



Parks of Lower Eastern Eyre Peninsula

Draft Management Plan 2024

Lincoln National Park

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

Sleaford Mere Conservation Park

Lincoln Conservation Park



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Contents

Your views are important	1
Developing this draft plan.....	2
Directions for management.....	3
Management zones	4
Significance and purpose	10
Challenges and opportunities.....	15
Theme 1: Managing natural values	16
Theme 2: Providing nature-based experiences	22
Theme 3: Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy ...	28
Theme 4: Maintaining culture and heritage ...	30
Theme 5: Working with others.....	32
Invitation to contribute	34
References	35
Appendix 1: Threatened fauna.....	36
Appendix 2: Threatened flora.....	38

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department for Environment and Water acknowledges First Nations peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands we live and work upon and pays respect to Elders past and present. The department also acknowledges and respects the deep spiritual connection that First Nations people have to Country and that cultural and heritage beliefs continue to be just as important to living First Nations people today.





Your views are important

The Parks of Lower Eastern Eyre Peninsula Draft Management Plan has been developed to outline the objectives and strategies that will set the direction for the long-term management of the parks.

It is released for public comment to provide members of the community with an opportunity to express their views on the future management of the parks.

All feedback received will be considered during the development of a final plan. Once developed, the final plan will be submitted to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for adoption under Section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and Section 31 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.

I encourage all interested people to assist in shaping the long-term management of the parks by making a submission on this draft plan. Guidance for the preparation of a submission can be found on page 34.



Mike Williams

Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Developing this draft plan

This draft management plan incorporates Lincoln National Park, Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, Sleaford Mere Conservation Park and Lincoln Conservation Park (refer to Figure 1). It has been developed to guide contemporary management of biodiversity, wilderness, visitation and cultural heritage in these parks.

It was developed by the Department for Environment and Water with input from key stakeholders, park managers, and technical experts. The strategic management, objectives, and strategies outlined in this plan are designed to enable adaptive management of the parks.

Once complete, this plan will replace:

- Lincoln National Park Management Plan 2004
- Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan 2005
- Sections relevant to Lincoln and Sleaford Mere conservation parks within the Conservation Parks of Lower Eyre Peninsula Management Plan 2007.



Directions for management

These parks conserve outstanding ecological values, areas of high value wilderness and provide opportunities for nature-based experiences.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is proclaimed under the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* (WP Act). The WP Act and the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones* requires management with a focus on conservation and protection of biodiversity, and the enhancement of wilderness quality. Wilderness areas can provide for public use and enjoyment where compatible with maximising wilderness quality.

Lincoln National Park, Sleaford Mere Conservation Park and Lincoln Conservation Park are proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act). The objectives of the NPW Act ensures that parks are managed primarily for conservation, while supporting public use, enjoyment and education about the parks' purpose and significance.

Maintaining the large area of contiguous native vegetation and the island habitats that these parks provide will become increasingly important for biodiversity conservation and supporting the resilience of species to the effects of climate change. The scenic landscape, abundant wildlife and opportunities for recreation are a major drawcard for tourists and the local community.

The parks are dominated by coastal features including dune systems, coastal cliffs, offshore islands, mallee woodlands, heathlands, shrublands and wetlands. These diverse habitats are critically important for a range of threatened flora and fauna species, some which are endemic to the lower Eyre Peninsula. Many of the islands are unaffected by introduced predators and other threatening processes that impact on mainland flora and fauna.

The values and threats that have been identified for these parks are broadly consistent which enables management strategies to be applied across the landscape. Key priorities are based around maintaining wilderness values, conserving native vegetation, protecting threatened flora and fauna species and enabling visitors to experience the natural and wilderness qualities of the area.

Management zones have been designated to protect high quality ecological values, conserve wilderness quality, manage visitation to islands and guide the development of visitor facilities and tourist accommodation.

Access on to the islands and entry into Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area will be regulated to minimise impacts of visitation on wilderness qualities, including wildlife, and to ensure that visitors have a unique wilderness experience.

Volunteer groups, researchers, environmental organisations and commercial tour operators help to achieve management goals and develop a greater understanding of the values that underpin the importance of these parks. Working more closely with First Nations will provide a great opportunity to implement contemporary park management activities based on science and traditional knowledge, protect culture and heritage and contribute to the ongoing connection of First Nations people and their Country.

The specific actions required to manage these parks in accordance with the plan will be developed and monitored at a park operations level. This approach provides the flexibility necessary to address future management challenges and opportunities.

Management zones

Section 39 of the NPW Act determines that a management plan may provide for the division of a reserve into management zones and that each zone must be kept and maintained in accordance with the conditions outlined in the plan. While the WP Act doesn't contain a section specific to zoning, it specifies that operations must be carried out in accordance with the management plan.

The management zones described below and shown in Figures 2 and 3 establish a framework for the use and consistent management of the parks to protect key values and guide future development.

Visitor Use Zone

The Visitor Use Zone is designated to support opportunities for the development of small-scale tourist accommodation and auxiliary buildings or structures for commercial ventures related to nature-based activity. Development should be complementary to existing facilities and diversify the range of accommodation and nature-based experiences in the park.

All development for tourist accommodation and commercial activity must be appropriately scaled to suit the location in terms of footprint and impacts to the surrounding area, apply best-practice sustainable design with regard to materials used and environmental performance and be relatively self-sufficient in terms of utilities required. The design of all development must be sympathetic to the natural, cultural and aesthetic values of the park.

Memory Cove Visitor Zone

The Memory Cove Visitor Zone contains a day visit and camping area. Visitor facilities are concentrated in this zone to limit impacts on ecological values and wilderness quality throughout the remainder of the park.

Upgrades or redevelopment of facilities within this zone will be undertaken in accordance with the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones*. Infrastructure that becomes obsolete and no longer required will be removed and the area will be rehabilitated.

Island Wilderness Zone

The Island Wilderness Zone comprises areas that have exceptional ecological value, outstanding wilderness quality and are largely free of the impacts of introduced pests. They provide secure areas and breeding sites for wildlife including shorebirds, seabirds, coastal raptors, reptiles and marine mammals, some of which are particularly sensitive to disturbance.

Island Wilderness Zones meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. The majority of the island that is accessible is utilised by wildlife sensitive to disturbance
2. Access on to the island is not possible without impacting wildlife sensitive to disturbance
3. Access from the water is impractical due to the geological profile, exposure to significant wind and swell energy, culminating in a high risk to visitor safety and damage to watercraft
4. The island has been proclaimed a Prohibited Area under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.

Access to areas in this zone for park management operations, scientific research, cultural heritage management, conservation work and maintenance of marine navigational equipment (Williams Island) is considered foundational and will be permitted subject to conditions.

Conditions will be designated to minimise disturbance to wildlife and the environment, manage the number of people, prevent biosecurity incursions and keep visitors safe. Access may be restricted further during wildlife breeding periods or sensitive life-cycle stages. Overnight stays will only be permitted where essential to support outcomes associated with foundational activities.

There are no facilities in these zones and visitation for tourism and recreation is not permitted.

Island Visitation Zone

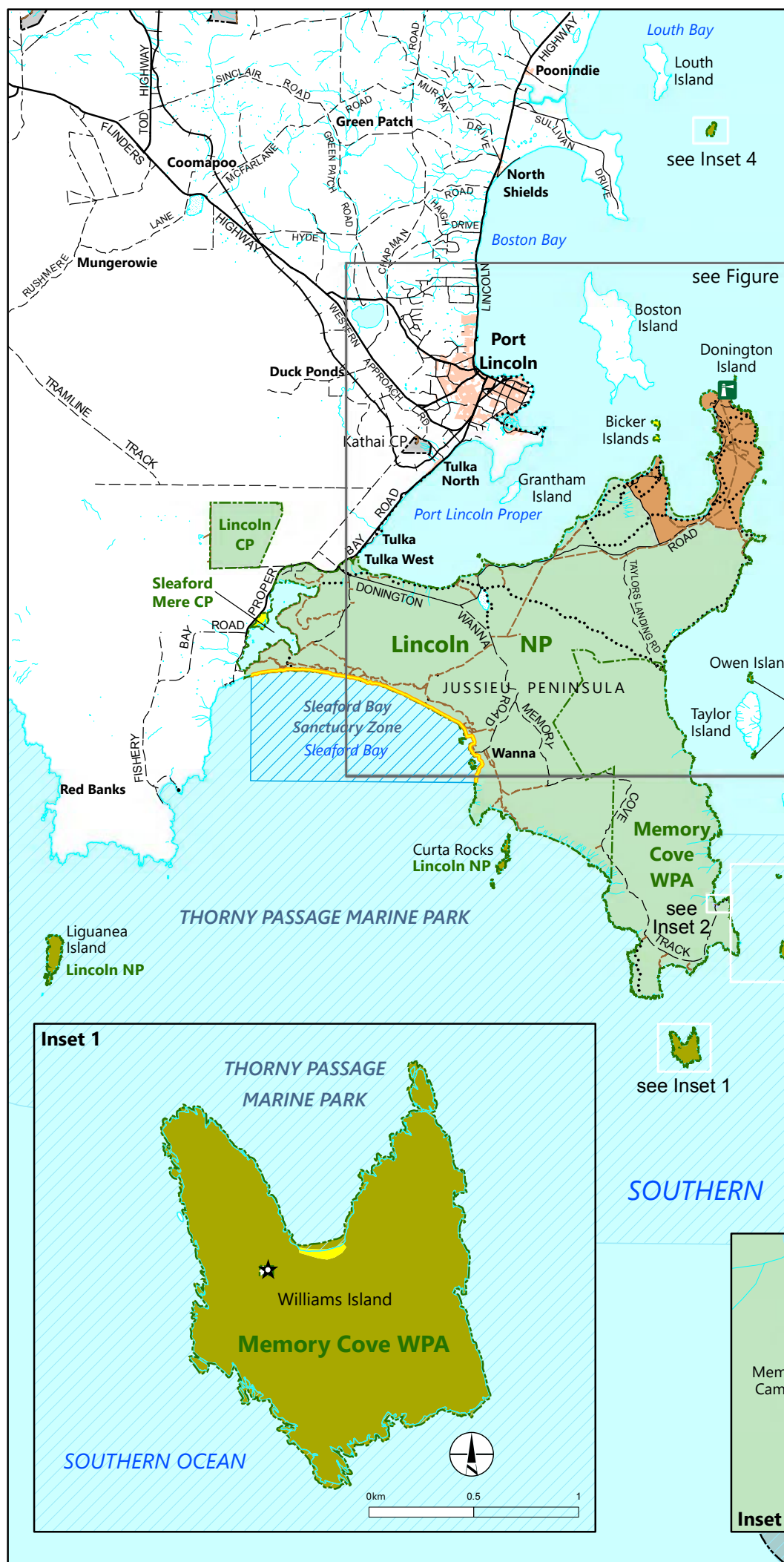
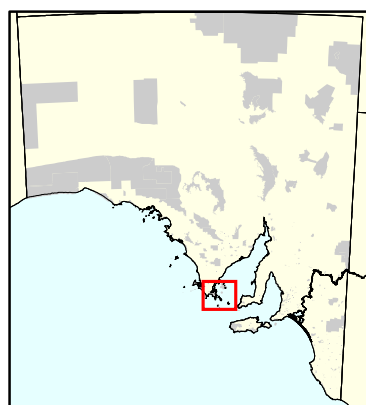
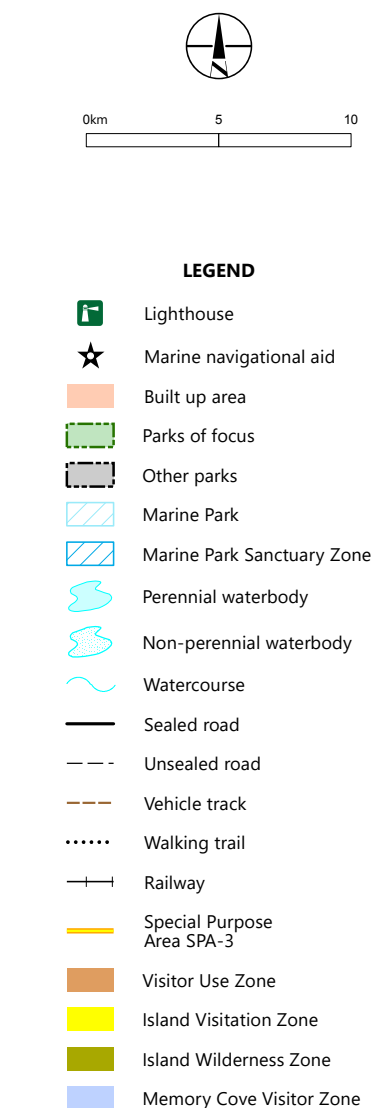
The Island Visitation Zone provides opportunities for on-island nature-based tourism and recreation experiences during day-light hours. Visitation to areas in this zone requires prior approval to ensure that strategies are in place to minimise disturbance to wildlife and the environment, manage the number of people, prevent biosecurity incursions and keep visitors safe.

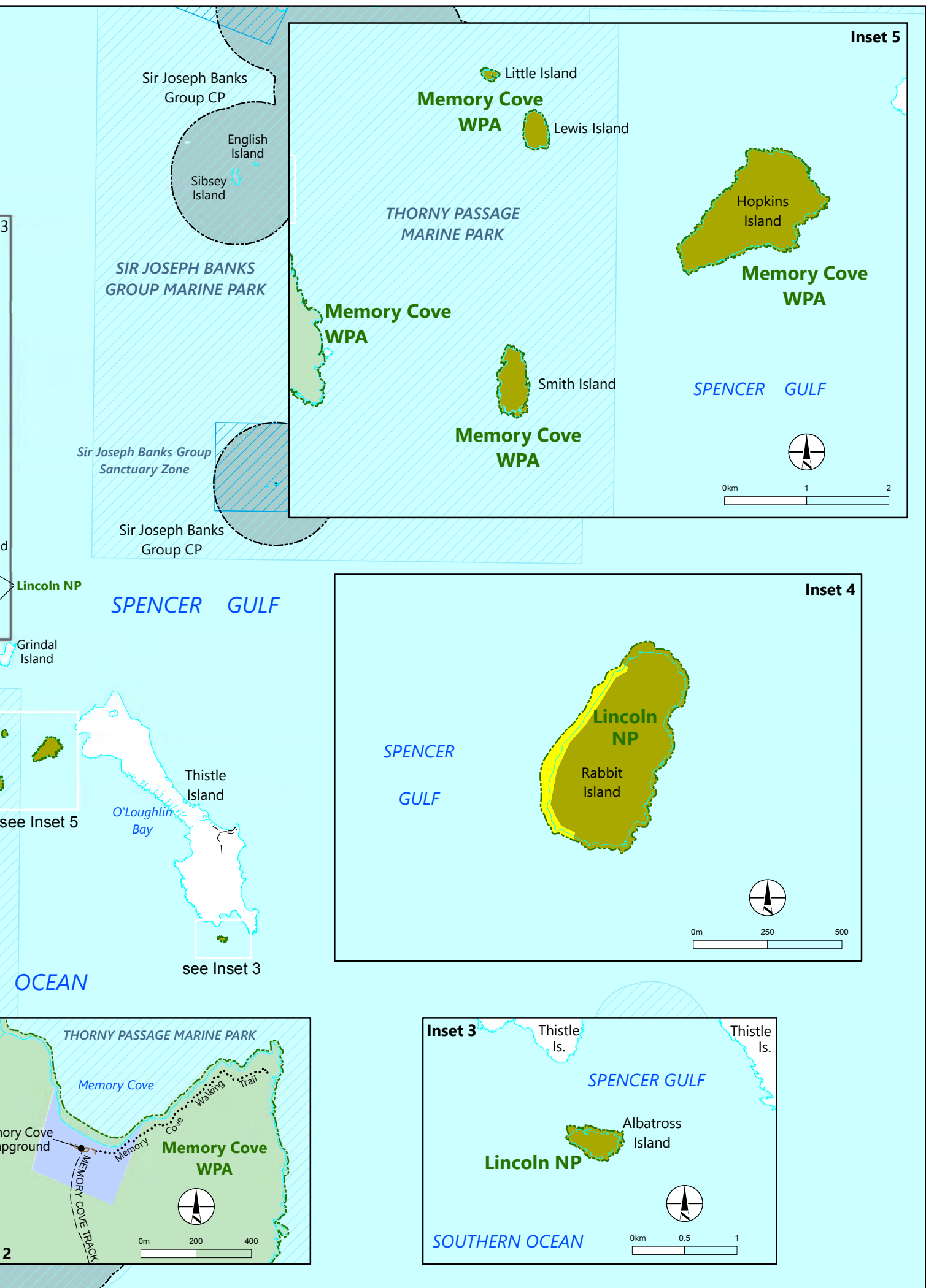
Access may be restricted during wildlife breeding periods or sensitive life-cycle stages. Visitor impacts will be monitored and visitation to each location will be reviewed and adjusted if negative impacts are determined. Infrastructure and visitor facilities will not be permitted to support tourism and recreation. Overnight stays will only be permitted for park management operations, scientific research, cultural heritage management or conservation purposes.



