

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

13 November 2012

**Wilderness Advisory Committee
and
Wilderness Protection Act 1992**

ANNUAL REPORTS

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



**Government
of South Australia**

Wilderness Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2011-12

Wilderness Protection Act 1992
Annual Report 2011-12

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Paul Caica
Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Wilderness Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2012.

In accordance with section 11(1)(g) of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* this document includes reporting requirements under section 7 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Bills'.

Eric Bills
Presiding Member
Wilderness Advisory Committee

WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Wilderness Advisory Committee is responsible for assessing all land in South Australia for wilderness quality and advising the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on wilderness protection, enhancement and management. The Committee also has a role in increasing awareness within the community of the significance of wilderness.

Wilderness is defined by the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* (the Act) as land and ecosystems which are minimally affected by modern technology and not seriously affected by exotic animals, plants or organisms. South Australia currently has 13 proclaimed wilderness areas which vary from vast arid deserts and rugged ranges to coastal cliffs and mallee plains.

The Committee set the following six strategic priorities for 2011-12:

- **Wilderness Code of Management.** To review the code in accordance with section 12 of the Act.
- **Wilderness Protection Act Amendments:** To provide advice on proposed changes to the Act.
- **Improving Wilderness Protection in South Australia's Arid Lands Report.** To complete a report to identify priority quality wilderness areas and management options in the Arid region.
- **Increasing Community Awareness of Wilderness.** To provide advice to DENR to assist in promoting and increasing community awareness of the value of wilderness.
- **Climate Change and Connectivity:** To identify how wilderness protection areas can provide an important refuge for native wildlife, assisting in adapting to the effects of climate change.
- **Fire Management Plan Review.** To provide advice to DENR and Minister on Fire Management Plans within the Western River Wilderness Protection Area on Kangaroo Island.

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

The responsibilities and activities of the Wilderness Advisory Committee contribute to two targets under the 'Our Environment' Priority of *South Australia's Strategic Plan 2011*:

- **Target 69: Lose no species:** Lose no species as a result of human impacts.
- **Target 72: Nature conservation:** Increase participation in nature conservation activities by 25% by 2015.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Over the reporting period, the Committee focussed on the following six strategic priorities:

Wilderness Code of Management

The *Wilderness Code of Management* (the Code) was developed in line with section 12 of the Act. The Code provides a policy framework for the management of wilderness protection areas and zones. The Committee reviewed the Code and identified a number of items to be updated. This work will continue into the 2012-13 reporting period.

Wilderness Protection Act Amendments

The Committee considered and provided advice on the proposed changes to the Act being considered by the Minister. The proposed amendments include provision for co-management of protected areas, to provide the Minister with powers in regard to permissions and licences, to provide for the preservation of critical infrastructure, and to alter the administrative requirements for entrance and camping fees.

Improving Wilderness Protection in South Australia's Arid Lands Report

A significant proportion of South Australia's areas of high biodiversity are located within the Arid Lands region. The Committee is preparing a report that will identify priority quality wilderness areas and management options for this region. The Committee aims to highlight the role wilderness protection can play in planning to embrace issues at a landscape scale and conserve areas of conservation and wilderness significance.

Increasing Community Awareness of Wilderness

Many government activities have contributed towards increasing community awareness of wilderness including the development and consultation of management plans, and signage and informational brochures in parks. The Committee have considered how it can further support the Minister and DENR in promoting and increasing community awareness of the value of wilderness.

Climate Change and Connectivity

Core wilderness protection areas and zones will provide an important refuge for native wildlife, and will assist in adapting to the effects of climate change. In this reporting period the Committee was consulted on the *Trans-Australia Eco-Link* which is part of DENR's *NatureLinks* program. The Committee will utilise its knowledge of the arid region to provide advice to DENR in further progressing the *Trans-Australia Eco-Link*.

Fire Management Plan Review.

The Committee reviewed the Fire Management Plans for the Western River Wilderness Protection Area and sought clarification on clearance techniques used on fire tracks within the wilderness area. The Committee provided advice that techniques proposed in the management plan are suitable to maintain and protect valuable wilderness assets.

WILDERNESS PROTECTION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

South Australia currently has 13 Wilderness Protection Areas (WPA) constituted under the Act. Management plans that set the management policy direction and framework for each wilderness protection area are formally reviewed by the Committee.

During 2011-12 the Committee reviewed and endorsed the following management plans:

- The Danggali Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan
- The Billiatt Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan
- The Cape Gantheaume Fire Management Plan

REQUESTS FOR ASSESSMENT TO THE WILDERNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee received no requests from members of the public to assess the wilderness quality of areas of the State under section 11(1)(b) of the Act.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE

The Wilderness Advisory Committee is established under section 8 of the Act.

OBJECT OF THE WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT

The Act is to provide 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.

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Wilderness Advisory Committee provides advice to the Minister and DENR on all aspects concerning the protection and management of wilderness within South Australia in accordance with the Act.

FUNCTIONS OF 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 subsection 8(2) of the Act for the appointment of members. One of the members of the Committee is appointed by the Governor to be the presiding member.

The membership of the Committee during the 2011-12 reporting period was:

Presiding Member	Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act:
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 has wide experience in the management or recreational use of wilderness.
Ms Bernice Cohen	8(2)(c) - one of two who has wide experience in the management or recreational use of wilderness.
Mr Greg Leaman	8(2) - Director of National Parks and Wildlife.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee did not require the establishment of any advisory committees in this reporting period.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of four general Committee meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year.

No special Committee meetings were held during the 2011-12 financial year

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Mr Eric Bills	4	
Dr Molly Whalen	4	
Dr Rob Lesslie	4	
Ms Bernice Cohen	4	
Mr Greg Leaman	1	Business commitments

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Policy Directorate, DENR provided support to the Committee by providing an Executive Officer and Secretary for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

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

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

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 2011-12.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Committee from existing DENR resources.

The gender balance of the Committee is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Committee was made up of three males and two females.

The following matters are also contained in the DENR annual report 2011-2012:

- Superannuation contribution by the Committee
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Occupational Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- Disability Action Plan
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

FRAUD

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Committee by DENR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DENR Annual Report 2011-12.

CONSULTANTS

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

No events occurred in 2011-12 that required the Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

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 to view the FOI statement.

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 2011-12 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Committee did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2011-12 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Committee acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we meet and the land that it considers and protects. The Committee acknowledges the Aboriginal people's deep feelings of attachment and relationship to country. In fulfilling its functions, the Committee is aware of the cultural heritage of the traditional owners and strives to achieve mutually satisfying outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Wilderness Advisory Committee appreciates the support and encouragement it received over the past year from the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, the Hon Paul Caica MP.

The Committee records its appreciation for the assistance provided by senior DENR staff and Executive Officers, Ms Farlie Taylor (July – November 2011) and Mr Neil Taylor (February – June 2012) and Secretary Nicole Evans.

WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT 1992 ANNUAL REPORT

This report is for the financial year 2011-12, and is presented to fulfil the requirements of section 7 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* (the Act).

OBJECTS OF THE WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT

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 OF LAND UNDER THE ACT

The Wilderness Advisory Committee (the Committee) is subject to certain statutory obligations relating to the identification, assessment and advice on wilderness protection areas and zones.

The wilderness criteria are described in section 3(2) of the Act as follows;

- (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 for land under State Legislation. 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
- (a) (ii) to enable it to be restored to a condition that justifies its protection as wilderness under this Act; or
- (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 by an administrative unit of the Public Service.

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.

NAMES, LOCATIONS AND QUALITY OF WILDERNESS PROTECTION AREAS AND ZONES

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.

Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area

Location

Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of approximately 5530 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.

Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area

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 Torrens Wilderness Protection Area

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.

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.

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 metres 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 *Santalum acuminatum*, *Triodia*, *Hibbertia*, *Baekia*, *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.

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. The area has recorded 420 species of vascular plants including 28 orchids. 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.

