

# Wilderness Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2010-11

*incorporating the Wilderness Protection Act 1992*

Annual Report 2010-11

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
LAID ON THE TABLE**

**10 November 2011**

Department of  
Environment and  
Natural Resources



Government  
of South Australia

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

Wilderness Advisory Committee Annual Report 2010-11, incorporating the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* Annual Report 2010-11  
September 2011

Presented to Parliament by Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation, pursuant to section 7 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* and the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

Wilderness Advisory Committee

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**Government  
of South Australia**





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27 September 2011

Hon Paul Caica MP  
Minister for Environment and Conservation  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 7 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* and Division 2 of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, I have the pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Wilderness Protection Act and the Wilderness Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric Bills".

Eric Bills  
**PRESIDING MEMBER  
WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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## Wilderness Advisory Committee

### Wilderness Advisory Committee

The *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* (the Act) establishes the Wilderness Advisory Committee. Section 11 of the Act describes the functions of the Wilderness Advisory Committee (the Committee) as follows:

- (a) to assess all land in the State to identify those parts of the State that meet the wilderness criteria to a sufficient extent to justify protection under this Act or that warrant restoration to a condition that justifies such protection; and
- (b) at the request of a member of the public to assess the extent to which land specified in the request meets the wilderness criteria; and
- (c) to report to the Minister on the results of its assessments under paragraphs (a) and (b) and to make recommendations to the Minister as to what land in the State should be constituted as wilderness protection areas or wilderness protection zones; and
- (d) to make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the management of wilderness protection areas and zones generally or in relation to a particular wilderness protection area or zone; and
- (e) to commission research into the effect of mining, grazing and other forms of primary production and tourism on wilderness and its wildlife and to advise the Minister of the findings of this research; and
- (f) to increase understanding in the community of the significance of wilderness; and
- (g) to assist the Minister in relation to the preparation of the annual report under Division 1; and
- (h) functions assigned to the Committee by other provisions of this Act.

### Membership

The Committee comprises five members, four of whom are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. The other member of the Committee is the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. Each of the appointed members of the Committee is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the standards stipulated by section 8(2) of the Act for the appointment of members, namely:

- (a) one of whom has qualifications or experience in a field of science that is relevant to the conservation of ecosystems and to the relationships of wildlife with its environment;
- (b) one of whom has been nominated by the Minister from a panel of three persons selected by the Wilderness Society SA Branch Incorporated;
- (c) two of whom have wide experience in the management or recreational use of wilderness.

One of the members of the Committee is appointed by the Governor to be the presiding member. The membership of the Committee during the reporting period was:

#### Presiding Member:

Mr Eric Bills	8(2)(b): nominated by the Minister from a panel of three persons selected by the Wilderness Society SA Incorporated.
---------------	--

#### Members:

Dr Molly Whalen	8(2)(a): qualifications or experience in a field of science that is relevant to the conservation of ecosystems and to the relationship of wildlife with its environment.
Dr Rob Lesslie	8(2)(c): one of two who have wide experience in the management or recreational use of wilderness
Ms Bernice Cohen	8(2)(c): one of two who have side experience in the management or recreational use of wilderness
Mr Greg Leaman	8(2): Director of National Parks and Wildlife

The Wilderness Advisory Committee held four meetings during 2010-11. Attendance at these meetings was as follows:

Member	26 July 2010	5 October 2010	10 December 2010	6 April 2011
Mr Eric Bills	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Molly Whalen	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr Rob Lesslie	✗	✓	✓	✓
Ms Bernice Cohen	✓	✓	✓	✗
Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Mr Greg Leaman)	✓	✓	✗	✗



*Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area*



## Achievements and Activities

South Australia's wilderness areas are life-giving places of natural and cultural significance. They vary from rugged ranges and vast arid deserts to coastal cliffs, mallee plains and sandy beaches.

Wilderness protection involves protecting existing areas and restoring land to its condition prior to European settlement, to maintain habitat and conserve threatened species.

Wilderness protection contributes to many nature conservation initiatives in South Australia including NatureLinks, the National Reserve System and No Species Loss: A Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia 2007-2017.

The Wilderness Advisory Committee is responsible for assessing all land in South Australia for wilderness quality and advising the Government on wilderness protection and management.

### Nullarbor Wilderness

The Nullarbor region adjoins the Great Australian Bight Marine Park and has one of the largest semi arid karst landforms in the world. The Nullarbor area is an iconic Australian landscape and is of outstanding significance to the traditional owners, who have used this area for thousands of years.

In response to a public nomination, the Committee commenced preparation of a report on the wilderness values of the Nullarbor National Park and Regional Reserve following an inspection of the area in April 2006. The committee provided the Minister with a preliminary report on its findings in October 2007.

In February 2010 the Wilderness Advisory Committee's report on the proposed Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area was released for public consultation by the Minister for Environment and Conservation, which outlined the agreed boundaries negotiated between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Primary Industries and Resources South Australia. The proposed area is approximately 900,000 hectares and protects the internationally recognised karst landscape, significant cave features and valuable visitor areas.

The Nullarbor is a key component of the biological corridor connecting extensive intact areas in south-western Western Australia, the Great Victoria Desert and the Yellabinnia region. Protection of an area of such a great size will maximise the opportunity to conserve species at risk from climate change, and enable the area to support self-sustaining ecosystems.

Also included in the proposed area is the coastline of the Nullarbor area, which is characterised by a 200 kilometre stretch of cliffs that average 80 metres in height. The cliffs border the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, which represents a major contribution to the worldwide recovery of the Southern Right Whale. This area also includes significant breeding sites for the Australian Sealion, Little Penguins and the endangered Osprey which nests on the cliffs of the Bight.

In March 2011, the Premier announced the decision to proceed with the proclamation of the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area, covering 900 000 hectares and doubling the total area of land under the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* to 1.8 million hectares.



Nullarbor National Park (Joanne Vaughn)

### Nuyts Archipelago and the Investigator Group of Islands

In 2006 the Minister requested that the Committee assess the wilderness values of the marine and terrestrial components of the Nuyts Archipelago and the Investigator Group of Islands. The Committee had never before assessed the marine environment nor developed a methodology for such an assessment.

The Committee found that a number of islands met the wilderness criteria of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* to a sufficient extent to justify protection under the Act. Consequently, an assessment report on the terrestrial component of the wilderness assessment (to the low water mark of the islands) was provided to the Minister for consideration in 2009.

In its report, the Committee highlighted the important role these islands play in protecting delicate island ecology and habitat, and breeding grounds for numerous threatened species, including marine and migratory fauna.

In late 2009 the Minister released for public comment the Committee's assessment.

159 public comments were received during the consultation period. The Committee analysed the submissions and forwarded its final recommendations to the Minister for consideration.

The Minister announced his decision, in July 2010, to proceed with the proclamation of the Nuyts Archipelago and Investigator Group of Islands Wilderness Protection Areas.

### **Desert Wilderness**

In December 2010 the Minister referred the Simpson Desert Regional Reserve and Conservation Park to the Wilderness Advisory Committee for consideration under the Wilderness Protection Act.

The Committee has commenced its assessment of the wilderness values of the Simpson Desert region.

### **Protecting Biodiversity in the Arid Lands, the next steps...**

#### Arid Lands Assessment Report:

Recognising that a significant proportion of South Australia's areas of high biodiversity are located in the Arid Lands, the Committee has continued to dedicate time to identify priority quality wilderness areas and management options.

The extensive areas of relatively intact natural and semi-natural vegetation remaining in the arid lands of South Australia provides scope for implementing a whole of landscape approach to conservation planning and management. The Committee aims to highlight the role wilderness protection can play in planning to embrace issues at a landscape scale and conserve areas of wilderness significance.

### **Protected Area Strategy**

The Committee provided advice on the development of the State Protected Area Strategy, which will guide the establishment of future protected areas.

The Committee highlighted the differences between protected area strategies and conservation strategies and noted the benefits for including large private reserves in the Strategy.

### **Setting management directions for the Murray Mallee wilderness areas**

The Committee provided advice on the draft management plan for the Billiatt and Danggali Wilderness Protection Areas and endorsed forwarding the plans to the Minister for adoption.



*Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area*



## Requests for Assessment to the Wilderness Advisory Committee

The Committee has received requests from members of the public to assess the wilderness quality of several areas of the State as listed below, as provided for under section 11(1)(b) of the Act. The Committee has provided the Minister with reports on ten of these areas. The location of these areas is provided in figures 1 to 3.

Area Nominated		Year Nominated	Status of Investigation
Lincoln National Park (figure 3)		1993	Report 1997
Hincks Conservation Park (figure 3)		1996	Report 1996
Hambidge Conservation Park (figure 3)		1996	Report 1996
Coongie Lakes region (figure 2)		1993	Report 2004
Yellabinna area (Yellabinna Regional Reserve, Pureba and Yumbarra Conservation Parks) (figure 1)		1994, 2002	Preliminary report 2003 and Final report 2004
Billiatt Conservation Park (figure 3)		1996	Report 2004
Mawson Plateau (north Flinders Ranges) (figure 2)		1993, 2002	Stage 1 Preliminary Report 2009, Stage 2 commenced 2009
Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park (figure 2)		1993	Not assessed as yet
Head of Bight (marine area) (figure 1)		1995	Not assessed as yet
Marine waters adjacent to:	Lincoln National Park (Thorny Passage) (figure 3)	1998	Not assessed as yet
	Coffin Bay National Park (figure 3)	1998	Not assessed as yet
	Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area (figure 3)	1998	Not assessed as yet
	Hog and Antechamber Bays, Kangaroo Island (figure 3)	1998	Not assessed as yet
	Nuyts Archipelago (figure 1)	1998	Preliminary Report 2008, Final report 2009
	Investigator Group Islands (figure 3)	1998	Preliminary Report 2008, Final report 2009
	Sir Joseph Banks Group Islands (figure 3)	1998	Not assessed as yet
	Canunda National Park (figure 3)	1998	Not assessed as yet
Strzelecki Desert (figure 2)		2004	Not assessed as yet
The Nullarbor (figure 1)		2006	Preliminary report 2007, Final report 2010
Lake Gairdner (figure 1)		2006	Not assessed as yet
Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Regional Reserve (figure 2)		2010	Assessment commenced

## Reconciliation Statement

The Committee acknowledges the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands they meet upon.

In fulfilling its functions, the Committee respects the spiritual relationship that traditional owners have with their country, and also respects that cultural and heritage beliefs are important to the living traditional owners today.

## Human Resource Matters

### Staffing

The Committee has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Committee from existing DENR resources. The Executive Officer for the Committee was Ms Farlie Taylor.

Committee members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration determined by the Minister:

- Chair: \$129 per four-hour session.
- Member: \$103 per four-hour session.

### Disability Action Plans

The members of the Committee are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Equal Opportunity Programs

The Committee has no staff of its own and is serviced by staff of DENR. Members are aware of and abide by the equal opportunity policies and programs of DENR. Reporting on this matter may be viewed in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare

There were no incidents reported by the Committee during the reporting period.

As a user of DENR facilities and equipment, the Committee is aware of and abides by DENR's OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Use of Consultants

The Committee did not engage any consultants in the reporting period.

## Financial Performance

### Financial Performance of the Committee

The Committee is not a corporate entity and has no separate funds of its own. As such, reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Account Payment Performance

DENR provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Council through DTF (Shared Services). Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Contractual Arrangements

The Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.



## Other reporting

### Greening of Government

The Committee uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

The Committee uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Overseas Travel

It is declared that no member of the Committee has travelled overseas on the business of the Committee during the reporting period.

### Fraud

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee.

Financial services are provided to the Committee by DENR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

### Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Wilderness Advisory Committee to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2010-2011 financial year.

### Freedom of Information

As a DENR administered entity, the Committee participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DENR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DENR internet site. Please visit [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au) to view the FOI statement.

### Regional Impact Assessment Statement

The Committee undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2010-11.

### Urban Design Charter

No events occurred in 2010-11 that required the Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

### Asbestos Management in Government Buildings

The Committee does not own any non-residential buildings and therefore is not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

## Acknowledgments

The Committee appreciates the support and encouragement it has received over the past year from the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon Paul Caica MP. The Committee records its appreciation for the assistance provided by senior DENR staff, including the Chief Executive, Mr Allan Holmes and Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Mr Greg Leaman. The Committee also records its appreciation to Executive Officer Ms Farlie Taylor.

## Wilderness Protection Act 1992 Annual Report

This report is for the financial year 2010-11, and is presented to fulfil the requirements of section 7 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* (the Act).

### Object of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*

The Act provides for the protection of wilderness and the restoration of land to its condition before European colonisation. The intent of the Act is to provide strong protection for relatively unmodified environments against any form of negative impact by modern technological society. It establishes a management regime that aims to restore and conserve natural systems in the State to a condition prior to European colonisation. Land that meets the wilderness criteria to an extent sufficient to warrant such protection is usually, but not exclusively, remote from access and areas of settlement.

### Administration of the Act

The Act is under the control of the Minister administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The Director of National Parks and Wildlife is responsible for the management of proclaimed areas and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) undertakes day to day management of proclaimed areas.

## Identification and constitution of land under the Act

### Identification of qualifying land

The Wilderness Advisory Committee (the Committee) is subject to certain statutory obligations relating to the identification, establishment and management of wilderness protection areas and zones.

The wilderness criteria are described in section 3(2) of the Act. These criteria are:

- (a) the land and its ecosystems must not have been affected, or must have been affected to only a minor extent, by modern technology;
- (b) the land and its ecosystems must not have been seriously affected by exotic animals or plants or other exotic organisms.

These criteria are derived from indicators of wilderness quality established by the Australian Government's National Wilderness Inventory.

The National Wilderness Inventory's wilderness quality data is a primary reference in the assessment process undertaken by the Committee. In addition to this data, other biological and cultural information is considered in the assessment process.

### Constitution of land under the Act

There are two classifications of protected areas under the Act; wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones. Wilderness protection areas receive the highest protection offered by the Act. Such areas may be constituted over all or part of a reserve constituted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, Crown land, or over any other land with the owner's consent.

Wilderness protection zones are a secondary classification established as a mechanism for the introduction of a wilderness management framework over an existing mining tenement or areas for which future mining may be allowed with the approval of Parliament.

