

Gawler Ranges National Park

Management Plan 2017

Working together to maintain strong relationships, healthy Country, and connect people with an ancient landscape.



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



National
Parks
South
Australia



Minister's Foreword

Gawler Ranges National Park is a special place where history, conservation and Aboriginal culture come together. Vast hill and gully complexes, with rocky gorges and seasonal water flows create a stunning landscape of natural beauty. This Country was and continues to be important to the laws, customs and cultural identity of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.

The park is famous for its magnificent Organ Pipes, formed over 1500 million years ago as a result of volcanic eruptions. Equally stunning rocky outcrops at Yandinga Falls and Kolay Mirica Falls make the park a wonderful place for visitors to explore.

Gawler Ranges National Park conserves an abundance of wildlife and protects rare and threatened plants and animals, including Australia's only protected population of the short-tailed grass wren, and plants which are found nowhere else in the world.

Sites and relics such as Paney Homestead, Old Paney Homestead and Pondanna Outstation are reminders of early station life and the enormous struggles met in this remote and variable country.

The park and surrounding district offers excellent opportunities for nature-based tourism, providing significant flow-on benefits for the community.

This plan sets out objectives and strategies, outlining how the park will be protected in the long term and how its special natural and cultural values can be further enhanced and celebrated into the future.

The park has been cooperatively managed by the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People and the South Australian Government since 2011.

I acknowledge the exceptional efforts of the Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee in developing this plan and in the ongoing management of the park.

It is with much pleasure that I formally adopt the Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan under section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.



The Hon. Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability,
Environment and Conservation

Cultural Sensitivity Warning

Aboriginal people are advised that this plan contains references to Aboriginal people who have died.





Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation, 2015



*Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee
members past and present*

Traditional custodians and Advisory Committee welcome

The Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee members past and present have worked hard to write this plan in collaboration with the traditional custodians. We feel proud to present this plan to direct management of the park's many values into the future.

The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People are the traditional custodians of this region, and as such, have acquired intimate knowledge of Country. This knowledge has been incorporated into the customs, lifestyles, value systems, and cultural practices of this unique and distinctive group. This cultural way of knowing, being, and valuing the Munda (land) has been transmitted down from generation to generation through bloodlines - the genealogies of the region's foundation families. These families have been living, working and participating in culture here since time immemorial. Cultural practices include caring for Country.

We continue this care of Country today, as co-managers of the Gawler Ranges National Park with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. We welcome visitors to share this park with us, to continue to enjoy it, and to look after it together.

Contents

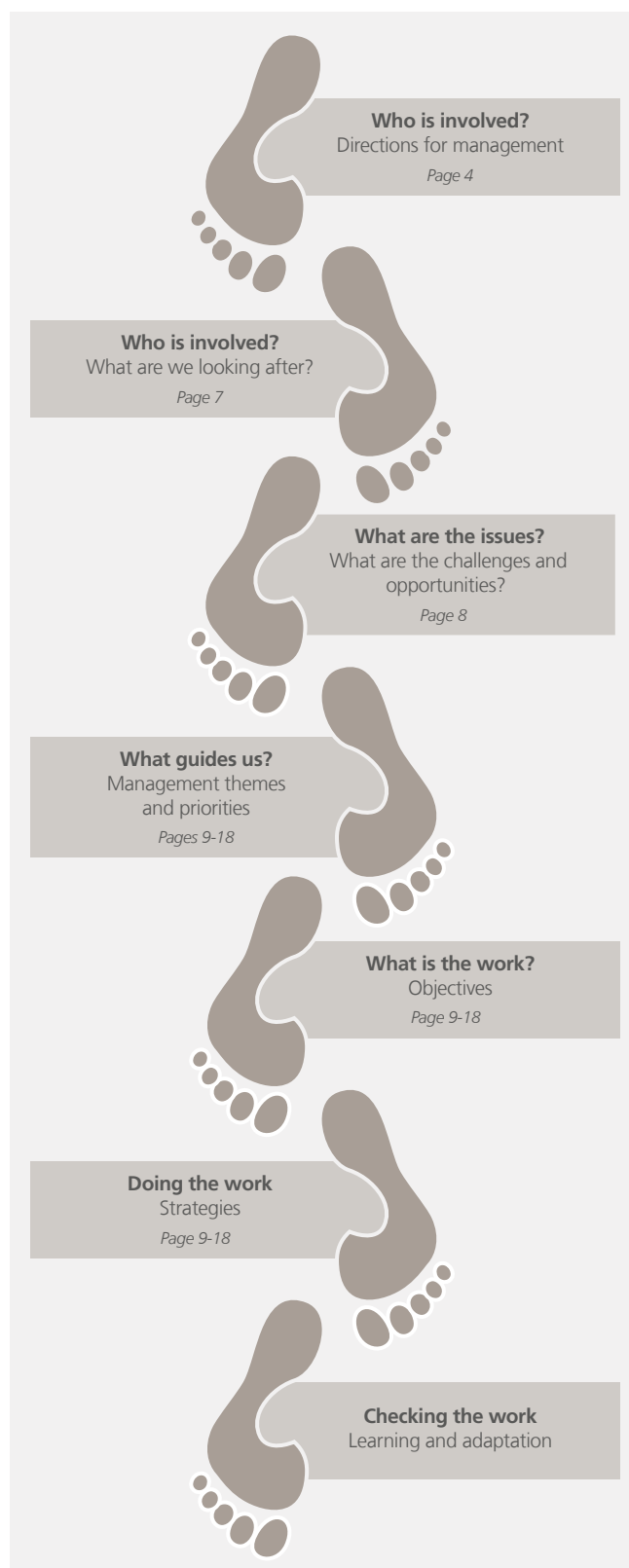
Developing this plan	3
Directions for management	4
Park significance and purpose	6
What are we looking after?	7
What are the challenges and opportunities?	8
Management themes and priorities	9
Bibliography	21

Developing this plan

The Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan has been prepared with advice from the Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee following review of the 2006 management plan. Through this committee, the traditional custodians and native title holders of this Country have worked in a spirit of 'new beginnings' in partnership with the South Australian Government to establish a new plan for their Country. These traditional custodians are made up of some (but not all) of the Barngala, Kokatha and Wirangu peoples.