Investigator Group Wilderness Protection Area

Location

Investigator Group Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 25 August 2011, is located off the west coast of South Australia, about 25 to 70 kilometres south-west of Elliston township (figure 3). The 440 hectare reserve was originally part of the Investigator Group Conservation Park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The reserve comprises Ward Islands, Top-Gallant Isles, Pearson Isles, Veteran Isles and Dorothee Island, all to the low water mark. Of this land, the Investigator Group Wilderness Protection Area excludes Deposited Plan 19499 Allotment 1 Out of Hundreds (Elliston) (*Pearson Isles*), which is land held for lighthouse purposes.

Wilderness Quality

Investigator Group Wilderness Protection Area has a high degree of intactness, free from the human impacts associated with land clearing and introduced plants and animals. It contains important haul-out areas for the Australian sea lion and New Zealand fur seal. Notable birds found on the island include white faced storm petrels, cape barren geese and mutton birds which breed on the island. In particular, the Pearson Island Black-footed Rock-wallaby is of conservation significance.

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 9310 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 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.

Nuyts Archipelago Wilderness Protection Area

Location

Nuyts Archipelago Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 25 August 2011, is located off the west coast of South Australia, about 10 to 75 kilometres south-west of Ceduna township (figure 1). The 3626 hectare reserve was originally part of the Nuyts Archipelago Conservation Park, under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The reserve comprises Purdie Islands, Lound Island, Goat Island, Lacy Islands, Evans Island, Lilliput Island, Franklin Islands, Blefuscu Island, Egg Island, Freeling Island, Smooth Island, Dog Island, West Island, St Francis Island, Masillon Island, Fenelon Island and Hart Island, all to the low water mark. Of this land, the Nuyts Archipelago Wilderness Protection Area excludes Deposited Plan 19501 Allotment 1 Out of Hundreds (Nuyts) (Evans Island) and Section 220 Out of Hundreds (Nuyts) (St Francis Island), which is land held for lighthouse purposes.

Wilderness Quality

Nuyts Archipelago Wilderness Protection Area provides important island habitat for species such as the stick-nest rat and brush-tailed bettongs (which are part of re-introduction programs) and species such as the carpet python and short nosed bandicoot. Other notable species breeding on the island include the Australian sea lion and mutton birds. The islands' remoteness from the mainland provides an important and secure refuge for vulnerable wildlife and small mammals free from introduced predators.

Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area

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.

Western River Wilderness Protection Area

Location

Western River Wilderness Protection Area, proclaimed on 15 October 1993, covers an area of 2470 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.

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.

FIGURE 1 – WILDERNESS STATUS SOUTH AUSTRALIA WEST

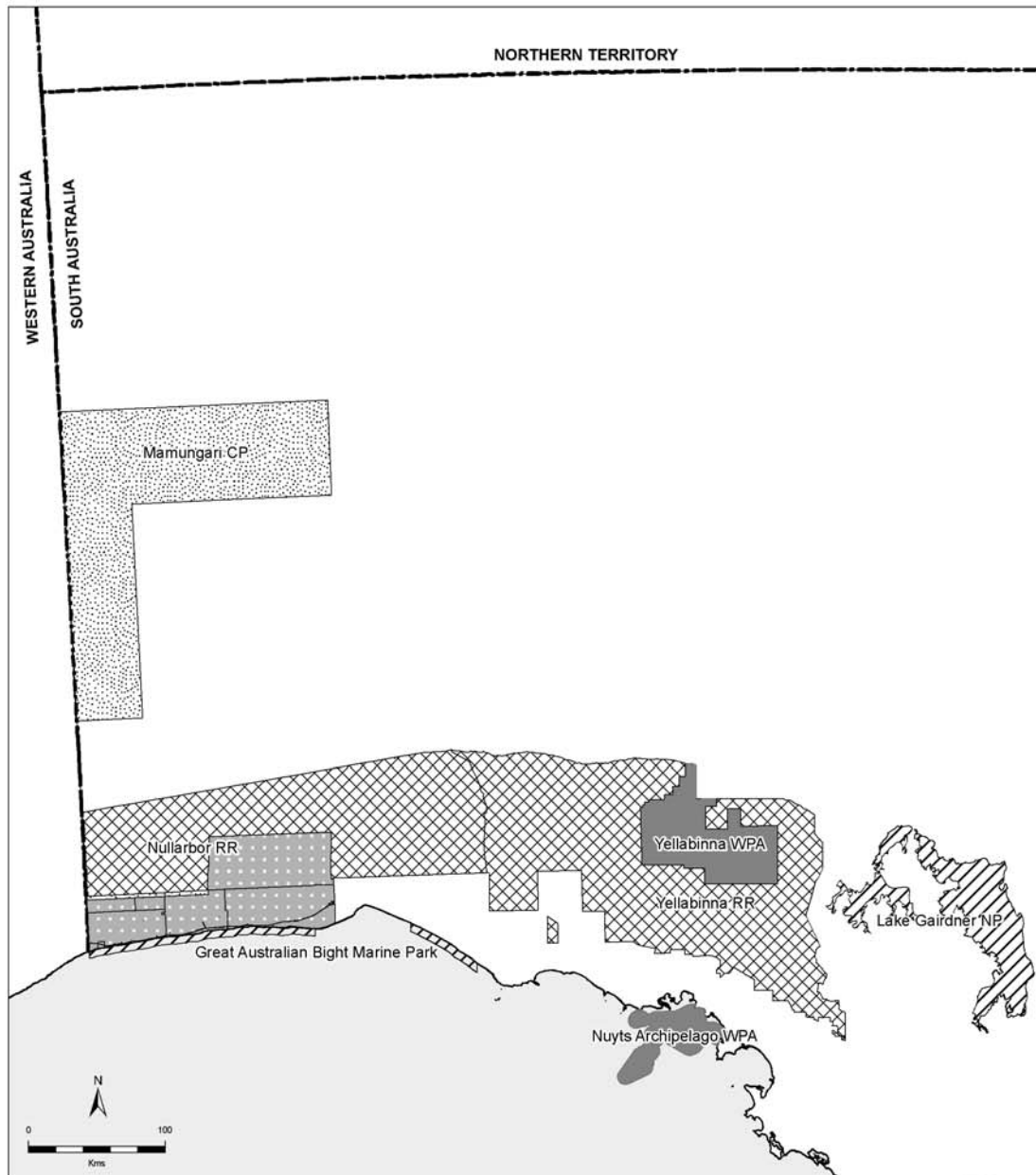


Figure 1
Wilderness Status
South Australia - West

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

Produced by Protected Area Policy and Planning
 Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
 GPO Box 1047 Adelaide SA 5001
www.environment.sa.gov.au

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FIGURE 2 – WILDERNESS STATUS SOUTH AUSTRALIA NORTH EAST

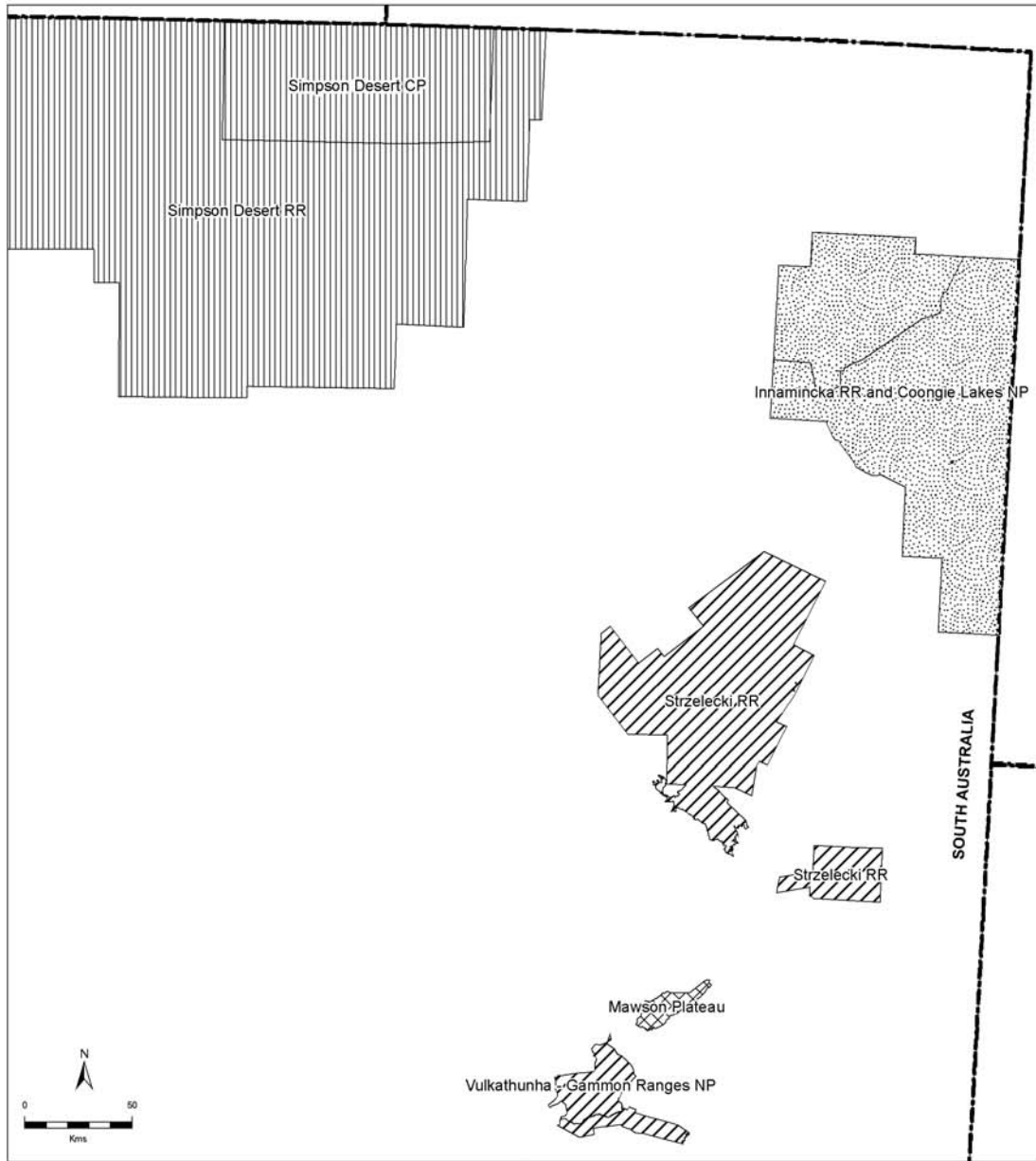


Figure 2
Wilderness Status
South Australia - North East

- Legend**
- Wilderness Status**
- The Minister has declined this WPA proposal
 - Area nominated
 - Area currently under assessment
 - Assessment Report Released
 - Recommendations made to the Minister
 - Wilderness Protection Area

