

[REDACTED]

3 March 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

RE: Feedback on South Australia's Draft Biodiversity Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Biodiversity Bill for South Australia. The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (KILB) supports the overarching aims of the Bill, to protect and value biodiversity within South Australia. KILB contributed to the collated submission by all Landscape Boards within the state, but also would like to draw attention to three specific changes to the protection of flora and fauna that this draft Bill seeks to make and highlight implications our Board has identified for Kangaroo Island.

1. Do you support adopting the definition for 'native plant' from the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, meaning any plant indigenous to Australia can be protected?

KILB has significant concerns about how this would impact our current weed management program, and the risk of introduction and 'protection' of new weedy species. Kangaroo Island is a region with high native plant diversity and high numbers of endemic plant species. There are currently 31 introduced 'native plant' species found to be weedy on Kangaroo Island, four of which have now been declared and a further one is being considered for declaration. Protection of 'native plant' species not native to our geographical region could have further implications for weed incursions on the island and may have implications for our ability to manage weedy species. KILB recommends the definition of 'native plant' remains as per the definition of 'native vegetation' under the current *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, so that species native to a geographical region are prioritised for protection.

2. Do you support the new measure aimed at protecting planted native plants more than 20 years old, excluding those in people's gardens or commercial forests?

KILB supports the Landscape Boards joint submission on this change but would like to further highlight the concerns we have pertaining to native vegetation management on Kangaroo Island. Kangaroo Island has a long history of protection and re-establishment of local provenance native vegetation by landholders. The Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery run by KILB produces >30,000 KI native seedlings per annum for landholders on the island to purchase for revegetation projects. Local primary producers use these local provenance seedlings to establish shelterbelts, which has significant co-benefits for local biodiversity. KILB is concerned local farmers may be disincentivised from using KI native plants for their shelterbelts if greater restrictions are placed on what can be done with native plants over 20 years old. It could also inadvertently have negative consequences if local landholders deem it necessary to clear plantings prior to the 20-year mark in order to afford them more flexibility with managing their shelterbelts and paddock alignments in future years. KILB believes there are already mechanisms for landholders to preserve their planted native vegetation (e.g. Heritage Agreements) and forcing further restrictions on how land managers can manage their planted shelterbelts is not a desirable outcome.

3. Do you support introducing targeted controls for managing impact causing species in favour of an 'unprotected' list of species?

KILB strongly supports the feedback provided by the Landscape Boards joint submission and would like to highlight our concerns regarding control of little corellas on Kangaroo Island. Little corellas are now in large numbers on the island, and there are significant community concerns around the noise, waste and damage that these flocks of corellas cause, particularly those roosting around Kingscote and the local school (Kangaroo Island Community Education). Community members are expressing concerns around the large amount of bird faeces now covering surfaces at the local school, and potential health implications for students and staff. In response, KILB has committed resources to a trial of corella control using shooting at roost sites. This program has successfully culled >1100 little corellas this summer alone. We are concerned that there will be impacts to our control work if there is a time lag between when the Biodiversity Bill comes into effect and the declaration of this species for targeted controls. We support the joint submission that there needs to be additional detail provided in the act and clarity on timelines for this process and support a Schedule of unprotected animals as currently exists in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

If you would like to further discuss this feedback, please contact [REDACTED] General Manager of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
General Manager
Kangaroo Island Landscape Board