

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Opuntoid cacti biocontrol

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board has partnered with Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary to help control cactus for many years. Cochineal was released on the sanctuary's Jumping cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*) infestations in February 2018, and while establishment was slow at first, by March 2019 the cochineal was widespread. Today the biocontrol continues to attack untreated plants. Prior to 2018, the board was involved in cactus control at Arkaroola, providing funding for herbicide control agents and supporting volunteer efforts.

Cochineal was first introduced on northern Flinders Ranges properties from 2009, however biocontrol agents to target a wider variety of cactus species were not available until 2016. In the past four years the board has obtained biocontrol for Coral cactus (*Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *mamillata*) Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia pallida*), Engelmann's cactus (*Opuntia engelmannii*), Riverina pear (*Opuntia elata*), Wheel cactus (*Opuntia robusta*), Prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*) and Devil's rope cactus (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*).



For more information about cactus control in the SA Arid Lands, contact the board's office on 8648 5307.