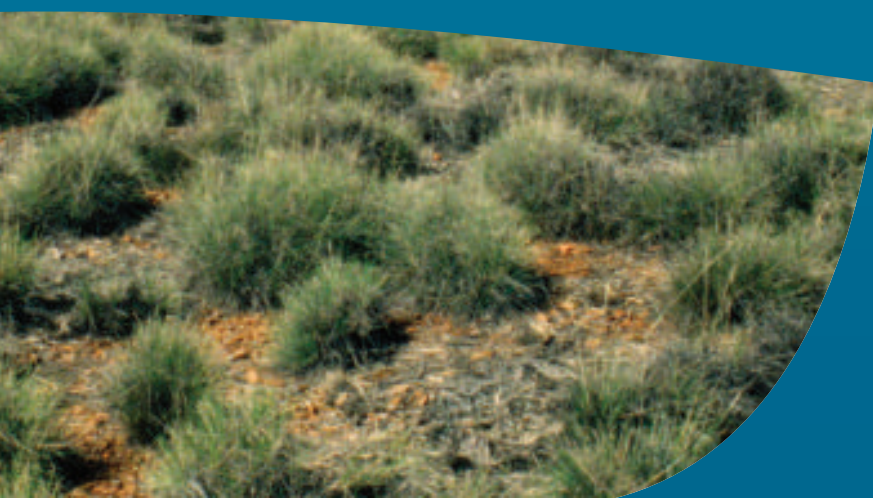


# BOUNCEBACK Flinders Ranges



## Winner

2000 SA Great Regional Environment Award  
2000 SA Great State Environment Award  
2001 Banksia National Environment Award



Natural Heritage Trust  
*Helping Communities Helping Australia*

DEPARTMENT FOR  
**environment**  
and heritage



Bounceback is a major ecological restoration program operating in the semi-arid Flinders and Olary bioregion of South Australia with the following broad aims:

- Link efforts to conserve and enhance biodiversity across the region
- Restore the natural ecological processes across the region, with particular focus on core areas of the Flinders Ranges National Park (FRNP) and Gammon Ranges National Park (GRNP)
- Remove major threats to biodiversity and ecological integrity in the region
- Develop and demonstrate a best-practice model of integrated ecological management

Key issues that initiated the development of the Bounceback program include:

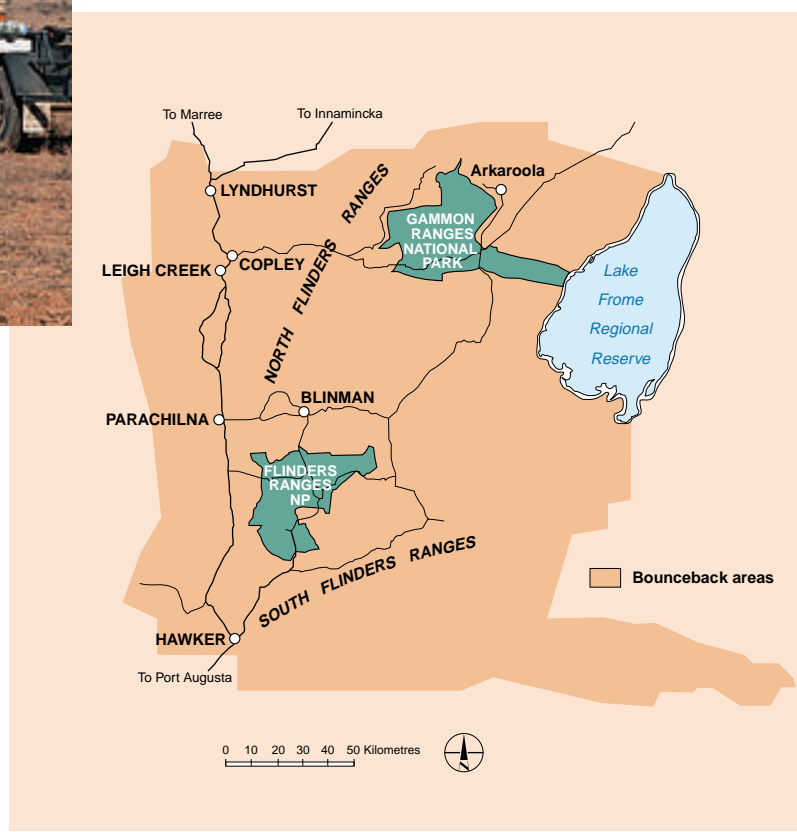
- Extinction of critical weight range mammals such as the Brush-tailed Bettong across the region
- Continued decline in habitat quality due to ongoing threats including excessive grazing pressure, weed infestation and introduced predators
- The lack of an integrated approach to ecological management
- Continued decline of threatened species, including the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby *Petrogale xanthopus*.

