



Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy

Draft for consultation



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

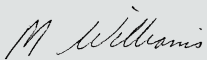
Your views are important

The Kangaroo Island Parks Draft Trails Strategy provides advice and recommendations regarding trail opportunities, experiences and management of trails in Kangaroo Island parks.

It is released for public comment to provide members of the community an opportunity to express their views on the vision, guiding principles, objectives, strategic priorities and actions outlined within the strategy.

Feedback will be considered before the development of a final strategy. Once developed, the final strategy will be submitted to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for consideration.

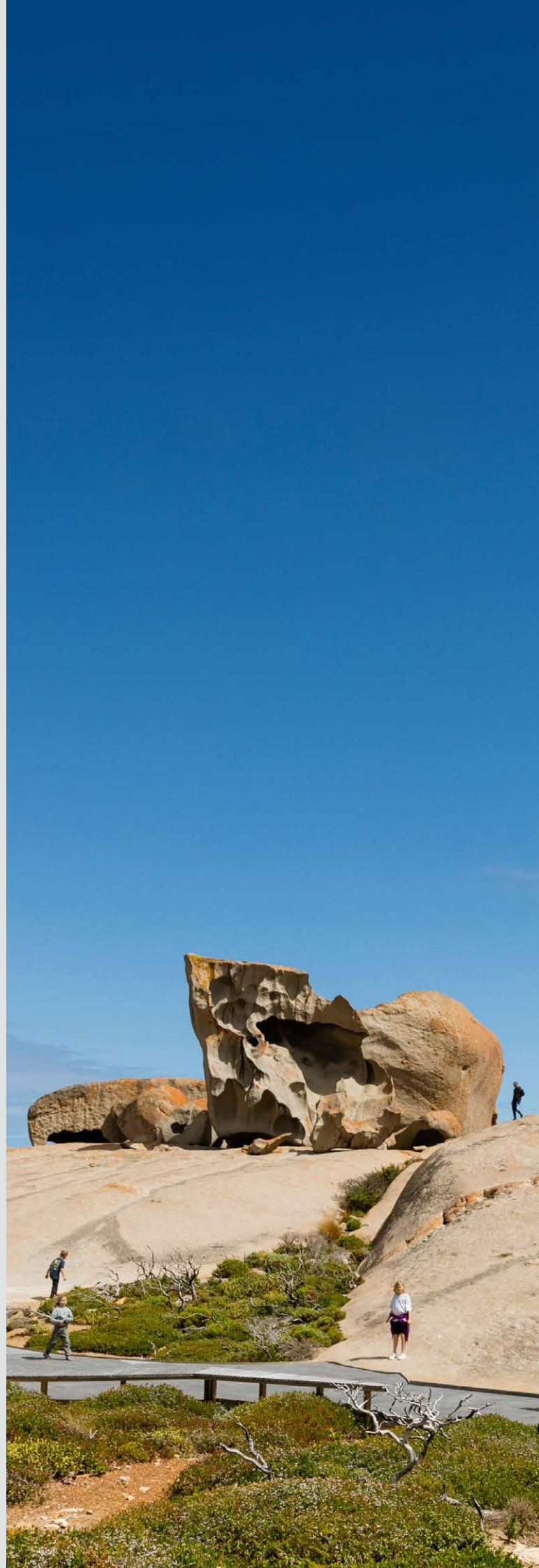
I encourage all people to assist in shaping the direction of trail management in Kangaroo Island parks by making a submission on this draft strategy.



Mike Williams
Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.



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The Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy was prepared by TRC Tourism for the National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia.

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National Parks and Wildlife Service, South Australia, Ben Goode, TRC & Canva

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Executive Summary

Kangaroo Island (KI) is a unique place with diverse natural habitats, home to numerous species and ecological communities found nowhere else on earth. This thriving biodiversity underpins the health and wellbeing of the island's community, and successful tourism and sustainable primary production industries.¹

The island offers an array of experiences for visitor and local people, including nature-based adventures, access to locally produced food and beverages, a laid back lifestyle, and opportunities to explore its captivating history.

The combination of bushfires followed almost immediately by COVID-19 travel restrictions significantly impacted communities, businesses and individuals across Kangaroo Island in recent years.

The Commonwealth and the State Governments have invested in a series of projects on Kangaroo Island following the bushfires. Significant restoration work has been undertaken on trail infrastructure on the KI Wilderness Trail and at Kelly Hill Caves within Kelly Hill Conservation Park.

The Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy (Strategy) will focus on Kangaroo Island's National Parks, Conservation Parks and Wilderness Protection Areas and will consider aquatic trails within Kangaroo Island's Marine Parks.

The Strategy will provide advice and recommendations regarding trail opportunities, experiences and management and considers walking, cycling, paddling, diving and snorkelling trails and includes Kangaroo Island's multi-day trails.

How we got to where we are

The Strategy will provide advice regarding trail opportunities and challenges presented within the *Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2022* and the *Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2024*. It will also recognise previous planning work including *Reimagine KI (2021)*² with its focus on community vision for Western Kangaroo Island Parks following the devastating bushfires and COVID-19 as well as and *The Kangaroo Island Walking Trails Strategy 2012*.³

The Strategy has been informed by consultation previously undertaken through the *Reimagine KI for Western Kangaroo Island Parks* and *Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan* processes, and through targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups. This engagement will be followed with the opportunity for broader community feedback on a draft document.

¹ Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2021–2026

² Reimagine – Western Kangaroo Island Parks Department for Environment and Water, 2021

³ Kangaroo Island Walking Trails Strategy 2012, Department of Environment Water and Natural

Kangaroo Island as a trail destination

While a destination may have world class trails, it is the combination of trails and the overall experience that produce trail destinations residents are proud of and visitors seek out.

The 5,084⁴ people who live on Kangaroo Island are linked and connected to the natural world that is authentic Kangaroo Island. Trail experiences will connect visitors and the local people to the unspoilt nature and biodiversity and through good planning and careful management the authenticity will remain.

Trails contribute to the recognition that Kangaroo Island has nature at its heart where visitors experience spectacular landscapes and connection with wildlife. Trails will be developed and maintained with environmental protection and species conservation as a priority while accommodating visitors. This approach is closely linked to the ecological and economic sustainability of trails and trail infrastructure, reliant on effective trail planning, design, management, and maintenance.

The Strategy aligns with Kangaroo Island's primary market for domestic and interstate visitors, with a focus on visitors from Victoria and New South Wales.⁵ Whilst ensuring a diverse range of trail experiences reflect the needs of SA residents and locals, many who will be repeat visitors.

Specific trail visitors include bushwalking groups and clubs, independent bushwalkers, those seeking guided walking experience and educational organisations.

The Kangaroo Island park trails will be defined as Local, Regional or Signature trails. Each of these categories brings with it different user expectations.

New adventure trails with connections to opportunities outside of parks are considered within the Strategy.

The Strategy will seek to provide a range of trails for different visitor demographics such as young families or older people who require even surfaces. Where appropriate, the Strategy will recommend providing trails and trail services that create opportunities for enhanced experiences for people with disabilities and those that are travelling with them.



IMAGE: Kangaroo Island Land and Seascapes provide exceptional trail connections to nature, Lashmar Conservation Park

⁴ Kangaroo Island Profile, LGA Profile, Report generated on 02 January 2025 - National Emergency Management Agency, Australian Government

⁵ KI Visitor Economy Destination Marketing Strategy 2022-2025

Summarises elements of the Kangaroo Island Trail Strategy

Shared Vision for Kangaroo Island Park Trails

Place sustainability and conservation at their core, they support the special biodiversity values through strong environmental protection, species conservation and through visitor awareness, high-quality trail planning, design, build and solid maintenance.

Inspire and encourage visitors and locals to spend more time connecting with nature and experiencing Kangaroo Island's unique wildlife, culture, heritage, hospitality and landscapes whilst contributing to the Kangaroo Island economy.

Provide an experience for everyone, from breathtaking walks, amazing views, meandering trails across land and water and acquiring valued learnings through scenes, sounds, plants and animals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES (SUMMARY)

1. Trails contribute to the protection of Kangaroo Island's values and sense of place and are developed with environmental protection and species conservation as a priority.	2. Trails provide high quality inclusive trail networks and user experiences.	3. Trails connect visitors with the spirit of Kangaroo Island and are sustainable, responsive to visitors needs and are fit for purpose.	4. The right people are engaged about relevant issues at the right time. Engagement is particularly important at the local level to ensure local insights and understanding of the environmental, historical and social factors relating to the siting, development, monitoring and management of trails are understood.
5. First nations' cultural values, interests and opportunities are protected and promoted and pioneer history and partnerships are promoted through trails.	6. Coordinated marketing and promotion will connect Kangaroo Island's adventure experiences including trails.	7. Trails will link up adventure experiences across the Kangaroo Island landscape with park trails connecting to off park trails to provide the best whole of island adventure experiences.	8. Trails contribute to the economy of the island, supporting jobs and the tourism industry.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Trails are environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable. Trails have minimal environmental impact and contribute to biodiversity education. Trails are supported by the local community.	2. Trails provide greater recognition and opportunity for Aboriginal Traditional Owners to engage with their land, living places and the broader community.	3. Land manager partners, private landowners and the community work together to build an accessible trail future across the Kangaroo Island landscape.	4. Trail marketing, promotion, events and activities are coordinated across the region to optimise visitor awareness of the trail network.	5. Trail infrastructure is purpose built in exciting places for a range of users and to a high quality. Trails connect people to Kangaroo Island's spectacular landscapes and unspoilt nature.
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1. Background Context and Management Considerations



Introduction

How to get the best out of the Strategy

The Strategy is divided into three chapters and the appendix providing the opportunity to navigate through the sections that best suit your interests or needs.

Chapter 1 provides the essential background information on which decisions are made.

Chapter 2 outlines the vision, objectives, and strategic priorities for trails.

Chapter 3 provides trail location maps together with recommendations for trails.

The Appendix at the end of the document offers further detail on trails, with the trails matrix providing background to the recommendations for the Kangaroo Island Parks trails. You will also find relevant case studies and summaries of documents described in the Strategy.

Kangaroo Island overview

Kangaroo Island (KI) is a unique place with diverse natural habitats. It is home to numerous species and ecological communities found nowhere else on earth. The island draws visitors from all over the world to its pristine beaches, and breathtaking scenery.

The island is Australia's third largest and is 155 km long and 55 km wide, totalling 4400 km², a third of which is protected as national park, conservation park or wilderness protection area. Aquatic reserves and marine parks offer protection to the island's coastal and oceanic environments, providing sanctuary for an array of unique flora, fauna and marine life. With its range of habitats, Kangaroo Island is a biodiversity hotspot and a vital stronghold for many threatened species and subspecies.

There is a high level of endemism in the island's plants and animals which have diverged from their mainland counterparts during the 10,000 years that the island has been isolated.⁶ Home to some of Australia's most iconic wildlife species the abundance and diversity of the island's unique and endemic wildlife and marine life is a huge part of its attraction.⁷

Located 15 km southwest of the western tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula, 120 km south of Adelaide, the island is a 45 minute ferry ride across Backstairs Passage from the mainland or a 30 minute flight from Adelaide.

The island offers a wide range of visitor experiences which, include nature-based land and marine-based adventure activities and access to high quality, locally produced food and beverages.

The typical climate of Kangaroo Island is mild and temperate with a strong maritime influence often with strong winds. The climate is enjoyable year-round however March to May are the ideal months for walkers. The island has relatively warm summers and mild and wet winters, with two thirds of the annual rainfall occurring between May and September.⁸

The thriving biodiversity underpins the health and wellbeing of the island's community, and successful tourism and sustainable primary production industries.⁹

The combination of summer bushfires 2019/2020 followed almost immediately by local, national and international travel restrictions due to COVID-19 significantly impacted communities, businesses and individuals across Kangaroo Island.

The Commonwealth and the State Governments have invested in a series of projects on Kangaroo Island following the bushfires. Significant restoration work has been undertaken on trail infrastructure on the KI Wilderness Trail, Platypus Waterholes Walk and at Kelly Hill Caves within Kelly Hill Conservation Park.¹⁰

⁶ Kangaroo Island Fact Sheet – Keeping Kangaroo Island Special

⁷ <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/insider-tips/flinders-chase-plants-regenerating>

⁸ Kangaroo Island Fact Sheet - Four Seasons of weather on Kangaroo Island

⁹ Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan 2021–2026

¹⁰ Reimagine KI - Western Kangaroo Island Parks Department for Environment and Water, 2021

Planning Context

Kangaroo Island's parks and wilderness protection areas and the trails within them are managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service SA (NPWSSA).

NPWSSA will from time to time be involved with trails that cross the broader landscape through multiple tenures, including on Crown lands. These future trails will require alternative governance arrangements.

The Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy will focus on developing and managing trails that reflect the experience locals and visitors are seeking whilst ensuring the right trails are placed in the right locations considering landscape, terrain and environmental protection. Trails will reflect Kangaroo Island's uniqueness, diverse natural habitats and the ability for the island to draw visitors from all over the world whilst providing enjoyment and pride for local people.

Collaboration with relevant partners in the planning for and delivery of Kangaroo Island trails will be a focus of the Strategy. The Strategy will seek to ensure trails are environmentally sustainable with a focus on good design enabling NPWSSA to effectively maintain and manage existing and new trails.

The Strategy will explore links and strategic connections between these NPWSSA trails and trails beyond park boundaries that cross the broader Kangaroo Island Landscape.

Related plans and strategies

The *Kangaroo Island Walking Trails Strategy (2012)* was prepared by the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources in response to the December 2007 Kangaroo Island bushfires which destroyed much of the island's walking trail infrastructure. The damaged infrastructure was being progressively reestablished, including some rationalisation of the former trail network.¹¹ However, with the devastating bushfires of 2019/20 much of the infrastructure was further impacted.

In addition to the *Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2022* and the *Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan* the Strategy incorporates recommendations from the *Kangaroo Island Parks Interpretation Strategy*¹².

Examples of relevant plans and strategies are provided in Appendix A.

Cultural connections

Kangaroo Island is an important part of Creation Stories and a spiritual place for the Ngarrindjeri, Narungga and Kurna People¹³. The Ngurunderi Dreaming story provides strong connection to Kangaroo Island through Backstairs Passage with links to the rising sea levels some 10,000 years ago, these stories also feature landscapes on the west end of the island including the Casuarina Islands will be shared and celebrated through the development of future trails and trail corridor experiences in line with park management plans and strategies to recognise First Nations people's living culture.

¹¹ The Kangaroo Island Walking Trails Strategy 2012, Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources.

¹² Department for Environment and Water SA, Kangaroo Island Parks Interpretation Strategy 2024

¹³ Draper, N., Islands of the dead? Prehistoric occupation of Kangaroo Island and other southern offshore islands and watercraft use by Aboriginal Australians, Quaternary International (2015)

Trail Insights

What are recreational trails?

Recreational trails are invaluable as they help us forge deeper connections with nature and a greater appreciation of the environmental and cultural world around us.

Trails challenge us up mountains and down steep descents. They lead us to breathtaking views; they keep us healthy as a local or a visitor and can bring economic benefits through sustainable tourism.

