

Parks of South Australia

Celebrating our newest protected areas



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



National Parks
South Australia

Minister's Foreword

National parks, conservation parks, wilderness protection areas and regional reserves are some of the most special and important places in South Australia.

These beautiful and valuable protected areas conserve important ecosystems, habitats, flora and fauna, unique land formations, and culturally significant places. They also help to ensure we continue to have clean air, soil, and water, and contribute to global efforts to conserve biodiversity against the impacts of climate change.

Protected areas are essential spaces to enjoy nature in all its forms, and provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to people and communities. For Aboriginal people, protected areas are invaluable in helping to maintain connections to their traditional lands.

South Australia has a proud history of establishing and managing protected areas. Currently, protected areas comprise 22 per cent of our State, and this

continues to grow as we add high value land to our parks through an ongoing proclamations program. By creating, expanding, and caring for our protected area system, we ensure our environment stays healthy and our natural resources continue to deliver wealth and wellbeing for all South Australians.

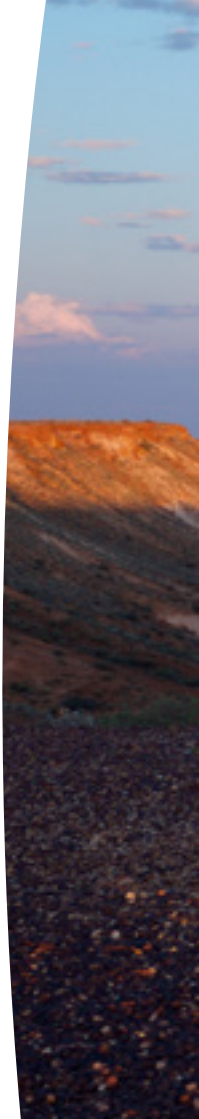
This document shares ten of our most recent additions to the protected area system to showcase some of the many reasons parks and reserves are created, and celebrate the benefits they provide for community and conservation.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Hunter'.

Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Minister for Sustainability,
Environment and Conservation





Cultural Sensitivity Warning

Aboriginal people are warned that this publication may contain culturally sensitive material.





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Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Sacred Canyon



Protecting spiritual sites for Aboriginal people

Sacred Canyon is a highly important Adnyamathanha engraving site of profound cultural and spiritual significance to the Adnyamathanha people. Here, carved into the sandstone walls of the canyon, are ancient engravings of images representing animal tracks, people, and waterholes.

The Adnyamathanha people believe that the engravings were not made by people, but were created for them by ancestral beings during the Dreaming.

In 2017, the boundary of the iconic Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park was extended to protect Sacred Canyon as an initiative of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board.

The inclusion of Sacred Canyon into the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park protects this significant place from disturbance, and will provide for new cultural tourism ventures for Adnyamathanha People.





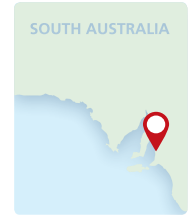
*Winaityinaityi Pangkara – a Country
for all birds and the Country
that surrounds these birds*





Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaityi Pangkara

Shaping a future for shorebirds and communities in northern Adelaide



The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park - Winaityinaityi Pangkara (pronounced *Wee-nay-chi-nay-chi Pan-ker-a*) was created in 2016, and is the first national park to be established in South Australia for 10 years. Made up of 14,635 hectares of land north-west of Adelaide, the National Park is part of the wider Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, a 60 kilometre stretch of coastline north of Adelaide which provides critical habitat for local and migratory shorebirds.

At the peak of the summer migration season, more than 27,000 migratory shorebirds gather across the sanctuary, with many species travelling along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway, through more than 22 countries and arriving from as far away as northern Asia and Alaska.

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through community custodianship and collective impact. In conjunction with the wider sanctuary, the National Park is bringing together local councils, Kurna and Vietnamese communities, businesses, the tourism sector and several not-for-profit organisations to shape a future for its ongoing management and protection.

Flinders Chase National Park

Hanson Bay



Contributing to world class nature-based tourism

Kangaroo Island is South Australia's premier nature-based tourism destination, and will be conserved for generations to come with more than 30 per cent of the island within the protected area system.

The beautiful and biodiverse Flinders Chase National Park was recently made even more significant through the addition of 1,995 hectares of high value coastal land in the Hanson Bay area. This land links the existing park with Kelly Hill Conservation Park and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area, securing the protection of a significant continuous corridor of vegetation in the south west corner of Kangaroo Island. This coastal land provides habitat for several threatened species including the Western Whipbird, Beautiful Firetail and White-bellied Sea Eagle.