Feedback on this management plan was received from members of the public via submissions on a discussion paper released in 2014, and a draft plan released in early 2015. Many of these submissions have been incorporated into the management plan.

The Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan sets out future directions for the park, outlining the necessary steps that need to be taken to understand the park's values and management requirements. This plan will help to progress the management partnership between the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal people and the South Australian Government. It also meets the requirement for completion of a park management plan as set out in section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.



The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People Steps for Management Directions
© M. Starkey

Directions for management

The Gawler Ranges area is the homeland of some of the Barngala, Kokatha and Wirangu peoples. This ancient landscape contains many important cultural sites and stories, stunning geological features, and distinctive plants and animals. This Country is fundamental to the Aboriginal law, culture and beliefs of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People who have lived in and looked after the land since time immemorial.

In 2011, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People and South Australia's Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation agreed to manage the park cooperatively. Consequently, the Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee was created. The Advisory Committee assists the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People and the South Australian Government in working together to manage the park and care for Country. In the near future, it is anticipated that the Advisory Committee will assume the expanded responsibilities of a co-management board.

Co-management of Gawler Ranges National Park under the Advisory Committee's guidance aims to protect and wisely use the park for the benefit of current and future generations. Co-management brings enormous potential for traditional owners, local people, and visitors to see the landscape in a different light, to re-connect with nature and to experience the park's strong Aboriginal culture. It also provides opportunities to generate economic benefits for Aboriginal people.

The park is subject to joint proclamation under section 43 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. As a result, the park will continue to be managed primarily for conservation purposes, while still allowing for approved mineral and petroleum activities. The Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan seeks to strengthen landscape resilience, restore native plant and animal populations, and facilitate the conservation of individual species.

The Advisory Committee will work with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board, park neighbours and stakeholders to determine priorities and coordinate the delivery of the strategies outlined in this plan. The plan will be implemented in accordance with the Native Title rights or interests that continue to exist in relation to the land and the relevant provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*.



Figure 1: Gawler Ranges National Park

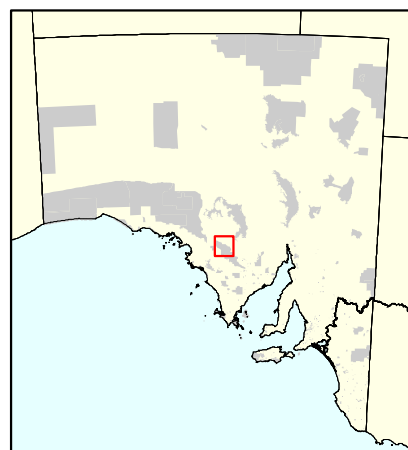
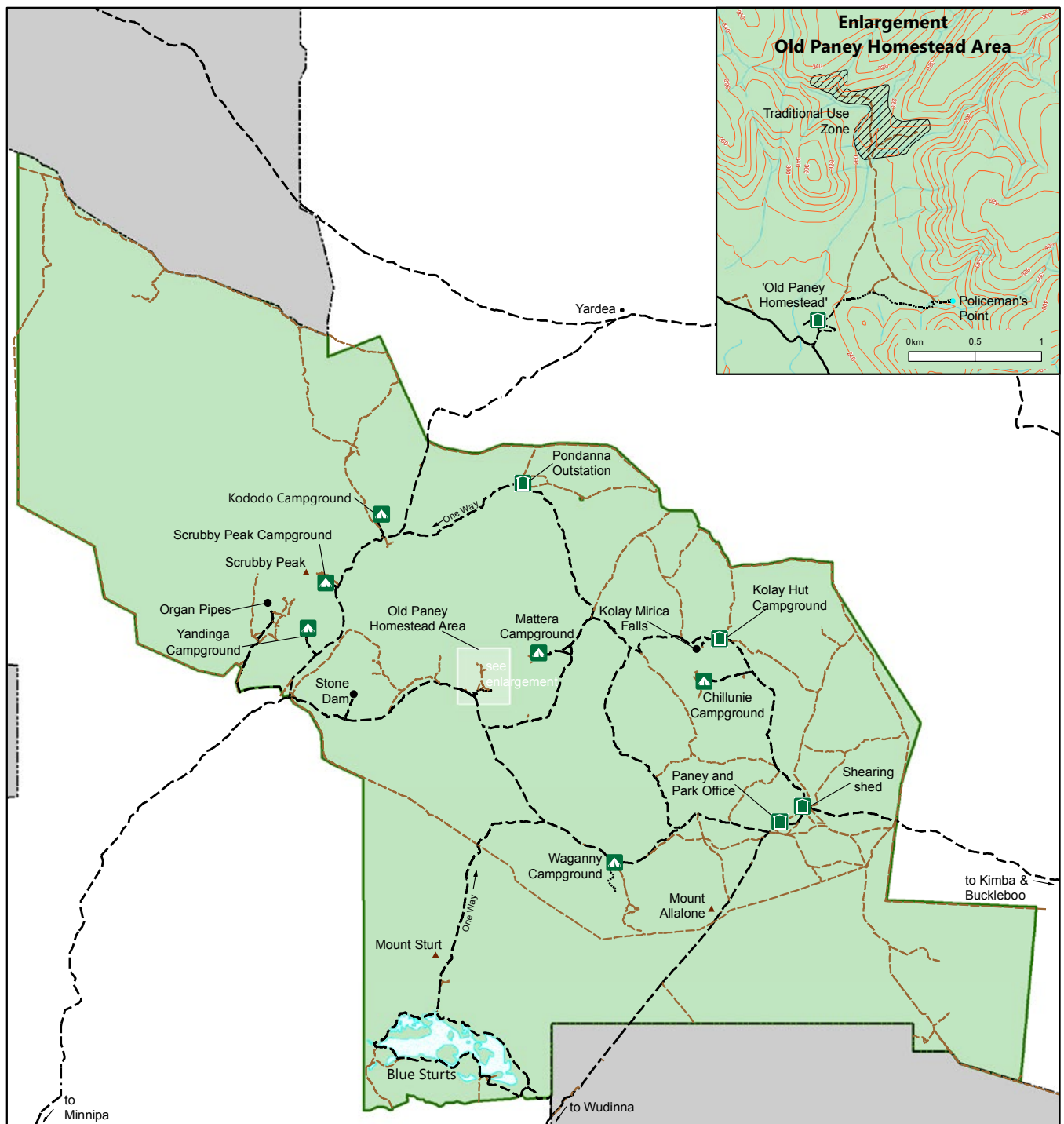


