

## Media Release

### **Trees for Recovery - Kangaroo Island Farmers plant over 75,000 native trees since bushfires**

In December 2019 and January 2020 Kangaroo Island was devastated by catastrophic bushfires which burnt through 46% of the Island. The road to recovery for the whole community has been long, and the journey continues to this day. The agricultural sector was particularly hard hit by the bushfires and has shown so much resilience since being impacted.

Chairperson of Agriculture Kangaroo Island, Jamie Heinrich commented, “The last three years have been a tough time for many Kangaroo Island producers who were affected by the fires. Rebuilding their livelihoods and businesses has been trying through many challenges, such as covid.”

“The perseverance of Kangaroo Island farmers has been inspirational; always striving to undertake best management practices across their farm businesses even after being impacted by a natural disaster. It is great to see so many producers post fires undertake mass trees plantings across their farms. Many agricultural producers were devastated when they had such great losses across their property’s. Not only homes, infrastructure and livestock were lost, but also the vegetation across their properties that provided shelter-belts for livestock, biodiversity for the landscape and also enabled better resilience against erosion and climate change.

Jamie states, “It’s phenomenal that over 75,000 native tube stock trees have been planted on primary production land across the island since the fires.”



The Kangaroo Island Landscapes Board and Trees for Life have provided the native tube stock trees that have been planted and these were provided to fire affected producers free of charge or at minimal expense.

It is anticipated that the native tube stock trees will continue to be provided for farmers across the Island to plant out annually. Jamie stated, “Native vegetation provides many benefits for producers as well as habitat for vulnerable animal species. The future of the Island is in good hands, with so much native vegetation being replanted by farmers across primary production properties since the bushfires.

In total, between early 2020 and mid-late 2022, Kangaroo Island Farmers have planted 75,929 trees on agricultural land across the Island.

The Landscape Board reported that KI Farmers planted 11,585 trees in 2020; 20,578 trees in 2021; and 25,316 trees in 2022. Trees for Life have supplied 4,300 trees in 2020; 10,850 in 2021 and 3,300 in 2022.

**GRAND TOTAL: 75,929 - over 75,000 trees planted by KI farmers since the Black Summer Bushfires.**

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