Under section 22(5) of the Act, the Minister may recommend to the Governor that identified land may be constituted as a wilderness protection area or zone:

- (a)
  - (i) because it meets the wilderness criteria to a sufficient extent to justify its protection as wilderness under this Act; or
  - (ii) to enable it to be restored to a condition that justifies its protection as wilderness under this Act;
- (b) in order to provide a buffer zone to protect land of a kind referred to in paragraph (a); or
- (c) to enable the adoption of convenient boundaries for a wilderness protection area or wilderness protection zone.



## Annual Reporting Requirements

Section 7(1) of the Act requires that the Minister must cause a report to be prepared annually setting out the following information:

- (a) the names and locations of the wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones, constituted under this Act and the extent to which the wilderness criteria are met by each area and zone; and
- (b) the name or some other identification of the former reserves or parts of reserves that have been constituted as wilderness protection areas or zones; and
- (c) the extent of mining operations in wilderness protection zones; and
- (d) information as to the management of wilderness protection areas or zones and particulars of any activities to restore land and its ecosystems to their condition before European colonisation; and
- (e) a list of management plans adopted under this Act; and
- (f) the portions (if any) of wilderness protection areas or zones that the Minister has declared to be prohibited areas and the reasons for making those declarations; and
- (g) an account of money received and expended in relation to the management of wilderness protection areas and zones; and
- (h) in the case of wilderness protection zones, an account of the royalties (if any) received in respect of the mining tenements in force in those zones and the money expended by the Department of Mines and Energy in administering those mining tenements.

That report follows. As required under section 7(2) of the Act, the report includes the Wilderness Code of Management (Appendix 1) that has been prepared and adopted in accordance with section 12 of the Act.

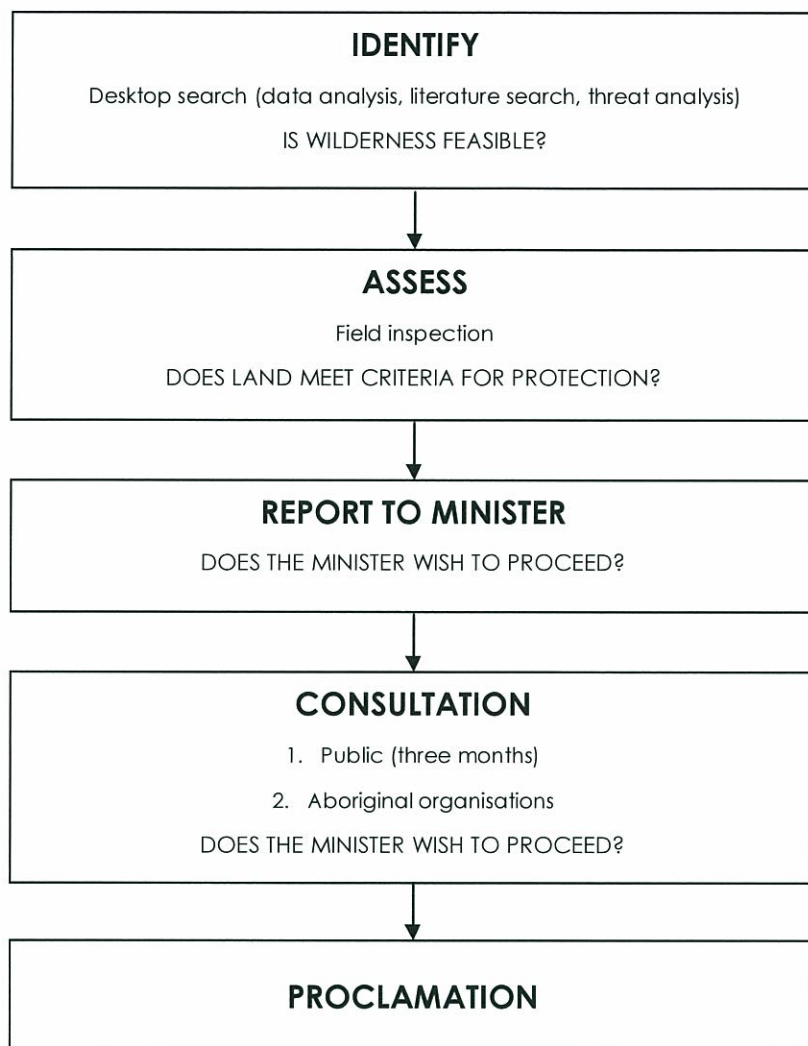
This report is to be laid before both Houses of Parliament and be made available for public inspection or purchase.



*Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area*

## Constitution of Land under the Act

Section 11(1)(d) of the Act provides for the Wilderness Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the management of wilderness protection areas and zones generally or in relation to a particular wilderness protection area or zone.



## Names, locations and quality of Wilderness Protection Areas

### Danggali Wilderness Protection Area

#### *Location*

The Danggali Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 28 May 2009, covers an area of 201 815 hectares comprising section 729 and 730, Hundred of Chowilla. The Wilderness Protection Area has been excised from the Danggali Conservation Park and is located on the western edge of the Murray Darling Basin approximately 70 kilometres north of Renmark (figure 3).

#### *Wilderness Quality*

As part of one of the largest relatively intact natural areas in the southern pastoral zone of Australia the wilderness quality within Danggali substantially contributes to a core area of the NatureLinks conservation strategy.

The large size and relatively undisturbed condition of the Wilderness Protection Area provides highly significant habitat for the fauna of the Danggali area. In particular Danggali offers the richest diversity of bats in South Australia.



### Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area

#### *Location*

The Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 24 July 2008, covers an area of 59 124 hectares comprising the Hundreds of Auld, Billiatt and Kingsford. The wilderness protection area was excised from the Billiatt Conservation Park and is located approximately 30 kilometres north of Lameroo (figure 3).

#### *Wilderness Quality*

Billiatt is a key component of a biological corridor connecting mallee areas in southern and eastern Australia. The area consists of large sand dunes dominated by mallee vegetation and open shrub land, which is in a relatively undisturbed condition and provides habitat for the fauna of the Murray Mallee Region. It also provides habitat for a number of nationally threatened birds.

### Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area: Kangaroo Island

#### *Location*

The Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of approximately 41 320 hectares comprising section 11, Hundred of Borda, section 64, Hundred of Gosse, and Allotments 50 and 52 in DP 38340. The Wilderness Protection Area was excised from the Flinders Chase National Park and is located at the north-western end of Kangaroo Island approximately 40 kilometres west of Parndana, the nearest town, and approximately 90 kilometres west of Kingscote (figure 3).

#### *Wilderness Quality*

The extensive woodlands and nature forests are virtually pristine. The area contains several complete natural drainage systems, from watershed to their discharge at sea.

Wilderness quality is recorded as high over the entire area except where it is reduced in a narrow north-south band by the presence of Shackle Road, an unsealed public access road.

The vegetation is biologically intact and many endemic plants are present. Feral goats and pigs occur within the general region and are present in the Wilderness Protection Area. Management policies under the Act require action to be taken to control or, where possible, eradicate these pests.

### Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area: Kangaroo Island

#### *Location*

Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of approximately 20 100 hectares comprising section 52, Hundred of Seddon, sections 66-67, 100-101 Hundred of Macgillivray, sections 258, 277-279, and 375, Hundred of Haines. The area was excised from the Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park and is located on the southern coast of Kangaroo Island approximately 40 kilometres south-west of Kingscote (figure 3).

#### *Wilderness Quality*

The area is prime coastal wilderness with high ecological and aesthetic integrity. It is undulating country that has an excellent cover of mallee vegetation and diverse coastal landscapes with high scenic and habitat value.