Figure 1

Gawler Ranges
National Park



0 km 2 4 6 8 10

LEGEND

- Gawler Ranges National Park
- Traditional Use Zone
- Other protected area
- Public road
- Management track
- Walking trail
- ▲ Campground
- Historic Building



Park significance and purpose

Gawler Ranges National Park (178, 634 ha) is located approximately 600 kilometres north-west of Adelaide and 40 kilometres north of Wudinna in the northern portion of South Australia's Eyre Peninsula (Figure 1).

The park was created in 2002 with the support of the local community through the purchase of Paney Station and the former Scrubby Creek pastoral lease. It was created to protect a large area of diverse and relatively intact vegetation, including habitats that were not well represented in South Australia's protected area network prior to the creation of the park.

The Gawler Ranges region is rich in Aboriginal heritage. The region is culturally significant to the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People who have a long and continuing history of custodianship of the Gawler Ranges. The region sustains the living culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Community. Traversing this Country are richly woven stories about Aboriginal culture, exploration, arid land pastoralism and the connections between cultures. The park protects many significant cultural heritage sites, objects and places. The park also provides opportunities to work with the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. This collaborative approach allows us to share their stories, to learn about their connections to Country, and to exchange management ideas.

The Gawler Ranges National Park continues to be a special place for many people who live near or visit the area. It is much loved by an actively involved local community that hold its values close to their hearts. The park is also economically important for regional

tourism. Local people and visitors to the region can learn about the region's fascinating Aboriginal culture and see interesting relics of a past agricultural era. Opportunities to tour the park are available via four-wheel drive, walking, and camping.

Gawler Ranges National Park adjoins Pinkawillinie Conservation Park (managed by DEWNR) and Hiltaba Nature Reserve (managed by the Nature Foundation SA). It is also part of a large interconnected network of protected areas and remnant patches of vegetation that are strategically important for conservation. This network extends from Eyre Peninsula through the Great Victoria Desert and Nullarbor Plain into Western Australia. Large protected area networks such as this may help to facilitate species movement across the landscape in response to changes to the ecosystem that may arise from climate change.

The park is situated midway between the arid pastoral land to the north and the semi-arid broad acre cropping land to the south. As a result, some of the flora and fauna species that are protected within the park and adjacent protected areas are at the extremes of their geographical distribution, or are found nowhere else.

The Gawler Ranges are a prominent feature of the park. They were formed during a massive volcanic eruption almost 1,500 million years ago. Exposure of the ancient ranges to the elements has created springs, intermittent waterfalls and spectacular cliffs of columnar rhyolite known as 'organ pipe' formations. The area also supports a diverse range of vegetation communities, and continues to be a refuge for a number of rare or threatened flora and fauna species.



What are we looking after?

The Gawler Ranges National Park protects:

