



# Working Together

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## Native Vegetation Change Detection Program

One of the functions of the Native Vegetation Council (NVC) under the Native Vegetation Act 1991, is 'to keep the condition of native vegetation of the State under review'. To do this, the NVC has a native vegetation change detection program. The aim of the program is to monitor any loss in quantity or quality of native vegetation in the rural agricultural regions of South Australia. Less than 20 percent of indigenous vegetation remains in most agricultural areas, with some regions reporting figures of less than 12 percent, much of it degraded. Vegetation clearance across the State has contributed to 25 percent of all recorded plants and animals being considered as threatened and about 65 percent of native vegetation populations at risk.

### How does the program work?

Satellite sensing at regular intervals provides a series of geographically and spectrally

calibrated images of the same location across a period of time. Analysis highlights areas where a change in vegetation cover is detected.

### What happens once a change is detected?

When a change is detected, the data is verified to eliminate any legitimate changes - for example those occurring from fire or flood; clearance of native vegetation approved by the NVC or under Regulations; seasonal variations or from changes due to planted vegetation.

The verification process may include: analysing high resolution aerial photography of the area; obtaining information directly from the landowner(s); and/or onsite or aerial inspection. Any area that is questionable is referred to the Compliance Unit (CU) of the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) who undertake investigations into possible breaches of The Act on behalf

of the Native Vegetation Council. During the 2013 -14 financial year, 209 reports of illegal clearance of native vegetation were received or detected.

The imagery captured during monitoring can now be used in court as evidence of breaches of The Act.

The community has often reported breaches and this is most welcome. Stop work orders can be issued for unauthorised clearance so the earlier a suspected breach is reported, the earlier the CU can act. All reports are strictly confidential.

More information on the program via an Information Sheet and guidance on *Reporting Unauthorised Clearance* can be found on the Department website; [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native\\_vegetation/Managing\\_native\\_vegetation/](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation/)

Source: SA Native Vegetation Council E News

## Australasian Bat Night 2015- Australasian Bat Society (ABS)

Australasian Bat Night is a public awareness programme aiming to educate people about bats, to raise the profile of bats and debunk the myths and fears, to achieve better conservation outcomes and assist people to live with bats. We are inviting local councils, land-care groups, Field Naturalists, eco and wildlife tourism operators, wildlife carers, zoos, sanctuaries and wildlife parks, mu-

seums and other community groups to participate by running bat activities during March and April of next year, anything from a Bat walk looking for microbat activity or watching a fly-out to building bat boxes or holding a Bat Festival.

We invite community and local government organisations and individuals to register events and activities for 2015 and to promote Bat Night in your

networks. We will promote individual events on the ABS website, and our social media pages.

For more information and to register contact Maree Treadwell Kerr at:

batnight.ausbats@gmail.com. And then check the ABS website <http://ausbats.org.au/> to keep in touch and find out more.

**‘...to understand how native revegetation is regarded under the Native Vegetation Act 1991.’**

## New Information Sheets on Revegetation under The Act

On the DEWNR website three new Information Sheets to understand how native revegetation is regarded under the Native Vegetation Act 1991. An application form for lodgement to the Native Vegetation Council has also been added.

- Information Sheet 49 - **Protection of Existing Planted Native Species under Section 23E & 23H of the Native Vegetation Act 1991**

- Information Sheet 50 - **Protection of Proposed Revegetation under Section 23F of the Native Vegetation Act 1991**

- Information Sheet 51 - **Protection of Existing and Proposed Revegetation within a Heritage Agreement under the Native Vegetation Act 1991**

An **Application Form** has also been created to supplement these information sheets to enable applying for consideration of protection under The Act.

These can all be accessed via several headings of the main website [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native\\_vegetation/Managing\\_native\\_vegetation](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation)

A supplementary document to assist professionals with the criteria to be considered is being finalised and will also be added.

Notification will be sent once this is uploaded.

