

Marna Banggara Project

Marna Banggara is an ambitious, long-term project that aims to restore southern Yorke Peninsula's spectacular landscape.

Known for its distinctive 'mainland island' geography, southern Yorke Peninsula is home to a beautiful natural world that exists side-by-side with agricultural production.

It retains some of the few remaining large areas of high quality, native vegetation, but introduced pests and feral animals have destroyed much of the wildlife that keep the environment in balance. Ecological processes that sustained both the wild parts of the landscape and provided benefits to agriculture have become degraded.

Marna Banggara, which covers 170,000 hectares including working farms, tourist destinations and townships, is a bold plan to reintroduce native species and reinstate the area's ecological function at a scale not previously attempted.

Marna Banggara aims to:

- Develop a safe haven for some of Australia's most threatened species
- Improve the health of Yorke Peninsula's distinctive bushland
- Support agricultural productivity
- Strengthen the local economy

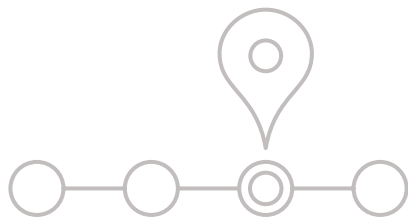
This is a highly collaborative project involving local landholders, farmers, Traditional Owners, small businesses, NGOs and government. Some of the key project partners include the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, the Australian Government, the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, WWF-Australia, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Zoos SA, Regional Development Australia, South Australian Tourism Commission, FAUNA Research Alliance, BirdLife Australia, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Primary Producers SA, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Legatus Group, Yorke Peninsula Council, Yorke Peninsula Tourism and the Scientific Expedition Group.



What's happened?

Coordinated fox control with landholders has occurred on southern Yorke Peninsula since the early 2000s to ensure a landscape-scale approach to predator management. It was a critical factor in the success of the reintroduction of the tamar wallaby to Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park in 2004 and continues today. Farmers have reported increases in lambing survival rates and there have also been encouraging sightings of bush-stone curlews, echidnas and goannas.

A significant project milestone achieved in August 2021 was the reintroduction of brush-tailed bettongs. Known as an ecosystem engineer, one of these tiny mammals can dig between two to six tonnes of dirt and leaf litter each year, which improves water infiltration, disperses seeds and helps native plants grow.



In the past four years, the Marna Banggara project has achieved:

- ✓ 120 brush-tailed bettongs released into Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park. 80 more bettongs are scheduled for release in autumn 2023.
- ✓ Collaboration between Noongar and Narungga First Nations to gift and receive bettongs from Western Australia.
- ✓ 211 hooded plover nests monitored and protected by volunteers over three breeding seasons.
- ✓ 145 malleefowl mounds discovered through remote-sensing surveys.
- ✓ Audio monitoring of western whipbirds to determine current distribution.
- ✓ Construction of a 25km-long, 1.8m-high fence on the narrowest point of southern Yorke Peninsula to slow the entry of cats and foxes into the 150,000ha project area.
- ✓ 36 landholders engaged in coordinated fox baiting.
- ✓ Installation of innovative feral cat control technology.
- ✓ 100 cameras deployed to monitor predator and native animal abundance.
- ✓ Four PhD, one Honours and two internship opportunities undertaken, providing valuable threatened species research.

Did you know?

The name Marna Banggara originates from Narungga language with 'marna' meaning 'healthy or prosperous' and 'banggara' signifying 'Country'.

Brush-tailed bettongs (or woylies) were translocated from Western Australia to southern Yorke Peninsula.



What's next?

Although a number of partners have contributed to the project, the Australian Government has provided the majority of project funding and its current phase concludes in 2023. The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is currently preparing to apply for the next round of Commonwealth support that could fund the project during the next five years.

Proposed activities for the next phase:

1. Continue native mammal reintroductions, including at least one more ecosystem engineer species (e.g. southern brown bandicoot).
2. Support Aboriginal engagement in project delivery through employment of a Narungga project officer and continued Narungga representation on project groups and key project events.
3. Expand intensive fox and feral cat control on conservation reserves, private property and farming land.
4. Increase barn owl numbers through nest boxes on landholder properties, to help manage house mouse populations.

5. Monitor key flora and fauna species as indicators of ecosystem health such as malleefowl, shorebirds and orchids, including citizen science opportunities.
6. Build connectivity between tracts of key habitat through regeneration/revegetation activities, such as shelterbelts.
7. Increase the quality of vegetation through weed control and fire management such as cultural burning.
8. Continue to support research opportunities.
9. Delivery of education programs to schools.
10. Community-led nocturnal house on Yorke Peninsula featuring reintroduced species.

A second predator management fence previously considered will not be part of the project during the next five years but may be an option in the future.

Let us know your thoughts

Your view is important and will help shape the next five-year funding proposal.

1. Which of the activities numbered on the previous page do you support?

2. What other ideas do you have?

3. How would you like the community to be involved?

4. Would you like to participate in any of the following activities?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Predator control | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Narungga cultural activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Flora and fauna monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> g. Increasing community awareness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Revegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> h. Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Weed control | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e. Barn owl nest box construction and establishment | |

5. What would you like more information about?

6. Would you like us to keep you informed about Marna Banggara? If so, please leave your contact details below.



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Or fill out the anonymous online survey by clicking on this [link](#) or scanning the QR code.



National
Landcare
Program



Northern and Yorke
LANDSCAPE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN AND YORKE



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water



**Foundation for
National Parks
& Wildlife**

Marna Banggara is jointly funded through the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, WWF-Australia and Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife.