



Nullarbor Parks Management Plan 2019

Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area
Nullarbor National Park
Nullarbor Regional Reserve
Draft Amendment



Your views are important

The Nullarbor Parks Management Plan sets out long term management strategies for the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area, Nullarbor Regional Reserve and Nullarbor National Park.

Amendments are proposed to the Nullarbor Parks Management Plan to:

- enable the provision of appropriately designed and sited campgrounds and infrastructure to assist in minimising environmental impacts and managing public safety within the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area
- support appropriate visitor management that respects and conserves the significant environmental and cultural values of sites within the parks
- allow for the maintenance and upgrade of telecommunications infrastructure necessary to ensure the long-term performance of essential infrastructure.

This document has been prepared to seek the community's views about the proposed amendments and is divided into three sections:

- Enabling the provision of campgrounds to limit the extent of environmental damage and reduce public safety risks
- Revising the Visitor Management Strategy and improving environmental and cultural protections
- Enabling new telecommunications infrastructure.

Feedback received will assist in the development of the final amendments which will be submitted to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for adoption, together with a detailed analysis of submissions.

I encourage you to make a submission on the draft amendments. Guidelines can be found on page 11.



Michael Williams

Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Enabling the provision of campgrounds to limit the extent of environmental damage and reduce public safety risks

Visitor numbers to the Nullarbor region have grown since the Nullarbor Parks Management Plan was adopted in 2019, as has the incidence of off-track driving and unauthorised camping within the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area, particularly along the Bunda Cliffs.

The Nullarbor environment is fragile and easily damaged by these activities, and due to the arid environment is slow to recover from the damage caused. Public safety risks from camping and driving along dangerous and unstable sections of the Bunda Cliffs is a serious concern, as sections of the cliff are eroding and can collapse without warning.

Existing management actions including the signposting of closed tracks combined with education and compliance campaigns have led to some reduction in unauthorised access, but these activities continue to occur at various locations adjacent the Eyre Highway.

It is proposed to enable additional campgrounds along the Eyre Highway, which will be carefully designed and sited to meet the increased demand for overnight stays. It is anticipated this measure will limit environmental impacts from unauthorised access and camping and reduce risks to public safety. Visitors will be directed to these campgrounds as a strategy to reduce the frequency of unauthorised camping dispersed across the broader area.

The draft amendments below enable the provision of campgrounds and associated infrastructure such as fencing, toilet facilities, interpretive signage and management tracks to achieve the goals outlined above.

Amendment 1

Section 1: Directions for management, page 5, second paragraph

Text to be deleted:

It will be managed to avoid development of any new infrastructure and any further alteration of the landscape.

Text to be added:

It will be managed for the protection of wilderness value by minimising development and alterations to the landscape.

Amendment 2

Theme 3: Respecting and enjoying Country, page 14

New text to be added after the second paragraph:

Unauthorised access and camping, particularly along the Bunda Cliffs, is damaging the fragile environment and creating a public safety concern. Designating campgrounds along the Eyre Highway adjacent sections of the Bunda Cliffs will minimise damage being caused by unauthorised access and meet increased demand for overnight stays. Campground location will be restricted to the area between Cook Road and Diamond Bore Road, and the cliff line to one kilometre north of the Eyre Highway. Campground design will incorporate fencing and toilet facilities and be subject to detailed planning and assessment of the environmental and visitor risks, impacts to cultural sites and access requirements.

Amendment 3

Figure 1, Nullarbor parks, page 7

Figure 1 will be replaced with Figure 1a, Nullarbor parks map

Figure 1a has been updated by labelling Diamond Bore Road which is used in defining the geographic boundary of the area enabling new campgrounds and associated infrastructure in the area adjacent the Bunda Cliffs.

Amendment 4

Theme 3: Respecting and enjoying Country, page 15, Objectives and strategies, strategy 4

Current strategy:

- Allow for camping at Koonalda Homestead and other areas identified in the visitor experience strategy.

Updated strategy:

- Allow for camping at Koonalda Homestead and other areas identified in the visitor experience strategy including sites along the Eyre Highway adjacent the Bunda Cliffs between Cook Road and Diamond Bore Road.

Amendment 5

Theme 5: Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy, page 18, paragraph 4

Text to be deleted:

The development of some low-key facilities at several sites is needed to ensure that visitors are safe, self-sufficient and aware of how they can avoid impacting on Aboriginal cultural features and sensitive vegetation. This work will be carefully planned to ensure that the remote and natural qualities of the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area are not lost.

Text to be added:

The development of some low-key facilities at several sites is needed to ensure that visitors are safe, self-sufficient and aware of how they can avoid impacting on Aboriginal cultural features and sensitive vegetation. This includes designating campgrounds along the Eyre Highway, adjacent sections of the Bunda Cliffs. This work will be carefully planned to ensure that the remote and natural qualities of the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area are not lost. Infrastructure and tracks needed to support and manage visitation will be kept to a minimum.

Amendment 6

Theme 5: Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy, page 19, Objectives and strategies, strategy 3:

Current strategy:

- Provide for self-sufficient camping at Koonalda Homestead and other sites identified in the visitor experience strategy via the online booking system.

Updated strategy:

- Allow for camping at Koonalda Homestead, locations adjacent sections of the Bunda Cliffs between Cook Road and Diamond Bore Road, and others as identified in the visitor experience strategy. Low-key infrastructure to designate campsites, basic fencing and toilet facilities will keep impacts to a minimum.

