

# CANUNDA NATIONAL PARK

South East

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## MANAGEMENT PLAN



NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE • DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING • SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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South East

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**This plan of management has been prepared and  
adopted in pursuance of Section 38 of the  
*National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972.***

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South East District  
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Edited by Andrea Sutherland

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Technical Services Branch  
Departmental Services Division  
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Cover Photographs  
Top: Coastal Dunes  
Bottom: Arch at Cape Buffon

## FOREWORD

This Management Plan has been prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. It relates to Canunda National Park in the lower south east of South Australia.

Canunda National Park contains over 9000 ha of land on the south eastern coast of South Australia, stretching from Cape Buffon, outside the town of Southend, to the Benara/Kongorong Hundred line, near the southern end of Lake Bonney. Originating from the 22 ha Cape Buffon Flora and Fauna Reserve proclaimed in 1959, the Park was substantially enlarged and renamed Canunda National Park in 1966. More land was added in 1976.

The draft Plan was released for public review on 6 August 1987. Thirty two submissions were received and have been considered in the preparation of this Management Plan. Advice has been received from the Reserves Advisory Committee and some changes to the draft have been made. The draft Management Plan contained a comprehensive description of the history, natural resources, and visitor use of the Park. This information will be updated and published separately as a handbook which will be a valuable reference for teachers, students and interested visitors.

This Plan outlines management proposals to cater for recreational activities and environmental protection in an area of the State where natural habitat is now very limited.

This Management Plan has been adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*.

Susan M. Lenehan  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

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## 1 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Canunda National Park contains over 9000 ha of land on the south eastern coast of South Australia, stretching from Cape Buffon, outside the town of Southend, to the Benara/Kongorong Hundred line, near the southern end of Lake Bonney (Figure 1). Originating from the 22 ha Cape Buffon Flora and Fauna Reserve proclaimed in 1959, the Park was substantially enlarged and renamed Canunda National Park in 1966. More land was added in 1976.

The Cape Buffon Flora and Fauna Reserve was dedicated at the request of local residents to prevent destruction of native vegetation. At the same time, it was noted that "... the number and variety of birds was also worthy of preservation". Today, Canunda National Park fulfils a significant role in conserving coastal habitat as well as being important for outdoor recreation, especially on the coastline near Southend.

## 2 PARK DESCRIPTION

Canunda National Park has been set aside to preserve and protect a representative sample of the coastal environment of the South-East of South Australia. Dunefields dominate the Canunda landscape, with ridges rising to 60 m above sea level. The northern coastline is characterised by low cliffs, sea stacks and offshore reefs. Large areas of stable dunes extend up to five kilometres inland. The southern coastline is dominated by stretches of beach backed by low fore-dunes. Flat, elongated deflation basins which lie between the foredune and bare drifts support ephemeral swamp vegetation. Small freshwater lakes lie between the active dunefields and Lake Bonney, a freshwater lake (modified by adjacent land uses) to the east.

The vegetation associations of Canunda are diverse, reflecting influences of ocean proximity, climate and soils. A full description of the natural and cultural features of Canunda is contained in a separate resource document (in prep.).

## 3 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

### 3.1 Philosophy

Management will cater for traditional recreational activities, provided they do not detract significantly from the primary role of the Park in conserving its natural and cultural heritage. The *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*, Section 37, lists nine objectives for managing reserves as:

- preservation and management of wildlife;
- preservation of sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves;
- preservation of features of geographical, natural or scenic interest;
- destruction of dangerous weeds and the eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants;
- control of vermin and exotic animals;
- control and eradication of disease of animals and vegetation;
- prevention and suppression of bushfires and other hazards;
- encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance; and
- generally the promotion of the public interest.



These points have been considered in deriving the objectives for the management of Canunda National Park. In addition, the suggestions made by interested groups and individuals in response to requests made by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1982 and 1984, the wide range of opinions expressed at the planning workshop held in 1985 and the views of the Lower South East Consultative Committee have all been given due consideration in formulating the proposals in this draft Plan.

### 3.2 Context

The objectives for the management of Canunda National Park are designed to serve as a guide to the uses and developments permitted within the Park. All park management operations will be constrained within these objectives. The objectives have been framed within the context of the following issues.

Management should ensure the conservation of the natural environment and associated landscape qualities of the Park. This will include managing the natural areas of the Park to maintain habitat value, where necessary, re-establishing native flora and fauna, continuing the program of stabilising critical areas of mobile sand dunes in the Park by planting suitable species of vegetation, and instituting appropriate control programs for pest plant and animal species in the Park.

Archaeological relics and other features associated with the early history of the Park should be preserved, and Aboriginal sites of traditional importance should be protected.

Appropriate facilities in suitable localities should be provided to enable visitors to enjoy their time at the Park, and the natural and cultural features of the Park should be interpreted through a well-designed and co-ordinated interpretation program.

Reasonable measures compatible with the role of the Park should be taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of wildfire within the Park, and to ensure that if wildfire does occur it is suppressed as soon as practicable. Any management burning (fuel reduction or control burning) should be based on a sound biological understanding of the effects of fire on the Park's assets.

The system of roads and tracks within the Park should be rationalised, and a program of regular maintenance to ensure all roads and tracks are of adequate standard should be implemented.