Wilderness quality is evaluated as high in all of the Wilderness Protection Area except a narrow strip on the east coast where it is affected to a minor extent by the presence of a rough track along the eastern coastline. The management provisions of the Act will ensure that the impacts of this track on wilderness quality will be minimised.

There is no evidence elsewhere in the wilderness protection area of the impacts of modern technology and no feral animals or pest plants have been recorded.

### Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area: Kangaroo Island

#### *Location*

Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of approximately 5 530 hectares comprising Allotment 150 in DP 38341, excised from the Kelly Hill Conservation Park. The area is on the southern coast of Kangaroo Island approximately 84 kilometres south-west of Kingscote (figure 3).

#### *Wilderness Quality*

The area is significant for its expanse of untracked native vegetation, and for its biological diversity. The coastal landscape, with its unspoilt sweeping bays, is scenically outstanding.



Wilderness quality is recorded as high over the entire area, except in the south-western corner where the only evidence of modern technology is a walking trail that follows the South West River to the coast. This trail affects wilderness quality only to a minor degree, and has been included in the area because of the opportunity it provides for visitors to observe native flora and fauna, access the coast and experience the wilderness.

Management policies under the Act ensure that public use of the track is compatible with the protection of the wilderness quality of the environment.

#### Western River Wilderness Protection Area: Kangaroo Island

##### *Location*

Western River Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of 2 470 hectares comprising of sections 8, 47, 51, 65-66, Hundred of Gosse, and Allotment 1 of Deposited Plan 31609, formerly the Western River Conservation Park. The area is located on the north-western coast of Kangaroo Island, approximately 65 kilometres west of Kingscote and 30 kilometres north-west of Parndana (figure 3).

##### *Wilderness Quality*

While there are some relatively minor impacts of modern technology, the area has distinctive wilderness attributes and warrants protection and restoration in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

In addition to its rugged terrain and high coastal cliffs that are characteristic of the northern coast of Kangaroo Island, Western River Wilderness Protection Area is highly valued for the presence of habitat for the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo. Plant species diversity is high and the vegetation exhibits a wide cross-section of Kangaroo Island vegetation.

Few exotic plants occur in the wilderness protection area, and these are largely confined to perimeter and internal access tracks. Some goats also occur in the area. Management policies under the Act require that exotic plants and animals are controlled or eradicated and that management is directed towards enhancement of wilderness quality.

#### Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area: Kangaroo Island

##### *Location*

Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of 922 hectares comprising sections 10 and 12, Hundred of Borda, and Allotment 100 of Deposited Plan 31584, formerly the Cape Torrens Conservation Park. The area is located on the north-western coast of Kangaroo Island, eight kilometres west of Western River Wilderness Protection Area, and approximately 12 kilometres east of Cape Borda (figure 3).

##### *Wilderness Quality*

The area is outstanding for the biological integrity of its native forest and woodland, and for its wild coastal scenery. It also contains habitat for the endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo.

The wilderness quality of Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area is recorded as high, as it is undisturbed by structures and impacts of modern technology. There are no internal tracks and the vegetation is virtually pristine. Some feral goats occur within the area. The control and ultimate eradication of these animals is a requirement of the Wilderness Code of Management under the Act.

#### Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

##### *Location*

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 30 September 2004, is located on the Eyre Peninsula, approximately 25 kilometres south of Port Lincoln (figure 3). The 9 310 hectare reserve extends to low water mark and includes Little Island, Lewis Island, Hopkins Island, Smith Island and Williams Island. It was formerly part of the Lincoln National Park. The reserve includes the following parcels of land:

- Sections 6, 12, 13, 22 and 23, Hundred of Flinders;
- Allotments 1, 2, 4 and 6 of DP 64397, Hundred of Flinders;
- Allotment 102 of DP 64387, Out of Hundreds (Lincoln);
- Sections 873 (Little Island), 874 (Lewis Island), 875 (Smith Island), and 876 (Hopkins Island), Out of Hundreds (Lincoln);
- Allotments 17, 18, 19, and 21 of DP 35926, Out of Hundreds (Lincoln); and
- Allotment 2 of DP 19500 (Williams Island), Out of Hundreds (Lincoln).



### Wilderness Quality

One hundred and eighty species of native flora have also been recorded within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, including seven species of conservation significance.

The reserve also has a significant cultural history. Prior to European settlement two groups of Aboriginal people, the Barngarla and the Nauo groups, occupied the area. In 1802, Matthew Flinders sailed the coast in the *Investigator*, and during this expedition seven of his crew and the ship's master drowned when their cutter capsized during their search for fresh water.

Entry to Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is regulated by a locked gate within the adjoining Lincoln National Park. A maximum of 15 vehicles per day are permitted entry. Yachts and boats regularly anchor in the sheltered waters at Memory Cove and Williams Island and recreational fishing is often undertaken at Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Camping is permitted at the camp ground.

### Hincks Wilderness Protection Area

#### Location

Hincks Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 30 September 2004, is located on the Eyre Peninsula, approximately 85 kilometres from Port Lincoln and 35 kilometres from Lock (figure 3). The 66 934 hectare reserve was excised from the Hincks Conservation Park and comprises Sections 2 and 3, Hundred of Hincks; Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14, Hundred of Nicholls; Sections 46, 47 and 48, Hundred of Tooligie; Section 25, Hundred of Murlong; and Section 365, Out of Hundreds (Kimba).

#### Wilderness Quality

Originally set aside as a flora and fauna reserve in 1941, it is one of the largest expanses of mallee on Eyre Peninsula. 420 species of vascular plants including 28 orchids have been recorded. Of the 420 species, 91 (including four species of orchid) had not previously been recorded on any other reserve in South Australia.

The wilderness protection area is dominated by Mallee, with a small portion covered by forest, woodland, or shrubland. Visitors occasionally travel through the reserve or camp on the North-South Track.

### Hambidge Wilderness Protection Area

#### Location

Hambidge Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 30 September 2004, is located on the Eyre Peninsula, approximately 140 kilometres from Port Lincoln and 15 kilometres from Lock (figure 3). The 38 087 hectare reserve was originally Hambidge Conservation Park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The reserve comprises Section 7, Hundred of Hambidge, Section 35, Hundred of Palkagee, and Section 364, Out of Hundreds (Kimba).

#### Wilderness Quality

This area comprises an extensive system of parallel dunes with ridges (6 to 12 m in height) running north west to south east. Clay pans are scattered throughout the inter-dunal area. Vegetation comprises a low mallee scrub association dominated by *Eucalyptus dumosa*, *E. socialis*, *E. oleosa*, *E. incrassata*, *E. calycogona*, *Melaleuca uncinata*, *M. lanceolata* with an understory comprising quandongs, *Triodia*, *Hibbertia*, *Baeckia*, *Boronia* and *Dodonaea* species. The area is home to a wide variety of mallee birds, including the endangered malleefowl, and vulnerable species such as blue-breasted wren, blue-winged parrot, chestnut quail-thrush, yellow-plumed honeyeater and yellow-tailed pardalote. Visitors occasionally enter the reserve to visit Prominent Hill.

### Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area

#### Location

Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 11 August 2005, is located approximately 100 kilometres north of Ceduna along Goog's Track (figure 1). The 505 400 hectare reserve was originally part of Yellabinna Regional Reserve, under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The reserve comprises Allotment 101, of Deposited Plan 67929.