The best part? This addition to the Flinders Chase National Park plays host to a section of South Australia's most spectacular walking trail. Opened in 2016, the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail is a multi-day walk that traverses 60 kilometres of South Australia's most remarkable coastline and provides visitors with access to remote and previously unseen areas of this island treasure. The trail is set to become a world class attraction, enhancing the international profile of Kangaroo Island and bringing significant flow-on benefits to the State's economy.







The word 'Kanku' means shelter. The Kanku has always provided protection for the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people. In return, it will always be protected.



Kanu-Breakaways Conservation Park

Facilitating a return to Aboriginal ownership



The creation of Kanu-Breakaways Conservation Park protects 14,900 hectares of a unique and visually spectacular land system of profound spiritual significance to the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people, the traditional owners of this Country.

Located in the far north of South Australia, the Breakaways were created by gradual erosion of the tableland over thousands of years. As though made by giant brush strokes, stripes of deep ochres, whites and oranges traverse the flat-topped mesas of these 'painted hills'. The brilliant colours and dramatic landscape attracts commercial tourism, professional photographers, and filmmakers, all of which bring significant economic benefits to Coober Pedy and have helped to promote the region internationally.

Kanu-Breakaways Conservation Park is a wonderful exemplar of the value of the co-management framework within South Australia's protected area system. The park is collaboratively managed by the traditional owners, the District Council of Coober Pedy, and the South Australian Government, combining traditional knowledge with contemporary park management.

Managing the Kanu and undertaking traditional practices on Country are vital for the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people to maintain strong connections to their traditional lands. The park also provides a platform for traditional custodians to pursue cultural tourism and other economic benefits.

Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park

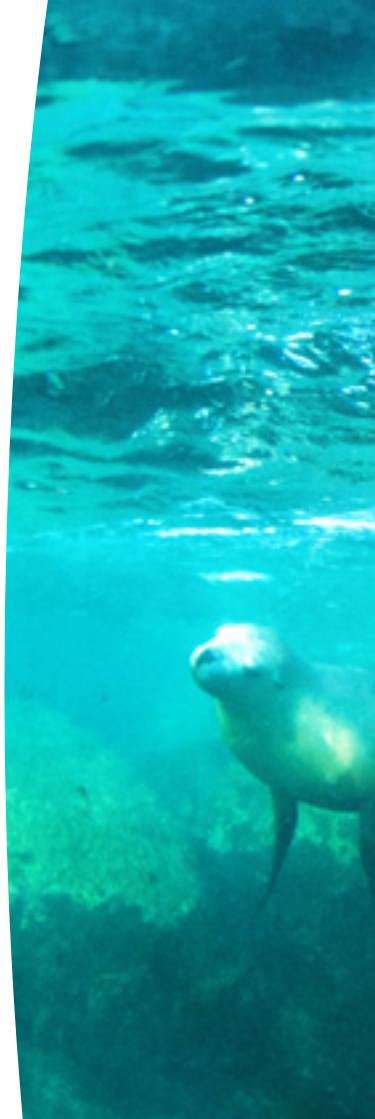
Linking coastal protected areas for threatened species conservation



One of the most valuable ways to conserve biodiversity is by protecting island habitats. Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park, created in 2003, is one such example.

Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park protects a critical breeding colony of the nationally vulnerable Australian Sea Lion, found in only two Australian states and thought to be declining. The entire population of this fascinating species is estimated at around 14,700, with 85 per cent living in South Australia. Monitoring of this breeding colony has shown steady increases, and Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park is ensuring their survival into the future as a prohibited protected area.

Nicolas Baudin Island Conservation Park also contributes to the CoastLinks (Chain of Bays) area between Venus Bay and Point Brown. The spectacular coastline and unique biodiversity values of the CoastLinks area is nationally recognised as a high ecological value aquatic ecosystem, and provides important breeding habitat for raptors such as the Osprey, White-bellied Sea Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.









Ediacara Conservation Park

Protecting our fossil heritage



South Australia is home to one of the most diverse and intact Ediacaran fossil fields in the world. The fossils that were first discovered in the Ediacaran Hills south of Leigh Creek are internationally renowned, containing some of the earliest known examples of multicellular animal life on Earth. These fossils have furthered our understanding of the evolution of complex life on earth, and formed the basis for defining the Ediacaran period of geological time.

Many of these valuable fossil outcrops are protected by Ediacara Conservation Park, created in 2007 and doubled in size in 2016 with the addition of 2,553 hectares.