All land adjoining Canunda National Park that might form a suitable addition to the Park should be investigated, and all decisions on land acquisition should consider conservation value, access and boundary definition.

All alien tenures within Park boundaries should be operated in accordance with the management aims of the Park, and no new tenures for additional facilities should be permitted except under exceptional circumstances and only after detailed examination of the impact of such proposals on the Park environment.

Sufficient staff should be employed in the management of Canunda National Park to permit the adequate implementation of the management objectives embodied in this Plan.



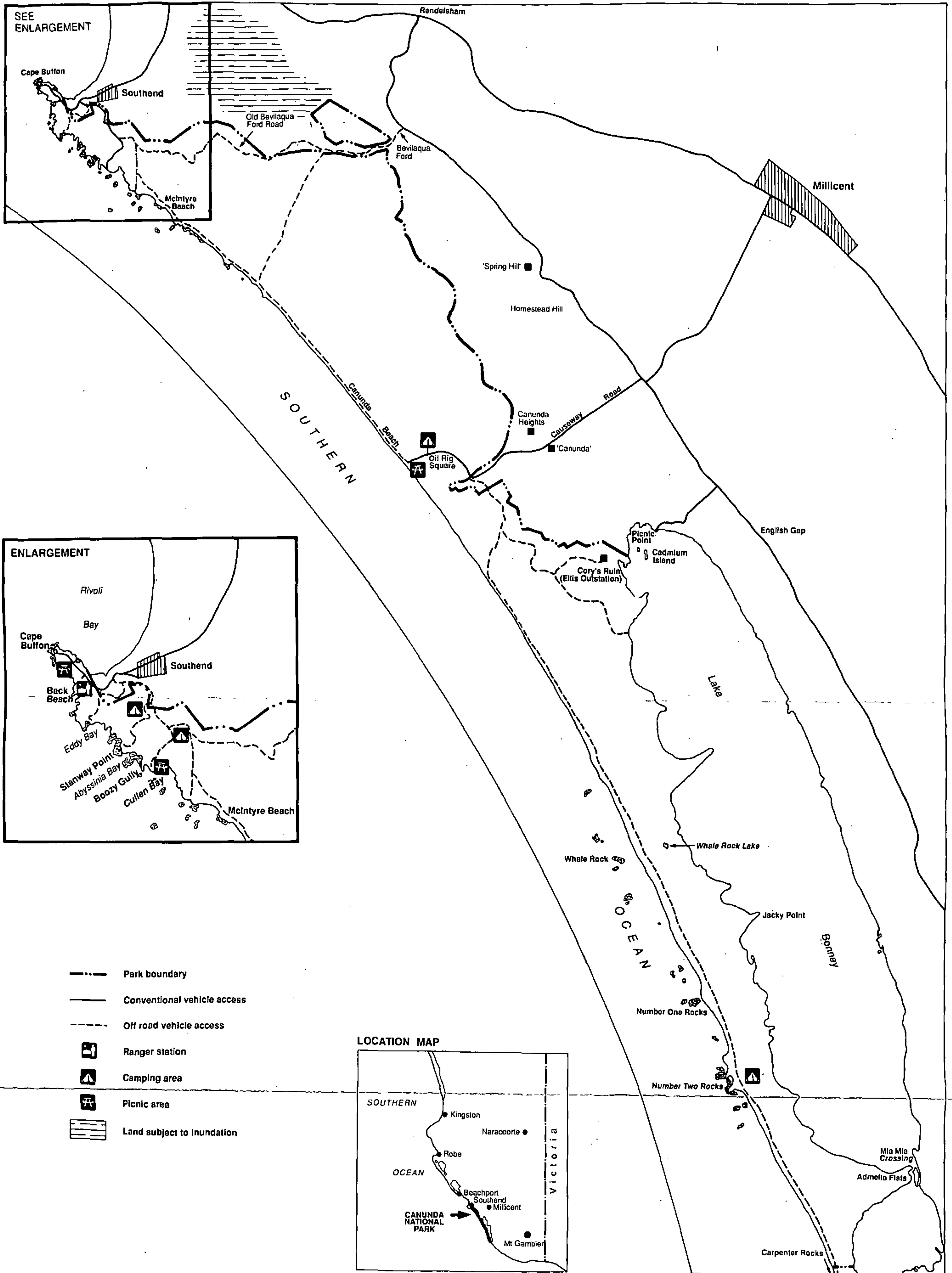


Figure 1

CANUNDA NATIONAL PARK  
Facilities and Access

## 4 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

### 4.1 Conservation of Natural Habitat

To ensure the conservation of the natural environment and associated landscape qualities of the Park

In common with many conservation reserves in close proximity to population centres, Canunda National Park has to satisfy a variety of conflicting demands. To ensure that both existing and potential conflicts are minimised, appropriate management steps will be taken to ensure that visitors are catered for while the conservation role of the Park remains uncompromised. Consequently, management of the Park will ensure the natural environment is protected and, in particular, that the instability of the dune systems is not aggravated by off-road vehicle access. Public vehicle access will only be permitted on designated public access tracks (Figure 1).

Appropriate uses for different parts of the Park have been determined. This concept of zoning reserves for particular uses is embodied in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. Although Canunda National Park does not require a sophisticated system of zoning to cater for appropriate patterns of use, the whole of the Park will be considered a natural area, with limited vehicle access, while a number of development nodes at localities used by management or visitors will be established. Development nodes are depicted in Figure 1.

