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MEDIA RELEASE

Enriching local biodiversity across Alexandrina

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Alexandrina Council's Nature Conservation Team will plant over 3,000 native tubestock by the end of winter, strengthening the region's 27 biodiversity reserves and corridors. With the recent and long awaited arrival of seasonal rain, the team has made a flying start on the plantings, using a variety of locally propagated, native species in a variety of forms including ground covers, shrubs and trees.

All plants used in the revegetation works have been sourced from our three local community-run nurseries - the Alexandrina Community Nursery in Goolwa, run by the Goolwa-Wellington Local Action Planning Association, the Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group Nursery, and the Clayton Bay Community Nursery, run by the Clayton Bay Nursery and Environment Group. The nurseries propagate all tubestock onsite using locally sourced seeds and cuttings from local mother-plants.

Alexandrina Council actively manages a combined 385 hectares of biodiversity reserves and 228 kilometres of roadside verges for conservation purposes in partnership with eight community groups and the two Natural Resource Management (NRM) Boards – Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (AMLR) and Natural Resources South Australian Murray Darling Basin (SAMDB).

The 27 biodiversity sites span the region and include a series of reserves in the coastal zone between Goolwa and Chiton, in and around the Strathalbyn township as well as in our more rural areas. The sites are managed to protect, maintain and enhance remnant vegetation through revegetation and weed control, as well as to reconstruct habitat elements in open space buffers and corridors that have previously been lost through vegetation clearance.

As well as Council activity to enrich local biodiversity, a number of key environmental groups have also been extremely active this planting season. The Angas River Catchment Group will plant around 200 saplings at the Forrest Road Reserve in Strathalbyn, with the support of an Alexandrina Council Community Environment Grant. Meanwhile, the Clayton Bay Nursery & Environment Group will put in about 10,000 plants along the Clayton Bay foreshore, supported by Natural Resources SAMDB and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

The Hindmarsh Island Landcare Group will be planting around 1,200 tubestock on a number of Council sites on the island, including Ferryman's Reserve, Sugars Beach and Samaschko Road roadside. The Goolwa Coastcare group will also plant around 600 endemic, salt-loving seedlings within the Goolwa-Middleton dune system this season, aiming to provide habitat and reduce erosion, while the Goolwa to

Wellington Local Action Planning Association (GWLAP) will plant over 4,000 seedlings on Council reserves. Natural Resources AMLR recently held a community planting day at Chapman Road, Middleton with volunteers planting more than 700 seedlings as part of the Gazania Free Gardens campaign.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes recognises the importance of revegetation works across the region.

“The Alexandrina region has pockets of significant and remnant vegetation along our coastline, river, lakes and hinterland zones. We are fortunate to have a number of environmentally focussed community groups, and a team within Council, who are able to protect these areas and enhance biodiversity at a number of other sites through extensive revegetation programs,” he said.

To learn more about Alexandrina Council environmental initiatives and conservation practices, visit www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/environment