Source: SA Native Vegetation Council E News

**‘..in many parts of the world, where adverse climate and scarcity of natural resources .. make production of conventional livestock nearly impossible..’**

## The growing importance of non-traditional meat species

The authors of the extensive article note that meat is an important source of high quality food proteins, with increasing demand in developing countries as their economies improve and become more stable.

Developed countries are also anticipating increased meat demand as modern-day consumers desire more convenience, more selection, and increased healthfulness from food. It is evident that meat

from less traditional species will be necessary to supplement beef, pork, lamb, and poultry to meet the anticipated future demand for animal proteins.

Non-traditional meat species (from six inhabited continents) were chosen as the focus of this Animal Frontiers article because in many parts of the world, where adverse climate and scarcity of natural resources (i.e. water and forages) make production of

conventional livestock nearly impossible, such animals provide protein-rich food for human nutrition and contribute to a thriving agricultural economy and food security.

Animals that have been, or currently are part of RIRDC's R&D portfolio, such as buffalo, kangaroo and rabbit are included in the article

<http://takingstock.asas.org/?p=13423>

Source: Rural Diversity in brief

**‘..the 13 fact sheets covers the growing conditions, food uses, flavour profiles, growing regions, storage requirements, and nutritional profiles..’**

## Everything you'd want to know about Australian native foods

RIRDC has recently published a series of fact sheets that cover 13 of Australia's most popular native foods.

Each of the 13 fact sheets covers the growing conditions, food uses, flavour profiles, growing regions, storage requirements, and nutritional profiles of a particular native food. The native foods covered included in the fact sheet series are (click name to download fact sheet): or Visit <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/publications>

**Anise myrtle**  
**Bush tomato**  
**Davidson plum**  
**Desert lime**  
**Finger lime**  
**Kakadu plum**  
**Lemon aspen**  
**Lemon myrtle**  
**Muntries**  
**Mountain pepper**  
**Quondong**  
**Riberry**  
**Wattle seed**

The development of the native food fact sheet series was a joint initiative between RIRDC and Australian Native Food Industry Limited (ANFIL), the peak national body which represents all interests in the Australian native food industry.

Source: Rural Diversity in brief

## Agricultural and Fishing Innovation Grants

**Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin is pleased to announce the opening of the 2015 NRM Agricultural and Fishing Innovation Grants.**

**What is the application criteria?** The NRM Agricultural and Fishing Innovation Grants can be used to undertake the following activities including but not limited to:

- Trials and demonstrations of innovative agricultural or fishing practices and technologies

- Development of innovative agricultural or fishing practices and technologies
- Increase on farm adoption of innovative agricultural or fishing practices and technologies
- Promotion of innovative agricultural or fishing practices and technologies.

In addition, to be successful projects must demonstrate the following:

Projects must be conducted within and/or for industry within the SAMDB NRM Region

Innovation that will provide increased profitability and a resource sustainability benefit.

**How much can be applied for?** The total amount of funding available through the NRM Agricultural and Fishing Innovation Grants Program is \$200,000.

There are two tiers of grants. Tier 1 - Up to \$10,000 (GST Exc.). These are intended

**'Innovation that will provide increased profitability and a resource sustainability benefit.'**

## Agricultural and Fishing Innovation Grants *continued*

for smaller projects and will make up to \$50,000 of the total amount of funding

Tier 2 - From \$10,000 to \$25,000 (GST Exc.). These will make up the remainder of the total available grant monies.

**What is the opening and closing date for applications?** Applications are open from 9am on Monday 5 January 2015 and close at 5pm on Thursday 19 February 2015.

**When do projects need to be completed by?** Projects must be completed, all funding acquitted, and project final reports completed and submitted on or before Friday 25 March 2016. There will be no opportunities for project extensions.

**How to apply?** Grant guidelines and application form can be obtained from the Natural Resources SAMDB Website at: <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/land/help-for-land-managers/nrm-agriculture-and-fishing-innovation-grants>

[au/samurraydarlingbasin/land/help-for-land-managers/nrm-agriculture-and-fishing-innovation-grants](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/land/help-for-land-managers/nrm-agriculture-and-fishing-innovation-grants)

**Need assistance or more information?** For more information or to test your idea for a project please contact Tony Randall, Sustainable Farming Program Coordinator [tony.randall2@sa.gov.au](mailto:tony.randall2@sa.gov.au) or phone (08) 8532 9101 or 0427 834 396.