Recreational trails are the paths and routes used partly or solely for active recreation, leisure and tourism purposes.

Walking trails can be across a range of styles including bushwalks or town walks and can be short walks less than 2 hours, half day walks, full day walks or multi-day overnight walks.

Trails come in all shapes and sizes and provide a range of uses from walking, cycling, mountain biking, trail running, paddling (kayaks, stand up paddle boards and canoes), and horse riding.

They also include trails that provide access for all including those designed for wheelchair use and pram friendly trails.

Trails can be single or shared use, on roads, pathways, maintenance tracks, disused rail lines and up mountains.

Trails can also be on water with non-motorised vessels and can even be a mix of land-based walking and riding adventures combined with water trails.

Trail categories and types

There are a number of ways to categorise trails, but in general, they are defined as being of signature (sometimes referred to as national), regional or local significance. Kangaroo Island trails in each of these categories bring different user expectations.

Signature Trails

A smaller number of trails that showcase the region and offer outstanding experiences that attract people to Kangaroo Island such as the KI Wilderness Trail, Platypus Waterholes Walk, Admirals Arch, Remarkable Rocks and Seal Bay. Signature trails are often internationally renowned but certainly recognised at a national level. Visitors often undertake these experiences as a must-do when visiting a destination, or travel to that destination to undertake the specific trail experience.

Regional Trails

A larger part of a trail network that provide quality experiences for residents and visitors and perhaps are less busy than popular signature trails. The regional trails support signature trails and the overall regional trail experience, they have the potential to extend the length of stay for visitors to the region and offer significant recreational opportunities for local people. The trails in this category are often marketed to interstate and intrastate visitors, Kangaroo Island examples include the Ravine des Cascoars Hike and the Ironstone Hill Hike near Penneshaw.

Local Trails

These trails primarily serve local communities. They also provide links to regional or signature trails and can add to the overall destination offering through building a sense of liveability and connectivity. They have value by contributing to health and wellbeing, encouraging physical activity and allowing people to discover and connect with nature in ways that support Kangaroo Island's unique biodiversity. A designation as a local trail does not imply it will receive less funding, or that it is less important to a local community. Importantly it continues to place the decisions for the management of trails at a local level so that issues and opportunities are addressed locally. This brings local insights and understanding of the environmental, historical and social factors relating to the siting, development and management of trails

Benefits of great trail experiences



Figure 1. Sustainable trails triple bottom line



Sustainable trails

The very best sustainable trails:

- are ecologically sustainable and economically viable
- are designed and constructed to integrate into and display the landscape, be long lasting and require minimal maintenance
- are deeply valued and supported by the communities they are located within
- generate economic and social benefits for communities while contributing to restoring, protecting and enhancing our natural environment
- are designed to put the trail user at the centre of the design process, providing immersive and rewarding trail experiences that allow for different levels of ability, skill and challenge.

The best sustainable trails are designed and managed with the support and contribution of communities encouraging significant economic benefit through local business growth, encouraging environmental protection and improving community health and wellbeing.

Local communities can bring insight and understanding of the environmental, historical and social factors relating to the siting, development and management of trails.

The ecological and economic sustainability of trails is reliant on effective trail planning, design, management and maintenance.

Failure to address trail management and maintenance at all stages of trail planning may result in greater costs and damage to the very environmental, economic and social values that make trails so important.

A strategic and planned approach to engagement with communities will encourage effective discussion and collaboration about trail development, generate trust and pride and contribute to ongoing support which in turn contributes to trail sustainability.

Trail planners, professional trail builders and communities that support trails place great focus on understanding what are the needs of the trail user, placing trails in the right place and ensuring trails are fun, fit for purpose and sit within the very best environmentally sustainable trail corridor.

Land managers and the trail community need to develop and acquire a range of resources to plan, build, manage, monitor and maintain trails.

Beyond this triple line of success, trails also support:

- Awareness and respect of heritage culture
- Green transport initiatives
- Health and fitness, reducing health care costs and improving productivity
- Education in an outdoor classroom.



IMAGE: Remarkable Rocks

Trail standards and grading

Standards and Grading

Australian and New Zealand management authorities, including National Parks and Wildlife Service SA, rely on standards to provide guidance and consistency of information to users of walking, cycling and other trails. This is intended to minimise risk, preserve natural features and enhance recreation opportunities associated with the use of tracks and trails.

Australian Walking Track Standards Grading System

A technical grading of the walk where the land manager determines the walk's grade of difficulty using a set of technical questions based on the Australian Standard 2156.12001. These standards are closely aligned to Australian Standard 2156.22001 which provide advice on appropriate infrastructure aligned to the differing walking trail grades.

These track grades are part of the Australian Walking Track Grading System. This system assesses how difficult a walk is by considering the experience required, number of steps, how steep it is, quality of the path surface, and signage. A walk's final grade is the based on the most difficult of these five criteria, rather than an average of them all.¹⁴

Mountain Bike (MTB) Trail Standards

The Trail Difficulty Rating System (TDRS) TDRS is used to grade mountain bike trails according to their relative technical difficulty.¹⁵

Figure 2. Australian Walking Track Standards Grading system



Grade 1. No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.
Walks no greater than 5 km.



Grade 2. No bushwalking experience required. The track is hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.
Walks no greater than 10 km.



Grade 3. Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps.
Walks up to 20 km.



Grade 4. Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.



Grade 5. Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked.
Walks may be more than 20 km.

¹⁴ www.parks.vic.gov.au

¹⁵ <https://auscycling.org.au/nat/news/australian-trail-difficulty-rating-system-revised>

Importance of accessible trails

Accessibility for all is about providing services and opportunities for people with a range of mobility and abilities.

Trail access can be for different visitor demographics such as young families or baby stroller use or older people who require even surfaces. Many governments have committed to addressing shortfalls in accessibility through National Disability Strategies and Discrimination legislation.

Accessible trails in Australia are seeing strong development and include initiatives to get more people out into the country. Examples including Adaptive Mountain Biking and implementation of e-trikes, electric-assist all-terrain, and off-road wheelchairs.

Where appropriate, providing a mix of trails that include some Grade 1 and Grade 2 trails is important. Also inclusion of trail services that include all-terrain wheelchairs create opportunities for value add and enhanced experiences for people with disabilities and those that travel with them.

Auditing, monitoring and measuring success

Developing monitoring and measurement criteria and systems will assist in evaluating and ensuring effective management and maintenance programming. Monitoring can also contribute to understanding of how a trail or a suite of trails are performing.

Monitoring of environmental change and impact are priorities for trail managers. Environmental indicators should be established before any new trails open and regular monitoring and reporting should be incorporated into work programming. The best monitoring programs will identify emerging trends and enable early intervention.

Kangaroo Island's Tourism Optimisation Management Model (TOMM) monitors the effect of tourism on Kangaroo Island from a variety of perspectives (including environmental, economic, socio-cultural, and visitor experience) in the interests of both residents and visitors.

At the core of TOMM is a practical set of indicators that monitor tourism on Kangaroo Island. The model is a community-based initiative responsible for monitoring and managing the long-term sustainability of tourism on the Island. TOMM survey information was used in the development of this Strategy.¹⁶

TOMM through targeted exit surveys could become an effective tool to gauge visitor use and perspectives for KI Trails.

Monitoring should contribute to effective management and good trail outcomes through:

- identifying the causes of environmental impact and treating through early intervention
- understanding trail user views and measuring satisfaction with the trail experience provided, through surveys, social media or other forums
- understanding trail visitor trends, numbers and peaks throughout the year and managing issues and impacts
- gauging community benefit from individual trails or groups of trails measured through economic performance, community wellbeing and support
- trail condition assessment including hazard reporting, risk assessment, and the user experience, often measured against trail grades enabling the development of prioritised maintenance schedules and work programmes
- assessment of trail use, wear and tear and understanding of trails suitability, environmental protection and is it fit for purpose
- identification and assessment of trail related incidents contributing to risk management together with trail user reporting of hazards and blockages through social media
- generating feedback from local communities as to their needs, perceptions and support for trails.

Monitoring can include trail user surveys, trail counters, trail cameras, social media, website responses and direct contact with trail users.

Monitoring will assist with refining ongoing operational management and funding justification.

¹⁶ Tourism Optimisation Management Model Visitor Exit Survey 2022/2023

Consultation, Communications, Engagement

Communications and engagement

Specific to Kangaroo Island, strategic goals informed through previous consultation and for this Strategy reflect a community desire for trails to be planned and managed through a conservation first approach. There is also a strong recognition that trails provide locals and visitors with settings for public enjoyment with the added benefit to health wellbeing and community pride.

Consultation undertaken for the Strategy included meetings with local bushwalking groups, conservation groups, recreational users, and Local Government. This engagement has contributed to the development of this Strategy and will be followed with the opportunity for broader community feedback on the finalised draft document.

The strategy has also been informed by consultation previously undertaken including for **Reimagine Western Kangaroo Island Parks and Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2022**.

Reimagine Western Kangaroo Island Parks

In 2021 an engagement program was developed on behalf of the Western Kangaroo Island Parks Community Reference Group for the Department for Environment and Water. This engagement program was developed to support community, stakeholder and business input within the constraints and context of bushfire recovery and COVID-19.

The engagement program was initiated to collectively shape the vision and guiding principles for the Western Kangaroo Island Parks and Seal Bay. The reimagining outcomes reflected a strong commitment to balancing conservation, visitor experiences, and sustainable development to ensure that Kangaroo Island continues to be a unique and treasured destination for generations to come.

While all the comments and feedback gathered during the engagement process for the Western Kangaroo Island Parks are valuable, some key points stand out as particularly important and impactful for all of the KI parks and strategic management of trails.

These summarised comments reflect the overarching concerns and priorities expressed by stakeholders and the community:

- 1. Conservation First Approach:** The strong endorsement of a conservation first approach is important. It emphasises the need to prioritise environmental protection and species conservation as a priority while accommodating visitors.
- 2. Visitor Experience Management:** Managing visitor numbers and ensuring a high-quality, low-impact experience for tourists is a recurring theme. This includes concerns about overcrowding at popular sites and a desire to maintain the island's reputation for unspoiled natural beauty.
- 3. Flinders Chase National Park Visitor Centre:** The feedback about the visitor centre highlights the importance of improving infrastructure to enhance visitor experiences while balancing conservation goals.
- 4. Kelly Hill Caves:** Identifying Kelly Hill Caves as a potential hub for various visitor experiences, including accommodation and trails, suggests the need for strategic development to maximise the site's potential.
- 5. Future-Proofing:** The emphasis on future-proofing infrastructure and visitor experiences demonstrates a forward-looking approach that considers long-term sustainability and adaptability.
- 6. Technology and Social Media:** The suggestion to provide Wi-Fi at key hubs reflects the importance of staying connected, promoting citizen science initiatives, and enhancing visitor engagement.
- 7. Interpretation and Storytelling:** The desire for improved information, education, and storytelling indicates the potential to enhance the educational and cultural aspects of the Parks.
- 8. Bike Riding and Walking Trails:** Expanding the network of trails for biking and walking is seen as a significant opportunity to cater to a broader range of visitors.¹⁷

¹⁷ Reimagine KI - Western Kangaroo Island Parks, Department for Environment and Water, April 2021

The commitment to balancing conservation, visitor experiences, and sustainable development to ensure that Kangaroo Island continues to be a unique and treasured destination will be embraced throughout the Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy.

Engagement for existing and future trails

Effective consultation regarding the issues, opportunities and management of existing and future trails is important to ensure the vision for the Kangaroo Island park trails is carried forward.

Engagement is particularly important at the local level to ensure local insights and understanding of the environmental, historical and social factors relating to the siting, development, monitoring and management of trails are understood.

Strengthening connections and partnerships between park managers, experts, volunteers, and community-based organisations provides opportunity for appropriate and early decision making.

Continuing and improving the existing strong trail partnerships is important including with Friends of Parks, conservation groups, tourism operators, KI Tourism Alliance, KI Council and adjacent landowners.

Future trails across the broader Kangaroo Island Landscape would be well served through a collective governance model to bring skills, expertise and local community understanding together to guide establishment and management of trails that cross a range of tenure.



IMAGE: Kangaroo Island trails provide a range of experiences for a range of visitors, Platypus Waterholes Walk Flinders Chase National Park



IMAGE: Platypus Pools on the Rocky River, Platypus Waterholes Walk Flinders Chase National Park

Market Demand

Visitation to Kangaroo Island

Tourism is a highly important economic driver on Kangaroo Island, with half of all jobs being tourism related.¹⁸ Kangaroo Island's appeal for visitors is its interactive nature experiences with Australian wildlife in their natural environment, its pristine beaches, fine produce, and lack of crowds.

Kangaroo Island's appeal as a place of nature and pristine environment is reflected in the marketing approach by Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance - **Kangaroo Island Unfiltered** and **Discover Island Life** with its focus on the *untamed, unadulterated, unpretentious*, inviting visitors to an unfiltered welcome to Kangaroo Island.¹⁹

Kangaroo Island's Tourism Optimisation Model identifies that 76% of visitors to Kangaroo Island believe it offers one of Australia's top three nature and wildlife experiences.²⁰

Devastating bushfires severely affected Kangaroo Island during 2019/2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic which hit the world in late 2019 significantly impacted tourism visitation, with Australia's international borders closed until February 2022 together with varying state border closures.

Results from the 2022/23 Visitor Exit Survey for the island appear to show a gradual return to normal, with positive improvements across a range of areas including an increase in visitor numbers, longer stays and higher expenditure on the island as well as a range of economic indicators being maintained from the pre-COVID period, as well as most experiential indicators remaining within acceptable ranges.

As at financial year end 2022/2023 Kangaroo Island welcomed 212,546 visitors.²¹

Table 1. Kangaroo Island Visitors.²²

KANGAROO ISLAND VISITORS	VISITOR MIX %
Internationals	5.24
Domestic Overnight- intrastate	50.81
Domestic Overnight- interstate	19.15
Total Domestic Overnight	69.96
Total Overnights (Domestic and International)	75.20
Day Visitors	24.80
Total Visits	100.00

Kangaroo Island provides the setting for visitors and local people to interact with nature and enjoy experiences within a pristine environment. Nearly half of all visitors indicated they enjoy bushwalking with sightseeing and visiting national parks a close second.²³

Providing a range of well-planned and maintained trails that suit the needs of Kangaroo Island visitors and the local community and contributes to Kangaroo Island's recovery. Trails need to continue to be a low-cost activity that appeals to Kangaroo Island visitors across a range of socio-economic groups and provide benefit to the Kangaroo Island community.

¹⁸ SATC RVS Progress Snapshot, Kangaroo Island

¹⁹ KITA 2023 www.tourkangarooisland.com.au

²⁰ Tourism Optimisation Management Model Visitor Exit Survey 2022/2023

²¹ Tourism Optimisation Management Model Visitor Exit Survey 2022/2023

²² South Australian Tourism Commission 2022

²³ Tourism Optimisation Management Model Visitor Exit Survey 2022/2023

Participation Trends Sport and Physical Activity

The impact of COVID-19 changed how communities are undertaking physical recreation and outdoor activity.

