the community to see the project to the end.

Devolved grants

If you are seeking funding for a devolved grants component please outline

- the type of devolved grants, market based instrument or economic incentive that will be used to deliver the Caring for our Country target/s
- the target audience and likely degree of adoption
- the size of the grants/incentives for groups
- the expected administration costs for your organisation to run these grants
- how much funding will be delivered to on-ground activities

This project does not have devolved grants.

Project manager or facilitator services

If your project involves the use of a project manager(s) or facilitator(s) please outline:

- What activities they will undertake
- What amount of funding will be required to cover their costs

This project requires a 0.9 FTE Feral Animal Project Manager (\$90,000/ year). The manager undertakes the following tasks at a highly skilled level:

- Developing management and action plan
- Coordinating actions across species, organisations and land tenures
- Ensuring all stakeholders are aware of activities and involved where appropriate, and communicating with the wider community
- Carrying out resource condition and population monitoring
- Communicating to a wider audience and other relevant professionals
- Writing final reports and papers
- Maintain budgets, grant applications and reports to funding agencies
- Managing staff issues

2 FTEs are also required to undertake the following tasks (\$135,200/year):

- undertake and coordinate control activities
- liaise with landholders and coordinate control operations
- promote activities at shows and field days

WoNS

The WoNS Project Manager (0.16 FTE, \$10,350/year) will be responsible to assessing the effectiveness of past control activities and developing the annual control program. This will include contacting relevant landholders, engaging contractors and producing awareness material to increase public reports of WoNS weeds in the region. The Project Manager will also be responsible for CfoC and Board reporting.

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How many project managers or facilitators will be directly employed in a full time equivalent (FTE) position under your project?

1.0000

Indigenous Engagement and Participation

How will Indigenous Australians be involved in your project? How did you explore opportunities to engage Indigenous Australians?

This project is working to improve landholder capacity in a defined, targeted area. At present there are no Indigenous landholders within this area, and at this point there are no groups who have expressed an interest in the area the project is working in.

The KI NRM Board is endeavoring to actively engage with Indigenous groups with an interest in KI. Contact has been made with each community. The Board aims to meet and consult with the groups several times a year and to give them every opportunity to be part of Board activities, including CFOC project work.

How many Indigenous Australians will be directly employed in a full time equivalent (FTE) position under your project?

0.0000

How will you engage other community members in your project?

Please outline

- the engagement activities planned
- the scale of this involvement
- the potential to raise community awareness and enhance skills

This project attempts to engage a range of stakeholders from landholders and community members, to other professionals undertaking similar projects. Engagement activities include:

1. Working with community groups and landholders to assist with coordination, equipment and skills necessary to control pigs and WoNs. This occurs through meeting one on one with landholders and managers and with landholder groups, depending on whatever is more appropriate.
2. Working with domestic deer and goat owners to advise and assist with effective management of domestic herds to prevent escapees supplementing the feral populations. This includes annual farm visits to assess risks and fencing conditions and to alert owners to activities that need to be undertaken to reduce potential escapes.
3. Articles in the paper, newsletters and on the web to inform the wider community of upcoming activities and program achievements and requesting community members and landholders to report feral animal sightings or the location of WoNs infestations.
4. Attendance at local shows and field days promoting the project and providing the public with information to help them manage and identify pest animals and plants, and contact details for reporting pest sightings.
5. Pamphlets and 'how to' guides to help with the practical implementation of control and eradication operations for landholders and other regions with similar pest control issues.
6. Reports and scientific papers based on project findings targeting the professional community with project outcomes and learnings.

How many community groups will you engage in you project?

5

Does your project include activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on any matters of national environmental significance?

