



Newland Head Conservation Park

Management Plan Amendment 2021



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Minister's foreword

Newland Head Conservation Park conserves exceptional coastal scenery and includes the impressive Waitpinga and Parsons beaches. The park provides a network of formal walking trails including the Heysen Trail, and contains the popular Waitpinga campground.

The Wild South Coast way project is a \$6 million dollar investment seeking to improve Heysen Trail infrastructure between Cape Jervis and Victor Harbor to create a premium multi-day walk. To cater to additional demand from hikers, new campsites are required along the Heysen Trail, including within Newland Head Conservation Park.

In March 2021, the Department for Environment and Water sought the community's views about proposed changes to the management of the park to allow for a new walk-in campsite through the release of a draft amendment to the *Newland Head Conservation Park Management Plan 2005*.

All submissions received on the draft amendment have been considered and have assisted in the development of this final amendment. I thank all those that made a submission.

I am now pleased to adopt the *Newland Head Conservation Park Management Plan Amendment 2021*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Speirs', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

Providing new camping opportunities

The current management plan for Newland Head Conservation Park does not allow for the creation of new campgrounds outside of three existing development zones. Two of these zones, Waitpinga Beach and Parsons Head, consist mostly of day visit infrastructure such as parking, interpretation, toilets, and beach access. The third development zone is the popular Waitpinga campground.

A new walk-in campground is necessary to cater to walkers of the Heysen Trail, separate from the existing Waitpinga campground. This will help ensure the camping experience at Newland Head meets the expectations of all visitors, and caters for the increase in demand anticipated through the redevelopment of the Heysen Trail.

The amendments create a new development zone to allow for a walk-in campsite in an area of previously disturbed land in the existing Rehabilitation Zone. Amendments 1 and 2 create the new zone, whilst Amendment 3 makes explicit that no parking is envisioned in this new zone. Amendment 4 outlines the broad management strategy for camping in Newland Head Conservation Park, with few material changes from the existing strategy.

In preparing the new zoning maps for the park, the existing Waitpinga Campground Development Zone has been extended slightly. This minor change in zoning is to permit for any extension to Waitpinga campground infrastructure which may be required to cater to increases in demand.

Amendment 1

Section 4.1, page 6

Existing Text (to be removed)

Development Zones

The majority of visitor facilities and developments will be confined to these zones. Developments aim to provide adequate visitor facilities while minimising disturbance. Facilities include a campground, lookouts, carparks, toilets, beach access paths and trailheads at Waitpinga and Parsons Headland.

New Text (to be included)

Development Zones

The majority of visitor facilities and developments will be confined to these zones. Developments aim to provide adequate visitor facilities while minimising disturbance. Facilities include two campgrounds, lookouts, carparks, toilets, beach access paths and trailheads at Waitpinga and Parsons Headland.

Amendment 2

Section 4.1, page 7

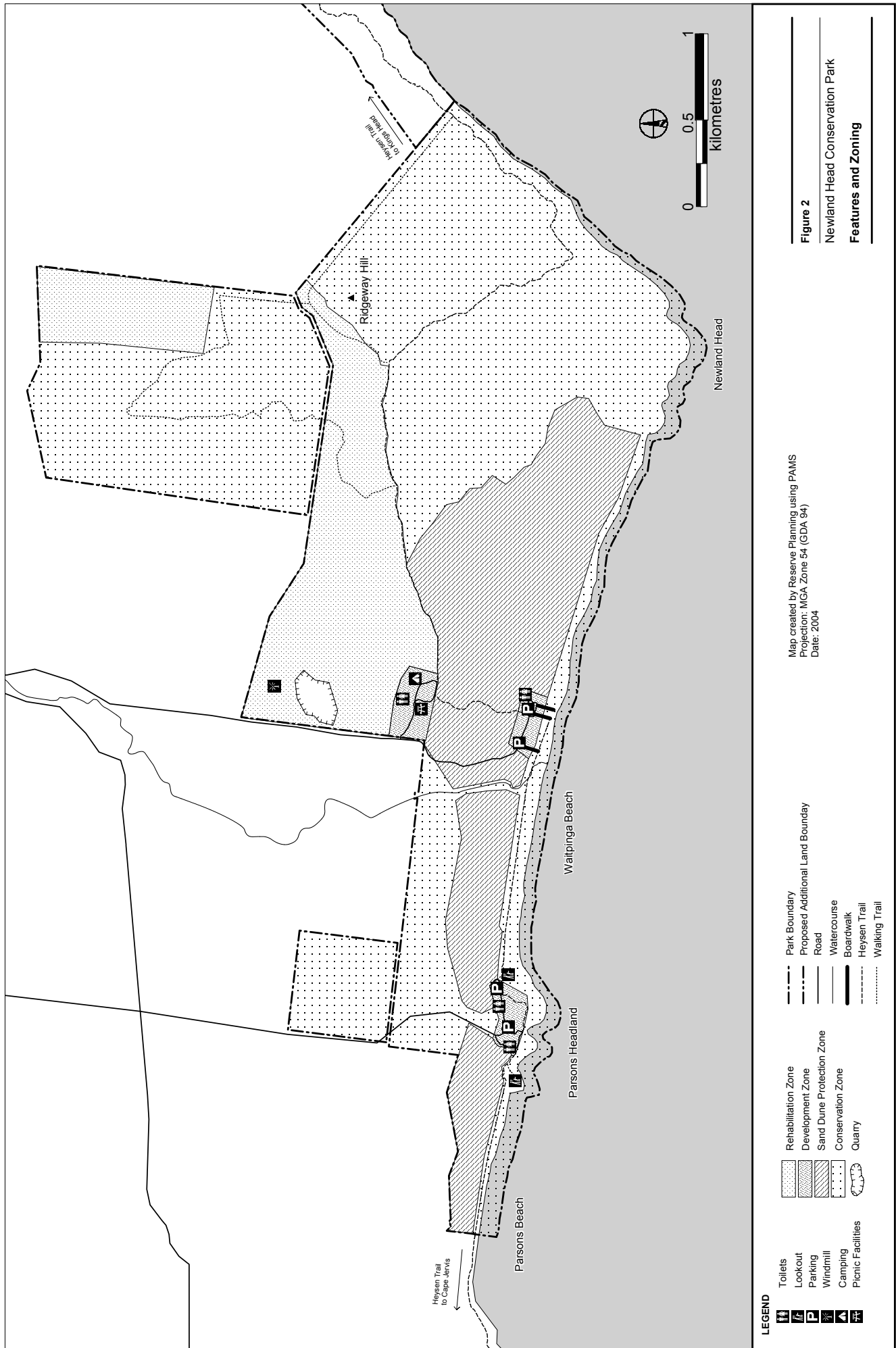
Existing Figure (to be removed)

