

ARID RECOVERY



Arid Recovery

2015 - 2020 Strategic plan

www.aridrecovery.org.au

For more information on Arid Recovery visit www.aridrecovery.org.au or call 08 8671 2402.

Arid Recovery is an independent, not-for-profit conservation initiative that has been restoring Australia's arid lands since 1997. Our success is attributed to many supporters including the unwavering support of the local community through volunteers and the long term support from our major sponsors BHP Billiton, SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, and the University of Adelaide.

Copies of this document are available on the Arid Recovery website.



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Page 1: The Arid Recovery Reserve Photo by: Tane Sinclair-Taylor

Page 5: Burrowing Bettong Photo by: Tane Sinclair-Taylor

Page 7: Trapping at Arid Recovery Photo by: Arid Recovery



Introduction

Arid Recovery is an independent, not-for-profit conservation research initiative that has been restoring Australia's arid lands since 1997.

SINCE ITS inception, Arid Recovery has developed into Australia's premier arid zone conservation research initiative with BHP Billiton, the SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the University of Adelaide and the local community as partners.

Arid Recovery is based at Roxby Downs and has become a leader in ecosystem restoration through the use of exclusion fencing, reintroducing threatened species and controlling feral animals. To date, the project has been centred on the 123 km² Arid Recovery Reserve which is situated partly on the Olympic Dam Mine Lease and partly on adjoining pastoral properties.

The Arid Recovery Reserve is a world-class science laboratory and reference site for arid zone ecological research because of the deliberate experimental design of its layout. The Reserve is also an important tool for determining areas of refugia for arid zone species and conservation of species of national significance.

Planning commenced in late 2013 to revisit Arid Recovery's strategic plan, prompted by changes in the operating environment of Arid Recovery and Olympic Dam and the new composition of the Arid Recovery Board.

This new strategy for the future of the organisation has been developed from a range of consultations including:

- 2013 and 2014 strategic planning days with the AR Board and staff
- an independent review of Arid Recovery research to date that included feedback from a variety of stakeholders
- a forum of invited researchers to discuss future possibilities for the AR Reserve and arid zone research.

This document presents Arid Recovery's strategy in two parts:

The first defines who Arid Recovery is and what Arid Recovery does. This takes the form of the Charter for Arid Recovery.

The second is the Arid Recovery's Strategic Plan developed from the perspective of "where we are heading". This considers what change, if any, is needed to the current trajectory and direction of Arid Recovery and key actions to achieve it.

Arid Recovery Charter

The Arid Recovery Charter has its foundation in the mission and vision of the original program created in 1997.

Our vision

Leading sustainable restoration of arid ecosystems

Our mission

We are a not-for-profit research and conservation organisation whose primary purpose is to facilitate the restoration of arid zone ecosystems through on-ground works and applied research in collaboration with industry, community and government.

What we do

1. Conservation and Restoration
2. Research and Monitoring
3. Demonstration and Training

Where we do it

We do this by running and maintaining a world-class arid zone scientific reference site – the heart of Arid Recovery – a 123 km² fenced reserve in South Australia. We apply our science and management techniques across a wide array of arid lands through partnerships with land-holders and traditional owners.

What enables us

What we do is enabled by Arid Recovery operating as an organisation with high standards of governance and business administration and by support from volunteers, the community, and our partners: BHP Billiton, the University of Adelaide, and the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Recent achievements

- Signing of new partnership agreement in 2013, with the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources as a full partner.
- Successful ARC linkage grant with the University of NSW and University of California, Los Angeles for 2013 - 2016.
- Development of SA Rangelands Alliance project with Bush Heritage Australia.

We are committed to

Safety

We know that keeping ourselves and others safe builds strength and trust in our team.

Collaboration and community focus

By sharing our expertise and resources across the scale from the local community to the globe, we achieve the best research and conservation outcomes.

Ownership and integrity

We do what we say we will do and take responsibility for our actions and decisions.

Scientific and ethical rigour

We hold ourselves and those who work on our site to the highest ethical and scientific standards.

Courage and innovation

We encourage innovation and creativity in all our work.

Leading research and restoration



OBJECTIVE 1: Leading applied research

We aim to develop Arid Recovery into a leading centre for arid-zone restoration. We will do this by developing collaborative projects that contribute to more integrated landscape-scale solutions.

THE ARID RECOVERY RESERVE is a world-class science laboratory and reference site for arid zone ecological studies.

The deliberate experimental design of the AR Reserve provides a unique opportunity to investigate and monitor the effect of different grazing and predation treatments on the local ecosystem.

A number of strategies and initiatives to develop Arid Recovery research have previously been identified. These lead on from the current areas of AR research into monitoring of flora and fauna within the defined treatment areas, the re-introduction of native fauna species and the impact of feral animals on the arid zone.

To achieve any research goals of Arid Recovery the development of new research projects needs to be high level and of international standards. It should include application of any research that is undertaken, whether that be through adaptive management within the AR Reserve or application on a wider landscape scale across the arid zone.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Objective 1: Leading research and application
Strategy 1.1: Maintain the AR Reserve as a research facility
1.1.1 Develop a data management framework by undertaking a review of existing data validity and ownership, and developing guidelines for future data collection and storage.
1.1.2 Development of transparent reporting system for reserve and project management
Strategy 1.2: Develop a coherent research agenda that encourages collaboration with a variety of industry partners and researchers
1.2.1 Implement an international visiting scholar scheme.
1.2.2 Revise the Arid Recovery Research Plan to align it to recent strategic planning and to include a communication plan and possible research prospectus components.
1.2.3 Identify alignments between Arid Recovery research priorities and external researchers or organisations

OBJECTIVE 2: Working sustainably with industry

We aim to demonstrate the sustainable coexistence of conservation and mining. We will do this through the development of landscape scale collaborative projects.