Figure 1

Parks of Lower Eastern Eyre Peninsula -Management Zones





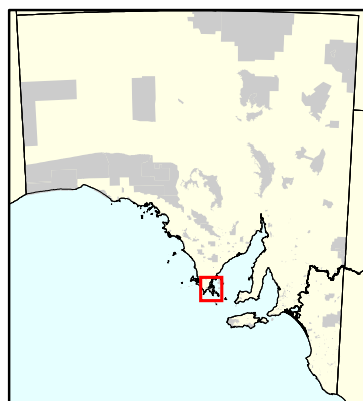
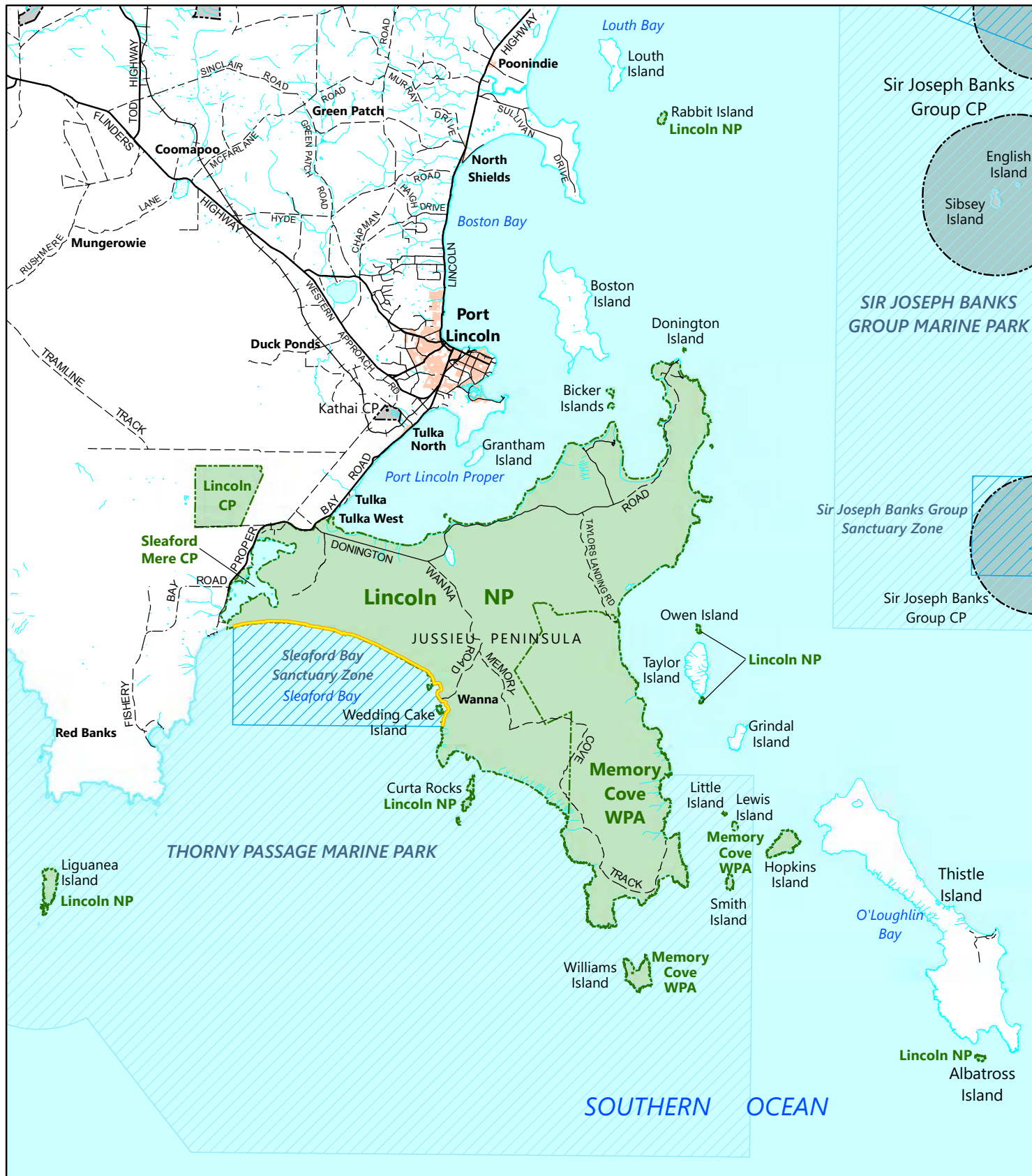