Figure 2 on page four will be removed from the plan.

New Figure(to be included)

Figure 2(a) on page five will be added into the plan.

Figure 2



Map created by Reserve Planning using PAMS
 Projection: MGA Zone 54 (GDA 94)
 Date: 2004

LEGEND

- Toilets
- Lookout
- Parking
- Windmill
- Camping
- Picnic Facilities

- Rehabilitation Zone
- Development Zone
- Sand Dune Protection Zone
- Conservation Zone
- Quarry

- Park Boundary
- Proposed Additional Land Boundary
- Road
- Watercourse
- Boardwalk
- Heysen Trail
- Walking Trail

Figure 2

Newland Head Conservation Park

Features and Zoning

Amended Figure 2(a)

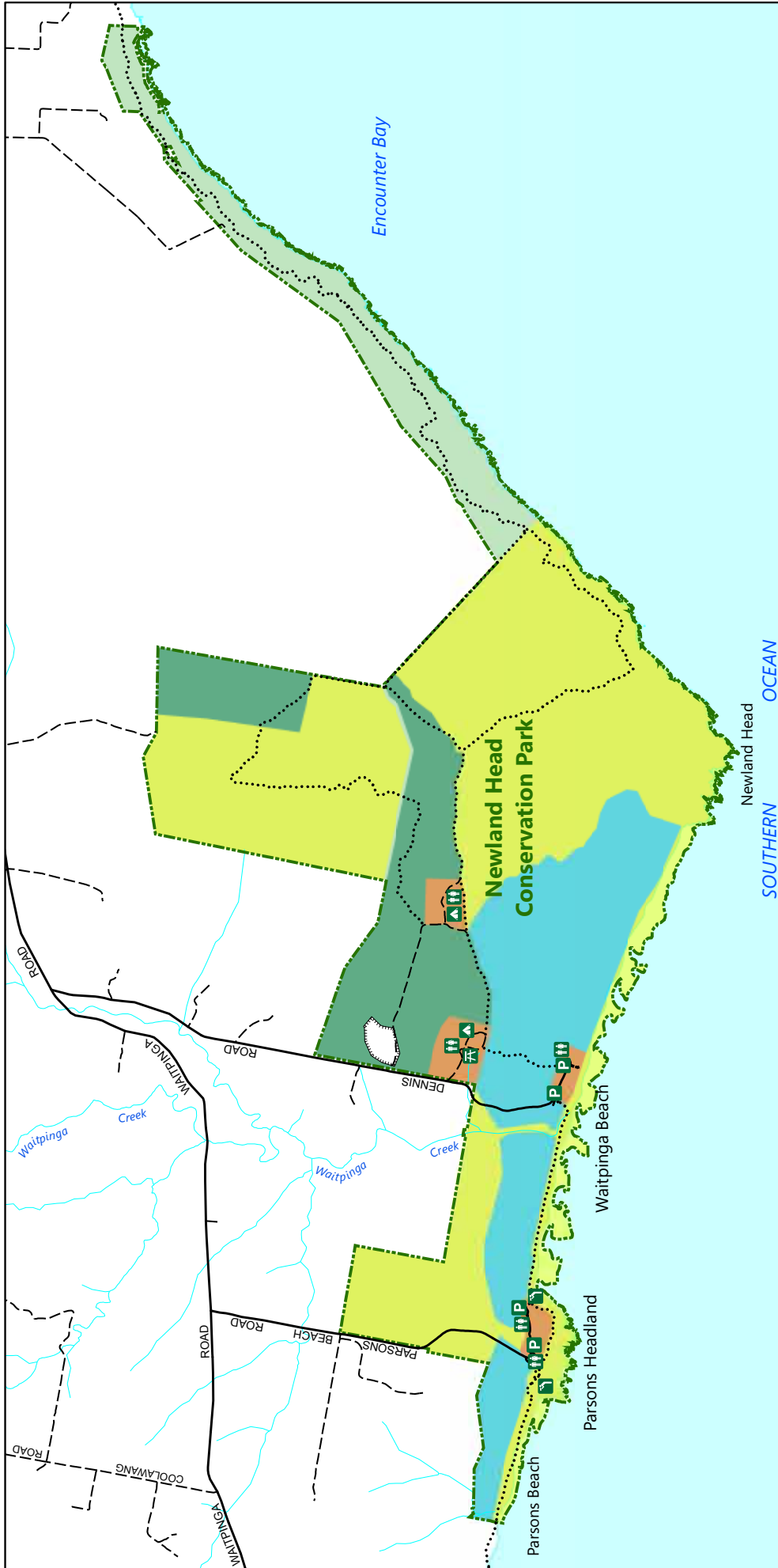
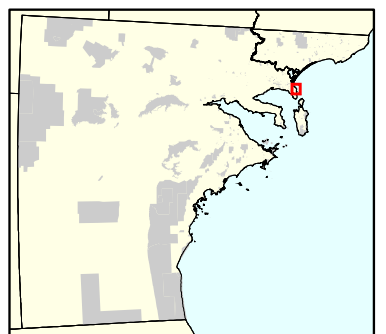
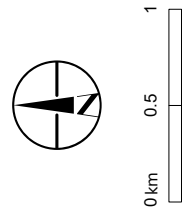