A 2022 report from AusPlay 'How Australians' participation in sport and physical activity is adapting to COVID-normal'²⁴ has shown that the average number of activities per person has increased and fewer Australians are relying solely on sporting clubs or organised venues for exercise – they are more likely to be adding in “COVID-safe” unstructured activities. This has led to an increase in participation in self-managed activities in nature, especially low-entry-barrier activities such as walking (recreational and bushwalking).

The report showed walking (recreational) and bushwalking to be the two most popular activities, recording an estimated increase in participation for both. Walking (recreational) increased from 911,000 to 1,283,000 (40% increase) while bushwalking participation increased from 493,000 to 683,000, a 38.5% increase. Collectively, walking as a general activity increased by 40% from 2020 to 2021.

Further, running and jogging also recorded increased participation, with a non-recorded percentage likely attributable to the trail running genre, which specifically relies on walking trails.

The report also recorded an increased use of public spaces (including National Parks), from 6% in 2019 to 11% in 2021, noting that “this trend is apparent across all adult age groups and across all top 20 sports and physical activities but has been most strongly driven by increased participation in recreational and bush walking, running, football/soccer, tennis and swimming.

The motivation for participation in physical activity and sport “to be outdoors / enjoy nature” increased from 15% in 2019 to 21% in 2021.

The trends indicate that there is an increasing desire for self-managed activities in the outdoors. Trails that access Kangaroo Islands' special places provide the ideal settings for local people and visitors to be active, get involved and explore.

Figure 3. Some Common Characteristics of Iconic Walks²⁵



²⁴ www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results

²⁵ PWS, 2018 as cited in Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk Feasibility Study: Final Report. 23 July 2021 (Version 14) (SGS Economics and Planning)

Consumer Trends in Soft Adventure/ Multi-Day Walking

Multi-day walking is becoming increasingly popular reflected in increasing numbers of multi-day and iconic walks being developed across Australia. The 66 km, 5 day Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail is a recent addition to Australia's collection of multi-day trails. Independent Research into Overnight Walkers in Australia²⁶ undertaken in 2022 identified important insights and trends in multi-day walking.

TRAILS

- Rethinking the trail network design - building quality trails based around the experience, with a connected network of infrastructure
- The rise of e-bikes, longer trails and attracting broader demographics
- Long distance hikes promoted as "bucket list" worthy must dos.

TRAVEL

- Travellers are becoming empowered with knowledge about how they can be a part of the solution and contribute to the environment or communities (regenerative travel)
- Visitors are turning to 'off the beaten track' destinations, more relaxed and unhurried pace (slow tourism)
- Adventure tourists are seeking transformative experiences.

DRIVERS OF CHOICE

- An iconic landscape is very important to those taking their own tent, and storytelling/ interpretation is very unimportant
- Time spent walking is a factor for all, but less so for those using a provided shelter. Weather/ climate is also a factor for people.

Key Statistics for Overnight Walkers

- **The preferred distance for walking is less than 15 km per day:** Those taking their own tent and those seeking fully serviced walks were similar in their preference for shorter walks. Those preferring shelter to be provided had the highest preference for longer walks.
- **More service = fewer walking hours:** Those carrying their own tent generally prefer longer hours of walking, but fewer kms. Fully serviced walkers had a magic number of around 4-5 hours per day.
- **Walking with others:** People using their own tent tended to be far more interested in walking alone than the other groups. Those using shelters tended to like walking as a couple, and the more serviced styles of walks preferred by the larger groups.
- **Amenities:** Composting toilets were a big favourite for those in the more independent modes, but those in the fully serviced walks preferred private bathrooms.
- **Guiding:** Those using their own tent have a strong preference for no guiding, and those seeking full meals and accommodation enjoy either fully guided or guiding at accommodation.
- **Frequency:** Generally, walkers went on a walk every year or two, and many less frequently than that.
- **Catering preferences:** People generally prefer to have facilities provided for catering. Unsurprisingly, the full accommodation/meals group prefer fully catered options.
- **Number of nights:** Generally, people prefer walks of around 3 nights or less, with the exception of those who use uncatered shelters who prefer much longer stays.
- Nearly half of walkers prefer to carry their own food and cook in provided facilities. 40% prefer to walk with small groups of family and friends of less than 5 people.
- Nearly a third of walkers prefer their own tent to sleep in. A quarter prefer full accommodation and meals.
 - 65% prefer shared toilets to be provided along the way.
 - 46% prefer contact with a guide at the accommodation, rather than fully guided or no guide.
- \$300 is the magic maximum spend. People with their own tent spend under \$100/night, but 20% of those choosing full accommodation and meals provided also did. The 'sweet spot' for spend tops out at \$300/night.²⁶

²⁶ TRC Independent Research into Overnight Walkers in Australia, commissioned July 2022



IMAGE: Platypus Waterholes Walk (DEW)

Visitor target markets

South Australia's primary target market is domestic travellers. For the intrastate market, marketing activity it is generally focussed on Greater Adelaide and for the interstate market, the focus is on capital city audiences including Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. The primary market for Kangaroo Island is domestic interstate visitors, with a focus on visitors from Victoria and New South Wales. Intrastate visitors are the secondary target, followed by internationals.

Kangaroo Island's *Visitor Economy Destination Marketing Strategy 2022–2025* focuses on driving demand and visitation from three key visitor types:

- **Millennial travellers without children** – key experiences to attract this market include beaches and coastal experiences, unique rock formations, general immersion in the environment, walking and hiking, maritime attractions (i.e. swimming with dolphins), cellar door, distillery and brewery visits, unique dining and the opportunity to enjoy island produce, experiential and luxury accommodation.
- **Affluent families with school age children** - key experiences to attract this market include guided wildlife interactions, rock formations, wildlife in their natural environment, coastal experiences, nature recreation, soft adventure, maritime attractions, cellar doors, cafés, farm gates and island produce experiences, safety and security offered by open spaces and isolation, family-friendly accommodation for parents and children to enjoy.
- **Older travellers** - Wildlife in their natural environment, immersing themselves in the scenery and various landscapes, visiting rock formations, walking and hiking, observational experiences (i.e. birding), soft adventure experiences, guided tours, self-driving/touring the Island, cafés and pubs, farm gates, opportunities to enjoy and learn about island produce, cellar doors and wineries, slowing down and experiencing the wide open spaces, experiential and luxury accommodation, leisure activities that allow them to relax, particularly in their accommodation.

Kangaroo Island's range of trail experiences will have broad appeal for each of the above visitor types.²⁷

²⁷ <https://tourism.sa.gov.au/strategies/strategies/regional-visitor-strategy>

Table 2. Specific target markets for Kangaroo Island Trails

MARKET	DESCRIPTION
Local SA residents	Represents the biggest visitation market to Kangaroo Island. Bushwalking is the sixth largest physical activity engaged in amongst the adult population in South Australia, with 150,800 participating in 2021/2022.
Local Kangaroo Island Community	The permanent residents and lifestyle landowners on Kangaroo Island take great pride in the unspoilt nature of the Island. Local people are regular users of island trails, there has been a marked uptake in trail use following development of new trails such as the Kingscote Coastal Walk. Trails such as these contribute significantly to community wellbeing and pride.
SA bushwalking /trail running groups / clubs	There are around 17 walking clubs in SA that participate in various organised bushwalking and trail running activities around the state. ²⁸
Independent bushwalkers and trail runners	Independent walkers and trail runners visiting from intraterritory and interstate, especially coming from VIC and NSW, the primary interstate markets for Kangaroo Island.
Guided walking and trail running experiences	Pre-COVID it was estimated that around 200,000 Australians participated in annual high end extended or multi-night walks overseas, only 40,000 of them do these walks within Australia. There will be greater demand by Australians to participate in domestic experiences as people seek experiences on home soil due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19 and travel and tightening economical contexts. The growth in walking as a target vacation activity, along with a rise in interest in interpretation of experiences is also fuelling demand for guided and/or facilitated activities in general. A travel survey by Arrival as reported by Skift found that 47% of surveyed travellers in 2019 intended to buy walking tours, compared to 71% for travellers planning trips in 2022.²⁹ There are several guided walking tour businesses currently operating on Kangaroo Island primarily focussing on the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.
Education organisations	School groups from around South Australia visit Kangaroo Island for a variety of learning opportunities, many requiring trail-based access to nature.
Events	Trail running, walk challenge and endurance events have been experiencing a huge growth in popularity during the past 5-10 years. A survey of trail running event operators in 2021 showed that entry fees into trail running events alone generated approx. \$13 million in direct entry fee revenue across 331 trail running events across Australia accounting for 154,113 registrations. This offers indication of significant opportunity (and likely future demand for trail use by event operators) given the desirable landscapes offered on Kangaroo Island for adventure-pursuit recreation such as trail running, orienteering, rogaining, adventure racing and other competitive organised endurance events.
Cruise Ship Passengers	There are increasing numbers of cruise ships visiting Kangaroo Island through Penneshaw. Of the 53,200 passengers in 2022/23 some 11,500 passengers took on shore excursion. ³⁰ Improvements in access and connection to trails such as the Penneshaw Foreshore with its connection to the Ironstone Hill Trail will provide experiences for passengers.

28 Ausplay, SA data tables July 2021-June 2022

29 <https://skift.com/2022/03/08/tours-and-activities-go-from-hardest-hit-to-in-hot-demand-this-year-new-survey/>

30 South Australian Tourism Commission data for 2022/23

Kangaroo Island's Positioning

Kangaroo Island Experience Pillars.

- Nature and Wildlife
- Exploration
- Relaxation and Rejuvenation
- Island Life.

The *Kangaroo Island Visitor Economic Destination Marketing Strategy*³² places authenticity with nature, exploration and relaxation.

The special products and experiences that cause you to pause and reflect on the things that really matter in life are reflected in island life.

The experience pillars reflect experiences provided through Kangaroo Island trails both within parks and across the island landscape.

The third largest island in Australia, Kangaroo Island is separated from mainland South Australia by a 15 km stretch of sea named Backstairs Passage. Its dramatic coastline, bound by the Investigator Strait in the north and the Southern Ocean to the south, surrounds 4,500 square km of sculpted natural landscapes. It is nature, in its imperfect glory, which inspires and enlivens so much that happens on Kangaroo Island.

The 5,084³¹ people who live there are linked by their very tangible and individual connection to the natural world that is authentic Kangaroo Island.

Trail experiences will link visitors and the local people to the unspoilt nature and biodiversity and through good planning and careful management the authenticity will remain.³²

