H5 Bird Flu and the Kangaroo Island Region

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Regional summary statement

Kangaroo Island, Australia's third largest island, supports diverse ecological communities and significant wildlife populations. Its estuaries, wetlands, and coastal habitats also support internationally significant wildlife populations, including migratory shorebirds, seabirds, and threatened species, making the region an important focus for H5 bird flu preparedness and response planning.

Priority features of the region

- Extensive coastline and offshore islands.
- Significant populations of Australian sea lions and long-nosed fur seals.
- Nationally important migratory shorebird habitat.
- Six wetlands listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands.
- Connectivity with Antarctic and sub-Antarctic wildlife pathways.
- High concentrations of seabirds, shorebirds and marine mammals.
- Major nature-based tourism destination.
- Existing pressures from habitat fragmentation and historical vegetation clearing.
- Critical habitat for several threatened species.

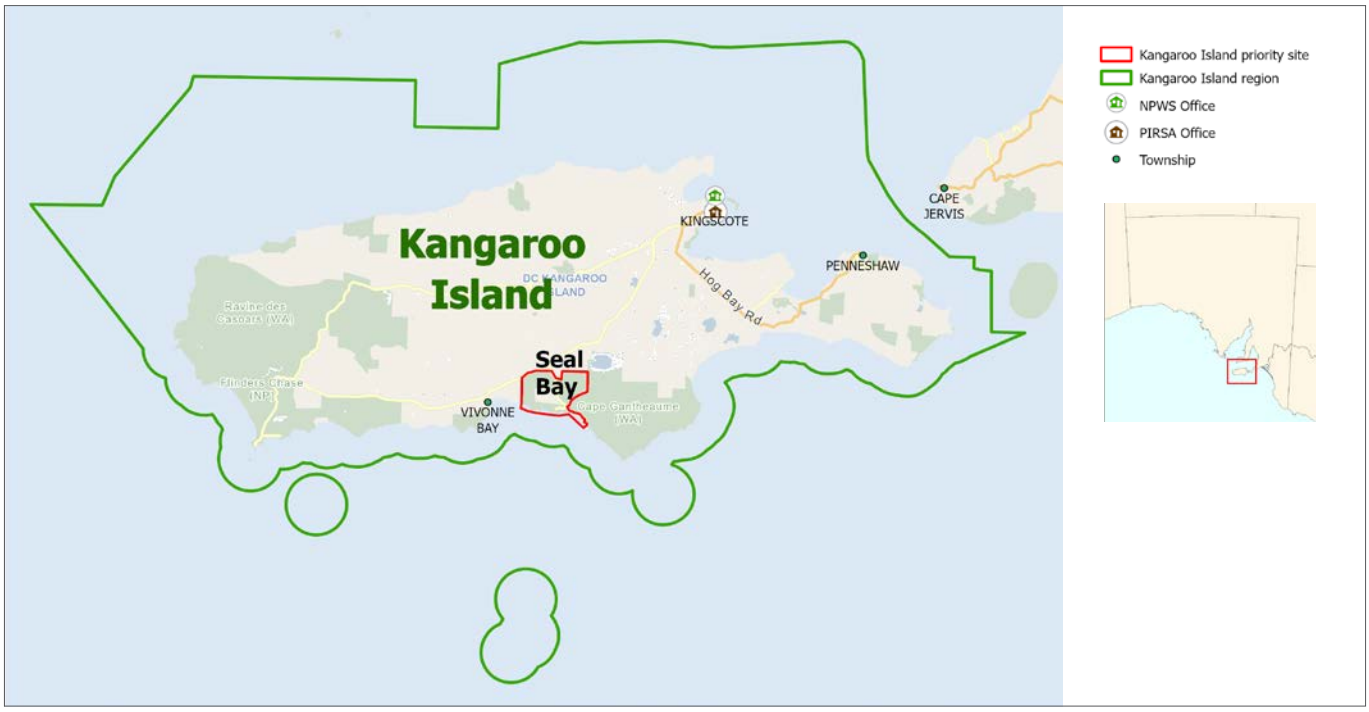
Priority site

Seal Bay Conservation Park

Located on the southern coast of Kangaroo Island, Seal Bay Conservation Park is one of Australia's most important coastal conservation areas and supports a globally significant population of Australian sea lions. The park's beaches, dunes and coastal habitats also provide refuge for a variety of seabirds, shorebirds and other coastal wildlife.

Key features: third-largest Australian sea lion breeding colony across its range, habitat for threatened coastal birds including hooded plover and fairy tern, white-bellied sea eagle and osprey habitat, important coastal dune and heathland ecosystems, habitat for migratory shorebirds and seabirds, and strong ecological connectivity between terrestrial and marine environments.

Kangaroo Island region H5 bird flu priority sites



Cultural significance and key stakeholders

First Nations connections

Kangaroo Island and its surrounding waters hold deep cultural significance for the Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Kaurna and Narungga peoples. These lands and waters hold important cultural, spiritual and historical values and continue to support cultural practices, knowledge sharing and caring for Country. First Nations peoples are key stewards of the region's landscapes, coastal environments and biodiversity.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders whose interests, activities or proximity may be affected by, or relevant to, H5 bird flu management include the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board, Kangaroo Island Council, Friends of Parks and Nature South Australia, BirdLife Australia, Birds SA, Conservation Council SA, Traditional Owner groups, tourism operators, researchers and universities, conservation organisations, local businesses and communities, and adjacent landholders and leaseholders.



Management actions and at-risk wildlife species

Management actions for increasing the resilience of wildlife at-risk from H5 bird flu are being implemented across the region. For example, a multi-agency-led project aiming to boost preparedness and protective action for Australian sea lions in the region. Additional conservation management actions to be explored include assessment of vaccination and insurance population feasibility. Listed below are several of the key species present in the Kangaroo Island region identified as being susceptible to, or at risk from, H5 bird flu. Benefits to species such as these are the primary intended outcomes for current and future threat mitigation work.

- Australian sea lion
- common greenshank
- curlew sandpiper
- long-nosed fur seal
- fairy tern
- far eastern curlew
- glossy black-cockatoo (Kangaroo Island subspecies)
- hooded plover
- little penguin
- white-bellied sea eagle

Access the latest information at www.birdflu.gov.au

or for South Australian specific information at www.birdflu.sa.gov.au

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