Bounceback established a series of targets to be achieved over the project lifespan. These included desired results such as signs of recovery of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies, but also more readily quantifiable targets such as reductions in pest species to certain levels or increases in the extent of treatment areas.

Indicators of progress were selected and rigorous monitoring programs designed and implemented. The bulk of these were designed with a long-term outlook, although most also provided an indication of trend or success to allow regular review of our on-ground activities.



Volunteers planting saltbush





## Summary of project implementation & activities

The broader implementation strategy behind Bounceback can be summarised as follows:

- **Monitoring & evaluation programs**

Monitoring programs were established to assess ecological response to project activities and to allow for management practices to evolve over time.

- **Threat abatement programs**

Removing known threats to biodiversity is fundamental. Numerous threat abatement activities have been introduced, with a focus on total grazing pressure, predation and pest plant infestation.

- **Regional approach**

Bounceback has operated on a regional scale incorporating significant areas of off-reserve activities.

- **Integrated/Systems approach to conservation**

The project has employed an integrated approach in designing and implementing conservation programs as opposed to single species or single threat management.

- **District involvement/Community partnerships**

The northern Flinders Ranges contains many stakeholders with differing landuses, primarily including pastoral production, conservation and tourism. Many Bounceback activities have occurred off-reserve with the support of landholders. Strong partnerships have been formed with members of the community and various volunteers groups. The Hunting & Conservation Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) and the Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) have played a major ongoing role in the implementation of Bounceback's activities.

Bounceback has implemented a broad range of activities both on and off-reserve, including:

- Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby monitoring
- feral goat control
- fox control
- rabbit control
- feral cat control
- management of total grazing pressure
- pest plant control
- trial reintroduction of Brush-tailed Bettongs
- buffer zone (reinvansion) management
- vertebrate pest monitoring
- revegetation trials
- vegetation community monitoring
- threatened species/indicator monitoring

*Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby*



## Maintenance of initial progress

Although ecological recovery is a slow process, Bounceback has already made significant progress, including:

- recovery of populations of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies in treatment areas
- broadscale recruitment and improvement in condition of native vegetation communities
- improved Land Condition Index rating for treatment areas
- control of total grazing pressure to promote habitat recovery
- control of foxes in treatment areas
- strategic pest plant control in priority areas
- extensive revegetation works
- development of community partnership programs for off-reserve activities

Bounceback has employed a number of strategies to ensure that biodiversity and conservation goals are achieved and maintained including the following basic guidelines:

- **develop sound baseline operations**

By developing rigorous implementation programs and concentrating much effort into initial baseline measurement and program design, the likelihood of having to significantly change management activities in the future is reduced.

- **implement rigorous, relevant and effective monitoring & evaluation procedures**

A well-planned monitoring program covering a suite of issues and indicators allows for greater certainty in the implementation of the on-ground activities designed to achieve the project's recovery goals. The information provided by the monitoring program is essential in the long-term ongoing design of activities, and allows regular review of progress, the refinement of management programs and the review of complimentary scientific investigations.

- **be realistic in scale**

There is a fine balance between implementing activities over a scale that encourages an ongoing investment, and one which effectively makes maintenance unachievable. With this in mind, Bounceback has adopted multiple scales depending on the activity, and has taken a frontal approach to most operations with room for expansion in the future.