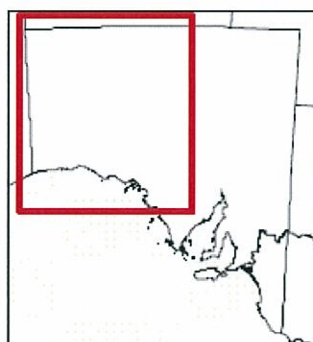
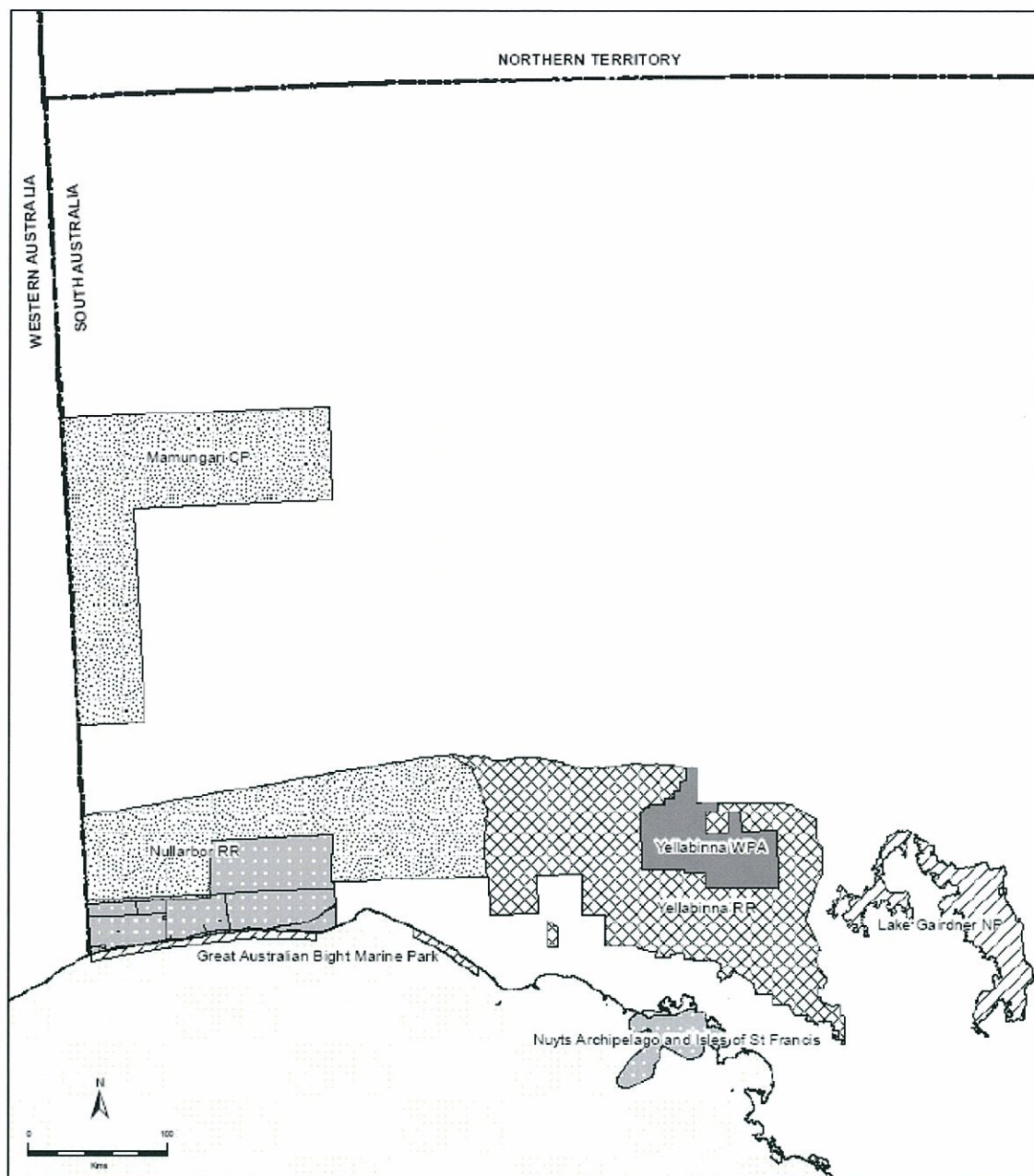
#### Wilderness Quality

Yellabinna is the largest wilderness protection area within South Australia. It forms a link between vegetation communities in south-eastern Western Australia and Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area contains a variety of woodland and shrubland communities dominated by *Eucalyptus* species or *Acacia* species over dunes and swales and small patches of diverse communities over rocky outcrops. A variety of threatened species have been recorded within the reserve, with additional species considered likely to occur in the area. The enhanced protection of the reserve may encourage recreational activities such as bush camping, bush walking and wildlife observation.



### Names of Former Reserves now Wilderness Protection Areas

Wilderness Protection Area	Former Reserve
Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area	Flinders Chase National Park (part)
Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area	Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park (part)
Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area	Kelly Hill Conservation Park (part)
Western River Wilderness Protection Area	Western River Conservation Park
Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area	Cape Torrens Conservation Park
Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area	Lincoln National Park (part)
Hincks Wilderness Protection Area	Hincks Conservation Park (part)
Hambidge Wilderness Protection Area	Hambidge Conservation Park
Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area	Yellabinna Regional Reserve (part)
Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area	Billiatt Conservation Park (part)
Danggali Wilderness Protection Area	Danggali Conservation Park (part)