The park now covers 4,765 hectares in the Northern Flinders region of South Australia, and is set to be an integral component of the proposal for World Heritage Listing for parts of the Flinders Ranges.

Ediacara Conservation Park is part of Adnyamathanha Country, and is playing a role in supporting South Australia's co-management framework through the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board, who provide advice on the management of Ediacara Conservation Park.

Lawari Conservation Park

Restoring wetland habitats



Hindmarsh Island's newly proclaimed Lawari Conservation Park demonstrates the importance of restoring degraded land for future protection. Comprised of two former grazing properties, Lawari Conservation Park is being extensively re-planted with the support of community groups.

The land now contains a diverse array of habitats and supports a high number of threatened fish, including the Murray Hardyhead and Yarra Pygmy Perch, as well as numerous bird species, including the Fairy Tern, Far Eastern Curlew and Cape Barren Goose.

Lawari Conservation Park contributes to an area of internationally important wetlands – the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert Ramsar Site. Through its management as a protected area, the park will continue to increase the health of these wetland ecosystems.

Through its name, the park is helping to keep Aboriginal language strong – Lawari is the Ngarrindjeri word for Cape Barren Goose. For Ngarrindjeri, Kumerangk (Hindmarsh Island) is a cultural landscape, shaped during the Creation and by the care of ancestors past and present.





*Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National
Park protects Malkumba - the bodies
of water where the serpent rests*



Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park

Increasing long-term protection for significant conservation areas



Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park is the iconic centrepiece of the Coongie Lakes Ramsar site, an arid zone wetland system of international significance.

Formerly a part of the Innamincka Regional Reserve, 26,669 hectares of the Coongie Lakes area was classified as a national park in 2005 in recognition of the area's unique environmental values. The creeks, lakes and flood-out areas within the park are a key component of the Cooper Creek Catchment and the Lake Eyre Basin's critical and unique aquatic ecosystems. Their formal protection as national park excluded grazing and mining from the area, allowing these systems to flourish.

This significant conservation initiative was made possible with the collaboration of Sidney Kidman and Co, who agreed to relinquish their pastoral lease over the area to allow for the national park's creation.

The park and the surrounding Innamincka Regional Reserve are of profound significance to the traditional custodians of the area, the Yandruwandha and Yawarrawarrka People. The co-naming of the national park in 2016 reflected this significance, and strengthened the ongoing co-management partnership between the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka traditional custodians and the South Australian Government.

Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area

Conserving high value wilderness



The Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area covers approximately 900,000 hectares and stretches east from the Western Australian border for approximately 180 kilometres. Its recent classification as a Wilderness Protection Area doubled the area of land managed under the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*, the highest level of protection afforded in South Australia.

Known as the treeless plain (Null – no; arbor – tree), this seemingly barren landscape is the largest limestone karst environment in the world, and hides many secrets including dolines, sinkholes, underground streams, caves, and blowholes.

Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area contains around 390 species of plants and 160 species of animals, including rare species such as the Slender-billed Thornbill, Australian Bustard and the Nullarbor Daisy. The coastal boundary protects the longest stretch of uninterrupted cliffs in Australia, the Bunda Cliffs. During the winter months, visitors to the Nullarbor can stand atop the Bunda Cliffs and spot Southern Right Whales in the waters below.

The Nullarbor is the Country of the Mirning People. The Mirning People play a central role in guiding the management of the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area through the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee, a co-management partnership with the South Australian Government.



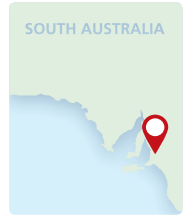






Sturt Gorge Recreation Park

Connecting Adelaide with nature



Sturt Gorge Recreation Park is one of Adelaide's most loved parks, providing opportunities for dog walking, horse riding, and high class mountain biking, while conserving examples of nationally threatened Grey Box Grassy Woodland vegetation. Internationally recognised as an area of geological significance, this park is home to the Sturt tillite rock formation which contains evidence of some of the earliest glaciation on Earth, made when glacial material dropped from ice floating in the ocean that covered South Australia 800 million years ago.

Sturt Gorge Recreation Park recently grew by 45 per cent thanks to the addition of the 180 hectare Craighburn Farm. The SA Urban Forest - Million Trees Program has been working alongside partners from schools, local governments, community groups and individual volunteers to restore the Craighburn Farm landscape through the control of woody weeds, revegetation of local native species, and management of native grassland.

Made possible by its inclusion in the protected area system, this revegetation and the development of a new trail network has transformed this once agricultural land into valuable open space for recreation and biodiversity.





www.parks.sa.gov.au

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