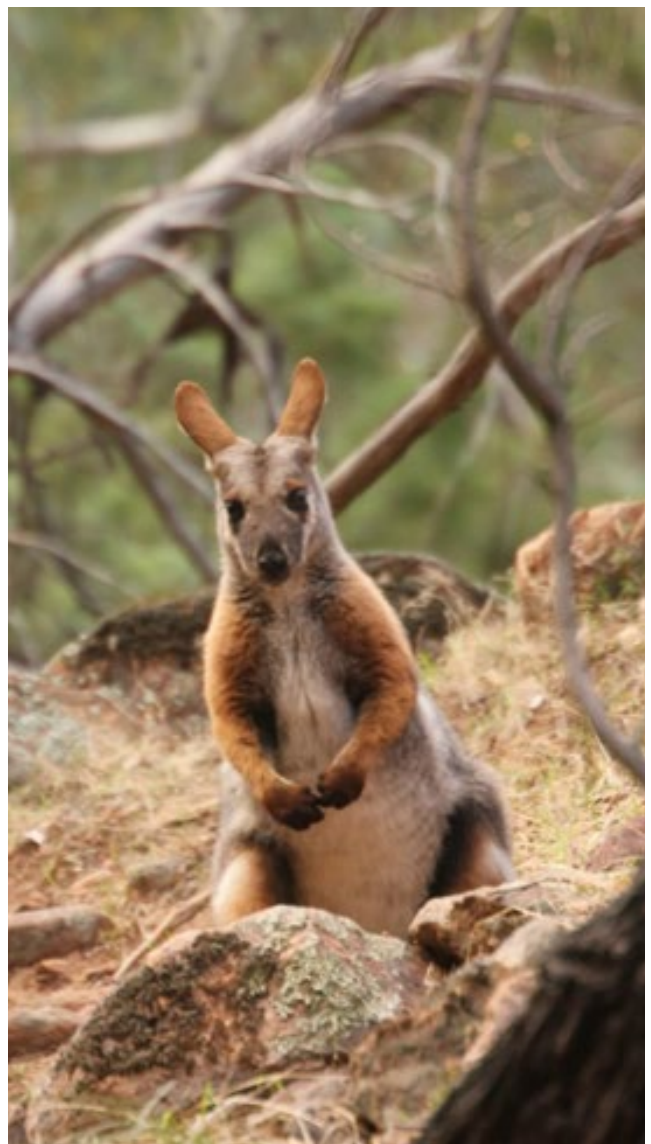
- A culturally significant landscape with sites, objects and stories that have been passed down through generations.
- Opportunities for the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People to share their knowledge and culture, develop business ventures, create jobs, exercise their traditional rights, care for their Country and reconnect people to the land.
- Four distinct landforms: Hills and ranges, Plains and rises, Drainage lines and Sand dunes. These landforms provide habitat for a range of animals including kangaroos, the yellow-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus xanthopus*), the Southern hairy-nosed wombat (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*), reptiles, birds and bats.
- A strategically important component of an extensive network of protected areas that extends to the north and west.
- Semi-permanent soaks, granite waterholes and rocky gullies and outcrops that are culturally significant water sources and provide critical habitat and drought refuges for plants and animals.
- Eighteen fauna species that are listed as rare or threatened under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, including three species that are also listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; short-tailed grasswren (*Amytornis merrotsyi pedleri*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and yellow-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus xanthopus*) (Appendix 1).
- Twenty four plant species that are listed as threatened under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, including three species that are also listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; Inland green-comb spider-orchid (*Caladenia tensa*), ooldea guinea-flower (*Hibbertia crispula*), and desert greenhood (*Pterostylis xerophila*). Six species are also endemic to the Gawler Ranges; Gawler Ranges hop bush (*Dodonaea intricata*), Gawler Ranges greenhood (*Pterostylis ovata*), Gawler Ranges mint bush (*Prostanthera florifera*), Gawler Ranges grevillea (*Grevillea parallelinervis*), crimson mallee (*Eucalyptus lansdowneana*) and pointed-leaf honey myrtle (*Melaleuca oxyphylla*) (Appendix 2).
- The Sturt's desert pea (*Swaisona formosa*) which supports fond memories of childhood on Country for the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.
- Shrublands that are recovering from past grazing. They are comprised of bitter saltbush (*Atriplex stipitata*), pearl bluebush (*Maireana sedifolia*), and emergent Western myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*).
- Thirty-nine vegetation communities including extensive Mallee communities and Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia, listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
- Australia's most extensive population of twinleaf everlasting (*Rhodanthe oppositifolia oppositifolia*) and the only population of the endangered currant-bush (*Leptomeria preissiana*) within South Australia's protected area network.
- Sites of geological and geomorphological significance including the 'Organ Pipes', an extensive outcropping of the Gawler Ranges volcanics which is one of the world's largest known areas of rhyolite.
- A series of buildings, sites, and artefacts that illustrate the region's rich pastoral and agricultural heritage.
- Opportunities for people to enjoy a range of activities including four-wheel drive touring, camping and walking.
- A stronghold for a large proportion of the 603 plant and 217 animal species which have been recorded across the bioregion (Gillam & Urban 2009).



What are the challenges and opportunities?

Challenges and opportunities for the protection of the park are:

- Managing the impact of pest plants such as buffel grass on native flora, fauna, and cultural sites.
- Managing the impact of pest animals such as cats and foxes on fauna.
- Managing the effects of excessive grazing pressure caused by goats, rabbits, and over-abundant kangaroo populations.
- Managing fire to protect life and property, enhance the condition of vegetation communities, and to protect rare or threatened species.
- Undertaking prescribed burning programs to protect park cultural values, including the incorporation of traditional burning practices into future fire management activities.
- Building partnerships with mineral and petroleum interests, whilst ensuring that mineral and petroleum exploration is carefully managed in a way that does not compromise the objectives of the park.
- Sustaining the coordinated contribution of volunteers and land managers towards biodiversity and heritage conservation across the Gawler Ranges.
- Identifying, understanding and protecting Aboriginal cultural values.
- Creating opportunities for visitors to enjoy a deeper appreciation of the park and its Aboriginal culture.
- Building an understanding of Aboriginal culture and co-management among visitors and the local community. Transferring cultural knowledge and getting young Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People back on their country is integral to this process.





Management themes and priorities

This section of the plan discusses the overarching management approaches for the Gawler Ranges National Park, focusing on four key themes.