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FIGURE 3 – WILDERNESS STATUS SOUTH AUSTRALIA SOUTH

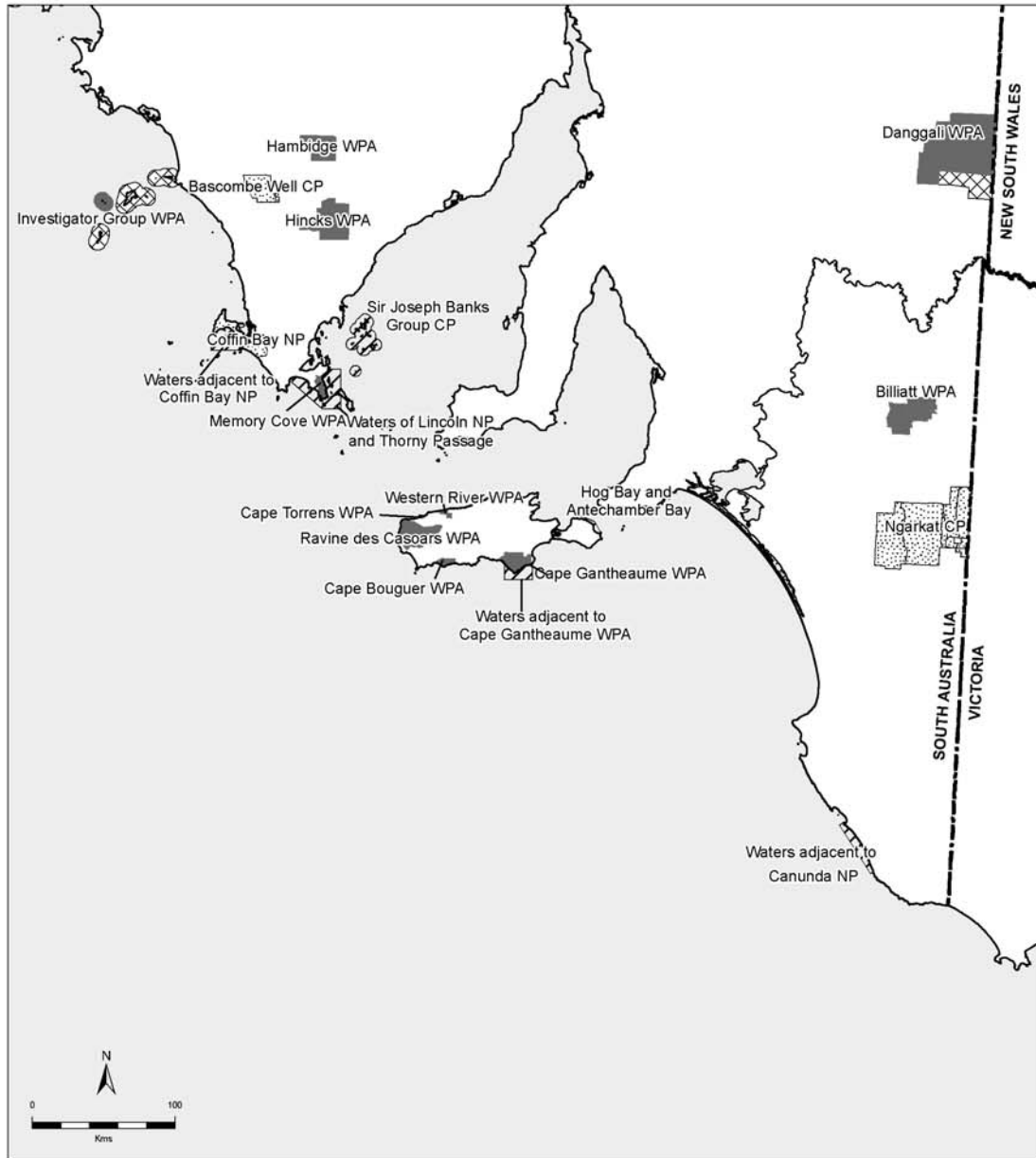


Figure 3
Wilderness Status
South Australia - South

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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NAMES OF FORMER RESERVES NOW WILDERNESS PROTECTION AREAS OR ZONES

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

EXTENT OF MINING OPERATIONS IN WILDERNESS PROTECTION ZONES

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

MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS PROTECTION AREAS AND ZONES

Wilderness protection areas (WPA) are managed in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management (appendix1) as required by section 30 of the Act.

During the reporting period, management activities for WPA's in the Eyre Peninsula region included:

- A Native Vegetation Council funded project to restore sheoak grassy woodlands in the Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove WPA continued, with rabbit management and baseline monitoring milestones being achieved.
- A 300 hectare prescribed burn was successfully undertaken in the Memory Cove WPA. This burn completed a fuel reduced buffer to provide protection for the Southern Emu-Wren population.
- Feral animal control work continued in the Memory Cove WPA, rabbits and foxes in particular were targeted.
- Maintenance work, site planning and preparation was conducted in the Memory Cove WPA. This included upgrades for the Memory Cove camping area and planning to improve drainage issues relating to storm water runoff.
- Visitor management was undertaken in the Memory Cove WPA to minimise visitor impact on biodiversity assets.
- Maintenance grading and drainage works were completed on the access track within the Memory Cove WPA.

- A survey for the presence of the weed buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) was undertaken along the Googs Track, of the Yellabinna WPA with no plants observed.
- A fire age class study survey undertaken in the Hambidge WPA surveyed six sites representing vegetation ages ranging from 11 to 61 years post fire. Two sand hill dunnarts (11 year vegetation age) and one Kultarr (11 year vegetation age) were recorded, the former is the most southerly record of this species.
- A prescribed burn was conducted in the south-east corner of the Hincks WPA in May 2012. Approximately 2.5 kilometers of control line (50 hectares) was established as a basis for a more comprehensive prescribed burn yet to be completed.