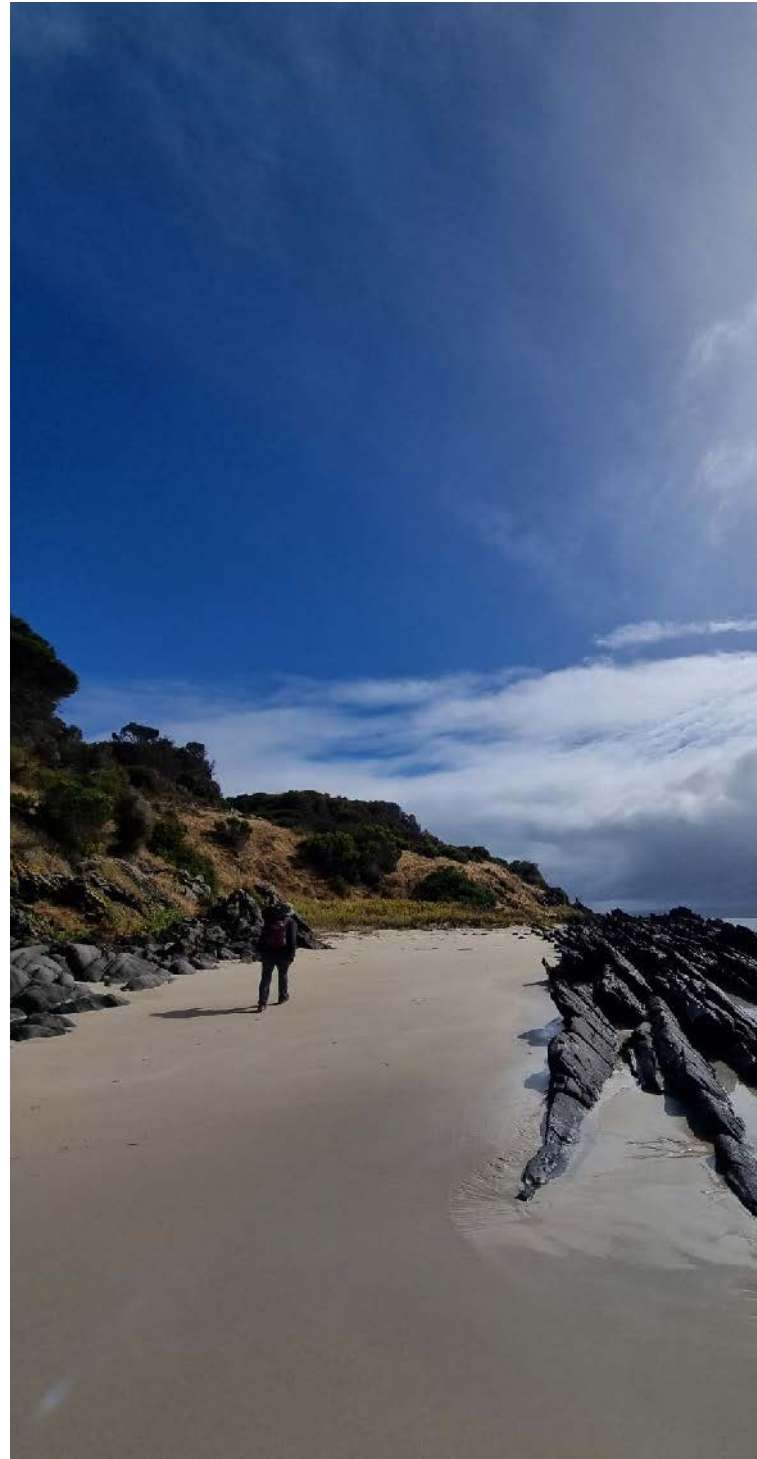


IMAGE: Beach walking Kangaroo Island
Lashmar Conservation Park

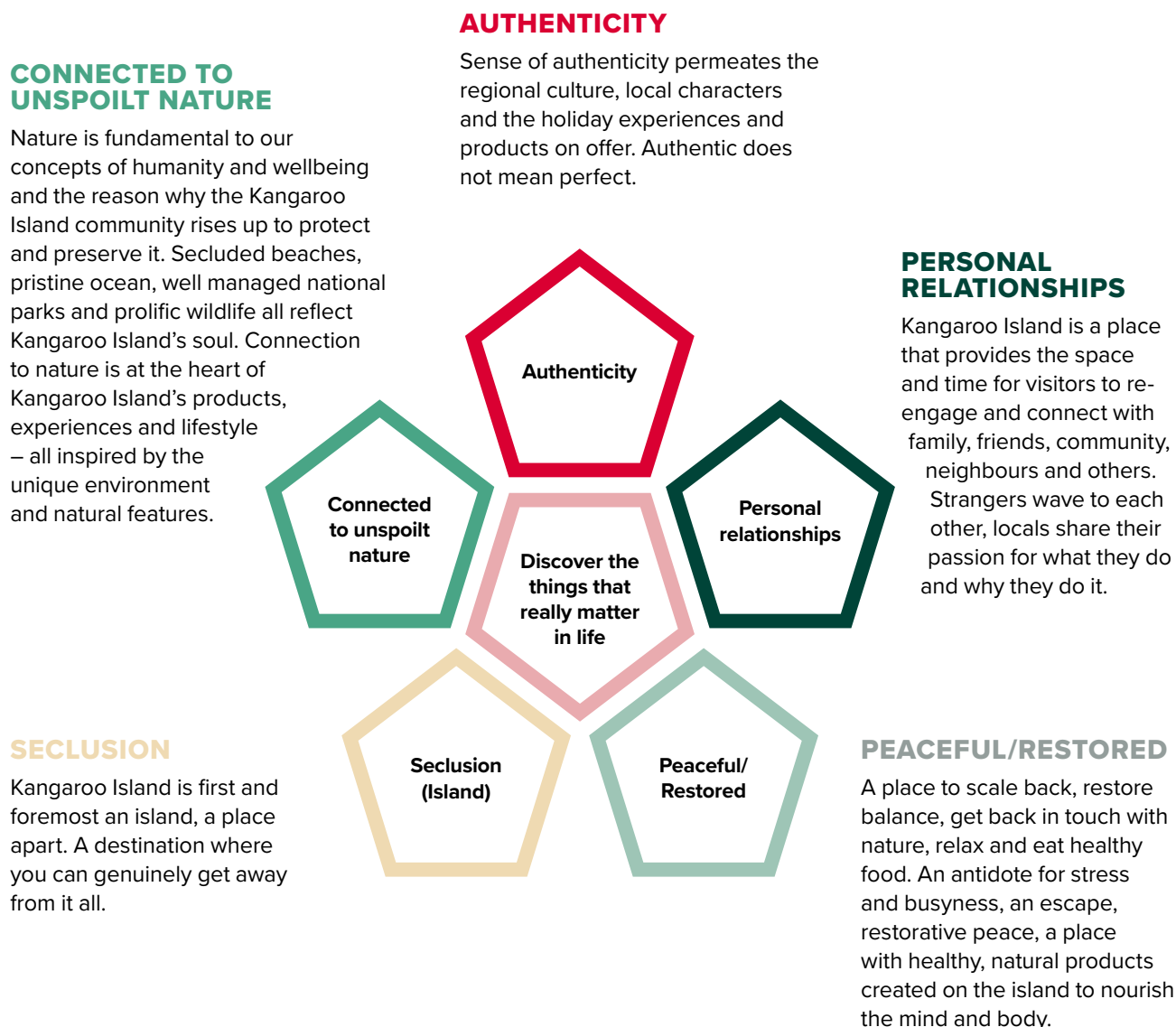
³¹ Kangaroo Island Profile, LGA Profile, Report generated on 02 January 2025 - National Emergency Management Agency, Australian Government

³² Kangaroo Island Visitor Economic Destination Marketing Strategy 2022 - 2025

Kangaroo Island's Brand Values

Kangaroo Island's brand values (Figure 4) reflect the essence of the place, the experiences visitors can have and the central elements for attracting visitors to the destination and delivering outstanding experiences while they are there.

Figure 4. Kangaroo Islands Brand Values



Central to all of these values is that Kangaroo Island is a place where you can visit or live and discover the things that really matter in life.

Enriching Kangaroo Island's position as a trail destination

While a destination may have world class trails, it is the combination of trails and the overall visitor experience that produce trail destinations residents are proud of and visitors seek out.

Kangaroo Island's landscapes, wildlife, services and visitor experiences contribute significantly to Kangaroo Island's future as a great trail destination and as a place to live. The features and characteristics of the trails are highlighted throughout this Strategy and further described through - Great Trail Characteristics and How the Kangaroo Island Park Trails Compare (see Table 3).

Unique short walks, day walks and multi-day walking experiences unlike anywhere else connecting to views from the safety of cliff tops, coastal heaths, woodlands and accessible secluded bays and beaches.

Diverse range of walking experiences including trails suitable for people with a range of abilities and interests.

Opportunities for local residents to experience their own backyard, present the Island experience to visitors and improve their own way of life.

Independent and guided multi-day walking experiences with camping, accommodation along the way or via shuttle pick up and drop off services.

Strong protection for KI nature and biodiversity whilst linking visitors to unique wildlife experiences through sustainable trails.

Connections to the living culture of the First Nations People and Ngurunderi creation mythology stories focused on Backstairs Passage, coasts, reefs and islands.

Trails that connect the visitor to the unique landscapes, wildlife and visitor experiences of Kangaroo Island.

A signature multi-day walking experience - Characteristic of Great Trail Experiences.

Clear point of difference for the trail experiences that are well communicated through marketing.

Complementary nature- based and cultural attractions, products and infrastructure in the region.

Ability to cater to both independent and guided trails users.

An experience that offers a level of exclusivity and avoids high volume nodes or trails.

A quality, seamless experience with ease of information, booking and accommodation.

Offers a level of challenge and distance that is geared to consumer preferences.

Effective collective governance, coordination and management including a model to establish and manage trails across the broader islands landscape.

Contributing to trail experiences beyond the park gate, across multiple tenures, producing world class trails and making Kangaroo Island a great place to live.

Kangaroo Island Park trails comparison to great trails criteria

Table 3. Great Trail Characteristics and How the Kangaroo Island Park Trails Compare

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT TRAIL EXPERIENCES ³³	HOW THE PARKS TRAILS COMPARE	INVESTMENT AND STRUCTURAL PRIORITIES
Clear point of difference for the trail experiences that are well communicated through marketing	The KI Park trails provide unique walking experiences unlike anywhere else. Featuring cliff tops and views, woodlands and forests, secluded bays and beaches - including Seal Bay - and links to a range of accommodation. Pre-visit and onsite communication provides the visitor with the ability to get the most out of the KI experience.	Quality trail design, construction and biodiversity protection will ensure the very best views, locations and experiences are accessible and promoted for a range of trail users. Maintenance and management will need to ensure what is communicated is delivered on site.
Complementary nature- based and cultural attractions, products and infrastructure in the region	Trails provide both strong connection and protection of KI nature and biodiversity. Culture, art and links to wineries and hospitality are not strong. Currently limited aquatic trails that link to unique aquatic environment and KI Marine Parks.	Opportunity to improve links to trail experiences and connections to hospitality, accommodation, Aboriginal cultural tours, settler heritage and marine. Links to opportunities such as Lashmar Lagoon Wetland will provide significant new supporting trail experiences. Marine parks and freshwater areas provide opportunity for new experiences.
Ability to cater to both independent and guided trails users	KI Wilderness Trail provides opportunities for independent and guided users and opportunity for higher levels of accommodation comfort and services. Specialist day tours add to the mix of experiences.	Cruise ship visits through Penneshaw provide new opportunities for guided trail-based activities. Aquatic trails provide new independent and guided experiences.
An experience that offers a level of exclusivity and avoids high volume nodes or trails	The trails explore remote and differing landscapes that by design, placement and nature encourages remote adventure feelings and experiences across the Island. Kangaroo Island is well placed to provide levels of exclusivity.	Design and construction will focus on the retention of the remote back to nature experience. Whilst continuous improvement of experiences at the existing high volume nodes to provide a greater feeling of exclusivity.

³³ Recreational Trail Planning, Design and Management Guidelines, TRC Tourism 2022

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT TRAIL EXPERIENCES ³³	HOW THE PARKS TRAILS COMPARE	INVESTMENT AND STRUCTURAL PRIORITIES
A quality, seamless experience with ease of information, booking and accommodation.	The proximity of trails across the island should enable the user to seamlessly plan for trail experiences and link with the trail of their choice. KI Wilderness Trail will bounce back following fires to provide seamless trail experiences.	Marketing will strengthen and promote the easy access to trails. New experiences proposed will be linked to information booking and accommodation. Short and day walking experiences in parks are provided with good information, booking services and adjacent to and park based accommodation.
Offers a level of challenge and distance that is geared to consumer preferences.	Some 23 existing park trails provide a range of challenge and distance with a current focus on short walks and one multi-day walking option. Trails generally provide the user with the experiences across a level of challenge and reward.	Trails will be designed and built across Grades from 1 to 5. Some reduction in trails will be considered to ensure maintenance and sustainability whilst ensuring the levels of challenge and consumer preference are maintained. Some additional trails may be recommended including aquatic and cycling trails.
Effective governance, coordination and management	The trails continue to be managed through a strong single agency management approach with strong links to community partnerships and stakeholder management structure.	Future trail development, management, and governance will require the very best structural arrangements. Future links and connections for community-based trails will require adaptive management arrangements for trails that cross agency and land ownership.

2. Delivering the Kangaroo Island Trails



Shared Vision

The Kangaroo Island Park Trails

Place sustainability, and conservation at their core, they support the special biodiversity values through strong environmental protection, species conservation and through visitor awareness, high-quality trail planning, design, build and maintenance.

Inspire and encourage visitors and locals to spend more time connecting with nature and experiencing Kangaroo Island's unique wildlife, culture, heritage hospitality and landscapes whilst contributing to the Kangaroo Island economy.

Provide an experience for everyone, from breathtaking walks, amazing views, meandering trails across land and water and acquiring valued learnings through scenes, sounds, plants and animals.



IMAGE: Kangaroo Island provides opportunity for a range of trail experiences including kayaking, Chapman River

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles for the Kangaroo Island Park Trails and the trail landscape

1. Trails contribute to the protection of Kangaroo Island's values and sense of place and are developed with environmental protection and species conservation as a priority

- Kangaroo Island's special biodiversity values will be protected throughout the trail lifecycle and enriched through trail user awareness, interpretation and education.
- A conservation first approach will be followed in trail development and operation.
- Trails will be financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable.
- Trail sustainability will be a priority and delivered through all stages including planning, design, construction, maintenance and ongoing monitoring.

2. Trails provide high quality and inclusive trail networks and user experiences

- Trail infrastructure will be high quality and purpose built to deliver exciting and rewarding nature-based experiences.
- Trails will be developed to suit a range of users, including opportunities for people across a range of abilities.
- Trails provide connections to camping, accommodation, and Kangaroo Island tourism and hospitality opportunities.
- Trails will be considered on land and water with options for aquatic trails including kayak/ canoe trails and underwater trails.
- Trails are designed and managed to provide health and wellbeing benefit to local people.

3. Trails connect visitors with the spirit of Kangaroo Island and are sustainable, responsive to visitors needs and are fit for purpose

- The trails have broad appeal for a diverse range of people and are designed and constructed across a range of trail classifications suitable for most ages and fitness levels.
- Purpose built cycling may be considered in the package of parks trails limited to existing day visitor areas, existing fire access and vehicle tracks and planned for on park roads that are fit for purpose.
- Trails will provide the ideal setting for interpretation and strongly link visitors to the special values of Kangaroo Island.

4. The right people are engaged about relevant issues at the right time

- The Kangaroo Island community will be encouraged to work together to deliver quality, sustainable park trails and new unique signature Kangaroo Island trail experiences.
- Engagement is particularly important at the local level to ensure local insights and understanding of the environmental, historical and social factors relating to the siting, development, monitoring and management of trails are understood.
- Provide opportunity for early input to decision making.

5. First Nations' cultural values, interests and opportunities are promoted and pioneer history and partnerships are promoted through trails

- There is a commitment to recognising First Nations people's living culture through trails, acknowledging a shared history and supporting the Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga interests on Country.
- Contemporary storytelling will reflect the unique coastal cultural sites, offshore islands and include dreamtime links across the island.
- Trail planning and development will look to engage indigenous artists and story tellers to develop the imagery, cultural themes and stories linked to future and current trails.³⁴ First Nations people will be encouraged to develop business and servicing opportunities around trails.
- Kangaroo Islands unique shared pioneer history and heritage will be presented through trails and interpretation.

6. Coordinated marketing and promotion will connect Kangaroo Island's adventure experiences

- The success of the current and future trails will be reflected through the Kangaroo Island Brand.
- Effective and coordinated marketing and promotion will optimise visitor response and uptake.
- Kangaroo Island trails will be jointly promoted, particularly signature trails, to enable visitors to recognise the diversity and availability of trail experiences.
- Effective pre-visit promotion and onsite information will enable visitors to plan and enjoy the trail experiences.

7. Coordination and linking of Kangaroo Island's adventure experiences

- Kangaroo Island's conservation community, volunteers and community-based organisations will be supported in their contribution to the presentation of the very best sustainable trails.
- Tourism operators and adventure providers including schools will contribute to provide adventure connections including interpretation as a focus of Kangaroo Island experiences.
- Trails will link up adventure experiences across the Kangaroo Island landscape with park trails connecting to off park trails to provide the best whole of island adventure experiences.

8. Trails contribute to the economy of the island, supporting jobs and the tourism industry

- New opportunities to connect with Kangaroo Island nature will continue to be provided through Kangaroo Island trails. Trails with a conservation first approach will be a driver for the local economy and will cultivate and grow tourism, hospitality, accommodation and park-based experiences.
- Locals will be actively involved in generating and boosting experiences through services and products increasingly linked to trails growing local employment and community pride.

Objectives

Objectives of the Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy

The objectives of the Kangaroo Island Parks Trails Strategy are comprehensive and focus on various aspects of trail planning, conservation, management, and visitor experience enrichment.

1. Environmental protection and species conservation is a priority:

Support and promote a conservation first approach and protect Kangaroo Island's iconic wildlife through highly effective trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, and monitoring.

2. Trail classification:

Develop a range of Kangaroo Island trails, including local, regional, and signature trails and across the spectrum of trail classifications within the Australian Walking Track Standards Grading System and recognising that each category serves different user expectations.

3. Enriched visitor experiences:

Deliver trail and adventure experiences that cater to the needs of both locals and visitors. Inspire people to appreciate Kangaroo Island's unique biodiversity, stay longer, and contribute to community benefit and livelihood.

4. Sustainable governance:

NPWSSA will contribute to future trail leadership and management models that involve collaboration with the community and stakeholders to ensure sustainable leadership for signature and other trails.

5. Partnerships and collaboration:

Strengthen links and partnerships between park managers, experts, volunteers, and community-based organisations linked to trails and contribute to the protection of Kangaroo Island's biodiversity and visitor enjoyment.

6. Resource sustainability:

Secure investment and ongoing resources to ensure sustainable management of trail assets and provide for trail maintenance, monitoring, environmental protection and visitor enjoyment.

7. Inclusivity and accessibility:

Provide a range of sustainable and effectively managed park trail experiences including access for a range of abilities. Trails will be representative of Kangaroo Island landscapes, heritage, scenic values and nature including investigating opportunities for aquatic trails.

8. Exploration of new trail experiences:

Investigate new trail experiences for locals and visitors that are consistent with approved management plans, regulatory structures, policies and NPWSSA's ability to manage and maintain trails. This may include activities such as walking, trail running, cycling (including e-bikes), kayaking, and dive trails.

9. Safety and risk assessment:

Maintain a risk assessment approach that prioritises the conservation first approach, trail maintenance is linked to trail classifications and standards, trail sustainability, and safety for trail users.