Theme 1: Protecting natural values

Over time, this Country has been looked after by the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, pastoral lessees, and the South Australian Government. Each chapter in the Country's history has influenced its condition and appearance today.

For generations the mallee woodlands and chenopod plains of the Gawler Ranges region existed in harmony with the natural cycles of rain, drought, fire and traditional use by the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. Their custodianship of Country was built on traditional ecological knowledge, strict protocols, and responsibilities that were passed down through the generations. This ensured that precious resources such as rock holes and seeps were protected. Fire was also used to achieve a mosaic of vegetation types while the Country was sung and spiritually maintained.

Pastoral enterprises were established in the Gawler Ranges and surrounding region in the 1850s. The changes in land use that ensued interrupted this custodianship, resulting in fragmentation of the vegetation, the creation of roads, the clearance of vegetation, the alteration of fire regimes, and the introduction of new plant and animal species.

In combination with pest animals, unnaturally large populations of kangaroos have the potential to impact significantly on biodiversity. An annual assessment of total grazing pressure is used to indicate when the control of over-abundant kangaroo populations may be necessary.

Livestock grazing, vegetation clearance and the introduction of pest plants caused long term alteration to fire regimes which previously maintained native vegetation and animal habitats. The condition of native vegetation and animal habitats is now improving thanks to the removal of livestock, the management of pest plants and animals, and a carefully planned prescribed burning program. Prescribed burns are undertaken within the park and on adjacent properties to reduce risks to life and property, minimise risks to biodiversity and prevent impacts on cultural values. Fire within the park is managed in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land in South Australia* (Government of South Australia 2012).

Priorities for the park are focused on the long term recovery of Country and the protection of vulnerable species including yellow-footed rock-wallaby, malleefowl, Gawler Ranges hop bush, Gawler Ranges grevillea, crimson mallee and pointed-leaf honey myrtle. These priorities are addressed through the Bounceback program.



Bounceback

Grazing by rabbits and goats has impacted on the park's yellow-footed rock-wallaby population. Foxes pose a major predation threat, particularly to juvenile rock wallabies. Goats foul important water sources and may also damage the integrity of cultural sites. The South Australian Government's Bounceback program aims to conserve priority fauna species through the management of these pest animals. Bounceback is implemented on both public and private land. The program extends from the Gawler Ranges to the Flinders Ranges and the Olary Ranges. Since 2002, monitoring has shown that populations of yellow-footed rock-wallabies have increased in the park and on surrounding properties as a result of the program.

Conservation actions are also guided by strategies and plans that are applied at a national level. Specific actions for the conservation of species that are listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* are guided by national recovery plans. Recovery plans have been developed for the malleefowl (Benshemesh 2007) and the desert greenhood (Pobke 2007). Actions for the conservation of peppermint box

(*Eucalyptus odorata*) grassy woodland of South Australia and iron-grass natural temperate grassland of South Australia are outlined in a national policy statement (DEH 2007).

National threat abatement plans (DEWHA 2008) have also been developed to guide the management of goats, cats, and foxes. Strategies and plans including the *Gawler Ranges NRM Weed Strategy* (SAAL NRM Board 2015) and *South Australia Buffel Grass Strategic Plan* (Biosecurity SA 2012) have also been developed to guide the management of pest plants.

Research and monitoring builds an understanding of park values, threats and long term trends. This information also helps in the evaluation and refinement of management strategies. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, universities, non-government organisations, resource development companies and volunteers each play a role in this.

Working across boundaries through partnerships, the Bounceback Program and the Working on Country Program seek to achieve a broad scale impact across the landscape. Partnerships between the community and the Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee seek to reestablish traditional management practices and support two-way learning while building the resilience of Country and meeting local, regional and national objectives for biodiversity conservation. This approach also aims to create more opportunities for Aboriginal employment on Country and to support the resumption of custodianship of Country by the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.

There are several mineral exploration tenements over the park and there may be more in the future. Some exploration has occurred in the past, however there are no operational mines in the park. Mineral exploration activities are managed under the *Mining Act 1971*, while petroleum exploration activities are managed under the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*. A Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) or Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) is prepared and approved prior to commencement of any licensed exploration activities.

The processes for development of a PEPR or SEO ensure that all resource development activities are consistent with the objectives of this plan and that practices are established to

avoid or restrict the environmental impacts. This includes the rehabilitation of any disturbed sites. The development of a PEPR or SEO is supported by information about areas with particular significance - such as the Scrubby Peak area, which has sensitive environmental associations - or where populations of rare and threatened species are found. The collaborative process includes consultation with traditional owners. This ensures that proponents address any risks to Aboriginal cultural values and comply with their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and the *Native Title Act 1993*.



Objective and strategies

Conserve and increase the resilience of biodiversity values by enabling natural ecological processes to continue.

- Incorporate the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People's skills and knowledge in the management of the park. This two-way learning will support management of park values.
- Develop and implement a fire management plan. This plan will outline strategies for the protection of life and assets, the adoption of traditional burning practices, the protection of cultural values, the conservation of biodiversity values, and the continued recovery of the parks vegetation communities.
- Continue to encourage cooperative research and monitoring that supports the evaluation and improvement of park management strategies and programs.
- Continue to support partnerships for the conservation of culture and biodiversity across the Gawler Ranges landscape including the Bounceback program and Working on Country program. This will require the continued cooperation of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, Government, volunteers, and park neighbors including the Nature Foundation SA.
- Liaise with resource development companies and the Department of Premier and Cabinet (mineral and energy resources division) to ensure that information about park values, potential impacts, public access, and any other park management issues are considered during the assessment of applications to undertake exploration or resource use activities.
- Implement strategic culling of western grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) and Euro (*Macropus robustus*) if the assessment of total grazing pressure determines that control measures are warranted. Kangaroo management programs will be undertaken in conjunction with the management of pest animals and may consider commercial options for the utilisation of carcasses.





