KANGAROO ISLAND

Dudley Peninsula Feral Cat Eradication Program

Connected technology, field innovation and local know-how helping find the last feral cats



AT A GLANCE

• Location	Dudley Peninsula, eastern Kangaroo Island, South Australia
• Eradication area	38,400 hectares
• Program commenced	2020
• Feral cats removed	More than 2,000 since 2020
• Lead organisation	Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
• Current objective	Move from broadscale control to precision eradication and proof of absence

The challenge

Kangaroo Island is free of foxes and rabbits and is an important refuge for native wildlife. On the island, feral cats are the apex introduced terrestrial predator and a major threat to small mammals, reptiles and birds, including ground-nesting species. They also affect primary producers through diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which can cause reproductive losses in sheep.

WHY ERADICATION GETS HARDER

As feral cat numbers decline, the task changes. Broadscale population reduction gives way to finding and removing individual animals that are scattered, difficult to detect and often trap-shy. Success increasingly depends on precision technology, high-quality intelligence and skilled practitioners who can adapt methods to individual cats.

The pathway to a feral cat-free Dudley Peninsula

The expanded eradication team is undertaking an intensive knockdown in 2026, aiming to remove more than 95 per cent of the feral cats remaining on the Dudley Peninsula.

2026	**INTENSIVE KNOCKDOWN** Landscape-scale control across the peninsula.
2027	**TARGETED REMOVAL** Locate and remove individual cats using intensive surveillance and specialised tools.
2028–2029	**PROOF OF ABSENCE** At least 24 months of systematic monitoring to establish that feral cats are no longer present.
2030	**PROGRAM COMPLETION** Finalise the eradication program based on proof-of-absence evidence.

THE GOAL

The goal is not simply to reduce cat numbers. It is to remove every feral cat and build the scientific evidence needed to confirm that the Dudley Peninsula is feral cat free.

Connected technology

More than 1,000 traps across the eradication zone are fitted with Celium trap-alert technology. Trap status is communicated directly to field teams and participating landholders through mobile apps, removing the need for routine in-person checking and allowing triggered traps to be attended quickly.

Surveillance extends well beyond traps. More than 280 4G-enabled remote cameras capture around 30,000 images each day. The eVorta AI platform processes these images in near real time and automatically identifies feral cats and priority native species. Trap alerts, AI detections, spatial information and field data are then brought together through GIS platforms and customised dashboards.

1,000+	280+	30,000
connected traps	4G remote cameras	images per day

Field innovation: the Double Lure trap



Feral Cat Eradication team members and expert trappers Murray Schofield and Joe Donaldson with a Double Lure (DL) trap.

Experienced team member Murray Schofield developed the Double Lure (DL) trap after repeated off-target captures in standard cage traps. Two cage traps are joined to create a longer tunnel, while cat urine replaces food as the lure. The design exploits territorial behaviour while reducing interest from native bush rats, goannas and possums.

The DL has become another practical tool in the program's broader toolkit and can be used by participating landholders as well as professional trappers.

HIGH TECH + BUSH INGENUITY

The program combines Celium trap alerts, eVorta AI, remote cameras and GIS dashboards with practical innovations developed by experienced field staff. No single method is expected to do the job on its own.

Results

The connected trap network has increased operational efficiency by more than 70 per cent, while improving welfare outcomes and reducing unnecessary travel. AI-assisted surveillance allows staff to respond more quickly to detections and focus effort where it matters most.

Since 2020, more than 2,000 feral cats have been removed from the Dudley Peninsula. As numbers decline, the program increasingly combines trap alerts, remote cameras, thermal technology, skilled trappers, leg-hold traps, cage traps and innovations such as the DL to support precision eradication.

FERAL CATS CAPTURED BY TRAP OR TECHNOLOGY TYPE
1 JANUARY – 21 JUNE 2026

52 DL traps	**32** Cage traps
30 Leg-hold traps	**11** Detection dog-assisted removals
10 Felixer Grooming Trap	**4** Thermal shooting

Community participation is key to an eradication system

For a populated agricultural landscape like Dudley, technology and specialist expertise are only part of the solution. The program has strong support from the local community, with 99% of landholders granting access to their properties to monitor for - and remove - feral cats. Working in partnership with landholders allows comprehensive landscape scale coverage for operations. Participating landholders help extend surveillance and trapping effort across mixed land tenures, while regular community updates help maintain awareness and reporting.



Regular community updates are provided to the Penneshaw community, with support from the Penneshaw Progress Association.



Third-generation sheep farmer Andy Gilfillan participates in the landholder trapping program.

Signs of wildlife recovery



Southern brown bandicoots have been detected on camera at Dudley Conservation Park. The species is common west of Parndana but occurs only in low numbers on the Dudley Peninsula. These detections are encouraging signs that the species is persisting and provide hope for wildlife recovery as feral-cat predation is reduced.

Take-home messages

PRECISION MATTERS AT LOW DENSITY

The final animals require better intelligence, near real-time surveillance and highly targeted responses.

USE THE WHOLE TOOLKIT

Trap alerts, cameras, thermal technology, dogs, specialist trapping and field innovation are complementary rather than competing methods.

FIELD KNOWLEDGE DRIVES INNOVATION

The DL trap shows how practitioner experience can solve practical problems that emerge during eradication.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION EXPANDS REACH

Landholder involvement and local reporting are critical in a populated agricultural landscape.

ERADICATION REQUIRES PROOF

The endpoint is not low cat numbers; it is evidence strong enough to demonstrate absence of feral cats.

Delivery, partners and support

The program is delivered by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board with support from participating landholders and technology partners including Encounter Solutions, ethos Environmental and eVorta. Funders and supporters include the Australian Government, Government of South Australia, Ian Potter Foundation, Nature Foundation and Purryburry Trust.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, contact the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. Community members and landholders are encouraged to report sightings or signs of feral cat activity on the Dudley Peninsula to the Feline Hotline: 0459 952 830.