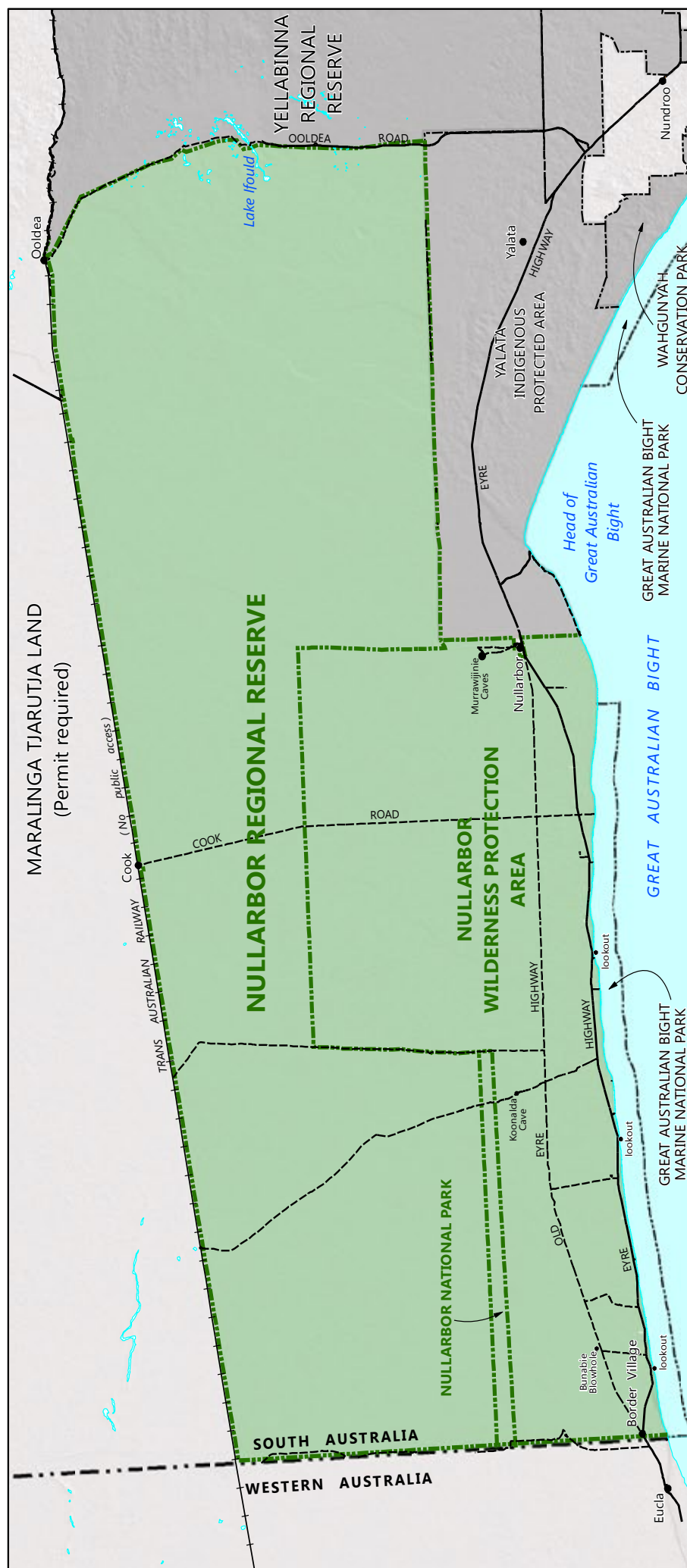
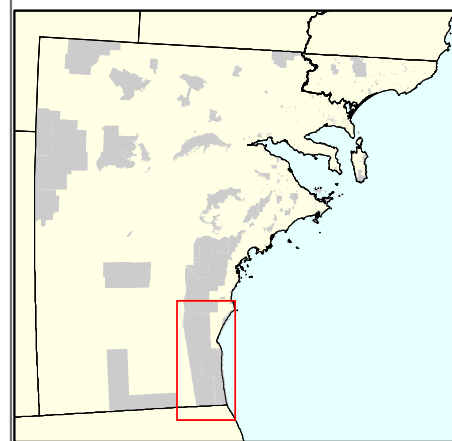
