



Analysis of Public Submissions

Nilpena Ediacara National Park Draft Management Plan 2025

The Nilpena Ediacara National Park Draft Management Plan 2025 was released for public consultation from 16 November 2025 to 17 February 2026.

During that time, the public had the option to provide feedback on the draft plan by providing a written submission or completing a survey on the YourSAy website.

A total of 17 submissions were received, including 1 written response and 16 surveys. Table 1 outlines the submissions received and Table 2 summarises the feedback received and how it was considered in the finalisation of the plan. Table 3 contains a copy of the YourSAy survey questions.

All submissions on the draft park management plan have been reviewed against the following criteria:

Feedback meeting criteria 1-3 below, result in alterations:

1. Feedback provided additional information of direct relevance to the draft plan;
2. Feedback suggested an alternative approach that was considered more appropriate than that proposed in the draft plan;
3. Feedback highlighted omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.

Feedback meeting criteria 4-9 below **do not** result in alterations:

4. Feedback clearly supported the draft plan;

5. Feedback was already addressed in the draft plan;
6. Feedback addressed issues beyond the scope of the draft plan, or recommended the inclusion of detailed or prescriptive information that is not appropriate for a strategic plan of this type;
7. Feedback proposed an alternative approach but the recommendation of the draft plan was still considered the most appropriate option;
8. Feedback was based on incorrect information;
9. Feedback offered an open statement, or no change was sought.



Table 1: Submissions received

Sub #	Name	Respondent
1	David Kilner	Park visitor/interested individual
2	Sarah Macdonald	Park visitor/interested individual
3	Doug Short	Interested individual/scientist
4	Cameron While	Interested individual/environmental volunteer
5	Cecile Espigole	Park visitor
6	Carolyn	Interested individual
7	Judy Harvey	Community organisation
8	Michelle Hubbard	Interested individual
9	Gayle Mather	Interested individual
10	Amber schneider	Scientist/interest individual
11	Stephanie Taylor	Interested individual
12	Anne Kirk	Park visitor
13	Jonathon Howard	Park visitor
14	Peter Croft	Interested individual
15	Rod Quintrell	Community organisation
16	Kate Cornelsen	Interested individual
17	Flinders Ranges Ediacara Foundation (FREF) Board	Interested group



Table 2: Analysis of feedback

Comment Number	Comment	Submission Number	Plan Altered	Response	Criteria
General					
1	Suggested more equitable, non-commercial public access to the park beyond the interpretive centre, including self-guided trails and ranger-led experiences, rather than access being limited primarily to commercial tours.	15	No	Under the current draft plan, broad self-guided public access beyond the Park Operations and Visitor Precinct is not supported. The intent is clearly controlled, permit-based access focused on guided or approved experiences. This plan of management is prioritising protection of the fossils first, controlled access second.	7
2	Recommended improving visitor infrastructure to enhance accessibility and visitor experience, including upgrades to road access, development of a high-quality interpretive centre with café facilities, and improvements to walking tracks and fossil site access (such as installation of handrails where appropriate) to better accommodate older visitors and people with disability.	1, 15	No	Noted. The draft plan already provides for ongoing investment in visitor infrastructure, including the development of an immersive interpretive centre and high-quality visitor experiences. Accessibility will be considered in upgrades to the fossil site trail. Further improvements to infrastructure, including accessibility enhancements, will be considered as part of future detailed design, operational planning and available resourcing.	5/6
3	Ensure access to the park is clear, affordable, and not limited to wealthy visitors or those with scientific connections.	2	No	Noted. The draft plan seeks to balance public access with the need to protect fossil sites of international significance. Access is not limited to scientific researchers; visitor experiences are designed to provide opportunities for the broader community to engage with the site in a managed and sustainable way. Information about access arrangements will be clearly communicated to ensure visitors understand available options. Affordability and equity of access will continue to be considered in the delivery of visitor experiences.	5



4	Tours to last longer.	4	No	Noted however not the role of the management plan to prescribe.	6
5	Recommended more park promotion done to attract people to Nilpena Ediacara National Park.	8	No	Noted. The draft management plan establishes the strategic direction for the protection and visitor experience of Nilpena Ediacara National Park. Promotion and marketing activities are operational matters and will be considered separately through broader tourism and communications strategies to raise awareness of the park and available visitor experiences.	6
6	Supported that guided tours and preservation of the fossils and Aboriginal engagement are very important.	11,12	No	Noted.	4
Themes of management					
7	Provided general support for the direction of the plan's themes of management.	1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,15, 17, 18	No	Submission supported the plan.	4
8	Supported the themes overall but requested amendments to better position Adnyamathanha people at the centre of delivering them, including the use of language that more clearly reflects this leadership role.	9	No	Noted. No changes to the theme titles are considered necessary. The Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-Management Board has an ongoing co-management role in Nilpena Ediacara National Park. This arrangement supports Adnyamathanha community interests, strengthens relationships with government, and contributes to effective park management which is outlined in the plan of management.	7
9	Supported the themes but seeks changes to expand the global context of the fossil story by referencing Mistaken Point in Newfoundland, acknowledge the contribution of Jim Gehling to Ediacaran research at both sites, and	14	No	Noted. The suggestions will be recorded and considered for inclusion in future interpretive material but not appropriate for the management plan.	6