No

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Risk Management

Please define the major risks associated with this project and what management actions you will put in place to minimise or avoid these risks

| What are the risks? | Impact of the risk | Likelihood of it occurring | Overall risk | Mitigation strategy |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Weed control contractors are not able to deliver planned control activities | Major | Unlikely | Medium | Use a number of independent contractors to carry out the required work. Use a variety of control methods to cover climatic or seasonal variances that may impede specific control techniques. |
| Poor landholder participation and support | Major | Unlikely | Medium | Use compliance process set under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 (SA) to enforce land holder control of declared species. |
| Climatic conditions not suitable for WoNS control | Major | Possible | High | Adaptive and integrated control techniques used. On-going monitoring of control success to feed into adaptive management. |
| Not all goats are destroyed | Catastrophic | Unlikely | High | Continue to maintain control effort which is dependant on funding support |
| Not all deer are destroyed | Catastrophic | Unlikely | High | Continue to trial new control techniques, maintain monitoring, increase control effort. This is dependant on funding support. |
| Feral goat and deer not eradicated | Catastrophic | Possible | High | Successful eradication is dependant on removal of animals, implentation of domestic control and follow up monitoring to ensure successful eraication. Undertaking these activities is dependant on securing funding. |
| Not all landholders implement pig management | Major | Possible | High | Use a number of independent contractors to carry out the required work. Use a variety of control methods to cover climatic or seasonal variances that may impede specific control techniques. |

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SECTION : BUDGET

Budget for project

| Caring for our Country target | Financial year | Funding sought (GST exclusive) |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reducing the impact of vertebrate pest animals | 2011-12 | \$ 339,514.00 |
| | 2012-13 | \$ 339,900.00 |
| | Subtotal: | \$ 679,414.00 |
| Reducing the impact of Weeds of National Significance | 2011-12 | \$ 34,129.00 |
| | 2012-13 | \$ 33,741.00 |
| | Subtotal: | \$ 67,870.00 |
| Total: | | \$ 747,284.00 |
| Of this what funding is allocated to MERI planning and implementation | | \$ 67,470.00 |

Other source/s of cash funding

Please indicate other cash funding which is necessary for the completion of your project.

| Organisation | Contact person | Phone | Security of funds | Amount (GST) |
|---|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre | Dr Stephen Lapidge | 0883571222 | Committed in writing | \$ 75,600.00 |
| Total | | | | \$ 75,600.00 |

Total project budget

| Caring for our Country funding (GST excl) | Other funding (GST excl) | Total Amount (GST excl) |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$ 747,284.00 | \$ 75,600.00 | \$ 822,884.00 |

Overview information for project

| Project ID | Project Title | Budget |
|--------------|---|----------------------|
| RB12-00040-3 | Protecting Kangaroo Island from invasive species, Phase 2 | \$ 747,284.00 |
| Total | | \$ 747,284.00 |

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SECTION : DECLARATIONS

Proponents should note that, by completing and submitting this project, they agree to the following statements.

I certify that:

- to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this project is complete and correct and no information is false or misleading. I understand that it is an offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* to provide false or misleading information
- I understand that the Australian Government is under no obligation to provide funding for this project
- I understand that the Australian Government assumes no responsibility for any investment in activities relating to this project that are made before the formation of a contract with the
- I/the organisation I represent supports this project and, if successful, agrees to enter into a contract with the Australian Government to deliver the project and administer the project's
- I have the agreement of all partners to the contents of this project
- I will spend the funding and implement the project in the ways described in the project, unless otherwise agreed by all parties
- the project has not already received funding in part or in full from any other funding source, except as identified in this project
- I/the organisation I represent understand that any payments made by the Australian Government in relation to this project are subject to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Act 1999*
- I consent, on behalf of all parties, to this project being referred to third parties for assessment purposes
- I understand that the Australian Government may undertake external assessments or feasibility studies in relation to this project
- I understand that the Australian Government may undertake to negotiate components of this project to ensure that the most appropriate package for investment and delivery of Caring for our Country targets is in place
- I consent to publication of the above information by the Australian Government if I am awarded funding under this grants program
- I agree that I accept full responsibility to ensure that all of the necessary planning, regulatory and other approvals, permits and permissions are obtained before commencing this project
- to the best of my knowledge, there are no real or likely to be perceived conflicts of interest contained in or associated with this project

The Australian Government thanks you for your interest in Caring for our Country and for the time and effort you have made in preparing this project.