**Figure 1**  
**Wilderness Status**  
**South Australia - West**

**Legend**

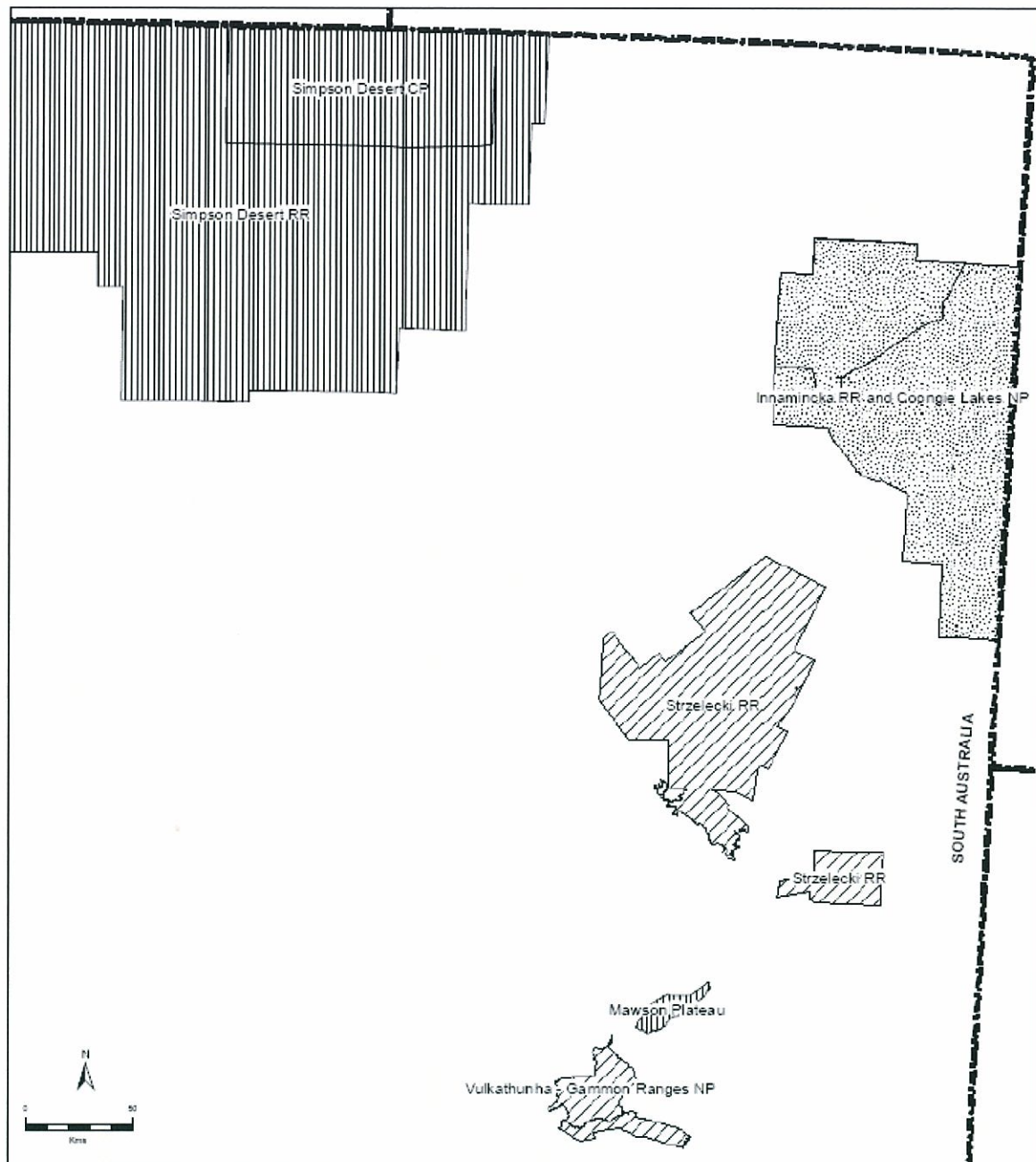
**Wilderness Status**

- The Minister has declined this WPA proposal
- Area nominated
- Area currently under assessment
- Assessment Report Released
- Recommendations made to the Minister
- Minister Approved - WPA awaiting proclamation
- Wilderness Protection Area

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**Figure 2**  
**Wilderness Status**  
**South Australia - North East**

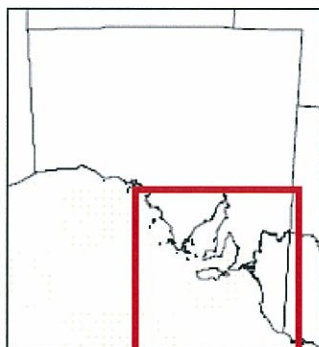
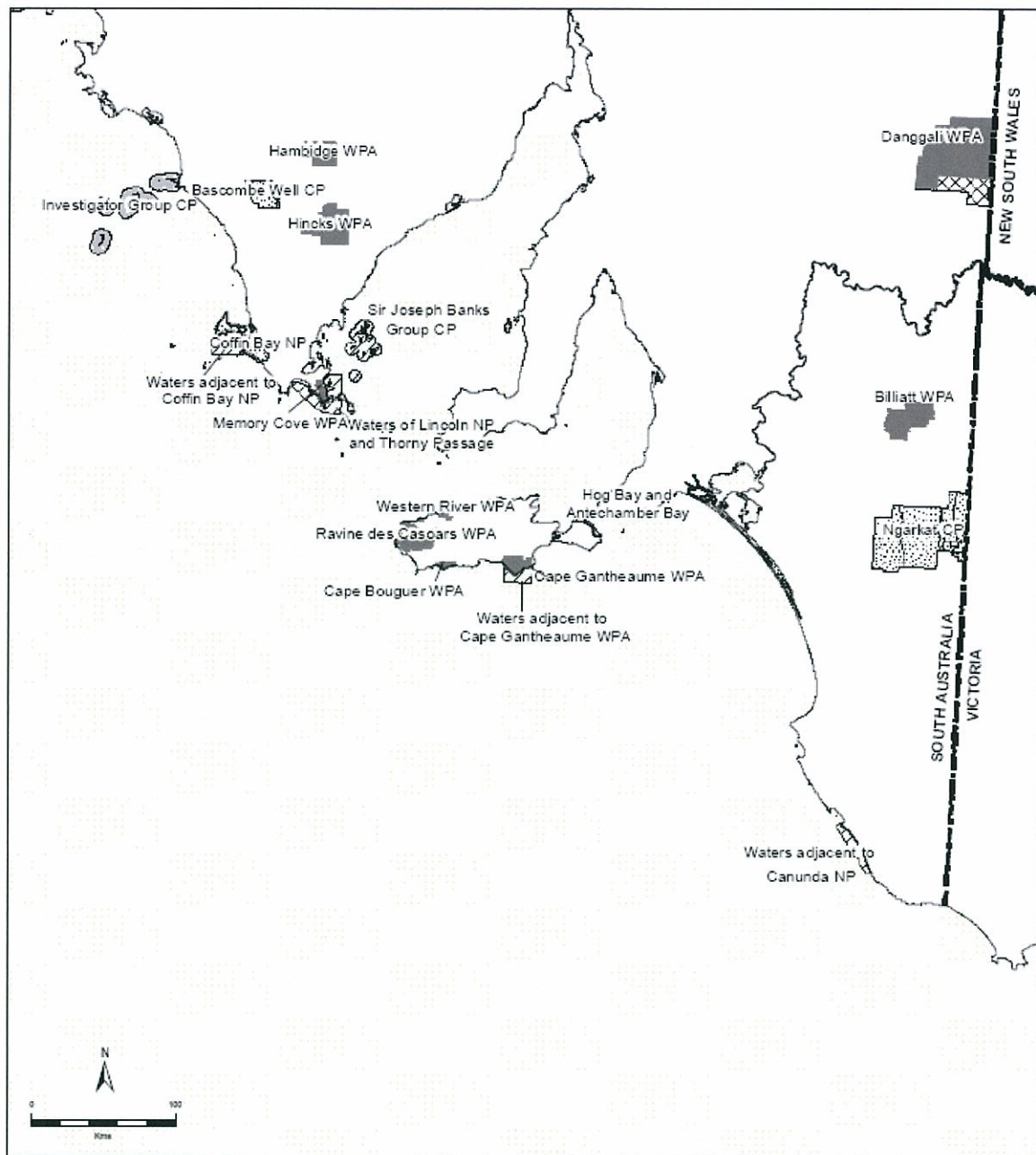
**Legend**

**Wilderness Status**

- The Minister has declined this WPA proposal
- Area nominated
- Area currently under assessment
- Assessment Report Released
- Recommendations made to the Minister
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**Figure 3**

### Wilderness Status

#### South Australia - South

#### Legend

##### Wilderness Status

- The Minister has declined this WPA proposal
- Area nominated
- Area currently under assessment
- Assessment Report Released
- Recommendations made to the Minister
- Minister Approved - WPA awaiting proclamation
- Wilderness Protection Area

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## Extent of Mining Operations in Wilderness Protection Zones

There are currently no wilderness protection zones declared within South Australia.