A second method of habitat conservation is providing adequate fencing to demarcate boundaries and regulate the movement of people and vehicles. A rabbit-proof fence runs along the eastern boundary from Bevilaqua Ford south to the northern shore of Lake Bonney. Once the matter of additional land is resolved, the northern boundary can be fenced. The boundaries in the vicinity of Section 112, Hd of Mayurra, and the Millicent rubbish dump need to be defined by survey before being fenced or demarcated.

There are pine railing vehicle barriers around three archaeological sites on the coast in the northern part of the Park. Similar railing exists as barriers around car parks and across tracks closed to public vehicular traffic. Other significant localities in the Park may need similar treatment to ensure their protection.

### 4.2 Native Flora and Fauna

To manage the natural areas of the Park to maintain habitat value; and where necessary, re-establish native flora and fauna

The Park is a link in the chain of reserves that conserve representative samples of the natural flora and fauna of the South East coast. As such, management will be directed towards maintaining representative plant and animal communities in keeping with the range of natural habitats that originally occurred in this area. Survey work will be undertaken to investigate the biological status of the islands along the Canunda coast, and to upgrade knowledge of the Park's fauna.

The seeding of marram grass stabilised dunes with native species will enhance succession and develop habitat suitable for native species (see 4.4 Sand Drift). The management of regrowth areas needs further research.



The relatively uncommon rufous bristlebird (*Dasyornis broadbenti*) occurs in the Park, and its habitat is well conserved within Park boundaries.

While the basic aim of management is to retain the Park as an example of the natural environment of the South East coast, some species warrant special consideration.

Of the native flora, two species require careful management to ensure their continued survival: the South Australian blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* subsp. *megalocarpa*), and sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*). South Australian blue gum is a subspecies which, within the Park, grows predominantly on Cape Buffon. The species is not facing an imminent crisis within the Park, but is of restricted occurrence in the State. Sheoaks are now poorly represented in the Park, although once they were considered to be the dominant tree species. They were extensively cut for firewood and fencing materials, with the result that few original trees remain. Young plants do not seem to be reaching maturity, probably because of rabbit damage. Sheoak regeneration should be encouraged in conjunction with a rabbit control program.

The orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*), beach nesting birds such as the pied oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*), hooded plover (*Charadrius rubricollis*), and red-capped plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*), and the swamp antechinus (*Antechinus minimus maritimus*) require special protection.

The orange-bellied parrot occurs mainly in the southern part of the Park (particularly around Whale Rock Lake), where it is known to feed on two-horned sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*). Another site visited by these birds, which is not in the Park, is a small island at the northern end of Lake Bonney. This is being added to the Park (see 4.10 Additional Land). In general, the recommendations of Brown and Wilson (1984), aimed at facilitating this species' recovery should be followed. This will require the re-routing of a track near Whale Rock Lake to avoid disturbing birds (see 4.9 Roads, Tracks and Trails). The species will be monitored in case any major change occurs which calls for more active measures to ensure its survival.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972* requires the Service to be responsible for the management of all native wildlife, both on and off reserves. To help ensure the survival of beach breeding birds, visitors will be discouraged from driving on the beaches during breeding seasons. The possibility of adding the foreshore to the Park is considered in 4.10 Additional Land.

The swamp antechinus occurs along the northern edge of the Park. Sections 410, 427 and part of Section 428, Hd of Rivoli Bay contain suitable swamp antechinus habitat; coastal tea-tree open scrub with dense tussock grass understorey on saturated peat soils, and have recently been added to the Park.

#### 4.3 Pest Plants and Animals

To institute control programs for pest plants in the Park  
To institute control programs for pest animals in the Park

Although much of the Park consists of drifting sand dunes, its vegetated areas have remained relatively intact, mainly because the coastal country proved unsuitable for agriculture. However, the arrival of European settlers resulted in the introduction of alien plants and animals, which caused substantial changes

to the natural vegetation patterns. Management will aim to restore degraded areas to a more natural state, giving priority to preserving areas of high conservation status. At the same time, there is a responsibility under both the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972* and the *Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural and Other Purposes) Act, 1986* to eradicate or control noxious weeds (Scheduled Pest Plants) and other exotic plants. The SANPWS also has a legal obligation to take action on proclaimed vertebrate pests, under both Acts.

The major vermin species present in the Park is the rabbit. This problem was recognised when proclamation of the Park was being considered in 1964. At that time, it was proposed that myxomatosis and trapping (by permits) be used for rabbit control. Trapping permits have been issued since at least 1968. The number of permits issued each year has been set at six, with the proviso that the SANPWS is kept informed of the number of pest animals caught and the sites to be trapped.

A vermin control program will be prepared and implemented for all introduced animals, especially proclaimed vertebrate pests. In addition to rabbits a check should be kept on numbers of other introduced animals such as cats and foxes, and control programs instituted if necessary. The District Council of Millicent will be encouraged to continue vermin control at the Millicent rubbish dump.