Theme 2: Respecting, recognising and protecting the culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People

Those families from the Barngarla, Kokatha and Wirangu people who are connected with this Country are known collectively as the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. They have over 30,000 years of strong connections to their Country and are the native title holders of an area that encompasses Gawler Ranges National Park. The park is rich in Aboriginal heritage and it is significant both spiritually and culturally to the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. The land and waters within the park have many interconnected and complex meanings and values that are central to the lives and Tjukurpa (traditional knowledge, language and connection with Country) of Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.

The Gawler Ranges have often been described through a geological or ecological perspective. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People have a different view. Their Country is interwoven with creation dreaming stories and responsibility stories that have been carried through the generations, maintaining spiritual connection to the Country. These stories can inform modern day management through programs such as Working on Country, supporting the continuation of traditional responsibilities and cultural obligations.

The arrival of European immigrants in the 1800s had a profound effect on Aboriginal people, their culture and way of life. Many people that arrived in the area were compassionate towards Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People and provided them with employment as shepherds, trappers, house helpers and shearers. Generations of Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People suffered gravely as a result of dispossession, removal from Country, injustice, and the spread of disease. Despite this, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People and their Tjukurpa remain strong.

"This is our Country we still have our culture, language and Tjukurpa, our traditional law and we are passing it on. The one story strong that brings us all together is Seven Sisters story that travels through this land."

Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, 2009

To sustain Tjukurpa, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People undertake traditional practices in the park including hunting and gathering. A Traditional Use Zone has been designated (Figure 1), enabling the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People to undertake such activities. Additional information about traditional use is provided in Table 1.

Many place names in the Gawler Ranges are derived from the languages of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. There are numerous irreplaceable cultural sites within the park including stone artefact scatters, shell middens, stone arrangements, campsites, ovens, quarries, religious sites, rock holes, burial sites and rock engravings. The condition of some sites has been affected by the development of vehicle tracks, campgrounds, fences and buildings.

South Australia's *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* provides for the protection of all Aboriginal sites, objects and remains in South Australia. Some sites are registered under this Act, but many are not yet surveyed or registered. It is anticipated that there are many additional sites that have not yet been relocated.

Information about some sites may be confidential according to Aboriginal tradition and must not be divulged without the consent of the Gawler Aboriginal Ranges People. Conservation planning is undertaken to guide the protection of known sites. Further conservation planning is a priority at sites that are currently at risk of damage. Some sites are particularly sensitive, while others should not be visited for cultural reasons. Once plans and strategies for the protection of sites are in place, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal



Senior elder of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People Gawler Ranges native title determination ceremony, 2011.

People may consider the provision of public access to some sites in order to communicate their Tjukurpa and provide a more complete experience for visitors.

Certain Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People who hold knowledge are able to identify and advise on the management of cultural sites. There may be no visual evidence of the site's significance, however landscape features such as a tree, rocky outcrop, creek bed or waterhole may physically represent a particular story. Information about culturally significant sites is passed down through stories of travelers, ancestors and mythological beings. These stories, the knowledge of the land and its uses, remains the intellectual property of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. Sharing this knowledge requires the consent of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.

A masterplan for the interpretation of the culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People is being developed. It sets out the key themes and messages that should be conveyed to the public about the park's cultural heritage. These are:

- This is our Country.
- You are in an ancient landscape with an ancient culture.
- Permanent and semi-permanent waterholes are desert refuges.
- The land is tough but fragile. It is subject to cumulative effects of tourism, people and pastoralism. It needs careful management.

The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People have contributed to the management of the park over many years. The senior elders are now encouraging younger Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People to become involved in caring for their Country so that they can assume their custodial responsibilities in the future.

Table 1: Traditional use

Activity	Additional Information
Ceremonial and other cultural activities	Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People may undertake ceremonial and other cultural activities throughout the park. The traditional use zone may be closed to the public to enable the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People to undertake cultural activities in privacy.
Hunting and the collection of resources	Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People may collect resources for food and cultural purposes throughout the park. This includes the collection of firewood for campfires and the hunting of animals that are not listed as rare or threatened (Appendix 1) using traditional methods. The use of firearms is prohibited.
Camping	The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People may camp throughout the park for up to 21 consecutive days and may construct a temporary shelter within the Traditional Use Zone. Shelters must be deconstructed after use and all materials must be removed from the park. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People are encouraged to camp in camping areas, the Traditional Use Zone or areas that are not in the vicinity of public visitor facilities.
Lighting a fire	Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People may light a fire for cooking, camping or cultural purposes throughout the park in accordance with the <i>Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005</i> (SA).
Use of a generator	Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People may use generators in accordance with noise and capacity restrictions that apply in public camping areas.
Vehicle access	The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People may access the public vehicle network (Figure 1) and approved management tracks.

Objective and strategies

Respect, recognise, promote and protect cultural values through a partnership between the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, the broader community and Government.