10. Collaboration across the landscape:

Connect and collaborate across Kangaroo Island's broader landscape to support future trail opportunities that will benefit the Kangaroo Island community.

11. Trail information and interpretation:

Ensure visitors have the best access to pre-visit and onsite information for itinerary planning and to get the very best out of trail experiences. Include pre-visit and onsite information on NPWSSA websites, KI information hubs, trail heads and waymarking. Support innovation and on-trail interpretation including emerging digital storytelling technologies to present uniquely Kangaroo Island themes contributing to visitor understanding and enjoyable trail experiences.

Strategic Priorities and Actions

NO	STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ACTIONS
1	Trails are environmentally, financially and socially sustainable. Trails have minimal environmental impact and contribute to biodiversity education. Trails are supported by the local community.	1.1 Prioritisation of Investment and Management: The investment, management, maintenance, and marketing efforts for both new and existing trails should align with the Vision, Principles, and Objectives outlined in this Strategy. Existing and proposed trails including Trail Standards and Grading are identified within the trail matrix - see Chapter 3 and Appendix A. 1.2 Stakeholders and Partnerships: Continue strong trail partnerships including Friends of Parks, conservation groups, tourism operators, KI Tourism Alliance, KI Council and adjacent landowners to ensure a successful trail experience mix that protects and promotes Kangaroo Island's biodiversity values and supports the recreational needs of locals and visitors through connected trails across the broader KI landscape. 1.3 Sustainably Focussed: Ensure trails are environmentally, financially and socially sustainable to ensure long-term support and protection of the special biodiversity values, trail viability and to reduce costly maintenance of trails. Focus on a risk mitigation approach through good trail design, skilled construction, monitoring and targeted asset management and maintenance.
2	Trails provide greater recognition and opportunity for Aboriginal Traditional Owners to engage with their land, living places and the broader community. Kangaroo Islands unique shared pioneer history and heritage will be presented through trails and interpretation.	2.1 Collaboration With First Nations People: Explore collaborative opportunities with the Ngarrindjeri, Kurna, and Narungga Aboriginal communities to strengthen their connections to the land and sea. Provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to visit sites, engage in commercial operations, share their cultural stories, and actively contribute to the development of trails. 2.2 Share Knowledge: Incorporate Kangaroo Island pioneering history into trail experiences and encourage First Nations People to share their living culture and shared settlement history with local people and visitors. 2.3 Working Connections: NPWSSA will continue to work with the Ngarrindjeri, Kurna and Narungga communities to ensure connection and protection of the land, sea and sites through consultation, planning and agreement to undertake appropriate future trail development work where it is required.
3	Land manager partners, private landowners and community work together to build an accessible trail future across the Kangaroo Island landscape.	3.1 Kangaroo Island Trails Network: Support opportunities to collaborate with the community, KI Council and the Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance on the development and ongoing management and maintenance of future trail networks across Kangaroo Island's diverse landscape. 3.2 Kangaroo Island Adventure Cycling Trails: Consider proposals for a community-led multi-day adventure cycling touring route on Kangaroo Island. This route may involve limited park access through existing fire access tracks and vehicle roads, allowing cyclists to traverse the diverse landscapes of Kangaroo Island.

NO	STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ACTIONS
4	Trail marketing, promotion, events and activities are coordinated across the region to optimise visitor awareness of the trail network	4.1 Visitor Information and Marketing: Continue to provide pre-visit and onsite trail visitor information to ensure enjoyment, safety and comfort of visitors for priority trails, and contribute to visitors and locals understanding of existing and future trail experiences that suit their needs. 4.2 Trail Based Events and Activities: Utilise the success of current trail events as a foundation to promote and coordinate new trail events, ensure a focus on the protection of Kangaroo Island's biodiversity and recognising the increasing popularity of activities including trail running and gravel riding.
5	Trail infrastructure is purpose built in exciting places for a range of users and to a high quality. Trails connect people to Kangaroo Island's spectacular landscapes and unspoilt nature	5.1 Range of Trail Experiences: KI Parks offer a diverse range of trail experiences that showcase Kangaroo Island's landscapes, with a particular emphasis on connecting park-based experiences to both existing and developing off-park opportunities. While walking trails will be prominent, the strategy also considers the potential for aquatic trails and limited cycling experiences. 5.2 Lashmar Lagoon Walking Trail and Wetland Interpretation: Lashmar Lagoon is a significant biodiversity hotspot and a sanctuary for wetland species. Its value lies in its rich ecosystem, which can be showcased to visitors via limited trail access and bird viewing encouraging awareness through interpretation, and educational initiatives. A conservation first planning approach would need to be adopted, promoting the creation of high-quality wetland viewing experiences, interpretation and long term monitoring incorporating citizen science. 5.3 Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail: The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail aims to enhance and maintain its status as one of Kangaroo Island's important signature trails. This involves constant improvement and monitoring of the trail, including its alignment, visitor experiences, and protection of biodiversity. Any new trail sections will be developed in accordance with the Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan. 5.4 Baudin Conservation Park Trails: Explore the introduction of new trail experiences linked to the Ironstone Hill Hike including loop trails in Baudin Conservation Park near Penneshaw providing new experiences for locals and visitors. New trails may provide opportunities to access the unique KI Narrow-leaved Mallee Woodlands, scenic views of Backstairs Passage, pioneering history and facilitate links to Aboriginal cultural storytelling.

NO	STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ACTIONS
		5.6 Cycling Connections Rocky River Flinders Chase National Park: The Strategy seeks to improve visitor access and connectivity within the park. This could involve safe off-road cycling access on existing vehicle tracks between Rocky River Campground and the Platypus Walk at Rocky River. An additional cycling linking trail is proposed on off road vehicle maintenance tracks to connect the Rocky River Campground with the Visitor Centre at the park's boundary. This will provide enjoyable and easy cycling experiences that take riders off the entrance road and contribute to a reduction in motor vehicle traffic. It is proposed to use the existing powerline track and a portion of the Sanderson Track, with future options to link to Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (subject to environmental and power line authority risk assessment and approval). Consider bike hire opportunities from the park Visitor Centre or adjacent private visitor sites. 5.7 Access for All: The Strategy aims to offer inclusive trail experiences for a diverse range of visitors, including those with mobility impairments. This will enable everyone to independently or with assistance, enjoy the landscapes of Kangaroo Island. To facilitate further access it is proposed that all-terrain wheelchairs or similar be considered for hire at the Flinders Chase National Park Visitor Centre or nearby private visitor accommodation or sites. Access-friendly trails are currently available or will be established at several key locations including Admirals Arch, Remarkable Rocks, Rocky River, Kelly Hill, Seal Bay, Cape Willoughby Light Station, and Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park. 5.8 Kelly Hill Caves Trails: Post fire restoration involved restoring trails linked to the renovated Kelly Hill Caves site. This restoration included creating accessible trail experiences for a wide range of visitors, as well as establishing shorter loop walks and providing trail access for those visiting the caves. In planning and constructing these new trails, there was considerations for karst terrain, water management, and safety around open cave entrances. These trails serve as a connections to the Hanson Bay Hike, Grassdale, and the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail within Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area and will be managed in accordance with the Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan. 5.9 Kangaroo Island Adventure Trails and Other Proposals: There is a global interest in long-distance adventure trails, and as a major landowner in Kangaroo Island, NPWSSA may be approached to participate and support future trail experiences. NPWSSA may consider involvement in such initiatives and will conduct feasibility assessments. These assessments will be guided by the Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan, the Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan, this Strategy, and will include factors such as demand assessment, experience evaluation, economic analysis, biodiversity risk assessment, and visitor safety.

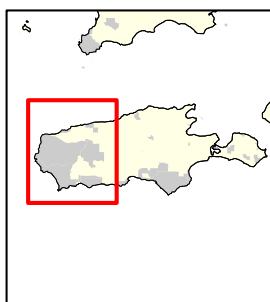
NO	STRATEGIC PRIORITY	ACTIONS
		5.10 Low impact multi-day wilderness trekking: Consider establishing formal approval procedures for low impact multi-day wilderness walking along recognised routes including between Cape Borda and Cape du Couedic, and Cape Gantheaume and Seal Bay. Other routes and applications for access may be considered within Parks from time to time. These established routes will have no defined trail or waymarking and require navigation and remote walking experience. In addition to a formal access application process it is recommended that the NPWSSA website be updated to accurately reflect permitting arrangements and safety requirements for these wilderness hikes. 5.11 Additional Trail Categories and types: Kangaroo Island boasts a remarkable and diverse marine environment with four connected marine parks along its shoreline: Western Kangaroo Island, Southern Kangaroo Island, Encounter, and Southern Spencer Gulf marine parks. These parks support recreational activities while also offering specific protection to important sites like Seal Bay. The existing Kangaroo Island Shipwreck Trail delves into the island's maritime history, with over 80 shipwrecks documented since colonisation in 1836. The trail features interpretive panels that recount the stories of seven shipwrecks based on historical newspapers and survivor accounts. Six of these shipwrecks and associated panel signs are located within Kangaroo Island parks. Recognising the significance of Kangaroo Islands maritime history it's important that the Kangaroo Island Shipwreck Trail's interpretive materials at these sites is maintained, updated, and integrated into the Kangaroo Island Parks Interpretation Plan. 5.12 Pelican Lagoon Trails: Pelican Lagoon, located near American River, is a vital ecosystem comprising intertidal and subtidal habitats and serving as a crucial nursery area for important fish species and also provides nesting sites for protected coastal birds of prey. Visitors can currently explore this unique environment through activities like canoeing, kayaking, and snorkelling. It is proposed to ensure safe and environmentally sound access to the lagoon that a recognised Pelican Lagoon trail is established and promoted. This trail would have minimal infrastructure but would be based on guidance to people wishing to access the lagoon at the trail head and through website material.



3. Kangaroo Island Trails Matrix

Trail Maps

Map 1 Trails of Western Kangaroo Island Parks. Indicates proposed new trails Indicates trail upgrades and recommended improvements



Map 1

Parks of Western Kangaroo Island

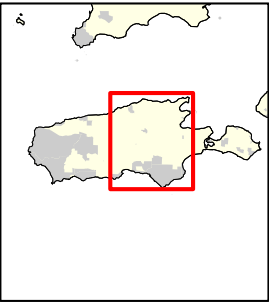
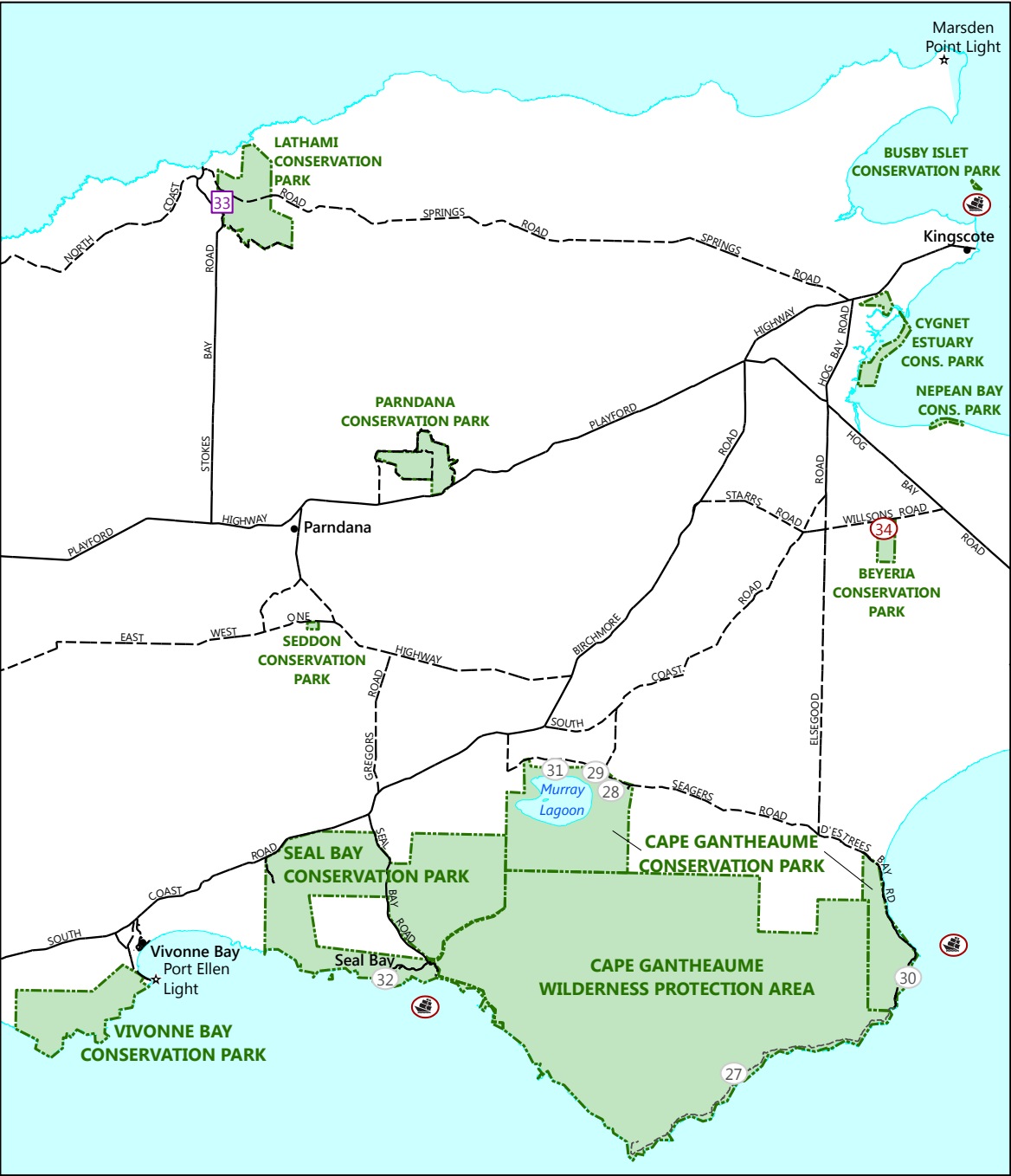


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LEGEND

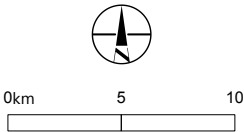
- ★ Lighthouse
- Sealed road
- - - Unsealed road
- - - Vehicle track
- Trail
- Protected areas
- Existing trails
- Proposed new trails
- Trail upgrades required
- KI Shipwreck Trail

Map 2 Trails of Central Kangaroo Island Indicates proposed new trails Indicates trail upgrades and recommended improvements