## Management of Wilderness Protection Areas

Wilderness protection areas are managed in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management (Appendix I) as required by section 30 of the Act.

During the period of this report, management activities for wilderness protection areas on Kangaroo Island have included:

- maintenance of visitor facilities – public roads, and walking trails;
- fire protection works – fire breaks and fire management tracks;
- continued feral goat control in the Ravine des Casoars, Western River and Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Areas;
- wildfire suppression activities and planning in Western River, Ravine des Casoars and Cape Gantheuame Wilderness Protection Areas;
- support for ongoing research program on Koala management methods and monitoring of vegetation recovery; and
- Koala management and habitat restoration activities.

During the period of this report, management actions for wilderness protection areas in the Eyre Peninsula region have included:

- Surveying of weed Buffel Grass was undertaken along Googs Track, as well as carrying out access tracks maintenance;
- Planning for fire management commenced for the Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area;
- A Native Vegetation Council funded project, to restore sheoak grassy woodlands, commenced with rabbit management and baseline monitoring milestones were implemented and achieved;
- An 800 hectare prescribed burn was successfully undertaken in the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, to create a fuel reduced buffer to provide protection to the Southern Emu-wren population;
- feral animal control in wilderness protection areas was undertaken, in particular fox control in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area;
- management of visitors to minimise the impact on biodiversity values; and
- assisted community engagement processes in the preparation of the Reserves of the Yellabinna Region Management Plan

During the period of this report, management actions for wilderness protection areas in the Murraylands have included:

- Despite Danggali Wilderness Protection Area being inaccessible for a large period of time due to over 400mm of rain in Jan/Feb 2011, prescribed burning was successful undertaken in Spring 2010;
- State NRM Funding application was successful (over \$300k over two years) for feral goat and rabbit control program for Riverland Biosphere, which incorporates Danggali Wilderness Protection Area — an aerial goat shoot, looking at impacts of goats on native vegetation and identifying goat hotspots have been undertaken as part of this project;
- Feral goat control in Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area was undertaken by Sporting Shooters in a voluntary capacity with judas goats operating in the park;
- Management Plans for Billiatt and Danggali Wilderness Protection Areas have been through the public consultation process and endorsed by the Wilderness Advisory Committee.

## Expenditure on Management of Wilderness Protection Areas

Expenditure for on-ground management operations within wilderness protection areas is derived from estimates of money expended in undertaking reserve management operations within the region.

Expense	Kangaroo Island	Eyre Peninsula	Murraylands	Total
Vehicle Costs	\$4,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$14,000.00
Administration	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00
Staff Time	\$7,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$12,000.00	\$28,000.00
Conservation Programs		\$2,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,500.00
Maintenance Consumables	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,500.00
Road Maintenance	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$16,500.00
Feral Animal Control	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00
Fire Management	\$20,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$40,500.00
Wildfire Recovery	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$56,500.00</b>	<b>\$31,000.00</b>	<b>\$57,500.00</b>	<b><u>\$140,000.00</u></b>



## Management Plans Adopted for Wilderness Protection Areas

Section 31 requires that a plan of management, implementing the policies of the Code, be prepared for each wilderness protection area.

Wilderness Protection Area	Status of Management Plan	Date Adopted
Cape Bouguer WPA	adopted	January 2002
Cape Torrens WPA	adopted	July 2006
Hambidge WPA	adopted	May 2007
Hincks WPA	adopted	May 2007
Memory Cove WPA	adopted	December 2005
Ravine des Casoars WPA	adopted	January 2002
Western River WPA	adopted	July 2006
Yellabinna WPA	draft in preparation	
Billiatt WPA	final Plan endorsed by Wilderness Advisory Committee	
Danggali WPA	final Plan endorsed by Wilderness Advisory Committee	

## Declaration of Prohibited Areas

There are currently no portions of wilderness protection areas that have been declared to be prohibited areas.

## Royalties received in Wilderness Protection Zones

There are currently no proclaimed wilderness protection zones within South Australia. Accordingly, no royalties were received during 2010-11.

## Wilderness Code of Management

### Preparation and Adoption of the Wilderness Code of Management

Section 12 of the Act requires the Committee, as soon as practicable after the commencement of the Act, in consultation with the Director, prepare a draft Code of Management of wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones. The Code sets out policies that should be implemented in the management of wilderness protection areas and zones. The Code may be amended in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Act.

The Code was adopted in 1993 and all wilderness protection areas are managed in accordance with its policies.

The Wilderness Code of Management is attached as Appendix 1.

## Publications

Wilderness Advisory Committee, ***Wilderness Assessment Report: Proposed Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area***, 2010, Adelaide.

Wilderness Advisory Committee, ***Report to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Preliminary Wilderness Assessment of Mawson Plateau (Stage 1)***, 2009, Adelaide.

Wilderness Advisory Committee, ***Wilderness Assessment Report: Proposed Nuyts Archipelago and the Investigator Group of Islands***, 2009, Adelaide.



# **Wilderness**

## **Protection Areas and Zones**

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CODE OF MANAGEMENT**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Code is the Wilderness Code of Management prescribed in the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.
- 1.2 Any terms used in this Code have the same meaning as those used in the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.
- 1.3 A wilderness area means land constituted under the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* as a Wilderness Protection Area or Wilderness Protection Zone.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 To maximise the naturalness and remoteness (i.e. the wilderness quality) of wilderness areas, and in particular:
  - (i) protect and, where practicable, enhance wilderness quality;
  - (ii) protect wildlife and ecological processes;
  - (iii) control and, where practicable, eradicate non-indigenous plants and animals;
  - (iv) protect geographical features;
  - (v) protect sites of scientific significance;
  - (vi) protect sites of historical significance;
  - (vii) protect sites of Aboriginal cultural significance;
  - (viii) provide for public use and enjoyment where compatible with maximising wilderness quality; and
  - (ix) promote public awareness of, and education in, the natural features of and proper use of wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones.

## 3. MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

### 3.1 General Principles

- (i) All management operations will be carried out in a manner consistent with maximisation of wilderness quality except where provided for in this Code (see 3.10).
- (ii) A Plan of Management will be prepared for a designated wilderness area as soon as practicable after the area's constitution. The Plan will provide clear direction for the protection and management of the wilderness area, in particular:
  - (a) proposals to achieve the management objectives;
  - (b) priorities for actions, including:
    - the removal of existing incompatible uses and/or structures except those permitted under this Code; and
    - appropriate rehabilitation to be undertaken following the removal of structures and incompatible uses;
  - (c) recognition of the need to review management if indicated by results of monitoring and research;
- (iii) No additional incompatible uses and/or structures will be permitted except those provided for in this Code.
- (iv) Nothing in this Code derogates from any rights exercised in mining tenements in wilderness protection zones. In relation to mining operations in wilderness protection zones, environmental protection policies in section 5 of this Code will apply.

### 3.2 Access and Transport

- (i) The use of vessels, motorised or wheeled transport will be permitted only on prescribed access routes, and for emergency and essential management operations (see 3.10) when alternative measures which do not degrade the wilderness quality of an area are unavailable.