- Develop a traditional hunting and gathering protocol that identifies species which may be hunted by Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. This protocol will also aim to establish a process for monitoring the species and number of individuals that have been taken.
- Incorporate the skills and knowledge of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People into research, monitoring and management activities whilst ensuring that traditional ecological knowledge and intellectual property rights are respected.
- Create opportunities for Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People to work on Country and develop business enterprises through activities such as cultural heritage surveys and cultural site protection works.
- Ensure that commercial tourism, events, mineral exploration or other authorised activities are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner as approved by the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.
- Work with the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People to develop a cultural awareness program delivered to park stakeholders and government officers.
- Provide visitor information that communicates the location of the Traditional Use Zone and encourages visitors to respect the aspirations of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People for the use of this zone.
- Finalize and implement an Aboriginal cultural interpretation masterplan for the park.



Theme 3: Providing high quality visitor experiences

The park is cherished by many people for its spectacular scenery, historic agricultural and pastoral relics, and the opportunities that it provides for viewing nature, camping, four-wheel driving and walking. The Scrubby Peak and Blue Sturts campgrounds in particular have had a long history of recreational use. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People seek to share their culture through tourism. This offers an opportunity for people to gain a deeper appreciation of the park and the culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.

“You can really tell the difference here. You might find it a little bit different; relaxing, the smell, a lot more birds and bigger kangaroos. Come and enjoy it.”

Clifford Woodford - Ranger and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People 2014

A network of roads within the park provides access to campsites and other destinations (Figure 1). Several more remote places are only accessible via four-wheel drive. For the safety of visitors, a speed limit of 40 km per hour applies. In addition, some tracks are one-way and may be closed when they are unsuitable for use. The continuation of track maintenance and repair is a priority.

Camping under the stars is synonymous with the Gawler Ranges. Currently, visitors can camp in seven designated camping areas, each with very basic facilities. These campgrounds are near points of interest such as the Organ Pipes, historical homesteads,

and short walking tracks to vantage points. The historic Poodanna Outstation offers commercially operated, self-catering accommodation. Old Paney Homestead and Kolay Hut are not available for accommodation but do provide temporary shelter for visitors.

Campers are required to bring in their own water and firewood. Campfires are permitted in accordance with the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (SA). Fireplaces must be used where they are provided. Generators may be used in designated camping areas during daylight hours. They must not exceed 2.0 K va, with a maximum noise level output of up to 65 dB at 7m. There are no black water dumping points within the park. Visitors should utilize points provided in townships and road stops prior to entering the park.

To protect vegetation and avoid impacts on cultural sites it may be necessary to relocate access tracks or camping areas from time to time. To improve camping experiences within the park, a review of current campgrounds and facilities will be conducted. While significant changes to the style of campgrounds is not desirable or warranted, camping facilities require improvement. This can be achieved by closing several less popular camping areas and improving facilities at the more popular sites.

There is also a need to diversify the types of walks available for visitors. This could include short walks that enable visitors to understand Aboriginal cultural values or a longer regional walk that integrates dreaming stories with historic sites and extends beyond the park to Poodanna Rocks near Wudinna. This concept requires further discussion within the community to ensure that it is supported and economically feasible.

Opportunities for new visitor activities such as walking trails, cycling or horse riding routes will be considered on a case by case



basis. A cultural heritage site survey and assessment of risk to biodiversity values is undertaken prior to any facility development, new infrastructure, or the authorization of any new tourism or recreation activities.

Self-registration bays at park entry points provide information for visitors. Further information on the natural and cultural features of the park is available at key visitor sites, online, and via park brochures. Interpretation currently covers the interesting history and extraordinary natural features of the park. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People plan to share their culture and enhance visitor

experiences through improved interpretation and provision of opportunities to experience their culture.

Several non-Aboriginal commercial tourism operators currently visit the park with small groups. New commercial tourism ventures will continue to be supported providing they are compatible with the values of the park. Applications to conduct tours that promote the culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People or wish to access cultural sites will require consultation with the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People before they are approved.

Objective and strategies

Provide opportunities for high quality visitor experiences that support the conservation of biodiversity and cultural values, and encourage a greater understanding of the park.

- As guided by a finalised Aboriginal cultural interpretation plan for the park; review visitor information and interpretation including signs, park brochures, and online information. Updating this information will enhance park use and enjoyment, whilst communicating the responsibilities, opportunities, aspirations and culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People.
- Provide visitor information that encourages the adoption of responsible use practices, improving awareness of visitor safety and permitted recreational activities.
- Consolidate and maintain access tracks to improve vehicle access to park features as required.
- Investigate opportunities to enhance the walking trail network by improving access to natural areas of interest, features of cultural significance, and scenic vantage points.
- Conduct a review of all campgrounds to improve and consolidate camping opportunities.
- Investigate and progress the establishment of a cultural meeting place which assists visitors to understand and engage with the culture of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People and the park values.
- Periodically review restrictions that apply to recreational activities including the use of campfires and the use of generators.



Theme 4: Connecting Histories

The footprints of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People have always been left in the Gawler Ranges. Many local farming families also have strong affinities with the park as their descendants first arrived in this region in the 1850s and eked out a living from the land. The stories of these people are important and remain evident at numerous sites throughout the park.

Before first contact, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People maintained and utilised many rock holes that are dotted across the landscape. These were essential for survival while they travelled across their Country. One of these rock holes is located at Policemen's Point. This is a sacred site, and an important semi-permanent source of water which the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People depended on. Once European people arrived, the opportunity to travel, fulfil their responsibilities, and obtain resources such as clean water was interrupted. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People's population was also decimated by new introduced diseases. Many were rounded up and removed from the land upon which generations had relied. Early records from the 1920s recall this period of conflict.