Map 2

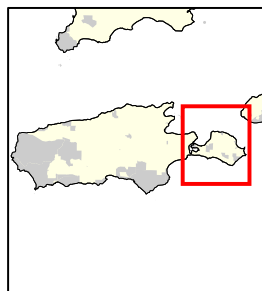
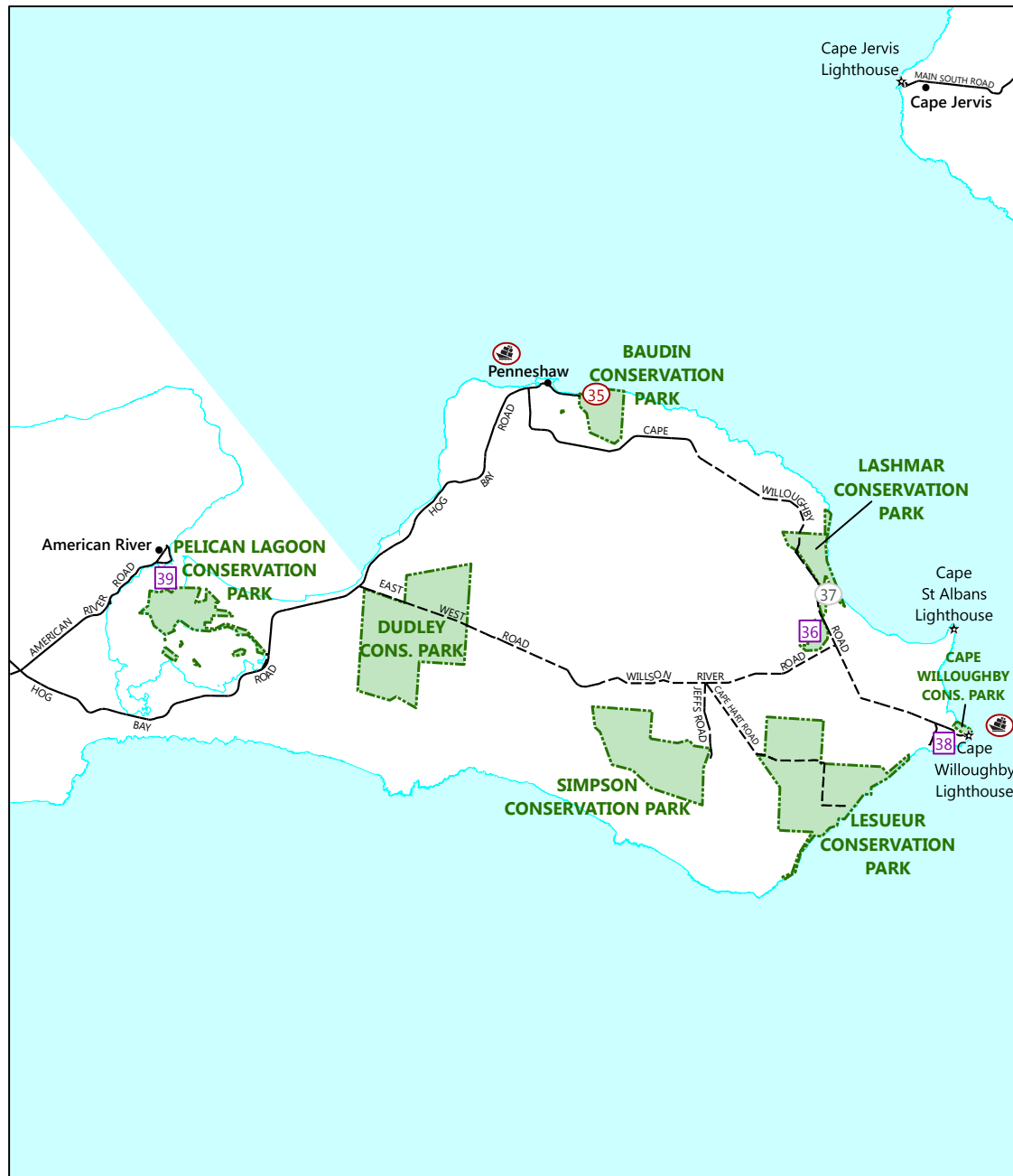
Parks of Central Kangaroo Island



LEGEND

- ★ Lighthouse
- Sealed road
- - - Unsealed road
- ... Vehicle Track
- Protected areas
- Waterbody
- Existing trails
- Proposed new trails
- Trail upgrades required
- KI Shipwreck Trail

Map 3 Trails of Eastern Kangaroo Island Parks Indicates proposed new trails Indicates trail upgrades and recommended improvements



Map 3

Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island



0km 5 10

LEGEND

- ★ Lighthouse
- Sealed road
- - - Unsealed road
- Protected areas
- Existing trails
- Proposed new trails
- Trail upgrades required
- KI Shipwreck Trail

KI Parks Trails Location and Status

Key to tables

Indicates proposed new trails  - represented by this icon on the maps

Indicates trail upgrades are recommended  - represented by this icon on the maps

Map 1. Parks of Western Kangaroo Island; Flinders Chase National Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, Kelly Hill Caves Conservation Park and Cape Bouguer and Western River Wilderness Protection Areas

MAP REFERENCE	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL DESCRIPTION	TRAIL GRADE	TRAIL DISTANCE	FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
Flinders Chase National Park and Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area					
1.	Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail - Cape du Couedic Spur Trail	Coastal, maritime, includes lookout to the ladders and connects KIWT to Cape du Couedic	Regional Trail Grade 4	5 km, 2 hour return	Important link between KIWT and Cape du Couedic includes section on the power line easement
2.	Admirals Arch Walk	Coastal, maritime and marine wildlife. Suits a range of abilities.	Signature Trail Grade 2	0.8 km, 15 mins return	Significant component of the KI visitor experiences. Opportunity for Aboriginal culture and Storytelling
3.	Lighthouse Heritage Walk	Coastal, maritime and heritage.	Local Trail Grade 2	0.6 km, 10 mins return	Heritage focus for Cape du Couedic experience. Requires upgrading of interpretive signage.
4.	Cape du Couedic Hike	Nature, wildlife and seal lookouts. Alternative return to Lighthouse.	Local Trail Grade 3	1.9 km, 40 mins return	Ensure waymarking is effective enabling users to find the start of the trail and manage erosion.
5.	Remarkable Rocks Walk	Coastal, geology and maritime attractions through managed boardwalk access.	Signature Trail Grade 1	1 km, 15 mins return	Significant component of the KI visitor experiences.
6.	Platypus Waterholes Walk	Nature, wildlife, exploration, relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities.	Signature Trail Grade 2	4.7 km loop 2 hours return	Boardwalk access achieves Grade 2.
 7.	Platypus Waterholes Shared Path	Recommended alternative cycling access from Rocky River Campground via Shackle Road Deviation to a point close to the waterholes (2.5km).	Regional Trail Shared Path Easy Cycling	5 km 1 hour return	Alternative cycling access recommended via Shackle Road Deviation Road to a point close to the waterholes (2.5 km). No cycling will be permitted around the pools.
8.	Rocky River Hike	Nature, wildlife, exploration along the Rocky River. Links with Platypus Waterholes Walk and connects with Snake Lagoon.	Regional Trail Grade 3	13 km 3 hrs One Way	Part of the first day of the five-day Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail.
9.	Black Swamp Hike – Rocky River	Nature and wildlife. Linked with the	Regional Trail Grade 3	7.9 km 2 hours	Links to the Rocky River Hike and KI Wilderness Trail.

MAP REFERENCE	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL DESCRIPTION	TRAIL GRADE	TRAIL DISTANCE	FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
		Platypus Waterholes Walk and Black Swamp. Begins and ends at the trailhead at Rocky River day visit area.		loop	
10.	Heritage Walk – Rocky River	Pioneering heritage including Mays Homestead, Postman Cottage, Black Swamp nature with grassed areas and koala trees.	Local Trail Grade 2	1.5 km 45 minutes loop	Some trail restoration required with trees overgrowing sections of the trail.
11.	Woodland Walk – Rocky River	Short loop connecting the campground and day visitor area.	Local Trail Grade 2	1.2 km 30 minutes	Connects to other Rocky River walks some restoration required overgrowing trees.
12.	Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail – Day 1, 2 & 3	KI multi-day hike. Nature, wildlife, pioneering heritage, and exploration. Independent or supported, guided available.	Signature Trail Grade 4	Total 66 km 5 days	Restoration and trail open following bushfire damage 2019/2020.
13.	Snake Lagoon Hike	Snake Lagoon, connects with the mouth of the Rocky River	Regional Trail Grade 3	4.2km return 1.5 hours	
14.	Sandy Creek Hike	Short walk to the west coast beach	Local Trail Grade 3	3 km return 1 hour return	Provide trail head sign.
15.	Shared trail link between Visitor Centre and Rocky River Campground	Easy cycling trail on existing maintenance vehicle tracks to link the park with the visitor centre	Shared Path Easy Cycling Regional Trail	11 km 2 hour return	Recommend alternative to road riding for campers and visitors. Seek agreement with power authority to utilise powerline track and upgrade creek crossing.
16.	Coastal trek from Cape Borda to Cape du Couedic includes Ravine des Casoars WPA	Remote unassisted wilderness trek for experienced and prepared walkers.	Local No trail or Infrastructure. Remote unassisted trek.	50 km 4 days	Consider standardised approval process and updated website to provide safety and establish conditions for access.
17.	Cape Borda Cliff Top Hike	Exploring coastal views, steep cliffs and lighthouse heritage.	Local Trail	Cape Borda Cliff Top Hike	Exploring coastal views, steep cliffs and lighthouse heritage.
18.	Return Road Hike - Cape Borda to Harveys Return	Cape Borda Lighthouse heritage via the lightkeepers old cart track and lighthouse cemetery.	Local Trail Grade 4	9 km 3 hours return	Uneven limestone surface risk and discomfort requires future resurfacing to Grade 3
19.	Scott Cove Walk	Scott Cove Walk	Local Trail Grade 2	15 m to lookout	Upgrading to short trail from road to formal lookout area to provide significant coast cliff experiences and to manage visitors within this wilderness area.

MAP REFERENCE	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL DESCRIPTION	TRAIL GRADE	TRAIL DISTANCE	FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
20.	Harveys Return Hike	Challenging steep trail to the coast. Spectacular outcrops of “zebra rock” and lighthouse and sealing heritage.	Local Trail Grade 4	1 km 30 mins return	Ensure sustainable trail access. Coast sits within Western KI Marine Park Cape Borda Sanctuary Zone where fishing is not permitted.
21.	Ravine des Casoars Hike	Longer day walking linked to a remote west coast beach. Exploration, nature and marine heritage.	Regional Trail Grade 4	7.4 km 3 hours return	Trail requires some restoration work due to erosion post-fire. Interpretation is recommended regarding the caves and association with both Baudin (1802) and later shipwrecked French mariners (1815).
22.	Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Day 4	Southern Ocean section.	Signature Trail Grade 4	13.3 km 4.5 - 6.5 hours	Two options to Kelly Hill Conservation via the sand dunes area and across the low-lying area, lagoon and Grassdale.
23.	Hanson Bay Hike/ Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Day 4 & 5	Crossing into Hanson Bay, Grassdale and using the small boat to cross the South West River. Link to Burgess Hike at Kelly Hill	Regional Trail Grade 4	18 km 5 hours return	Damaged during fires option for realignment and links to KI Wilderness Trail. Some sand dune stabilisation required.
24.	Kelly Hill Caves Show Cave Entrance	Reinstated trail including lookouts and more accessible alignment.	Regional Trail Grade 2	0.5 km 10 mins one way	Kelly Hill trails to have minimal impact on Karst landscape, water flow and safety around cave openings.
25.	Burgess Hike and Original Cave Entrance Trail	Short walks for visitors and cave visitors awaiting cave tour. Exploration of karst landscape. includes KI Wilderness Trail Head.	Regional Trail Grade 3	1.2 km 45 mins return	Recommend reinstatement of the Kelly Hill Trails ensuring minimal impact on Karst landscape, water flow and ensure safety around cave openings.
26.	Waterfall Creek Hike	Secluded walk following a track to Billy Goat waterfall.	Local Grade 3	4.2 km 2 hours return	Further extension to coast not recommended due to steep landscape.

Map 2. Parks of Central Kangaroo Island; Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area and Seal Bay, Latham and Beyeria Conservation Parks

Key to tables

Indicates proposed new trails  - represented by this icon on the maps

Indicates trail upgrades are recommended  - represented by this icon on the maps

MAP REFERENCE	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL DESCRIPTION	TRAIL GRADE	TRAIL DISTANCE	FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
27.	Cape Gantheaume Coastal Trek	Rugged south coast of Kangaroo Island, exploration for experienced suitably equipped bushwalkers. Through trek to Seal Bay or return.	Local Trail Grade 6	33 km 2 days one way through trek	Recommend setting of access conditions including user minimum safety requirements through updated web site information. Seasonal closures, usually from May through to the end of December protection of White Bellied Sea Eagle breeding territory.
28.	Timber Creek Walk - Murrays Lagoon	Offers the visitor a Murray Lagoon teatree swamp experience.	Local Trail Grade 2	1.5 km 1 hour return	
29.	Bald Hill Hike - Murrays Lagoon	Views overlooking Murray Lagoon and wetland. Nature and wildlife and exploration.	Local Trail Grade 2	1 km 30 min return	
30.	Tadpole Cove Walk – D’Estrees Bay	A short walk exploring an old threshing floor and coastal lookout at Tadpole Cove.	Local Trail Grade 2	0.75 km 20 mins return	
31.	Curly Creek Hike - Murrays Lagoon	Follows fire access track on the edge of Murray Lagoon wetland and views.	Local Trail Grade 3	4.8 km one way	Longer wetlands walk
32.	Seal Bay Lookout Walk (Don Dixon Boardwalk)	Signature KI Tourism nature, wildlife experience enabling access for a range of visitors walk.	Signature Trail Grade 1	0.8 km 30 mins return	Significant component of the Seal Bay and Kangaroo Island experience.
 33.	Glossy Black Cockatoo Walk	Allowing for a range of abilities. Inclusion of bird hides and stopping points.	Regional Trail Grade 2	0.8 km return	Short walk connected to bird hide and lookout providing a significant new KI regional trail experience promoting KI Glossy Black Cockatoos.
 34.	Beyeria Walk	Nature, wildlife, exploration. Allows for a range of abilities. Inclusion of plant interpretation.	Local Trail Grade 2	1.1 km Loop trail	Consider extension of this trail.

Map 3. Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island; Baudin Conservation Park and Lashmar Conservation Park

Key to tables

Indicates proposed new trails  - represented by this icon on the maps

Indicates trail upgrades are recommended  - represented by this icon on the

MAP REFERENCE	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL DESCRIPTION	TRAIL GRADE	TRAIL DISTANCE	FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
 35.	Ironstone Hill Hike	Trail focussing on exploration, nature, shared pioneering heritage, wildlife. Original bullock track to Cape Willoughby Lighthouse. Important trail for the local community.	Regional Trail Grade 3	4.2 km 1.5 hours return	Recommended improvements to include KI Narrow Leaf Mallee loop and new cultural and heritage viewing sites overlooking Backstairs Passage.
 36.	Lashmar Lagoon Wetland Trail	Nature, wildlife and exploration. Allows for a range of abilities. Inclusion of wetland interpretation.	Signature Trail Grade 2	1 km return (from Road)	Significant KI trail and wildlife opportunity. Link to a future Chapman River Trail. Short walk to bird observing hide.
 37.	Antechamber Bay Trail	Estuary lookout, access to Antechamber Bay Beach and beach loop option back to Antechamber Bay Campground.	Local Trail Grade 3	1 km return	Short walk to the river mouth and beach. Beach access can be closed due to Chapman River flooding.
 38.	Cape Willoughby Light Station Heritage Hike	Trails focussing on exploration, nature, heritage, wildlife and spectacular views.	Regional Grade 3	1.9 km 1 hour return	Option to extend trails to incorporate coastal trail to Windmill Bay with consideration of other recreational users and landowners within this area.
 39.	Pelican Lagoon Kayaking and Snorkelling trail	Exploration of shallow marine lagoons, channels subject to tidal activity and access limitations.	Regional Trails Moderate level of experience is required	14 km 2 hours return	Recommended new trail experience Kayaking, paddle boarding and snorkelling trail options. Existing operator requests. Trail head information and interpretation essential component together with restricted access during White Bellied Sea Eagle breeding.