A number of plant species recorded from the Park are either exotic or alien to the area. Many of the aliens are small herbs which are not aggressive colonisers of native vegetation. Others are restricted to areas where native vegetation is non-existent, for example, marram grass. As some plant species have been declared pest plants under the *Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural and Other Purposes) Act, 1986* a realistic weed control program needs to be based on a careful assessment of which species constitutes the greatest threat to the native vegetation. A weed control plan will be prepared and will consider:

- . the distribution of problem weeds in the Park;
- . the legal status of weed species;
- . the vigour of weed species and their likelihood of expanding into areas of high conservation value;
- . the availability of funds and labour;
- . the effects of weed species on adjoining landholders; and
- . the effectiveness of known control methods and other relevant factors.

#### 4.4 Sand Drift

To continue the program of stabilising critical areas of mobile sand dunes in the Park by planting suitable species of vegetation

Since the advent of European settlement large areas of unstable dunes have developed along the coast in South Australia. This has been attributed to the deliberate burning of native vegetation, and grazing by stock and rabbits (Zimmerman 1979). Well over 30% of the Park comprises mobile sand dunes.

Establishing marram grass has proved the most effective means of controlling sand drift. This program of sand dune stabilisation will continue in areas where significant conservation values are threatened. Once dunes are initially secured by marram grass, secondary colonisation by native vegetation will be encouraged by seeding, planting and burning. The investigations into drift movement begun by Zimmerman some years ago will continue, and restrictions on off-road use of vehicles will remain in force.



#### 4.5 Fire

To ensure reasonable measures are taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of wildfire in the Park

To ensure that if wildfires do occur they are suppressed as soon as practicable

To ensure that any management burning (fuel reduction or control burning) is based on a sound understanding of the effects of fire on the Park's assets

The Park is not particularly fire-prone, and fires occur relatively infrequently. However, the SANPWS has a responsibility to protect neighbouring properties from fire. All reasonable measures will be taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of wildfire in order to minimise the risk of the whole Park being burnt out, and of loss of lives or property. A fire plan will be prepared, having regard to the *Country Fires Act, 1989*, and will address:

- . risk assessment;
- . hazard mitigation;
- . suppression methods;
- . access; and
- . emergency procedures.

#### 4.6 Aboriginal and Historic Values

To ensure the preservation of archaeological and historic features associated with the Park, and to ensure the protection of Aboriginal sites of traditional importance

The Park is particularly significant because it contains a rich and structurally diverse assortment of archaeological sites relating to Aboriginal habitation of the coastal environment, spanning at least 8000 years. These sites include shell middens, hearths, stone ovens, campsites and manufacturing sites. Canunda is also strongly associated with the early European settlement of the South East, and still has tangible links with that era; for example, the old Ellis homestead. As one of the conservation functions of this Park, archaeological and historic sites and material will be protected, as will information sources documenting cultural use.

Despite natural erosion, artefact collection and off-road vehicles, the archaeological sites in the Park represent a data base of considerable scientific importance with potential for further research. Archaeological site management will be determined with consideration for visitor information, Park developments, natural disturbance, and unwarranted human impact.

It is important for Park visitors to obtain a balanced view of conservation in its broadest sense. Information describing the character and importance of the archaeological and historic features of the Park and the conservation measures being undertaken by the SANPWS will be provided for Park visitors. Displays and information pamphlets are practical means to serve these aims (see Section 4.4 Interpretation).

A variety of developments are proposed for the Park. Some may involve the disruption of archaeological deposits (for example, road-works and establishing visitor areas). Wherever possible, this should be avoided. If this is not practical, an archaeologist should be employed to document any subsurface archaeological deposits which may be newly exposed, and to conduct appropriate

archaeological investigations of visible sites which may be disturbed. Other projects such as Marram Grass planting and walking track construction should be designed so as to preclude the displacement of significant archaeological deposits in the development or subsequent use of the area. When this is not possible, important sites should be located, recorded and protected by restricting access to the immediate site area.

During an archaeological survey (Rhoads 1983) sites were identified as under threat by natural erosion. Appropriate measures such as additional archaeological investigations and site monitoring should be undertaken to minimise the loss of important information. In the meantime, the report of Rhoads (1983) will be used as a guide.

The proliferation of tracks has resulted in the destruction of archaeological sites and dune-stabilising vegetation. A systematic and detailed recording of sites under threat will be conducted as soon as possible, and certain areas with important archaeological deposits will receive special protection measures.

Descendants of the Aborigines inhabiting the region at the time of first European contact no longer reside in the area as far as is known; information about localities in the Park which may be of importance has not yet come to light. Some sites may still be of significance to the descendants of the former Aboriginal occupiers of the land. As it is now being established that locations of traditional significance are not necessarily identifiable by the archaeological deposits at specific sites, more enquiries should be made to try to locate people who may have some traditional association with the Park area, and consult them about management, development proposals and the significance of sites.

In 1846 Southend (originally Grey) was the first town surveyed in the South East, and the district's descendants of the first settlers have a strong appreciation of their local heritage. Any proposals by local residents which would highlight the history of the Park will be considered. Sites or material associated with early European history of the Park area will be protected.

Research into the prehistory and colonisation of the Park will be encouraged, particularly the documentation of sites under threat from either natural erosion or public use. One historic site that does need to be surveyed and documented is Cory's ruin, near the northern end of Lake Bonney, dating from the 1860s.

