

King Island Restoration Kit

Introduction

The Restoration Kit has been developed for the King Island community to use in on ground management and monitoring activities to protect and enhance biodiversity values and habitat for threatened species on King Island.

The King Island Restoration Kit will support landholders to successfully:

- protect and improve the condition of existing native bush and habitat,
- protect and manage naturally regenerating areas for habitat, increased shelter and connectivity,
- establish new vegetation for habitat, increased shelter and connectivity,
- plan and record habitat management and improvement.

The Restoration Kit includes existing information and provides tools including a resource library and on ground site monitoring forms for landholder use which can be stored to a central database. The resource library supports landholders with contemporary and relevant information on a range of topics such as habitat management, revegetation, King Island threatened species and vegetation communities. The monitoring forms will enable consistent recording of restoration work from planning to implementation and annual condition monitoring. Monitoring methods include written records collected on site, images, maps, site drawings and photo monitoring which can be stored, maintained and accessible into the future.

The Restoration Kit has been developed in collaboration with the King Island community through meetings and workshops to trial and progress the development of monitoring and data storage methods in a useful way. Training sessions have facilitated community input and feedback to ensure relevant data is collected and to build capacity of project participants and enable ongoing monitoring. The kit exists as an electronic resource (on USB keys) from which components can be digitally copied, taken as hard copies, and adaptations made in the future if required.

Landholders involved in native vegetation conservation and revegetation projects and monitoring will be able to use the Restoration Kit on their property and site records will demonstrate their commitment to biodiversity, habitat conservation and on-farm improvement of natural assets. In addition, landholders will be able to store and utilise suitable data from historical or existing records, e.g., photo monitoring from prior programs.

Methods

Resource library

Existing documentation (provided by King Island Landcare) was catalogued in a spreadsheet and folders according to usefulness and relevance to the tool kit. Extra information was sourced and added and all resources stored electronically to enable copying and availability.

Monitoring forms

Monitoring forms were developed for use throughout a restoration project from planning to implementation and ongoing monitoring over a five-year period.

- A. Year 1 Project start, site selection and planning,

- B. Year 2 Baseline data when works commence e.g. at planting time or first recording of natural regeneration, and
- C. Years 3–5 Annual monitoring.

Existing monitoring forms, developed for use on King Island and in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales, were adapted specifically to King Island for management of native bush, natural regeneration and revegetation sites with a focus on providing habitat.

Monitoring approaches include photo monitoring and written plot-based records of surveys, site condition such as habitat features, weeds and existing native vegetation, management such as fencing and weed control, and native species survival and growth (height and % cover) and impacts which may be affecting them.

Table 1 Monitoring forms for revegetation and natural regeneration sites

Year	No.	File Name
1	A1	Project and Site Information
1	A2	Revegetation Plan
2	B1	Existing Bush Condition Assessment
2	B2	Revegetation Site Baseline Data
2	B3	Revegetation Plot Baseline Data
2	B4	Natural Regeneration Plot Baseline Data
3+	C1	Monitoring Plot Annual Condition
3+	C2	Monitoring Plot Plant Survival Annual Data

Fact sheets

Discussion with the King Island Landcare crew revealed the need for Fact Sheets on relevant topics to support the use of monitoring forms. These were produced to provide information on 1 King Island Vegetation Communities, 2 Vegetation Structure for Restoration, 3 Revegetation Planning, 4 Photo Point Monitoring, and 5 Monitoring Plot Survey Instructions.

Data storage

Monitoring data will be suitable for upload into a central spreadsheet which could be housed either on Google Drive or a project computer and managed by a community member such as Landcare representative, project officer, coordinator or King Island Council staff.

Storage of field data should be in a known drive pathway such as: King_Island_Vegetation_Monitoring/Project_name/Landholder/Site_name/Year

e.g., King_Island_Vegetation_Monitoring/ANZ_Seeds/Landholder/Property/2024

Subfolders in Year folder: Monitoring Sheets, Images, Maps, Photo points