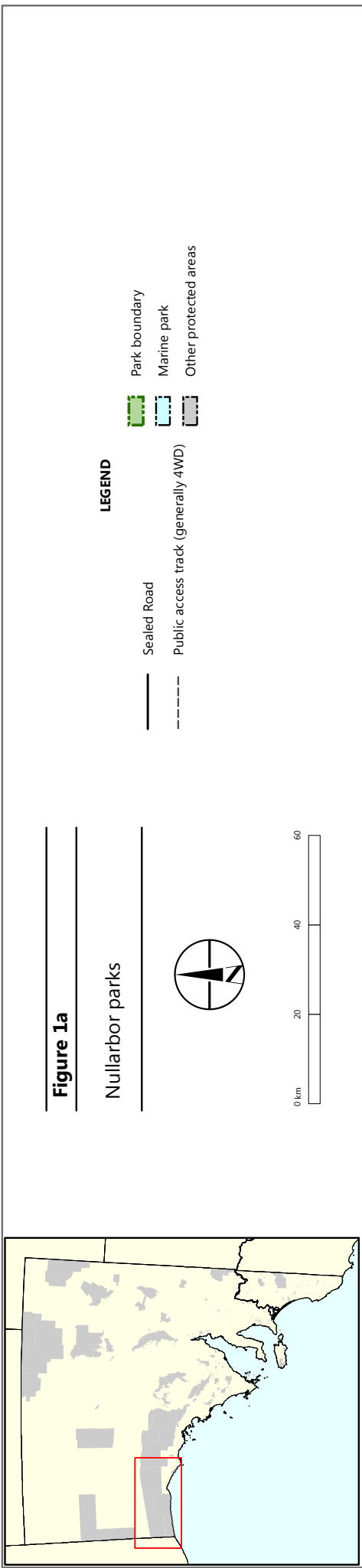
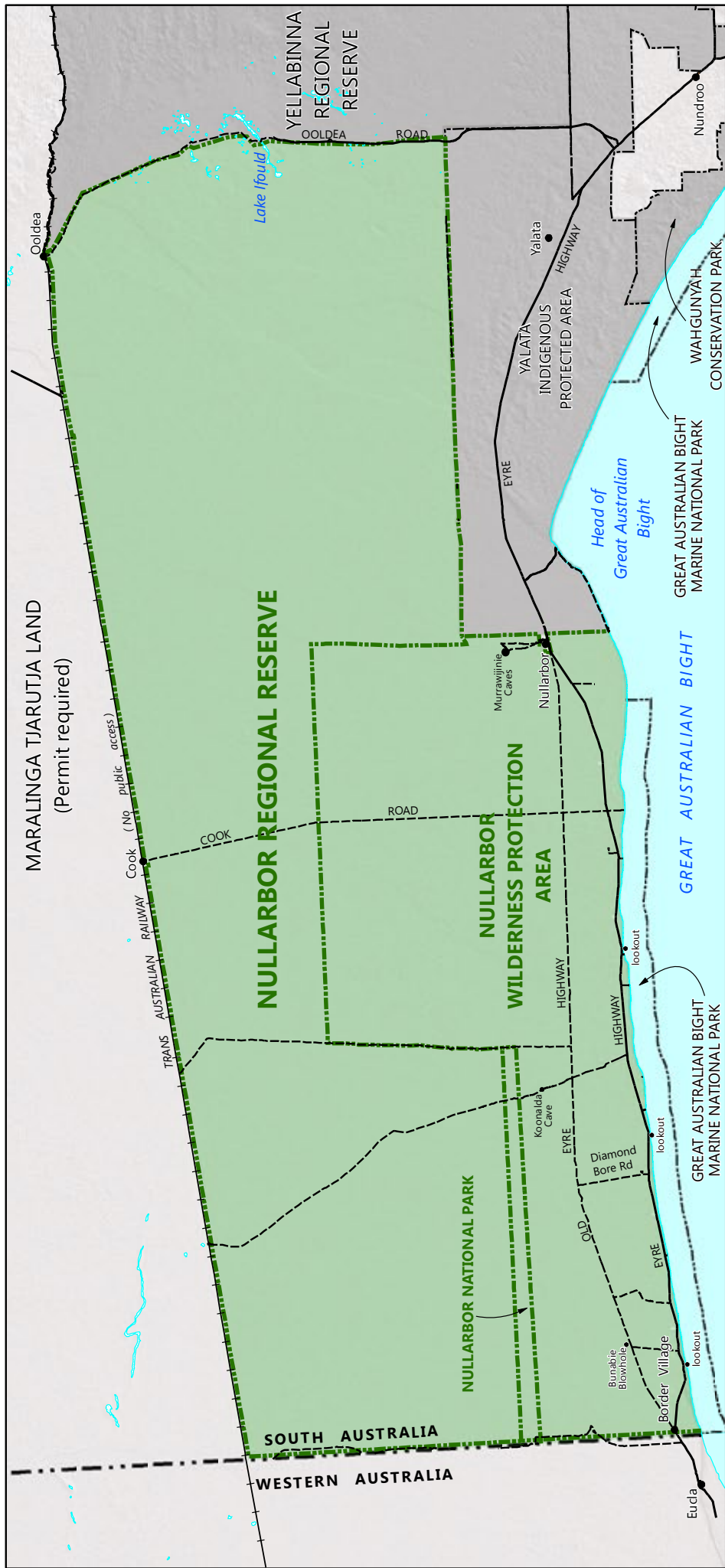