**'For more information or to test your idea for a project please contact Tony Randall, Sustainable Farming Program Coordinator..'**

## Pasture genebank secures farming future

The Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, recently announced the development of the Australian Pastures Genebank (APG), which will preserve more than 70,000 varieties of pastures and forage species that will provide valuable seed for future breeding programs.

The APG, based at the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Plant Research Centre at

Waite Campus, will be custodian to the world's largest collection of important pasture and forage seeds. The national hub will be used to preserve and protect important genetic material for future plant breeding and the development of Australian grazing industries.

The APG will strategically acquire, document, conserve, maintain and make available plant genetic diversity of pas-

ture and forage species of actual or potential value to agriculture in Australia. This includes plants to be grown for livestock, crop rotation and the environment.

The APG will be managed by SARDI, a division of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), with support from the Australian Government and all State and Federal government primary industries

*Continued on page 4*

**'..more than 70,000 varieties of pastures and forage species that will provide valuable seed for future breeding programs'**

MID MURRAY LAP

Project Manager  
Aimee Linke  
Nursery Supervisor  
Irene Bugeja

PO Box 10  
CAMBRAI, SA, 5353

Phone Aimee: 8564 6044  
Fax: 8564 5003

midlap@internode.on.net  
Cambrai Community Nursery  
Irene Bugeja: 8564 6034  
cambrai\_nursery@internode.on



Committee Members

Chairman: Terry Franklin  
Vice Chair: Glen Donnell  
Executive: Ian Mann  
Councilor: Brian Taylor  
Don Webster  
Elisabeth Wood  
Rose Laucke  
David Peake  
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Issy Campbell

This newsletter is printed on  
100% recycled paper,  
Protecting our Trees and  
Environment



Government  
of South Australia



Government of South Australia  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board



Pasture genebank secures farming future *continued*

departments.

The centre will be funded by RIRDC, Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, Grains Research and Development Corporation, and Dairy Australia.

For more information visit:  
[http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pastures/australian\\_pastures\\_genebank](http://www.sardi.sa.gov.au/pastures/australian_pastures_genebank)

Source: Rural Diversity in brief

A Volunteering  
Opportunity at a South  
Australian Project

The Upper Torrens Land Management Project (UTLMP) Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project is looking for volunteers to help with the project, especially at the Barossa Bushgardens. You can help out in the Seed Production Area (SPA) by doing planting and seed collecting and by helping out in the foam

box nursery. You can volunteer for Mondays, Wednesdays and/or Fridays at or around Mount Pleasant, or at the Barossa Bushgardens SPA at Nuriootpa on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information please call Andrew Fairney on 0477 307 577 or the UTLMP office in the Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre on 8568 1876. Source: Grass Notes Number 35 2015

Place Postage  
Stamp here

- I wish to be added to the mailing list
- I wish to be taken off the mailing list
- I wish to receive via email
- I wish to become a volunteer

Return to:  
Mid Murray LAP  
PO Box 10  
CAMBRAI SA 5353  
Fax: 08 8564 5003  
Email: midlap@internode.on.net

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Email.....

Upcoming Events

Working Dog and  
Handling Training Schools

- Two courses at Mt Pleasant
- Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of February
  - Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of February

Enrol now at  
[www.workingdogcentre.com](http://www.workingdogcentre.com)  
or phone 8667 5484

New 'Garden Share'  
Program at Mt. Pleasant

Sessions located at the Mount Pleasant Community Garden & Recreate, corner of Phillis Street and Showground Terrace, Mount Pleasant

Second Sunday of the month, from 10am to 11am-ish, starting in February 2015

More information  
[www.mpnrc.org.au](http://www.mpnrc.org.au) or  
8568 1907

18th Australian  
Rangelands Conference

"Innovation in the Rangelands" 12-16th April 2015, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

More information  
<http://arsconference.com.au/general-info/>