



# Friends of Osprey Group Action Plan – 2022-25



Version 1.2 July, 2022

Photographs taken by Mrs Fran Solly, Osprey in flight with fish and Mr Lochie Cameron, Osprey nest platform installation at Geesons Landing



# Friends of Osprey Group Action Plan

## Background

The Endangered Osprey population in South Australia is considered to be disjunct from the species main distribution in Australia and appears precariously balanced ecologically at the extreme south eastern edge of its breeding range.

Comprehensive surveys across South Australia in 2008-10 recorded 58 pairs of Osprey state-wide; compared with results from a series of repeat surveys in 2015-17 when only 43 pairs were found; revealing a significant 26% decline in the breeding population to have occurred over the intervening period.

Few raptors, including Ospreys, will tolerate human encroachment and disturbance directly above their nest, as typically occur in South Australia's open coastal landscapes. The lack of suitable secure nesting sites maybe an important limiting factor to Osprey breeding populations in SA.

Artificial nest platforms are a vital and proven form of threat mitigation in areas where limited natural nest sites exist and where food is plentiful, additional nest sites can substantially boost nesting densities. Conservation initiatives in Europe and North America have shown unequivocally that artificial nest structures can result in greater productivity and therefore are an important population augmentation strategy.

Severe weather conditions are known to cause heavy mortality amongst Osprey broods, while at the same time reducing the foraging success during breeding. Osprey eggs and young are also vulnerable to predation from foxes, Corvids, Pacific Gulls and Silver Gulls, Brush-tailed Possums and Goana. Corvids and Gulls are known to predate on eggs when adults are disturbed and distracted by human presence. Much is still unknown about the South Australian Osprey population. Further research such as; satellite tracking to determine dispersal and movements post fledging, habitat utilisation and foraging behaviours and strategies of adult male Ospreys, dietary studies and re-assessment of the status of the Osprey population in each region to measure stability and productivity and identify trends in the available baseline data to determine mitigation strategies against any further population declines.

## Objectives:

1. To promote and encourage community involvement in conservation, research and protection activities.
2. To re-establish and augment the Osprey population across the Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island Regions through the provision of artificial nest platforms.

## Conservation Status

In South Australia, the Osprey was formally up-listed to Endangered status in 2008 (*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*).

## Key Considerations

- Delivery of project activities – how best to achieve these?
- Key partnerships
- Community / stakeholder needs and perceptions.

## Action Plan

The Action Plan should underpin all community activities and tasks and describe the activities and tasks to be performed. This plan is broken down into annual action plan and budget each year and also includes the key monitoring tasks which collect information for analysis. The Action Plan will be updated periodically as part of the recovery and conservation process.

## Community Collaboration

Community participation and involvement is paramount to the recovery and conservation of the Osprey population in SA. The focus for the Friends of Osprey Group is one that features close and diverse partnerships and collaboration between management agencies, local communities, resources users, non government organisations (NGO) and the private sector. The benefit of this approach is a more defined role for the Friends Group, sharing of responsibilities for outcomes and more inclusive participation involving partnerships.

Community involvement and a collaborative approach is intended to be voluntary to achieve conservation outcomes and community aspirations. However in some cases relationship with partners and or stakeholders may be more formal where the Friends Group is involved in the on ground delivery of projects such as installation of artificial nesting platforms in National Parks and Wildlife Reserves.

# Action Plan

This section outlines the activities, description, resources and budget required to support and deliver on ground work. Specific tasks are included within each activity required to manage work associated with the recovery and conservation of the Osprey.

## 1. Governance

Activities associated with supporting community groups are included here, as are the administrative activities required behind the scenes to allow conservation work to proceed.