The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People remained resilient despite this upheaval. Many maintained their cultural responsibilities by staying on their Country, working on Paney station as shearers, trappers and stockmen. Some Aboriginal place names including Paney and Yardea were adopted by the early pastoralists (Bishop 2001).

Old Paney Homestead and Pondanna Outstation are historically important sites. Interpretation at these sites helps to tell the story of early station life. Pondanna Outstation is also important

because it was the first site to supply hay across the region. Old Paney Homestead and Pondanna Outstation are maintained with valuable support from the Friends of the Gawler Ranges.

Many dams and wells, including Stone dam, were constructed from local rock and built across watercourses, supplying water to stock and small settlements. Many of these old dams and wells have been removed in order to assist in the management of pest animals. Tracks and trails from the pastoral era now form the majority of roads and management tracks within the park. Remnants of other structures such as fences, yards, dog sheds and shearing sheds also remain evident.

While it is not feasible to conserve all sites and relics, it is important to conserve sites that are of historical significance, helping to explain the park's history of human hardship, conflict and survival. There is a need to complement existing interpretive information in the park by telling a broader story that incorporates the perspectives of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People. Identifying sites of historic significance and planning conservation works is guided by the Burra Charter (ICOMOS 2013), the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, and others within the local community that have knowledge or an interest in contributing.

Objective and strategies

Conserve historically significant sites and objects and use these to help reconcile Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal histories.

- Identify and conserve sites of historical significance in accordance with the conservation principles, processes and practices of the Burra Charter (ICOMOS 2013).
- Encourage research that documents and consolidates historic records and information relevant to the park.
- In conjunction with local historians, the Friends of Gawler Ranges, and the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People, integrate history into information and interpretation for visitors.
- Conserve Pondanna Outstation, Old Paney Homestead, Paney Homestead, shearing shed, shearing quarters, and the Stone Dam as representative examples of the park's pastoral and agricultural heritage.

Appendix 1

Rare or threatened fauna

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	
		EPBC Act Cwlth ¹	NPW Act SA ²
<i>Acanthiza iredalei iredalei</i>	Slender-billed thornbill (western ssp)		R
<i>Cacatua leadbeateri</i>	Major Mitchell's cockatoo		R
<i>Calamanthus cautus cautus</i>	Shy heathwren		R
<i>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</i>	Banded stilt		V
<i>Corcorax melanoramphos</i>	White-winged chough		R
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey falcon		R
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine falcon		R
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	Vu	V
<i>Lichenostomus cratitius occidentalis</i>	Purple-gaped honeyeater		R
<i>Amytornis merrotsyi pedleri</i>	Short tailed grasswren	En	under consideration
<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>	Restless flycatcher		R
<i>Neophema elegans</i>	Elegant parrot		R
<i>Neophema splendida</i>	Scarlet-chested parrot		R
<i>Pachycephala inornata</i>	Gilbert's whistler		R
<i>Turnix varius</i>	Painted buttonquail		R
<i>Petrogale xanthopus xanthopus</i>	Yellow-footed rock-wallaby	Vu	
<i>Lerista distinguenda</i>	Dwarf four-toed slider		R
<i>Morelia spilota</i>	Carpet python		R

¹ Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

En - Endangered

Vu - Vulnerable

² National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia)

E - Endangered

V - Vulnerable

R - Rare

Appendix 2

Rare or threatened flora

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	CONSERVATION STATUS	
		EPBC Act Cwlth ¹	NPW Act SA ²
<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>	Flinders Ranges wattle		R
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Annual fern		R
<i>Austrostipa pilata</i>	Prickly spear-grass		V
<i>Caladenia tensa</i>	Inland green-comb spider-orchid	En	
<i>Centrolepis cephaloformis</i> ssp. <i>cephaloformis</i>	Cushion centrolepis		R
<i>Ceratogyne obionoides</i>	Wingwort		R
<i>Gratwickia monochaeta</i>			R
<i>Grevillea anethifolia</i>			R
<i>Hibbertia crispula</i>	Ooldea guinea-flower	Vu	V
<i>Leptomeria preissiana</i>			E
<i>Leptorhynchos scaber</i>	Annual buttons		R
<i>Lobelia cleistogamoides</i>			R
<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> ssp. <i>akineta</i>	Needle-leaf honey-myrtle		R
<i>Melaleuca leiocarpa</i>	Pungent honey-myrtle		R
<i>Melaleuca oxyphylla</i>	Pointed-leaf honey-myrtle		R
<i>Microlepidium pilosulum</i>	Hairy shepherd's-purse		R
<i>Phyllangium sulcatum</i>			V
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	Showy copper-wire daisy		R
<i>Pterostylis xerophila</i>	Desert greenhood	Vu	V
<i>Rhodanthe oppositifolia</i> ssp. <i>oppositifolia</i>	Twin-leaf everlasting		V
<i>Santalum spicatum</i>	Sandalwood		V
<i>Schoenus sculptus</i>	Gimlet bog-rush		R
<i>Velleia cynopotamica</i>			R
<i>Wurmbea decumbens</i>	Trailing nancy		R

¹ Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

En - Endangered

Vu - Vulnerable

² National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia)

E - Endangered

V - Vulnerable

R - Rare

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For further information please contact

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources phone information line (08) 8204 1910, or see SA White Pages for your local Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resource office.

Recognition of Aboriginal Culture

Aboriginal Australians have rights to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Please contact the The Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee to understand these rights in relation to the Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan 2017.

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