- **establish effective buffer zones**

Effective buffer zones are essential irrespective of scale. Bounceback has worked hard at establishing strategic buffers around core areas (e.g. YFRW colonies) to not just improve the effectiveness of the operations at that location, but to also reduce the ongoing inputs required, or the frequency of activities over the long-term.

- **implement demonstration programs**

Management programs must be relevant to a range of land tenures and land uses if they are to achieve a regional approach to biodiversity conservation. By designing Bounceback as a demonstration project, where most activities can logistically be undertaken by landholders in combination with pastoral activities, the likelihood of ongoing maintenance or adoption is increased.

- **develop strong links with the community**

Bounceback has actively developed partnerships with landholders through co-operative programs and the exchange of management advice and ideas. Landholder commitment can make or break projects like Bounceback, hence the strong emphasis in this area. Bounceback has also been fortunate to gain an ongoing commitment from the SSAA and CVA, both of which will play a big role in the ongoing maintenance of the project activities.

- **promote the concept as 'core business'**

To ensure Bounceback, or biodiversity management in general, is a long-term proposition, it is important to move away from the perception of such work as being a series of activities with typical project completion dates. Rather, it is essential that they are perceived as routine operations – core business not just for government agencies, but landholders in general. The Bounceback project has aggressively promoted this concept both internally and externally. Valuable information has been collected on the resources required to maintain progress with on-ground works.

## Future directions

In addition to maintaining initial progress, further expansion is planned to target additional threatened species recovery, linking current operations, and to advance closer to a point where reintroductions of locally extinct species can be successfully implemented. Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby recovery will remain a key focus of the project, as there are still populations identified at risk of local extinction where management operations are yet to commence.

If ecological restoration is the ultimate goal, then perhaps the ultimate test of success is the reintroduction of locally extinct mammals such as the Brush-tailed Bettong or Bilby. Though still a way off, the re-establishment of viable fauna populations into the system remains a long-term goal for Bounceback.

The Department for Environment & Heritage SA, landholders and various partner organisations are committed to ensuring the on-ground activities continue in the region. With continued support from Environment Australia and the Natural Heritage Trust, we are confident Bounceback will meet its long-term objectives.



*Barking gecko*



## Acknowledgments

The following organisations and landholders have contributed to Bounceback's success to date, and we look forward to continuing these partnerships into the future.

National Parks & Wildlife SA  
Department for Environment and Heritage SA  
Natural Heritage Trust  
Environment Australia  
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia  
(Hunting & Conservation Branch)  
Conservation Volunteers Australia  
Green Corps  
Northern Flinders Soil Conservation Board  
Flinders University  
University of Adelaide  
Scientific Expedition Group  
Adelaide Zoo  
Aroona Biodiversity Enhancement Project  
Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby Preservation Society  
Adnyamathanha Aboriginal Community  
Aboriginal Lands Trust  
Primary Industries and Resources SA  
Animal and Plant Control Commission  
Optima Energy  
Rangelands Soil Board Executive  
Rangelands Action Project  
Nature Conservation Society of SA  
Wildlife Conservation Fund  
Australian National University  
Mid North Bushwalking Club  
Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE  
Toyota Australia  
Alpana Station  
Angepena Station

Angorichina Station  
Angorichina Village  
Arkaba Station  
Arkaroola Sanctuary  
Bimbowrie Station  
Commodore Station  
Depot Springs Station  
Edeowie Station  
Gum Creek Station  
Holowiliena Station  
Holowiliena South Station  
Maynards Well Station  
Moolawatana Station  
Motpena Station  
Mt Serle Station  
Mt Freeling Station  
Myrtle Springs Station  
Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area  
Narrina Station  
North Moolooloo Station  
Plumbago Station  
Prelinna Station  
Puttapa Station  
Rawnsley Park Station  
Umberatana Station  
Warraweena Sanctuary  
Wertaloona Station  
Willow Springs Station  
Wirrealpa Station  
Wooltana Station