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Governance</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses &amp; Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
	<b>Funds received in June 2022</b> <b>\$25,159.00 Partnership Grant</b> <b>\$15,000 Gift Fund</b> <b>Total funds received = \$40,159.00</b>	Days Expenses Total				
General administration	Communications - liaison with DEW (grants), stakeholders, partners, affiliates, supporters and general communications are undertaken effectively  General administration duties including planning, budget reviews, financial administration,	Days Expenses Total				
Community Groups, Friends of Osprey Group & Volunteers	Ongoing Community, Friends of Osprey and volunteer engagement to support Osprey recovery	Days Expenses Total				

## 2. Planning

This strategy will require a constant level of input

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Planning</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
Annual review & work planning	Action Plan will be revised each year based on progress & monitoring results.  Update tasks and budget planned for the next financial year.  Ensure that clear priorities are set for works.	Days Expenses Total				
Develop Action Plan	<b>Focus for 2022 - Prepare / develop a strategy and work plan that clearly articulates future priorities.</b>  Ensuring that the plan meets the following criteria:  1. Project Goals, objectives and strategies developed  2. Priorities defined	Days Expenses Total				

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
	3. Threats identified and prioritised 4. Situation Analysis completed 5. Action Plan developed 6. Actions and monitoring are being implemented based on the above work 7. Results are being regularly shared and lessons learnt					
Approvals and permits	Approvals and permits will be required from a number of organisations and authorities including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Planning Authority</li> <li>• Local government (Councils)</li> <li>• Marine Parks</li> <li>• National Parks and Wildlife Reserves</li> <li>• Coast and Marine</li> <li>• Department for Environment &amp; Water</li> <li>• Department for Infrastructure &amp; Transport</li> </ul>					

### 3. Community Involvement / Participation

#### Strategy and Activities

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Community Involvement</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
Develop engagement program for community groups	A community education program to raise awareness and interest in conservation of Ospreys and support for the protection of breeding habitats.	Days Expenses Total				
Project team	Requires monthly meetings, plus pre and post follow up on actions, priorities and progress	Days Expenses Total				
Media	Regular articles in local news papers and relevant newsletters / publications, etc	Days Expenses Total				
Community awareness / expectations	Implement a staged program to engage and inform community well prior to platform installations	Days Expenses Total				

## 4. Fundraising Strategy

The plan is to have a Fundraising Strategy (Osprey Fund) for the Friends of Osprey.

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Fundraising strategy</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
Placeholder for funds	This will be the placeholder for any funds raised for Osprey Conservation activities and will be used to generate income for ongoing essential actions.	Days Expenses Total				
Bequest	Contribute to the Osprey Fund	Days Expenses Total				
Donations	Contribute to the Osprey Fund	Days Expenses Total				
Memberships	Administrative	Days Expenses Total				
		Days Expenses Total				

## 5. Artificial Nest Platforms Installation / Maintenance

This strategy includes the installation of artificial nesting platforms to support recovery and conservation efforts outlined in this Action Plan. The activities outlined here will require a constant level of monitoring.

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Artificial Nest Platform Installation / maintenance</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
Site Assessments	Undertake site evaluation analysis and determine feasibility of artificial nest platform. Criteria includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk analysis</li> <li>• Historical breeding habitat</li> <li>• Human disturbance factors</li> <li>• Osprey presence/absence</li> <li>• Food resources</li> <li>• Community support</li> </ul>	Days Expenses Total				
Permits	Obtain necessary permits / approvals (see planning section)	Days Expenses Total				
Purchase of materials for the fabrication of nest platforms	Depending on location and site characteristics, will determine design of the nest platform eg single pole or tower platform configuration	Days Expenses Total	\$6.5K	\$14K		
Fabrication of nest platforms	The Ardrossan Mens Shed Group to fabricate artificial nest platforms and stabilising concrete blocks as directed	Days Expenses Total	\$1K	\$1K		
Transport of nest platforms	Transport of nest platforms to specific locations as directed	Days Expenses Total				

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
Site preparation works	Assess substrate depth and soil type Installation of substrate sleeves and or anchor fixtures (concrete block).	Days Expenses Total	\$2K	\$2K		
Platform installation	Install nest platforms Resources required include; Hire plant and equipment / materials Contractors, Aerotech Helicopters, Sling Master, etc Traffic control / management (council) Boat access / transport	Days Expenses Total	\$7.3K	\$12K		
Information / interpretation signs	Supply and installation of interpretive education signage in key locations	Days Expenses Total	\$2K	\$2K		
Routine repairs & maintenance	Includes repair and maintenance for platforms, perches, information signs, regulatory signs, access points, etc	Days Expenses Total				

## 6. Strategic & targeted fox control

Predation by foxes has been the cause of breeding failure of Ospreys and other ground nesting birds. Fox control to focus on those nest sites deemed to be at high risk of predation including islands close to the mainland and implementation of an extensive baiting regime and working with regional programs to address the constant inflow of foxes into threatened breeding habitats.

