



Restoring Australia's Arid Lands

Thank you to our major supporters:



[www.aridrecovery.org.au](http://www.aridrecovery.org.au)

PO Box 147  
Roxby Downs  
SA 5725

Ph: 08-8671 2402  
Fx: 08-8671 3287  
[admin@aridrecovery.org.au](mailto:admin@aridrecovery.org.au)

# Arid Recovery Reserve Tour

## Visitor Information

### ABOUT ARID RECOVERY

Arid Recovery is based at Olympic Dam, 550km north of Adelaide in the South Australian outback, and is dedicated to the restoration of Australia's arid lands. Arid Recovery is centred about a 123 square km fenced enclosure. Feral cats, rabbits and foxes have been removed from 60 square km of the area leaving some areas as control areas and others which are currently being made feral free.

Arid Recovery was initiated in 1997 and now provides areas of complete protection allowing the regeneration of native vegetation and the re-introduction of four locally extinct mammals (greater bilby, burrowing bettong, stick-nest rat and western barred bandicoot). There are now also up to 5 times as many naturally occurring small mammals inside the reserve compared to outside.



Threatened native species such as the Burrowing Bettong may be observed from the nocturnal hide.

Arid Recovery has developed into Australia's premier arid zone conservation partnership. The project is a conservation initiative supported by BHP Billiton, the community (Friends of Arid Recovery), the SA Department for Environment and Heritage and The University of Adelaide. The project is a unique demonstration of how mining, tourism, pastoralism, and conservation can provide mutually beneficial conservation outcomes. The project depends heavily on volunteer labour and is assisted by the local community, conservation organisations, students and indigenous groups.

### Join a Tour of the Arid Recovery Reserve:

Arid Recovery, through the dedication of the volunteer tour guides, has opened its arid lands ecosystem restoration project to guided tag-a-long interpretive sunset tours where members of the public can experience how vibrant and widely inhabited Australia's outback was before European settlement. A unique exclusion fence protects the Reserve inside of which cats, rabbits and foxes have been removed, so visitors have a chance to see reintroduced, locally extinct species in their natural habitats and to gain an understanding of the importance of these creatures in the regeneration process. During the sunset tour visitors enjoy activities including identifying tracks, burrows, and plant species, spotlighting, and a visit to the nocturnal hide after watching the sun setting over an ancient landscape.

*Bookings are essential.* Start times may vary according to sunset times and group and day time tours can be arranged on application.

**To make a booking phone:**  
Roxby Downs Visitor Information Centre  
(08) 8671 5941  
Adults - \$40 | Concession - \$30 | Children U12 - Free



## About the Tour

- START TIME:** The **tag-a-long tour** start time will vary during the year depending on the sunset time. The booking agent will inform you of any changes in, your start time.
- WHERE TO MEET:** Visitors will meet the Tour Guide at the Roxby Downs Visitor Information Centre, located at 1-15 Richardson Place, Roxby Downs.
- WHAT TO BRING:** Visitors are required to wear **long pants** and **fully covered-in shoes** and to bring **drinking water** and a **shady hat**.  
Though not essential, visitors may also like to bring a **torch**.
- SELFDRIIVE TO THE RESERVE:** Visitors drive their own vehicle to the Reserve, the Tour Guide will lead the way. It is a 22km drive from the Visitor Information Centre to the Reserve. After leaving the town centre, head north along Olympic Way for approx 10kms, continue through Olympic Dam township, then turn right onto the Borefield Road and follow for 12 kms to The Arid Recovery Reserve.
- Weather restrictions apply:* *The road to the Reserve is accessible to 2WD unless it has rained heavily in which case the Manager or Tour Co-ordinator will advise of either cancellation of tours, or requirements for 4WD access.*
- AT THE RESERVE:** Once at the Reserve, visitors will access through a locked gate and progress to the car-park area – *vehicles must not digress from the track or parking area*. After introductions and a safety brief, the group will commence on a 1km guided walk throughout a range of outback habitats in the Reserve to the Viewing Platform where on most nights visitors will catch a spectacular outback sunset before returning to main car park.  
From there the group will make their way to the Nocturnal Hide. Visitors have a choice to take their vehicles to the 'Hide' car park and access via a 200m track through the dunes, or to continue on foot returning afterwards to the main car-park in an extended walk (around 3kms in total).
- WHAT YOU WILL SEE:** Arid Recovery has successfully re-introduced locally extinct species including bilbies, bettongs, stick nest rats, and many other naturally occurring species have regenerated since the removal of feral invasion, and populations vary according to the time of year – breeding season, temperature and rainfall all affect populations. *Research and successful reintroduction of species at the Reserve relies on the inhabitants surviving naturally with the absolute minimum of human intervention, so their behaviour is not contrived and this means that we cannot guarantee that visitors will encounter animals of all or any type during the walk – though this would be most unusual.*
- TOUR DURATION:** The Reserve tour will take around 2.5 hrs on-site. Once completed, visitors will be escorted back down the Borefield Road to Roxby Downs by their tour guide.
- BOOKING:** Tours are available Monday - Friday evenings between April and October, tours need to be booked no later than **2.00pm** on the day of the tour. Please contact the VIC for availability outside these times.
- Tours require a **Minimum of 2** people and to maximise everyone's experience, tours are restricted to a **maximum of 10** people.  
*Group bookings which may include more than 10 and up to 50 can be made by special arrangement.*
- In case of **emergency** or of cancellation due to road conditions, please ensure that you provide a pre-tour contact name and number to the booking agent, and that your tour guide has details of a **contact name and number** of a person contactable on the day.

**Bookings phone:** Roxby Downs Visitor Information Centre 08 8671 5941