#### **4.7 Roads and Tracks**

To rationalise, where necessary, the system of roads and tracks within the Park  
To undertake a program of regular maintenance to ensure that all roads and tracks are of adequate standard

The Park has a network of tracks (Figure 1). They provide access to coastal locations, and it is possible to drive the length of the Park, on designated off-road vehicle tracks which traverse the dunes. A map of the roads and tracks in the Park will be prepared. The track network will be rationalised to eliminate unnecessary duplication and to protect sensitive areas from vehicle damage, while maintaining adequate access for visitors and for management purposes. Vehicle travel away from designated tracks is not permitted, but infringement of the regulations remains a problem. Off-road vehicle tracks on the Park will be maintained to a reasonable standard by trimming overhanging vegetation.



Care will be taken in road making to avoid sites of known archaeological significance. This may involve fencing of roads and/or sites in certain places.

The roads to Cape Buffon Lighthouse, Boozy Gully and Oil Rig Square will be maintained to an acceptable standard for conventional 2WD vehicles. In addition, 2WD access to the coast will be developed from Oil Rig Square. The gazetted Road Reserve leading to Cape Buffon should be adjusted to include the actual alignment of the road. This is necessary to incorporate land outside the Road Reserve which was used to reduce the bend in the road.

The future of the old Bevilaqua Ford Road remains unresolved. For about one kilometre near Southend, and two kilometres near Bevilaqua Ford, the track follows its gazetted (1876) alignment, but for the remainder of its length, it winds through the dunes, the original road having eroded away or long been covered by drifting sand. The Road Reserve should be adjusted to incorporate the existing track and permit the unused portions of the Reserve to be added to the Park.

The District Council of Millicent has proposed that a tourist road be developed, running south along the coast from Cape Buffon to Carpenter Rocks. This is not appropriate because of potentially adverse effects on the conservation values and present recreational use of the Park. In addition, such a road would be extremely costly to construct and maintain, being subject to the movement of unstable dunes. Furthermore, that portion of the Park should remain free of intensive vehicle use, with continued low-key vehicle use as at present.

The track to Whale Rock Lake will be re-routed to avoid disturbing orange-bellied parrot habitat.

The northern entry to the Park crosses private land in Section 4001, Hd of Rivoli Bay (Figure 2). The owner of this land has requested that Millicent District Council formalise this arrangement. Consequently a road reserve to connect the Boozy Gully Road to Cape Buffon Drive needs to be dedicated through Section 4001, or an alternative access entirely on Park selected. In addition either a new track to Eddy Bay will be selected or part of Section 4001 will be acquired (subject to the agreement of the owner) to provide access on Park to this popular area.

#### 4.8 Visitor Facilities

To provide appropriate facilities in suitable localities within the Park to enable visitors to enjoy their time at the Park

Canunda National Park, because of its location and natural attributes, is a popular venue for a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The Park will be managed in such a way that the impact of visitors on the natural environment is minimised. The Park has few visitor facilities; access tracks, some carparks and a few barbecue sites are provided. Facilities for recreational activity will be concentrated in the northern part of the Park, although it is recognized that visitors use sites in the southern part of the Park, and limited facilities will be provided in these areas.