Foxes appear to have increased in some coastal habitats and the occurrence of predation on ground nesting raptors may be under estimated. Successful predator (fox) control needs to be intensive and consistent across a large spatial area at regular intervals to have any real success at reducing predation to a level where nesting raptors can successfully breed and expand their population.

This strategy will require a constant level of investment because the threat is permanent.

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Strategic &amp; targeted fox control</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
Monitoring	Need to monitor what is being impacted, so we can determine the amount of control activity required. Strategically placed monitoring cameras should be considered in high risk nesting locations (eg mainland and near shore islands). Monitor bait uptake and map locations.	Days Expenses Total				
Lay fox baits	Fox baits to be laid on a monthly basis with a focus on Autumn and the leadup to the Osprey and WBSE breeding seasons (May-July). M44 injectors maybe the best methods of baiting as they are more efficient with limited impact on off target species (Corvids) and when a bait is taken, means certain death for a fox. Buried baits are also suggested as an option but no indication that the death of the fox results from the bait uptake.	Days Expenses Total				

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
Review baiting regime	Review experiences and results to date and potentially trial different types of baits.	Days Expenses Total				
Liaise with regional stakeholders	Regional fox control program and other landowners. Expand program where feasible	Days Expenses Total				

## 7. Research

Identify and fill key knowledge gaps so that we can achieve the goals and objectives of the South Australian Recovery Plan for Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle.

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Research</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
Osprey satellite tracking	Purchase of Ornitella Satellite tracking devices to determine habitat utilization, foraging strategies, movements, Osprey mortality, etc	Days Expenses Total	\$7.0K	\$6K		
Osprey satellite tracking	Purchase of materials (harness) and equipment for satellite tracking	Days Expenses Total	\$800			
Dietary study	Collection of serum chemistry profile to achieve greater diagnostic specificity in Ospreys and their prey. Serum chemistries include; total protein levels, cholesterol, glucose, uric acid, etc.	Days Expenses Total				

## 8 Survey and Monitoring

1. Ecosystem indicators of the health of representative habitats.
2. Estimates of population size, trends in populations, habitat preferences of Osprey.
3. Report on trends in Osprey populations and response to conservation efforts and climate extremes.

Volunteers - 5 person days by each of 4 volunteers (including 2 skilled birdos) ?

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
<b>Surveys and monitoring</b>	<b>Effort, Expenses and Total Cost for this Strategy</b>	<b>Days Expenses Total</b>				
General monitoring costs	Participation in DEW Coastal Raptor Surveys ?	Days Expenses Total				
Osprey Colour Banding	Under the direction of the Australian Bird & Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS) continue colour banding young to improve movements and dispersal information of Ospreys post fledging.	Days Expenses Total	\$800			
Monitoring	Report sightings of colour banded Ospreys	Days Expenses Total				

Activity	Description	-	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Budget Total
Monitoring	Collate reports of mortality of Osprey and WBSE	Days Expenses Total				
Monitoring	Maintain nest site register for Ospreys	Days Expenses Total				
Feral animal monitoring	A feral animal monitoring program to obtain real data on feral animal impacts	Days Expenses Total				
Analyse monitoring data and record results		Days Expenses Total				
Camera monitoring	<p>Targeted camera monitoring in priority locations to determine threats, causes of nesting failures and other relevant information that will assist with and or improve management and Osprey breeding success of the site. It would not be acceptable to establish cameras at nesting sites simply for interest sake.</p> <p>Note - Research permits required from DEW for the establishment and placement of camera at an active nest site.</p>	Days Expenses Total	\$6.0K			
Website Monitoring	Port Lincoln Barge Ospreys provides a unique opportunity to collate and analyse breeding data and connect with local, regional, national and international community about Osprey breeding behaviour.	Days Expenses Total				
Annual review of monitoring activities		Days Expenses Total				
	<b>Total funds (22/23) = \$40,159.00</b> Fuel / materials = \$2,048.00 Perch materials = 500.00 Total expend (YTD) = \$35,948.00 Remaining funds = \$4,211.00		\$36K	\$38K		
	<b>Total funds (23/24) = \$40,159.00</b> Proposed spend = \$38,000.00 Remaining funds = \$2,159.00					