Figure 1

Nullarbor parks





Revising the Visitor Management Strategy and improving environmental and cultural protections

The Nullarbor is an iconic destination and is internationally renowned for its karst topography. The National Heritage listed Koonalda Cave is known for its Aboriginal heritage and cultural significance, and archaeological, speleological and geological significance.

On-going monitoring of key visitor areas will be important to identify when it is necessary to mitigate impacts. Improving information at these sites will improve visitor understanding and appreciation of the significance of the sites and how to visit respectfully, safely, and with minimal impact.

While the department does not promote Koonalda Cave, it is widely recognised as a place to visit on the Nullarbor. Visitation is considerable and appropriate management controls are necessary to ensure it is conserved and protected. The draft amendments enable improved security infrastructure for the prevention of unauthorised access to the doline and cave, in addition to the infrastructure including security cameras already in place. Amendments will also allow for additional basic infrastructure to designate visitor areas for improved conservation and an enhanced experience.

Amendment 7

Theme 4: Conserving caves and features of the karst landscape, page 16, last paragraph

Text to be deleted:

Due to its sensitivity, Koonalda Cave is not suitable for self-guided visitation, however access to the cave for guided tours could be considered subject to Aboriginal heritage approvals and protocols. A short walk and a lookout over the Koonalda Cave doline could be developed to provide an experience for car-based visitors passing through the region.

Text to be added:

The Koonalda Cave Conservation Management Plan guides priority management actions to protect and conserve Koonalda Cave. Due to its sensitivity, public access, commercial tourism and caving will not be permitted within Koonalda Cave. Access to the doline and cave in support of necessary maintenance, monitoring and research may be appropriate subject to approvals and cultural protocols. A walk, signage and viewing platform will develop visitor understanding and appreciation for the site's cultural and natural values and the importance to Australia's heritage. Upgrading site security including cameras and improving low-key infrastructure such as fencing and barriers will further protect the site by keeping visitors within a desired footprint and preventing unauthorised access.

Amendment 8

Theme 4: Conserving caves and features of the karst landscape, page 17, strategy 4

Text to be deleted:

- Investigate opportunities to improve safety and the self-guided visitor experience at Murrawijinie caves.

Text to be added:

- Investigate opportunities at Murrawijinie caves to improve visitor safety, mitigate impacts to the cultural and natural values and provide interpretive information.

Amendment 9

Theme 4: Conserving caves and features of the karst landscape, page 17, Objective and strategies, strategy 5

Text to be deleted:

- Protect, and if appropriate, provide opportunities for people to experience Koonalda Cave through the following priority actions:
 - Improve site security and monitor the impacts of any visitation to Koonalda Cave.
 - Investigate the opportunity to provide guided access into approved sections of the cave.
 - Investigate opportunities to develop a self-guided experience of the Koonalda cave and homestead precinct (without cave access).
 - Investigate the feasibility of nominating Koonalda Cave for listing as a world heritage site.
 - Realign access tracks and revegetate degraded areas around the cave and homestead.

Text to be added:

- Protect and provide opportunities for people to learn about Koonalda Cave in accordance with the Koonalda Cave Conservation Management Plan and the following priority actions:
 - Improve site security and information to prevent unauthorised access to the doline and cave.
 - Establish condition benchmarks of key values in the cave to enable changes over time to be measured, threats to be monitored and mitigated where possible.
 - Ensure sustainable visitation by directing people appropriately across the site and improving visitor engagement by providing interpretive signage to develop visitor understanding and appreciation for the site's cultural and natural values.
 - Realign and rationalise vehicle tracks and revegetate degraded areas around the cave. Use bollards, barriers, and basic fencing where necessary to prevent off-track driving.

Amendment 10

Theme 5: Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy, page 18, Objectives and strategies

Text to be added as an additional strategy:

- Close unofficial tracks. Use structures such as bollards, barriers or fencing to prevent access where necessary.

Amendment 11

Theme 5: Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy, page 19, Objectives and strategies, strategy 2:

Text to be deleted:

- Install signs at the Nullarbor and Border Village roadhouses and replace some existing signs with visitor facilities information and interpretive material about the cultural and natural values.

Text to be added:

- Install signage with visitor information and interpretive material at key visitor nodes such as the Nullarbor and Border Village roadhouses, the Bunda Cliff lookouts, Koonalda Cave, Koonalda Homestead, and camping areas. Signage to include detail on park values, minimal-impact visitation, and awareness of appropriate activities.

Amendment 12

Theme 5: Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy, page 19, Objective and strategies, strategy 4.

Text to be deleted (intent has been merged into updated strategy outlined in Amendment 11):

- Make information available to visitors and the local community to encourage awareness of wilderness values, adoption of minimal impact practices, and awareness of appropriate activities.