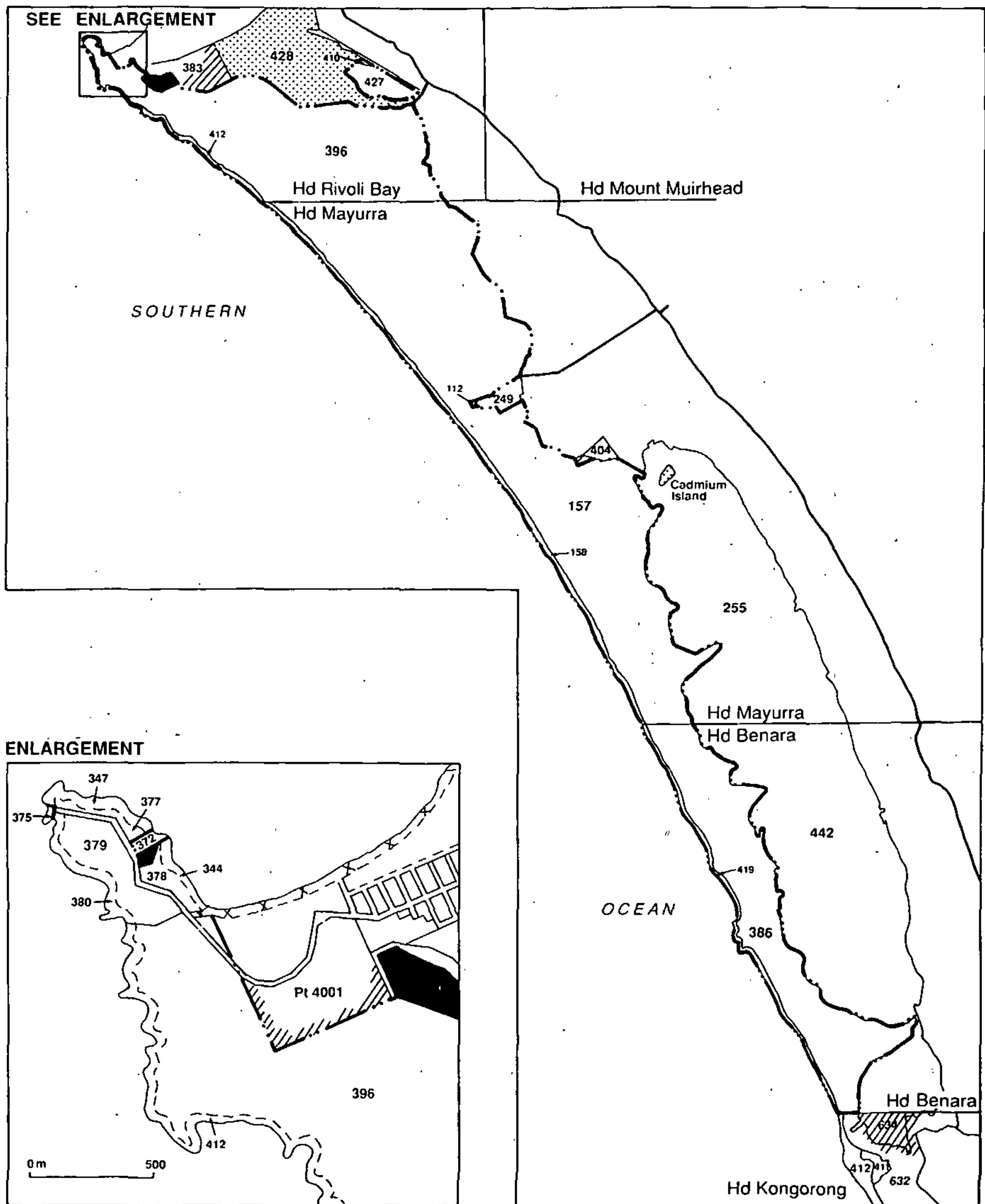


Figure 2

**CANUNDA NATIONAL PARK  
Land Under Review**



There is 2WD vehicle access to Cape Buffon Lighthouse lookout, Southend jetty lookout, Boozy Gully, and Oil Rig Square. The track from Oil Rig Square to the adjacent beach will be upgraded to 2WD standard. To develop more tracks in the Park to 2WD standard is not appropriate; despite it having been suggested that the coastal track could be upgraded south from Southend to Canunda Beach, or even as far through as Carpenter Rocks. To undertake such a project would involve high cost, both in the initial construction and later upkeep. Environmental damage would be severe and the intrusion of the large numbers of people into what is almost a wilderness area, would detract from the sense of isolation. However, for off-road vehicle users the Park is more accessible, as the track network provides access to a variety of locations, particularly in the northern part of the Park where scenery is quite diverse.

Picnic and barbecue sites are provided at Cape Buffon Road, Back Beach (Rainbow Rocks), Boozy Gully and Oil Rig Square. Numerous other less formal picnic sites are present, but do not need further development at this stage. Visitors will be encouraged to use gas barbecues and cooking stoves rather than wood-burning fires. Impacts on native vegetation around campsites will be monitored, and if damage levels become unacceptable, wood fires will be banned. Wood fires are prohibited in the Park during the statutory bushfire danger period (currently November 1st until April 30th). The use of fires, including gas cooking equipment, is prohibited on total fire ban days.

There is little camping in the Park. However, there are areas in the northern part of the Park where bush camping will continue to be permitted, and which might warrant development as demand increases. All are open areas in the swales of vegetated dunes (Figure 1). Other areas where camping will be permitted are near Oil Rig Square and near No 2 Rocks. The feasibility of providing a campsite closer to the coast in the northern part of the Park will be investigated. Fishers camp on the beach from time to time but facilities are not considered necessary.

There is not a lot of bushwalking done in the Park, although there is obvious potential for it. The provision of better information on the Park may encourage visitors to leave their vehicles and venture farther on foot. At present there is a short (one hour) self-guided walking track from Cape Buffon to the Back Beach (Rainbow Rocks) and return. There are no detailed proposals to develop further walking tracks, however, future demand and the proposed interpretive plan may make them worthwhile.

Nature study is an acceptable use of the park and will be encouraged, a benefit being the gradual accumulation of knowledge about the Park. Research projects undertaken in the Park have included work on birds, insects, climate, plants, reptiles, archaeology, frogs and marine mammals. Scientific permits will continue to be issued for research work in the Park, but proposals that include destructive sampling will be permitted only if such research cannot be undertaken at an alternative, off-park site.

#### Jetty Lookout

The lookout area will be sealed, vehicular barriers maintained and the owners of the fuel tanks in this area encouraged to screen and/or paint and protect them in some way. These fuel tanks intrude on Park land, and a suitable leasing arrangement will be negotiated (see 4.11 Alien Tenures).

#### Ranger Station

The area on the northern side of the road, opposite the ranger station, has been cleaned up and developed as a small viewing point. Better access to the beach has been developed to prevent erosion of the cliff face. It has been proposed that an anchor from the "Geltwood" be erected in this locality.

#### Eddy Bay

No major developments are planned for this popular fishing spot, although the access track will be terminated before it reaches the cliff edge to prevent further erosion. At present the only access to this locality crosses private land, part of Section 4001, Hundred of Rivoli Bay. A suitable alternative route across Park land will be investigated and constructed.

#### Stanway Point - Abyssinia Bay

There are a number of sheltered clearings off this road where bush camping will be permitted, although major camping development is not envisaged at this stage. This is a very sandy track, suitable only for off-road vehicles. Because of the presence of archaeological sites, any development at Abyssinia Bay itself should remain low key; the western part of the track loop in this area will be closed and allowed to regenerate. Tracks will terminate back from the cliff edge to prevent further erosion of headlands.