MAP REFERENCE	TRAIL NAME	TRAIL DESCRIPTION	TRAIL GRADE	TRAIL DISTANCE	FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
	Kangaroo Island Shipwreck Trail including shipwrecks: • Kona • Osmali • You Yangs • Loch Sloy • Loch Vennachar • Portland Maru • Fides	Exploration of KI marine history with over 80 shipwrecks. Seven provided on signs sited around the coast. All story board signs placed in National Parks.	Regional Trail	Driving and diving trail situated around the coast	Story panels require updating and inclusion of links to QR codes and background interpretive information.  Kingscote - trail head  Penneshaw – trail head Cape  Willoughby  Point Tinline  D’Estrees Bay  Cape du Couedic  West Bay  Cape Borda  Cape Torrens



IMAGE: Bush Camp site on the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Flinders Chase National Park

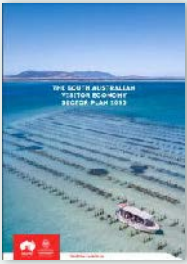
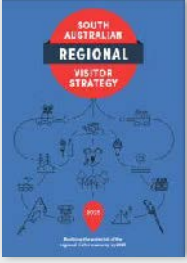
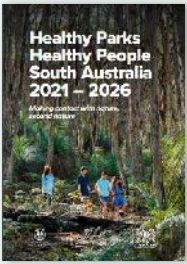
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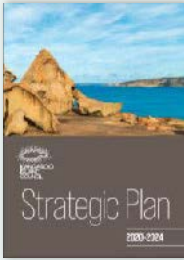
This report is for the use only of the party to whom it is addressed and for the specific purposes to which it refers. We disclaim any responsibility to any third party acting upon or using the whole or part of the report and its contents.

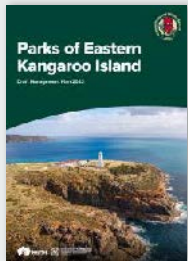
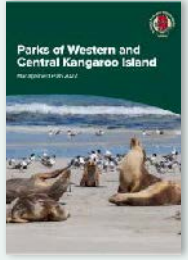
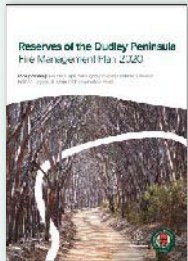
The report has been prepared on the basis of information available at the time of writing. While all possible care has been taken by the authors in preparing the report, no responsibility can be undertaken for errors or inaccuracies that may be in the data used.

Appendix A - Detailed Planning Context

Table 4. Strategies and plans relevant to the development of the KI Parks Trails Strategy

DOCUMENT	OWNER	TERM	FOCUS
	Austrade	2022-2030	<i>Thrive 2030</i> is an industry-led and government-enabled national strategy for recovery and the return to sustainable growth for Australia's visitor economy through to 2030 and beyond. It addresses short-term challenges caused by COVID-19, and also the long-term structural trends and issues to ensure Australia's visitor economy. The strategy outlines the vision for Australia's visitor economy: <i>Australia's visitor economy provides world-leading services and visitor experiences to consumers while delivering significant and sustainable benefits to the Australian community. This will be accomplished by collaborating across all stakeholders to achieve success, modernising supply side enablers and diversifying markets, experiences and destinations.</i>
	South Australian Tourism Commission	2030	Launched in 2019, the <i>South Australian Visitor Economy Sector Plan 2030</i> set a bold ambition to grow the visitor economy to \$12.8 billion by 2030 and generate an additional 16,000 jobs focussed on six priority areas: Marketing, Experience & Supply Development, Collaboration, Industry Capability, Leisure & Business Events and Promoting the Value of Tourism.
	South Australian Tourism Commission	2025	The <i>South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy 2025</i> (released March 2021) outlines priority action areas for the state's 11 tourism regions, centred on the strategic pillars of the South Australian Visitor Economy Sector Plan 2023.. After the devastating summer 2020 bushfires which impacted 40% of KI and COVID-19, the Island's priority is industry resilience and regrowth. As an established visitor region, the focus for Kangaroo Island has always been about exceeding on visitor expectations, growing visitor yield, dispersal and managing the sustainable development of tourism on the Island. With highly seasonal visitation, encouraging visitation in the quieter months of May to August continues to be a priority. Relevant specific focus areas for Kangaroo Island include: • Developing and activating nature trails year-round to cater to soft adventure activities. • Supporting infrastructure and experience development in the main hubs, including Penneshaw. • Promoting Kangaroo Island's brand essence of immersive nature and wildlife encounters and seasonal natural
	Wellbeing SA, Green Adelaide, the Department for Environment and Water	2021-2026	The <i>Healthy Parks Healthy People SA</i> framework enables park and health authorities to work more closely together and focus resources towards implementing innovative approaches to health and wellbeing. This framework is designed to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in South Australia to help people connect with nature, including through promoting SA's nature-based tourism industry, and building climate resilience as part of the across-agency climate change strategy. The framework vision is that all South Australians experience the health and wellbeing benefits of being connected to nature.

DOCUMENT	OWNER	TERM	FOCUS
	Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance	2022-2025	The purpose of the <i>Kangaroo Island Visitor Economy Destination Marketing Strategy 2022-2025</i> is to provide short and long term strategic direction for the Kangaroo Island visitor economy, and specifically, the RTO responsible for its implementation. The Strategy outlines an ambitious approach to Kangaroo Island's destination marketing for the next three years (2022 – 2025), with a focus on growing the domestic market, and influencing longer stays and higher yield. It has been designed to respond to the challenges brought about by COVID-19, as well as the more long-term legacy challenges the region has faced. We're creating a foundation on which to drive sustainable growth in Kangaroo Island's visitor economy. The Strategy sets a framework that will inform and support KITA's destination marketing approach to increase its share of the domestic market.
	Kangaroo Island Tourism Alliance	2022-2025	The <i>Kangaroo Island Tourism Destination Marketing Plan & Campaign</i> is a three year Tourism Destination Marketing Plan that includes tactical activation. The overarching goal of the plan is to position Kangaroo Island as the must visit tourism destination in South Australia.
	Wellbeing SA	2022-2032	The <i>South Australian Walking Strategy</i> outlines a 10 year blueprint, prioritising the planning of walkable neighbourhoods, towns and cities to build connected, safe and pleasant walking environments that create and encourage a culture of walking in South Australia. The Strategy recognises the need to invest in walking infrastructure and the importance of coordinated evidence-based action that will lead to physical, social, environmental and economic benefits. The vision of the Strategy is "more South Australians walking more often; all ages; all abilities".
	Recreation SA	2015-2025	The <i>SA Recreational Trails 10 Year Master-plan</i> is a Statewide Trails Master Plan that serves as the strategic frame of reference to guide the development and promotion of the trail sector for plan's duration. The Plan provides tools and a framework, guiding the direction of trail development from policy level through to building community level trails. It outlines a planned, staged approach over the next 10 years which should encourage the securing of funds, developing the domestic trail user markets and opening the doors to international trail-based tourism.
	Kangaroo Island Council	2020-2024	The <i>Kangaroo Island Council Strategic Plan</i> sets the direction for Kangaroo Island Council's work providing a framework for meet legislative requirements and achieving balanced, effective outcomes for the KI Community. The Plan's vision is for a confident and cohesive community supported to rebuild the unique Island environment, with a strengthening economy led by primary production and tourism.
	Kangaroo Island Landscape Board	2021-2026	The vision of the <i>Kangaroo Island Landscape Plan</i> is to nurture Kangaroo Island's landscapes together to create a thriving, sustainable future. The plan combines community values, local knowledge and scientific evidence into a strategic road map to guide how the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board will work in partnership with the community and investors to support the recovery and management of Kangaroo Island's landscapes into the future.

DOCUMENT	OWNER	TERM	FOCUS
	Government of South Australia – Plan SA 2011		The <i>Kangaroo Island Plan</i> is a dedicated volume of the South Australian Planning Strategy to guide land use and development on the island. The plan indicates where new housing, industry and commercial activity should be best located (and not located), outlines the different roles and functions of towns and settlements, and addresses issues such as the interface between industrial, commercial and residential areas. The Plan also identifies the potential effects of growth and climate change on the island's environmental assets, including unique ecosystems and biodiversity, and sets out landuse principles and policies to guide development that will support the protection and management of those critical assets.
	Department for Environment and Water		The <i>Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan</i> incorporates Cape Willoughby, Lashmar, and Baudin conservation parks (among others).
	Department for Environment and Water 2022		The <i>Parks of Western Kangaroo Island Management Plan</i> provides a conservation first approach, giving strategic direction for the protection of the biodiversity and wilderness values of the parks and wilderness protection areas. In addition, it guides the provision of visitor facilities that will create exceptional experiences and directs fire management that will reduce risk to people, property and the environment, and maintain and enhance biodiversity.
	Government of South Australia, Department for Environment and Water 2020		The <i>Reserves of the Dudley Peninsula Fire Management Plan 2020</i> covers Cape Willoughby, Dudley, Lesueur, Pelican Lagoon, Baudin, Lashmar and Simpson Conservation Parks and selected Crown land and participating Heritage Agreements. The plan provides direction for fire management in the planning area, through the inclusion of strategies for bushfire risk modification and suppression on the identified land, in order to enhance the protection of life, property and environmental assets. This plan identifies issues for visitor management.

The Trails Matrix provides recommendations for the Kangaroo Island Parks trails and make recommendations regarding prioritisation for investment and management

The investment, management, maintenance, and marketing efforts for both new and existing trails aligns with the Vision, Principles, and Objectives outlined in this Strategy. Existing and proposed trails including Trail Standards and Grading are identified within this trail matrix and will become the list of trails.

The matrix provided is segregated in areas which include:

- Flinders Chase National Park
- Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area - Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area - Western River Wilderness Protection Area - Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area
- Conservation Parks

The following pages provide further details.

Flinders Chase National Park

In line with this KI Parks Trails Strategy, maintain a network of interlinked high quality trails, and improve and diversify trails by investigating opportunities to expand and where appropriate, recommission trail networks to link existing and new destinations (*Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2022*).

KEY TO TABLES **Indicates proposed new trails** **Indicates trail upgrades are recommended**

EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS, TRAIL TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION	POSITIONING NATURE AND WILDLIFE EXPLORATION RELAXATION AND REJUVENATION	TARGET MARKETS AND USERS REQUIREMENTS	HIGH QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE	ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOME
Cape Borda Cliff Top Hike Local Trail Grade 4 1 km, 30 mins return	Links to marine wildlife from cliff top. Exploring views and steep cliffs. Strong Links to Cape Borda Lighthouse heritage.	Provides what the market is seeking coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range of families and older traveller.	Sustainable limestone base walking trail including cliff top safety fencing.	No issues	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Valuable short walk presenting heritage point of interest. Consider upgrade to Grade 3. Uneven limestone surface creates risk and discomfort consider future resurfacing to achieve Grade 3
Sandy Creek Hike Local Trail Grade 3 3 km return, 1 hour return	Short walk to west coast beach off West Bay Road option for fishing and exploring pristine sandy beach	Suits range families and older traveller	Generally walking along Sandy River to the beach	No issues	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Provide trail head sign.
Admirals Arch Walk Signature Trail Grade 2 0.8 km, 15 mins return	Allows for a range visitors Grade 1 walk with nature, wildlife. Opportunity for Aboriginal culture and Storytelling.	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits families, older traveller, visitors with disabilities.	Infrastructure of a high quality.	Boardwalks and restricted access to seal colony minimal impact.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Significant component of the KI visitor experiences. Opportunity for Aboriginal culture and Storytelling, Ngurunderi links to Casuarina Islets, also known as The Brothers Islands.
Lighthouse Heritage Walk Local Trail Grade 2 0.6 km, 10 mins return	Strong Links to Cape du Couedic Lighthouse heritage.	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits families, older traveller, visitors with disabilities	Interpretive infrastructure will require updating.	Heritage zone lighthouse cottages zone so minimal impact.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Heritage focus for Cape du Couedic experience. Requires upgrading of interpretive signage.

EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS, TRAIL TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION	POSITIONING NATURE AND WILDLIFE EXPLORATION AND REJUVENATION	TARGET MARKETS AND USERS REQUIREMENTS	HIGH QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE	ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOME
Cape du Couedic Hike Local Trail Grade 3 1.9 km, 40 mins return	Exploring views. Some nature and wildlife experience through interpretation.	Suits range families and older traveller alternative to driving back from Admirals Arch car park.	Car park issues interpretive signs are damaged, trail now not defined.	Some impact on coastal plants requires trail upgrading.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Ensure waymarking is effective enabling users to find the start of the trail
Remarkable Rocks Walk Signature Trail Grade 1 1 km, 15 mins return	Signature KI Tourism walk Allows for a range of access. Grade 1 walk. Nature, wildlife.	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits families, older traveller, visitors with disabilities.	Infrastructure of a high quality.	Boardwalks and restricted access minimal impact to important coastal heath community.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Significant component of the KI visitor experiences.
Platypus Waterholes Walk Links with Pools on the Rocky River Signature Trail Grade 2	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities. Separate cycling opportunity.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers, older traveller and visitors with disabilities.	Upgraded, boardwalk, wayfinding and high quality interpretive media.	Compacted gravel defined paths with restricted access, minimal impact to important wetlands.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Significant component of the KI Rocky River visitor experience. Immersion in the environment, platypus habitat, for a range of abilities.
Platypus Waterholes Shared Use Cycle Trail	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities. Separate cycling opportunity.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers, older traveller and visitors with disabilities.	Signage and cycle racks.	Placed on existing vehicle access tracks, cycling stopped back from Platypus Waterholes.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Component of the Rocky River experience for campers, day visitors with connection to the visitor centre.
Shared trail link between Visitor Centre and Rocky River Campground	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities. Separate cycling opportunity.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers, older traveller.	Compacted gravel and mineral earth trail, creek crossings, waymarking and cycle racks. Phytrophthora (PC) bike cleaning stations	Formed track and creek crossings to keep bicycles out of wet areas and include PC cleaning stations.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Recommend alternative to road riding for campers and visitors. Requires agreement with power authority to utilise powerline track
Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Signature Trail Grade 4 Hike Time: 66 km / 5 Days	Signature KI Tourism hike Includes nature, wildlife, heritage and exploration. Links to Aboriginal culture and storytelling.	Suits market seeking both serviced (guiding/ accommodation) and independent walking.	Infrastructure of a high-quality including campsites, trail heads, waymarking and serviced accommodation off trail.	Trail and access to accommodation resolved with more sustainable alignment.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	
Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail Cape du Couedic Spur Trail 5 km, 2 hour return	Links the KIWT to Cape du Couedic and the significant heritage and landscape features and includes seal viewing	Suits independent walking market but also families and linking to Weirs Cove	Some sand dune areas are subject to erosion. Uses power line easement as one section of the loop.	Coastal vegetation may be impacted in sandy sections may require trail hardening.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Connection between KIWT and Cape du Couedic important connection. Adds to justification to retain the Weirs Cove Hike.
Coastal trek from Cape Borda to Cape du Couedic Includes Ravine des Casoars WPA Local Trail 50 km 4 days	Adventure experience for skilled suitably equipped bushwalkers only.	Limited to appropriately skilled and fit walkers.	No trail or Infrastructure Class 6 trek.	Limited numbers will cause minimal disturbance	Currently no trail user management arrangements. Consider permitting through camping permits.	Low use but impressive experience. Set conditions including user minimum safety requirements through updated web site information. Consider similar standardised approval process for off trail walking applications e.g., KI Bushwalking Club.

Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area - Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area - Western River Wilderness Protection Area - Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area

In line with this KI Parks Trails Strategy, maintain a network of interlinked high quality trails, and improve and diversify trails by investigating opportunities to expand and where appropriate, recommission trail networks to link existing and new destinations.

The Visitor Management Strategy for Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area identifies that visitor use is restricted to limited day walks only, due to the inaccessibility of the area and its harsh terrain.

The Visitor Management Strategy for Western River Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area identifies that future use will be:

- restricted to low impact visitor activities and vehicle access on existing public access roads only conducted in a way that minimises impacts on the environment. (*Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2022*)

KEY TO TABLES

Indicates proposed new trails

Indicates trail upgrades are recommended

EXISTING TRAILS TRAIL TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION	POSITIONING AND EXPERIENCE Nature and wildlife Exploration Relaxation and Rejuvenation	TARGET MARKETS AND USERS REQUIREMENTS	HIGH QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE	ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	COMMENTS AND WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area						
Return Road Hike Cape Borda to Harveys Return 9 km, 3 hours return Local Trail Grade 4	Links to marine wildlife from cliff top. Exploring views and steep cliffs. Strong Links to Cape Borda Lighthouse heritage via the lightkeepers old cart track and lighthouse cemetery.	Provides market desire, coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range families and older traveller.	Lack of a defined walking trail and sustainable access to the cliffs increases impacts. Suitable Scott Cove lookout will be required. Links to the Harveys Return campground and day visitor facilities.	White Bellied Sea Eagles occupy nesting territory nearby requiring management control of visitors to avoid breeding season disturbance.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Upgrading of this trail recommended to provide significant coast cliff experiences and to manage visitors within this wilderness area.
Scott Cove Walk Short Walk to a lookout 15 metres Local Trail Grade 2	Links to marine wildlife from cliff top. Exploring views and steep cliffs with opportunity for wheelchair access.	Provides market desire, coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range families, older traveller and those less able.	Suitable sited trail and lookout deck will provide the spectacular views towards Cape Torrens cliffs and Scott Cove.	White Bellied Sea Eagles occupy nesting territory nearby. Sited trail and lookout will manage visitors. Threatened plant species on cliff edge.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Upgrading of this trail recommended short trail with viewing platform to provide significant coast cliff experiences and to manage visitors within this wilderness area.
Ravine Hike Ravine des Casoars. 7.4 km, 3 hours return Regional Trail Grade 4	Longer trail exploration, nature and wildlife along ridges and ravine valley to the coast. Secluded beach (when the river is flowing) connects to Nicholas Baudin.	Provides market desires for coastal and maritime and suits range across age range and includes families and older traveller.	Generally good, designed trail exposed to some change near the river mouth due to spring tides.	Minimal impact through defined and constructed trail.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	A trail experience that provides a longer day walking opportunity linked to a remote west coast beach (when the river is flowing). Restoration work on the trail required due to erosion postfire. Interpretation is recommended regarding beach cave geoheritage and links to both Nicolas Baudin (1802) and later shipwrecked French mariners (1815).

EXISTING TRAILS TRAIL TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION	POSITIONING AND EXPERIENCE Nature and wildlife Exploration Relaxation and Rejuvenation	TARGET MARKETS AND USERS REQUIREMENTS	HIGH QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE	ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	COMMENTS AND WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Harveys Return Hike Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area 1 km, 30 mins return Local Trail Grade 4	A short but steep hike down to Harveys Return Bay following the original route used by the Cape Borda lightkeepers.	Provides market desires for coastal and maritime and suits across age range however steep nature of the trail may deter those less able.	Challenging steep trail due to the nature of the access. Some sustainability issues.	Minimal impact other than ensuring sustainable trail access. Adjacent Marine Park Sanctuary Zone 1 fishing not permitted.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Worthy inclusion within the trail mix due to its heritage, marine and geological interest.
Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area						
Day 4, Grassdale Section, Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail 13.3 km, 4.5 - 6.5 hours Signature Trail Grade 4	Crossing into Hanson Bay, use the boat to cross the South West River. Two options to Kelly Hill Conservation Park via the sand dunes area and across the lagoon area and Grassdale.	Suits market seeking both serviced (guiding/ accommodation) and independent walking. Generally appeals to younger 18-39 age and including children.	Infrastructure of a high-quality including campgrounds, trail heads, waymarking and serviced accommodation off trail.	Minimal impact.	Existing trails.	Integral part of the KI Wilderness Trail. Kelly Hill Caves infrastructure and KIWT complete.
Western River Wilderness Protection Area						
Waterfall Creek Hike Western River Wilderness Protection Area 4.2 km, 2 hours return Local Trail Grade 3	A quiet secluded walk following a track to Billy Goat Waterfall nature and wildlife along ridges and ravine valley.	Provides market desires for across age range and includes families and older traveller.	The existing alignment to the Waterfall Creek lookout. Access off Colman Road.	Minimal impact.	Mostly Existing trails.	Trail not defined to the coast due to challenging landscape.
Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park and Wilderness Protected Area						
Cape Gantheaume Coastal Trek 33 km, 2 days through trek Local Trail	Exploration for experienced suitably equipped bushwalkers only. Cape Gantheaume through to Seal Bay or return.	Limited to appropriately skilled and fit walkers.	No Infrastructure or waymarking due to nature of the trek.	Limited numbers and seasonal restrictions. Subject to seasonal closures, usually May to end of December.	Currently no management arrangements. Consider permitting through camping permits.	Set conditions including user minimum safety requirements through updated web site information. Protect active white bellied sea eagle breeding territory.

Conservation Parks

In line with this KI Parks Trails Strategy, maintain a network of interlinked high quality trails, and improve and diversify trails by investigating opportunities to expand and where appropriate, recommission trail networks to link existing and new destinations (*Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2022* and *Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan 2024*).

KEY TO TABLES

Indicates proposed new trails

Indicates trail upgrades are recommended

EXISTING TRAILS TRAIL TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION	POSITIONING AND EXPERIENCE	TARGET MARKETS AND USERS REQUIREMENTS	HIGH QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE	ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY	EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	COMMENTS AND WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Kelly Hill Conservation Park						
Hanson Bay Hike/ Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. Regional Trail 18 km return Regional Trail Grade 4	Longer trail focussing on exploration, nature and wildlife including freshwater lagoons, sand dunes, Grassdale and Southwest River	Provides market desires for coastal and maritime and suits range across age range and includes families.	Damaged during fires option for realignment and links to KI Wilderness Trail. Some sand dune stabilisation required.	Low impact some sand dune disturbance.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Excellent KI day walking experience across a range of landscapes.
Kelly Hill Caves Short walks and caves viewing Burgess Hike and Original Cave Entrance New Cave Access Regional Trails Grade 2/3	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities.	Suits market range families millennial travellers, and older traveller and visitors with disabilities, general immersion in the environment, walking and hiking.	Damaged during fires cave entrance and new infrastructure.	Low impact on karst landscape.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant. Kelly Hill Visitor Use Zone.	Contemporary visitor experience developed within the Kelly Hill Caves and provide supporting trail facilities. Trails to have minimal impact on Karst landscape, water flow and safety around cave openings.

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Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park						
Timber Creek Walk Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park and Wilderness Protected Area 1.5 km, 1 hour return Local Trail Grade 2	This walk at Murray Lagoon offers the visitor a teatree swamp experience.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers, and older traveller and visitors with disabilities, general immersion in the environment, walking and hiking.	Link to new campground, assessment of ecological values. Walking on roads.	Minimal disturbance	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Wetland viewing short walk established. One of a limited number of Grade 2 walks.
Bald Hill Hike Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park and Wilderness Protected Area 1 km, 30 min return Local Trail Grade 2	Bald Hill provides views overlooking Murray Lagoon and place to observe a wetland. Nature and wildlife and exploration.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers, and older traveller and visitors with disabilities, general immersion in the environment, walking and hiking.	Good facilities.	Minimal disturbance	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Provides wetland viewing and one of a limited number of Grade 2 walks.
Tadpole Cove Walk D'Estrees Bay 0.75 km, 20 mins Local Trail Grade 2	A short walk exploring an old threshing floor and lookout at Tadpole Cove.	Suits market range families millennial travellers, and older including visitors with disabilities.	Good facilities.	Minimal disturbance	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Grade 2 walks.
Curly Creek 4.8 km one way Local Trail Grade 3	Follows fire access track on the edge of Murray Lagoon.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers.	Good facilities	Minimal disturbance	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Provides wetland viewing.
Parndana Conservation Park						
Parndana CP	After fires significant damage, recovering including tree hollows for Glossy Black Cockatoos.	The activation of Parndana CP particularly for walking and bike trails, has been recommended by some sectors of the community.	Limited opportunity for trails and sustainability issues including Phytophthora.	Potential Phytophthora spread to other ecological communities. Glossy Black Cockatoos.	Significant challenge to manage MTB use and other access. Look to more sustainable community driven option elsewhere.	MTB use has significant unintended access issues and would create major challenges for park management.
Seal Bay Conservation Park						
Seal Bay Seal Bay Lookout Walk (Don Dixon Boardwalk) 800 m return Signature Trail Grade 1	Signature KI Tourism experience enable a range of access grade 1 walk. Nature, wildlife. Aboriginal culture and Storytelling.	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range of families and older traveller and visitors with disabilities. Cruise ship passengers.	Infrastructure of a high quality.	Of the highest quality ecological management	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Significant component of the Seal Bay and Kangaroo Island experience.
Lathami CP						
Lathami CP Glossy Black Cockatoo Trail 800 m Regional Trail Grade 2	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. May allow for a range of abilities. Inclusion of bird hides and stopping points.	Provides market desires wildlife attractions. Suits range of families and older traveller and visitors with disabilities. Tour groups.	CTO operator trail supported by Glossy Black viewing.	Lathami CP was a mainstay of Glossy Black Cockatoos. Conservation actions have provided additional habitat.	Parks of Western and Central KI Management Plan compliant.	Recommended short walk connected to bird hide and lookout providing a significant new KI regional trail nature based experience.

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Beyeria Conservation Park						
Beyeria Walk 1.1 km Local Trail Grade 2	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities. Inclusion of plant interpretation. KI Narrow-leaved Mallee with broom bush	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range of families and older traveller and visitors with disabilities.	Established sustainable trail	Promoting KI biodiversity through sustainable trail with interpretation.	Parks of Eastern KI Management Plan compliant.	This walk is a great short walk through Kangaroo Island Narrow-leaved Mallee with broom bush understorey in Beyeria Conservation Park. Consider short extension of this trail.
Baudin Conservation Park						
Ironstone Hill Hike 4.2 km return Regional Trail Grade 3	Longer trail focussing on exploration, nature, heritage, wildlife. Original bullock track to Cape Willoughby Lighthouse. Spectacular views across Backstairs Passage, Aboriginal culture and Storytelling.	Suits market range families, millennial travellers, and older. Option for cruise ship passengers with Penneshaw foreshore connections.	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range of families and older traveller. Some steep sections particularly with access from the top car park.	Promoting KI biodiversity through sustainable trail with interpretation.	Parks of Eastern KI Management Plan compliant.	Ironstone Hike can be improved with extensions to include KI Narrow Leaf Mallee section and new cultural and heritage and viewing sites overlooking Backstairs Passage.
Lashmar Conservation Park						
Lashmar Lagoon Wetland Trail Regional Trail 1 km return (from road) Signature Trail Grade 2	Nature, wildlife, exploration and relaxation. Allows for a range of abilities. Inclusion of wetland interpretation.	Suits market range families millennial travellers, and older traveller and visitors with disabilities. Potential guided cruise ship passengers.	Will need to be high quality and wetland viewing through bird hides, car park connections, and infrastructure.	Of the highest quality ecological management requiring minimal disturbance to birds and suitable placement of bird hides established through a risk assessment process.	Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan. Managed visitor access linked to original land agreements for establishment of Lashmar Conservation Park.	Significant KI trail and wildlife opportunity. Link to a future Chapman River Trail. Car park and short walk to bird observing hide.

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Antechamber Bay Trail	Nature, wildlife, exploration	Suits market range families millennial travellers.	High quality to withstand unstable coastal dunes and fluctuating river levels and spring tides.	Protection of coastal dunes and nesting shorebirds. Recognising western end of the beach as high priority for protection.	Parks of Eastern Kangaroo Island Management Plan. Liaison with neighbouring accommodation provider including visitor access during high water.	Ensure trail sustainability in mobile dune area and alternating river mouth. Consider visitor access strategies during high river flows and avoid trail users accessing neighbour property.
Cape Willoughby Conservation Park						
Cape Willoughby Light station Heritage Hike Cape Willoughby Light Station 1.9 km, 1 hour return Regional Grade 3	Differing length trail options. Trails focussing on exploration, nature, heritage, wildlife and spectacular views.	Provides market desires coastal, maritime attractions. Suits range of families and older travellers.	Existing trails subject to erosion with fall line trails on granite substrate.	Mostly cleared pasture.	Parks of Eastern KI Management Plan compliant.	Upgraded Cape Willoughby Light station Heritage Hike Option to extend to Crown Land Windmill Bay with consideration of existing users.
Marine Parks, Crown Land and Negotiated Access and Agreements						
Pelican Lagoon CP Up to 14 km Kayak and Snorkelling Trails Regional Trails	Exploration of shallow marine lagoons subject to tidal activity.	Desire for coastal and on water attractions including range of ages and families. Some experience required due to navigation and high tidal flows.	Strong focus on self-guided provided through interpretation, trail head signs and education regarding tides hazardous marine species (blue ringed octopus) etc.	Protection of sea eagle breeding sites and tidal conditions to ensure visitors do not impact on tidal flats.	Encounter Marine Park Management Plan compliant.	New trail experience Kayaking, paddle boarding and snorkelling trail options. Existing operator requests.
Kangaroo Island Shipwreck Trail Regional Trail around KI	Exploration of KI marine history with over 80 shipwrecks. Seven provided on signs sited around the coast.	Inspires interest in marine heritage. So skilled diving opportunities.	Existing sign infrastructure	Minimal impact.	N/A	Requires updating of interpretive signs with links to QR codes and background interpretive information.



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