- (ii) Access routes may be prescribed in a plan of management for use by vessels, motorised or wheeled transport in circumstances where this type of transport is essential for effective management.
- (iii) Construction of vehicle or walking tracks will be permitted only where re-direction of existing access requires construction of alternative tracks or for management works to achieve objectives identified in a plan of management. The construction of vehicle tracks for specific operations as provided for under 3.6(vi), 3.10 and 5 may be permitted on the basis that they will be rehabilitated as soon as possible.
- (iv) Vehicle and walking tracks that are not essential for management purposes as specified in 3.10, or for mining operations in wilderness protection zones (see 5) will be closed and rehabilitated as prescribed in a plan of management.
- (v) Over-flying for recreational purposes under an altitude of 1500 metres above ground level will be prohibited.
- (vi) The landing of aircraft will be prohibited, except by permission of the Director and for emergency and essential management operations. Helipads and airstrips that are identified as essential for emergencies and management operations will be maintained. All other strips or helipads will be rehabilitated as soon as possible or allowed to regenerate naturally.

### 3.3 Tourism

- (i) Commercial tours may be accommodated where their size and planned activities are compatible with maintenance of wilderness quality. Those permitted will have obtained a licence and will be conducted in accordance with licence conditions, the Visitor Management Strategy for the wilderness area (see 3.4), and the Minimum Impact Code (see 6.0). Tour groups will be monitored and regulated where necessary to prevent significant adverse impacts on wilderness quality and opportunities for solitude.

### 3.4 Recreation

- (i) The level and type of visitor use and visitor conduct will be managed in accordance with the objectives stated in section 2 of this Code.
- (ii) A visitor management strategy that specifies an acceptable level and type of visitor use and visitor conduct will be included in the management plan for each wilderness area.
- (iii) Visitor management strategies will include the promotion of the Minimum Impact Code and the distribution of any information about the wilderness values of particular wilderness areas.  
The following information should be used as a basis for monitoring the effectiveness of each strategy:
  - a) the long-term limits of acceptable change for environmental (wilderness quality) and social (opportunities for wilderness dependent experiences) conditions within the wilderness area; and
  - b) change in environmental and social conditions within the wilderness area.
- (iv) Constructed walking tracks, signs, track markers and other management devices or structures will be used only for essential management operations (see 3.2(ii) and 3.10).
- (v) Recreation will be in accordance with the Wilderness Regulations and the Minimum Impact Code.

### 3.5 Cultural Heritage

- (i) Places, sites and objects of significance to Aboriginal people are protected under State and Commonwealth Aboriginal heritage legislation.
- (ii) Access by Aboriginal people to their sites of significance and protection of these sites will, as far as possible, be by methods compatible with the maintenance of wilderness quality.
- (iii) Nothing in this Code prevents Aboriginal people from doing anything in relation to Aboriginal sites, objects or remains in accordance with Aboriginal tradition. Furthermore, this Code does not prevent the taking, by Aboriginal people, of native plants, protected animals, or the eggs of protected animals, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.
- (iv) Sites of historic significance will be conserved, using access and methods compatible with maintenance of wilderness quality in the long-term.

- (v) Non-Aboriginal structures and artefacts that are of no historic significance, as determined by the relevant authority, will be removed or allowed to deteriorate naturally. Removal will not be undertaken if the only method of removal significantly reduces wilderness quality in the long-term.

### 3.6 Fire

- (i) Fire management will be based on continuing research into the fire history of the area, the relationships between fire and the natural communities occurring within the area, and on the maintenance of wilderness quality.
- (ii) Deliberately lit fires will be used only in emergency situations, and in essential management operations as listed in 3.10 and subject to (i) above.
- (iii) Other human caused fires should, where practicable, be extinguished consistent with maintenance of wilderness quality.
- (iv) Naturally caused fires will be extinguished when, in view of the direction, intensity and extent of the fire and the fire suppression techniques available, they pose a threat to human life and property, and to habitats requiring protection.
- (v) Where fire suppression action is required, the methods utilised will be, wherever possible, those which will have the least long-term impact on wilderness quality.
- (vi) The use of heavy machinery for fire suppression within a wilderness area will be prohibited except:
  - a) where it is considered to be the only way of preventing greater long-term loss of wilderness quality;
  - b) where specific machinery use techniques, that do not result in significant disturbance to the landscape or create a new access network, are considered the only feasible method of preventing long-term loss of wilderness quality; or
  - c) to mitigate hazard to human life, where alternative measures which do not impact on the wilderness quality of the area are unavailable.
- (vii) Wherever possible, fire management practices designed to protect land adjacent to or within a wilderness area will be conducted outside the wilderness area.

### 3.7 Research

- (i) Research that will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of wilderness management will be encouraged.
- (ii) Research that will not affect wilderness quality and cannot be carried out elsewhere may be permitted.
- (iii) Research not covered under (i) and (ii) will not be permitted.

### 3.8 Biological Conservation

- (i) Management of threatened species, communities and habitats will, as far as possible, be consistent with maintenance of wilderness quality.
- (ii) Action will be taken to maintain and, where possible, restore natural processes, communities and habitats.

### 3.9 Non-indigenous Species

- (i) Non-indigenous species which significantly affect the wilderness quality of a wilderness area will be controlled or eradicated.
- (ii) Action will be taken to prevent the establishment of non-indigenous species.

### 3.10 Emergency and Essential Management Operations

- (i) All emergency and essential management operations will be carried out with the least possible impact on wilderness quality.
- (ii) Actions that cause short-term degradation of wilderness quality but are necessary for emergency and/or essential management operations will be permitted. The only specific situations acknowledged in this Code as possibly requiring such actions are:
  - control or eradication of non-indigenous species;
  - conservation of threatened species, communities and habitats;



- protection of fire-sensitive species and communities;
- management of visitor use;
- management action or use of devices to mitigate hazard to human life;
- restoration of natural processes, communities and habitats; and
- research.

Where degradation has occurred as a result of these activities, rehabilitation will be undertaken as soon as practicable.

#### 3.11 Wilderness Protection Zones

Protection of wilderness quality in wilderness protection zones will be negotiated with tenement holders on the basis of the environmental protection policies in section 5. Management undertakings will be incorporated in a plan of management.

### 4. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

- 4.1 Close liaison with adjoining landholders and managers will be established to ensure that adverse impacts on the wilderness quality of an area resulting from activities outside that area are minimised or prevented.
- 4.2 Where a wilderness area does not comprise a whole catchment, close liaison with upstream landholders and relevant authorities will be established to encourage the maintenance of water quality and flow regimes as close as practicable to their natural state.
- 4.3 Wherever possible management activities essential to the maintenance of the wilderness quality of a wilderness area to be on land outside the wilderness area.

### 5. EXERCISE OF MINING RIGHTS IN WILDERNESS PROTECTION ZONES

The holder of a mining tenement shall:

- 5.1 Have regard to the provisions of the plan of management under section 31 of the Wilderness Protection Act 1992; and
- 5.2 In undertaking any operations:
  - (i) protect native flora and fauna;
  - (ii) avoid the pollution of land, water and air;
  - (iii) avoid disturbance to known sites of natural, scientific, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural significance;
  - (iv) minimise the potential for wind and water erosion;
  - (v) avoid unnecessary track creation;
  - (vi) avoid introduction of non-indigenous species;
  - (vii) establish environmental monitoring and rehabilitation programs; and
  - (viii) upon completion of the operation remove or obliterate all structures and materials used in the carrying out of mining operations.