#### Boozy Gully

The road to Boozy Gully will be maintained to adequate 2WD standard. The car parking area will be maintained. Tracks in this part of the Park will have overgrowing vegetation regularly trimmed to allow safe passage of vehicles. The picnic area at this locality will be maintained.

#### Bevilaqua Ford Track

There are a number of sheltered clearings in the area near the Boozy Gully turnoff where camping will be permitted. As a significant archaeological site is present in this area, archaeological assessment will be made before and during any development work to ensure the site is adequately recorded.

#### Sweep Rock to Canunda Beach

There are no major new developments proposed for this area, although access to the coast at Sweep Rock could be improved if demand warrants. Access will be maintained along one of the existing tracks which are demarcated with poles.

Camping is permissible, although demand is not likely to be high. It is not proposed to develop 2WD access beyond Boozy Gully. The area behind Canunda Rock is of archaeological significance and will be protected.

#### Canunda Causeway (Rubbish Dump) - Oil Rig Square

This is one of the main entry points to the Park, and 2WD access is currently possible to the development node at Oil Rig Square. A locality between the Oil Rig Square and the coast will be developed for camping as there are no facilities for camping in the central part of the Park. 2WD access to the coast will be provided, with a car park behind the foredune. A day visitor area could be developed at this site. The access track south of the rubbish dump will be re-routed to provide a more pleasant entry to the Park, out of sight of the dump.



Farther south is the main north - south track through the dunes, with a number of side tracks to the beach. This track will be maintained for off-road vehicle use only. A campsite will be developed at No 2 Rocks. The track exits from the Park north of Carpenter Rocks.

#### **4.9 Interpretation**

**To interpret the natural and cultural features of Canunda National Park**

A major responsibility of the SANPWS is interpreting the philosophy and benefits of conservation, thereby increasing support for, and enjoyment of the reserve system. There is also a need to educate users of Canunda National Park by demonstrating the compatibility of outdoor recreation and conservation. The archaeological and historic relics in Canunda National Park, if correctly interpreted, can add another dimension to a visitor's appreciation of the Park.

At present, the Park has little in the way of interpretive facilities. There is a need for better information material to be made available and for interpretive facilities to be developed. At this stage a small facility could be developed at the Southend office.

An interpretation plan will be prepared having regard to:

- . information on roads and tracks, including signposting the Park;
- . the preparation of literature on recreational opportunities, appropriate visitor behaviour, the need for protecting native vegetation, and for keeping to tracks;
- . the origin and nature of visitors, and traditional but unacceptable uses (such as driving vehicles off defined tracks), and the necessity of introducing controls;
- . natural and cultural history; and
- . materials and program options such as seasonal ranger guided activities, educational resource kits, fauna and flora identification brochures, and self-guided tracks.

#### **4.10 Alien Tenures**

**To ensure all alien tenures are operated in accordance with the management aims of the Park**

**To ensure no new tenures for additional facilities in the Park are permitted except under exceptional circumstances and only after detailed examination of the impact of such proposals on the Park**

The only alien tenures in the Park are the two road reserves that run through the Park; Cape Buffon Drive at Southend, and Bevilacqua Ford Road.

The fuel tank site at Southend lookout needs to be formally licensed as one tank is partially on Park land. Part of the car park and toilet block located near the Harbours Board Reserve (Section 372) intrudes onto Section 344. This should be appropriately licensed.

The Park is within Petroleum Exploration Licence area 20. Seismic survey work for petroleum exploration has been conducted in the Park on a number of occasions in the past. Provided this activity is confined to existing tracks, as was done on previous occasions, there will be no difficulty accommodating further exploration work.

#### **4.11 Staffing**

To ensure sufficient staff are employed in the management of Canunda National Park to implement the management objectives in this Plan

Canunda National Park is a management unit within the SANPWS South East District. A Ranger, responsible for the management of this and other parks in a defined area, is based at Southend, and is supported by other District management, administrative and works staff. Additional project staff may be employed to supplement staff in the implementation of this Plan.

#### **4.12 Additional Land**

To investigate all land adjoining Canunda National Park that might form suitable additions to the Park

To ensure land proposed for acquisition and addition to the Park is examined with regard to conservation potential, access and boundary definition

Any land that adjoins the Park will be thoroughly investigated for possible addition. A number of these portions have been the subject of long consideration and debate as to the merits of adding them to the Park. Any land proposed for addition to the Park should enhance the Park's conservation role without adding substantially to the problems of management.

Proclamation of the foreshore (between high-water and low-water mark) would give SANPWS responsibility to low water mark. The use of this area is inextricably linked to the use, management and provision of services in the Park. The extension will enable regulation of traffic on beaches for the protection of beach breeding birds during breeding season and for the prevention of vehicle damage to foredunes. Negotiations with the Department of Lands and the District Councils of Millicent and Port Macdonnell will be initiated.

Figure 2 indicates land proposed to be relinquished from the Park.

At present, processing works associated with the fishing industry are located on the Harbors Board Reserve (Section 372) near Southend jetty. Some years ago, the District Council of Millicent requested that portions of Sections 344 and 378 be made available to permit this industrial area to be expanded to the south east. This request has been investigated, and there is no objection to vesting a small area (0.2 to 0.4 ha) of Park, adjacent to Section 372, to accommodate two additional processing plants. The options are to lease the required area to the District Council of Millicent or relinquish portions of Sections 344 and 378 for addition to the Harbors Board Reserve.