Figure 2
Newland Head Conservation Park
Zoning



- LEGEND**
- Newland Head Conservation Park
 - Conservation Zone
 - Development Zone
 - Rehabilitation Zone
 - Sand Dune Protection Zone
 - Former quarry
 - Camping
 - Lookout
 - Parking
 - Picnic facility
 - Toilets
 - Sealed road
 - Unsealed road
 - Walking trail
 - Watercourse



Amendment 3

Section 4.5.3, page 21

Existing Text (to be removed)

Consider the provision of additional parking within the development zone, if considered necessary.

New Text (to be included)

Consider the provision of additional parking within the development zones at Parsons Headland, Waitpinga Beach and Waitpinga Campground, if necessary.



Amendment 4

Section 4.5.6, page 23

Existing Text (to be removed)

4.5.6 Camping

The Waitpinga campground, constructed in 1986, provides bush camping with toilets and water facilities and accommodates an estimated 1,000 to 1,700 persons per year.

The campground attracts a range of visitors, including families, bushwalkers, fishers and surfers. Opinions as to what constitutes acceptable campground behaviour can vary between user groups and occasionally conflict has arisen, particularly in relation to noise and boisterous activity within the campground.

A significant proportion of campers are young people and a percentage of these are intent on enjoying their visit in a boisterous manner. This behaviour often leads to difficulties for some park visitors, DEH staff and the local police. The existing campsite exacerbates this problem due to its small size and the close proximity of campers. Although problems associated with excessive drinking, noise and vandalism appear to be abating, to ensure other users are not impacted upon, DEH will retain the option to restrict or close access to the campground.

Objective

Provide camping opportunities for visitors that offer an enjoyable experience without disturbing other visitors or compromising the conservation of natural values.

Strategies

Ensure that visitors are provided with adequate facilities.

Design the camping area to be sufficiently discrete enough from each other to provide privacy and reduce friction between user groups.

Actions

- Monitor visitor use and if, in the opinion of DEH, behaviour becomes unacceptable (in terms of vandalism, public safety or user group conflict), close the camping area at Waitpinga.
- Redevelop the camping area to provide adequate visitor facilities and secluded, widely separated, small camping nodes for families and individuals or groups who desire increased privacy and quietness.

New Text (to be included)

4.5.6 Camping

There are two campsites envisioned for Newland Head Conservation Park.

The Waitpinga campground, constructed in 1986, provides bush camping with toilets and water facilities. The campground attracts a range of visitors, including families, bushwalkers, fishers and surfers.

The second campsite is for walk-in campers only, and is planned to service long distance walkers on the Heysen Trail.

Camping opportunities may be extended to cater for increases in demand within these two designated camping areas.

Objective

Provide camping opportunities for visitors that offer an enjoyable experience without disturbing other visitors or compromising the conservation of natural values.

Strategies

Ensure that visitors are provided with adequate facilities.

Design camping areas to be sufficiently discrete to provide privacy and reduce friction between user groups.

Actions

- Monitor visitor use and if behaviour becomes unacceptable take appropriate action.
- Redevelop the Waitpinga camping area to provide adequate visitor facilities and secluded, widely separated, small camping nodes for families and individuals or groups who desire increased privacy and quietness.

For further information please contact:

Department for Environment and Water. Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910, or see SA White Pages for your local Department for Environment and Water office.



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