	draw a comparative reflection between the historical experiences of Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and the Adnyamathanha people.				
Theme 2 Objective: Enable visitors to experience Nilpena Ediacara National Park without impacting on the integrity of fossil sites or other sensitive areas					
10	Suggested that visitors be clearly informed that unauthorised damage to or removal of fossils, rocks and other cultural artefacts is strictly prohibited and may attract penalties	3, 9	No	A management plan sets the strategic direction and does not restate offence provisions in detail, particularly where legal prohibitions and security measures are already embedded in the management framework. Explicit references to penalties are more appropriately addressed in visitor materials and will be incorporated into on-site, visitor-facing messaging.	6
Theme 3 Objective: Work in partnership with Adnyamathanha people to maintain the park's heritage and enhance the community's connection to Country					
11	Recommended that Adnyamathanha culture is shared and interpreted by Adnyamathanha people, consistent with established cultural protocols and long-standing Indigenous cultural authority principles	9, 11, 12	Yes	The plan emphasises on page 8 that an opportunity is "Ensuring the Adnyamathanha story is incorporated into visitor experiences and can be delivered by Adnyamathanha people." Incorporating Adnyamathanha Ngawarla into interpretation will be a part of this process. Although this recommendation is acknowledged, a further addition has been made to the relevant strategy to reinforce this: "Educate visitors about the importance of the park for Adnyamathanha people through interpretation, including opportunities for Adnyamathanha-led guiding experiences where appropriate."	1



Theme 4 Objective: Manage natural areas to conserve native species and maintain ecosystem health					
12	Suggested that a stronger reference be made to manage natural areas to conserve native species and maintain ecosystem health in partnership with Adnyamathanha people.	9	No	There are numerous sections that reinforce the governments partnerships with the Adnyamathanha community, most noteworthy in the Directions for management (pages 3–4), the plan states that management will be informed by traditional knowledge and perspectives through an ongoing partnership with Adnyamathanha people.	6
13	Recommended that Theme 4 be amended to include reference to wild dog management, including ongoing control and removal programs, and to ensure the plan acknowledges and fulfils the park's obligations under the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> .	16	Yes	The plan has been updated to include the following: Other pest species of concern include foxes (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>), goats (<i>Capra aegagrus hircus</i>), rabbits (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>), cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) and wild dogs (<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>). Wild dogs have historically occurred on this and neighbouring properties and will continue to be monitored and managed in accordance with regional pest management programs and obligations under the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>. Strategy 3 under theme 4 is altered to include: Monitor populations of introduced animals including goats, rabbits, foxes, cats and wild dogs, and implement management controls including culling as required, consistent with the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i>.	1

Table 3 – YourSAy Survey questions

The questions included in the survey are outlined below. In most cases, respondents provided a mix of quantitative (checkbox) and qualitative (open text) data within the survey.

Question	Question type
Name	Open text
Email	Open text
Age (optional)	Open text
Your organisation (if relevant)	Open text
We would like to understand where people interested in the Nilpena Ediacara National Park live. Please enter your postcode below	Open text
What is your interest in Nilpena Ediacara National Park ? (Select all that apply.)	Checkbox
How often do you use Nilpena Ediacara National Park? (Select one.)	Checkbox
What attracts you (and your family) to Nilpena Ediacara National Park? (Select all that apply.)	Checkbox
The draft plan identifies 4 high-level themes that describe priorities for the management of the parks. Do you support these themes, or have any comment on how they could be improved?	
-Protecting internationally significant fossils	Checkbox/open text
- Sharing the story of the dawn of animal life	Checkbox/open text
- Partnering with Adnyamathanha people to protect and celebrate culture	Checkbox/open text
- Conserving the natural values of the park	Checkbox/open text
Each theme has one objective. Do you agree with these objectives, or do you have suggestions for improvement?	
-Manage fossil sites within the park to protect them from harm and facilitate ongoing sustainable research	Checkbox/open text
- Enable visitors to experience Nilpena Ediacara National Park without impacting on the integrity of fossil sites or other sensitive areas	Checkbox/open text

- Work in partnership with Adnyamathanha people to maintain the park's heritage and enhance the community's connection to Country	Checkbox/open text
-Manage natural areas to conserve native species and maintain ecosystem health	Checkbox/open text
Each theme sets out key strategies for management of the park to achieve the objectives.	
-Are there any strategies in this plan that could be improved?	Open text
Are there any that should be removed or added?	Open text
Are there any other matters about the management of Nilpena Ediacara National Park more generally that you would like considered in finalisation of the plan?	Open text
Do you believe that the questions in this survey have helped you provide feedback on this project?	Checkbox/open text