Section 410, Hd of Rivoli Bay, has been purchased but not yet added to the Park. Together with Section 427 and Part Section 428 (both added to the Park in 1986), Section 410 will enable protection of swamp antechinus habitat on the edge of the Lake Frome Basin. A licence for conservation purposes has been issued to the Minister for Environment and Planning for the southern portion of Section 428, pending a final decision on the future of Lake Frome.

Parts of Section 383, under Miscellaneous Lease to the District Council of Millicent for Conservation and Recreation Purposes, provide habitat for swamp antechinus and common wombats. The wombat is in decline in the South East but a significant concentration is found in this area. Addition of at least part of this Section to the Park should be investigated. Development approval power is vested with the Minister of Lands, who also has power to direct that conservation measures be undertaken. However, the boundary between any land to be used by the DC of Millicent and the Park should be defined. The Minister for Environment and Planning has approved the continuation of discussions with the Department of Lands to determine an appropriate boundary for the Park.

Although Section 249, currently held by the District Council of Millicent under licence for refuse disposal, was originally intended for addition to the Park, there is no present requirement for this land. The future of this section will be determined when the dump is no longer needed. In any case, the dump boundary needs to be defined.

The boundary with Lake Bonney needs to be determined. A boundary based on the edge of the vegetation is considered appropriate to reduce the need for a formal survey of the entire lake margin.

A small island at the northern end of Lake Bonney, known as Cadmium Island, is used by orange-bellied parrots and will be added to the Park. This addition has been recommended in the Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Plan (Brown and Wilson 1984), and negotiations are underway with the Department of Lands towards this end. A suitable buffer zone has been defined around the Island to reduce the impact of human interference.

Expanding the Park southward, initially to link the intervening wetlands with Bucks Lake Game Reserve, as recommended in "Wetland Resources of the South East of South Australia" (South Eastern Wetlands Committee 1984), will be investigated. Additional extension southward would require detailed investigation, including the suitability of any land for off-road vehicle use.

Arrangements have been completed with the Department of Lands to add part of Section 404 to the Park. Proclamation will now proceed.

## 5 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The actions required to implement the management proposals outlined in Section 4 are summarised and ranked below. This ranking indicates the relative priority of projects and whether they are of a short term or continuing nature.

PROJECT	PRIORITY	DURATION	PAGE
Survey and assess archaeological sites	High	Short	8
Monitor sand drift	High	Ongoing	7
Investigate ecology of orange-bellied parrot	High	Ongoing	5
Monitor numbers of feral animals	High	Ongoing	6
Undertake fauna survey of Park	Moderate	Ongoing	5
Undertake biological survey of offshore islands	Moderate	Short	3
Investigate establishing secondary dune colonisers	Moderate	Medium	5
Locate descendants of trad. Aboriginal inhabitants	Low	Medium	8
Encourage archaeology, history, biology research	Low	Ongoing	var.
Monitor South Australian blue gum and sheoak	Low	Ongoing	5
Prepare map of the Park	High	Short	12
Prepare and implement interpretation plan	High	Medium	12
Investigate Geltwood anchor display proposal	High	Short	12
Complete fencing of additional land	High	Medium	3
Develop camping/picnic areas:			
. Causeway/Oil Rig Square - toilets	Low	Short	12
- camp sites	High	Short	
- picnic area	Low	Short	
- No2 Rocks campsite	Low	Short	
. Jetty Lookout - surface car park	Moderate	Short	11
. Ranger Station - develop viewing point	Moderate	Short	11
. Stanway Point-Abyssinia Bay - develop campsites	Short	Short	11
. Boozy Gully - maintain picnic area	Moderate	Ongoing	11
. Bevilaqua Ford Track - develop campsites	Moderate	Low	11
Continue marram grass planting program	High	Ongoing	7
Take appropriate measures to protect arch. sites	High	Ongoing	8
Prepare and implement vermin control plan	High	Ongoing	6
Review and implement fire protection plan	High	Short	7
Prepare and implement pest plant control plan	High	Ongoing	6
Investigate/demarcate Park - Lake Bonney boundary	High	Short	15
Resurvey Park boundaries where appropriate	Moderate	Ongoing	15
Review Park access, establish track mainten. program	High	Ongoing	9
Investigate walking track Cape Buffon - Boozey Gully	High	Short	9
Close, rehabilitate western Abyssinia Bay loop track	High	Short	9
Rationalise access to Eddy Bay	High	Short	9
Re-route Whale Rock Lake track	High	Short	9
Develop 2WD access to coast from Oil Rig Square	Moderate	Short	10
Investigate improving coastal access at Sweep Rock	Moderate	Short	9
Adjust Cape Buffon Road Reserve alignment	Moderate	Low	9
Investigate alternative route southern entry to Park	Moderate	Low	9
Liaise with DC of Millicent - Bevilaqua Ford Road	Moderate	Short	9
Close and rehabilitate unnecessary tracks	High	Ongoing	9
Resolve Southend land exchange proposal	High	Low	15
Investigate/incorporate additional land	High	Short	13
Issue licence for tank at Jetty Lookout	Moderate	Short	13
Issue licence for Section 344 carpark and toilet block	Moderate	Short	13
Issue fish processing plant lease if required	Moderate	Short	15



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