AT ARID RECOVERY we are conscious of the role we play in undertaking research that is applicable to all land-users in the arid regions of Australia – conservation reserves, the resource industry and land managers.

This research is applicable not just in our region but across the arid zone. Through our partnerships with the mining industry, we will build on the AR research outcomes achieved over 15 years and see them applied at landscape scale on properties managed for a variety of uses.

Through the creation of new partnerships with the mining industry, pastoral landholders and conservation non-government organisations working collaboratively, we will identify issues common across properties that require a united effort to address. By collaborating with all land-holders we will achieve the highest conservation and the most financially viable outcomes for large areas of land in the arid zone.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Objective 2: Working sustainably with industry
Strategy 2.1: Develop land management partnerships, both current collaborations and new ones, to promote the co-existence of conservation, mining and other industries
2.1.1 Develop current land management partnerships with Bush Heritage Australia
2.1.2 Engage land users to ensure strong end-user focus for current and potential research and to identify collaborative opportunities
Strategy 2.2: Promote practical applications for the co-existence of conservation, mining and other industries
2.2.1 Enlist AR partner organisations to develop and promote applied research and funding opportunities.

Building reputation and business



OBJECTIVE 3: Building a local and global brand and reputation

We aim to be recognized as a knowledge provider in the restoration of arid-zone ecosystems. We will do this through promotion of Arid Recovery's work and achievements.

FOR OVER 15 YEARS Arid Recovery has produced high quality outcomes through its work at the Arid Recovery Reserve. We have developed a reputation for developing innovative conservation techniques that have assisted in biodiversity and threatened species conservation across Australia and the globe. In the region AR is recognised as a leader in natural resource management through collaborative projects with its partners BHP Billiton, the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, and the University of Adelaide.

To develop AR as a global leader in arid zone restoration and conservation practices we must bring this innovation into the way that we communicate our work to a global community. Through the development of new and engaging education programs we will provide hands-on learning experiences. By developing a culture of open collaboration we will increase our research profile through timely dissemination of AR research results and the wider use of AR datasets. This will in turn allow for the development of new relationships with international researchers to develop new and wider scale projects, opening up new avenues for research funding.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Objective 3: Building a local and global brand and reputation
Strategy 3.1: Develop the Arid Recovery profile
3.1.1 Develop 5 year brand, marketing and communication plan for AR that builds on current areas of expertise and clearly demonstrates benefits to partners and supporters.
3.1.2 Identify and enlist new 'champions' to promote the work of AR.
Strategy 3.2: Enhance international brand recognition through high-quality research
3.2.1 Develop key networks with national and international research organisations.
3.2.2 Increase visibility to research community through presentations and workshops at international conferences.
Strategy 3.3: Develop high-quality programs in community engagement
3.3.1 Build on AR profile through community and online engagement

OBJECTIVE 4: Running a safe and sustainable business

We aim to achieve a viable business that generates a surplus for re-investment into the facility and into research. We will do this by developing a diversity of income streams that maintain and build on Arid Recovery's strengths.

THE FUTURE OF Arid Recovery as a not-for-profit business will build on the outstanding scientific and conservation success of the initiative to date.

Previous business plans have identified the need for continued sponsorship of the core Arid Recovery program, but also opportunities to increase external funding, achieving the vision of Arid Recovery. The development of new commercial income streams, will be mindful of protecting the Arid Recovery brand, and its key sponsors. Key areas of focus, including service provision, education programs and tourism opportunities, will be developed in line with world's best practice guidelines wherever possible. Through continual improvement strategies Arid Recovery will ensure that its programs will be evaluated openly and ensure transparency in all its governance and business practices.

Most importantly, by running a robust business model we expand upon the work of Arid Recovery as world-class 123 km² restoration site. This enables us to take the knowledge and know-how to the community, arid zones in Australia and potentially beyond.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Objective 4: Running a robust business
Strategy 4.1: Maintain a safe and desirable workplace
4.1.1 Maintain a positive workplace health and safety culture
4.1.2 Develop and maintain the required workforce capability
Strategy 4.2: Close the existing funding gap by developing alliances for funding, developing partnerships for research, developing alternative recurrent and ad-hoc income streams
4.2.1 Increase financial and in-kind contributions from universities and researchers using the Arid Recovery Reserve
4.2.2 Develop existing partner relationships through the leveraging of potential non-cash contributions and promotion of successes.
4.2.3 Identify and approach potential organisations to join the Arid Recovery partnership
4.2 (iv) Identify potential new funders and alliances and maintain supporter relationship database
4.2.3 Identify potential new sources of recurrent funding including philanthropy, crowd sourcing and other strategy
Strategy 4.3: Report annual progress against this strategic plan
4.3.1 Develop ongoing reporting and evaluation for financial, health & safety, environmental and community initiatives.

Acknowledgements

Arid Recovery is a research conservation initiative supported by industry, government and the community.

SINCE ITS HUMBLE beginnings Arid Recovery has relied on the generosity and enthusiasm of businesses and individuals to achieve its aims.

Many local businesses in Roxby Downs and Olympic Dam have supported the work of Arid Recovery through the donation of goods and services and through the willingness of their workforce to assist with our work whenever needed.

The ongoing dedication of Arid Recovery staff and volunteers has seen the organisation undertake innovative research and on-ground projects that have made it the success it is today.

Since becoming an independent not-for-profit organisation Arid Recovery has been overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors who have given their time to enable the organisation to grow. The development of this strategic plan and the growth of the organisation could not have been achieved without the assistance of the Global Leadership Foundation who have generously donated their time for many years to support Arid Recovery.

 For further information on Arid Recovery visit www.aridrecovery.org.au

Thankyou to the sponsors of Arid Recovery:



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