Management activities for WPA's in the Murray Lands region included:

- A major fire track rolling program was undertaken in both the Billiatt and Danggali WPA's. Over 300 kilometres of access tracks were rolled, as recommended in the Bookmark Mallee and Billiatt District Fire Management plans.
- Danggali WPA now has a ranger in charge situated on-site, responsible for park management and relationship building with neighbouring properties.
- Landscape scale goat and rabbit control programs have continued in the Danggali and Billiatt WPA's through Biodiversity Fund and Caring for Our Country funding. Over 9000 goats have been removed from the Danggali WPA alone since January 2012.
- A prescribed burn was conducted in the Billiatt WPA in April 2012 with around 3000 hectares burnt.
- New park entrance signs were installed at strategic access points of the Danggali and Billiatt WPA's, informing visitors of the Wilderness Protection Area status of these reserves.

Management activities for WPA's on Kangaroo Island included:

- A prescribed burn was conducted in the Cape Gantheaume WPA in April 2012 with around 600 hectares burnt.
- A survey was conducted in collaboration with SARDI on the New Zealand fur seal colony in the Cape Gantheaume WPA in January 2012.
- The on-going feral goat eradication program incorporating the control of feral goats in Ravine des Casoars, Cape Torrens, and Western River WPA's continued. It is estimated that fewer than 10 feral goats remain on Kangaroo Island.

MANAGEMENT PLANS ADOPTED

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	2002
Ravine des Casoars WPA	Adopted	2002
Memory Cove WPA	Adopted	2005
Cape Torrens WPA	Adopted	2006
Western River WPA	Adopted	2006
Hambidge WPA	Adopted	2007
Hincks WPA	Adopted	2007
Billiatt WPA	Adopted	2011
Danggali WPA	Adopted	2011
Yellabinna WPA	To be released for consultation in 2012	
Investigator Group WPA	None	
Nuyts Archipelago WPA	None	

DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED AREAS

The Franklin Islands section of the Nuyts Archipelago Wilderness Protection Area was declared a Prohibited Area in 2012 in order to protect from disturbance the habitat of the Greater Stick-nest Rat and the Franklin Island subspecies of the Southern Brown Bandicoot. This declaration carried over to the Wilderness Protection Act the previous long-standing Prohibited Area status of the islands under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

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

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.

MONIES RECEIVED AND EXPENDED

Expense	Kangaroo Island	Eyre Peninsula	Murray Lands	Total
Vehicle Costs	\$4 500	\$6 000	\$10 000	\$20 500
Administration	\$2 000	\$2 000	\$2 000	\$6 000
Staff Time	\$7 500	\$10 200	\$70 000	\$87 700
Conservation Programs		\$5 000	\$6 000	\$11 000
Maintenance Consumables	\$4 000	\$5 000	\$12 000	\$21 000
Road Maintenance	\$5 500	\$6 000	\$5 000	\$16 500
Feral Animal Control	\$3 000	\$3 000	\$5 000	\$11 000
Fire Management	\$20 000	\$2 000	\$30 000	\$52 000
Wildfire Recovery	\$10 000			\$10 000
Total Expenditure	\$56 500	\$39 200	\$140 000	<u>\$235 700</u>

ROYALTIES RECEIVED IN WILDERNESS PROTECTION ZONES

There are currently no proclaimed wilderness protection zones within South Australia. Accordingly, no royalties were received during 2011-12.

WILDERNESS CODE OF MANAGEMENT

Section 12 of the Act required 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 provision of section 12 of the Act.

The Code was adopted in 1993 and all wilderness protection areas are managed in accordance with its policies. It is designed to maximise wilderness quality and prescribes principles for protecting habitat and managing visitors, scientific research and fire. It allows public use and enjoyment where compatible with conservation and promotes a 'tread lightly' ethic to visitors.

The *Wilderness Code of Management* is attached as Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1 – WILDERNESS – CODE OF MANAGEMENT

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.