Amendment 13

Theme 5: Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy, page 19, Objective and strategies, strategy 6.

Text to be deleted:

Periodically assess the impact of visitor activities on wilderness values within the Wilderness Protection Area with a particular focus on Koonalda Cave, the Bunda Cliffs and Murrawijinie Caves.

Text to be added:

Periodically assess the impact of visitor activities on wilderness values within the Wilderness Protection Area with a particular focus on Koonalda Cave, the Bunda Cliffs and Murrawijinie Caves. Undertake works where required to mitigate negative human-caused impacts on the wilderness and cultural values.

Enabling new telecommunications infrastructure

The Nullarbor contains a nationally important transport and telecommunications link across Australia. Technological advances and higher network demand means that telecommunications infrastructure requires replacement and upgrading to ensure it remains fit for purpose and services the nation's needs.

Telstra's Inter-City Fibre Network Project includes a new underground cable north of the Old Eyre Highway, which extends across the width of the Wilderness Protection Area,

and improvements to the Koonalda East Repeater Station. Initial improvements in the Koonalda East compound will include an upgrade of existing solar arrays, and new power units and generators necessary to supply the increased power requirements of the new cable. This will be followed by the proposal to increase the compound from 0.1 hectares to approximately 0.4 hectares to allow for additional solar arrays, power huts and generators as the power requirements of the new cable rises.

Amendment 14

Section 4: What are the challenges and opportunities? page 9, dot point 10

Text to be deleted:

- Allowing for the maintenance of important communications infrastructure and the nationally significant Trans Australian Railway.

Text to be added:

- Allowing for the installation and ongoing maintenance of important communications infrastructure and the nationally significant Trans-Australian Railway.

Amendment 15

Theme 1: Maintaining Healthy Country, page 11, paragraph 12

Text to be deleted:	Text to be added:
The telecommunication repeater stations located along the Eyre Highway are provided with access through the parks for maintenance purposes. There is also cabling along the Old Eyre Highway which requires periodic maintenance. The maintenance of this infrastructure can be continued using existing tracks to prevent damage to native vegetation.	The telecommunication repeater stations located along the Old Eyre Highway are provided with access through the parks for maintenance purposes. There is also cabling near the Old Eyre Highway which requires periodic maintenance. The maintenance of this infrastructure can be continued using existing tracks to prevent damage to native vegetation. The installation of important telecommunications infrastructure as part of Telstra’s Inter-Capital Fibre Upgrade Project includes a new underground fibre cable and pits north of the Old Eyre Highway, generally within 10-20m of existing cabling. The project also includes upgrading existing and additional infrastructure within the Koonalda East Repeater Station compound, and expansion of the footprint of the compound to 0.4ha to allow for the installation of infrastructure necessary for the requirements of the Inter-Capital Fibre Network being solar arrays, power huts, generators and any other ancillary infrastructure required for this purpose. The increased compound area will be fenced, and all works will be undertaken in a manner that avoids or mitigates potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage and native vegetation.

Invitation to contribute

This document has been released for public consultation to facilitate community input into the proposed amendments to the Nullarbor Parks Management Plan.

You are invited to contribute by making a submission.

To ensure that your submission is effective:

- ensure your submission relates specifically to the draft amendment
- make sure your text is clear and concise
- refer to the section, paragraph and/or objective or strategy upon which you are commenting
- if you disagree with the draft amendment, state your reasons and say what you would prefer in its place, and why
- it is also important to say which sections of the amendment you agree with.

Please note that your submission will become part of the public record and will be available to anyone who requests a copy unless you specifically request otherwise.

Submissions close at 5pm on 20 February 2026

Written submissions:

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Protected Area Policy Unit
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GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email submissions:

DEWProtectedAreaManagement@sa.gov.au
Subject: Nullarbor Parks Management Plan Draft Amendment

Online submissions:

yoursay.sa.gov.au



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