Figure 2

Parks of Lower Eastern Eyre Peninsula

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Sealed road | | Parks of focus |
| | Unsealed road | | Other parks |
| | Railway | | Marine Park |
| | Watercourse | | Marine Park Sanctuary Zone |
| | Special Purpose Area SPA-3 | | Perennial waterbody |
| | Built up area | | Non-perennial waterbody |



0km 5 10

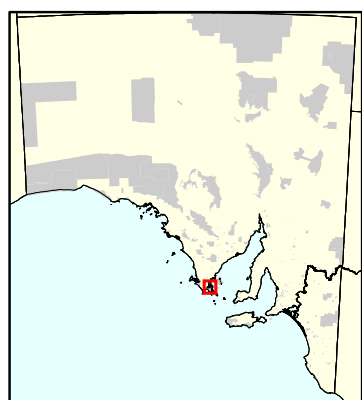
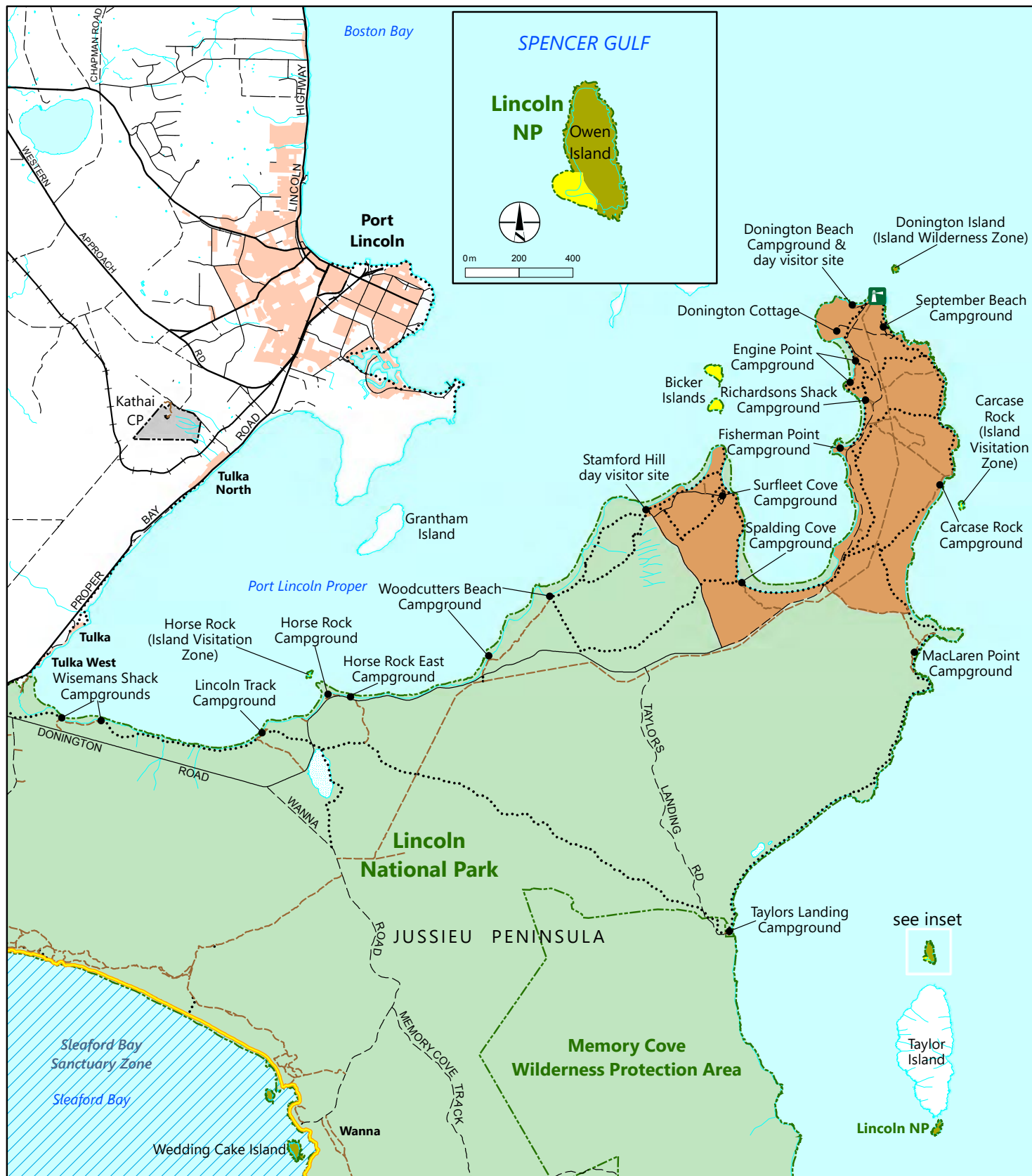
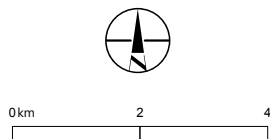


Figure 3

Parks of Lower Eastern Eyre Peninsula - Management Zones



LEGEND

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| — Sealed road | ■ Built up area |
| - - - Unsealed road | ■ Parks of focus |
| — Vehicle track | ■ Other parks |
| Walking trail | ■ Marine Park Sanctuary Zone |
| + - - Railway | — Special Purpose Area SPA-3 |
| ■ Visitor Use Zone | ■ Perennial waterbody |
| ■ Island Visitation Zone | ■ Non-perennial waterbody |
| ■ Island Wilderness Zone | — Watercourse |
| | ■ Lighthouse |

Significance and purpose

The parks encompass 31,778 hectares of land that maintains ecosystems and preserves populations of significant flora and fauna, including species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the NPW Act (Appendix 1 and 2).

The large area of native vegetation in these parks accounts for a third of the key biodiversity area known as the Jussieu Peninsula to Coffin Bay Peninsula Large Remnant Area. This covers 113,000 hectares and is almost continuous south of the Flinders Highway between Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay (DEH, 2002a). It also plays an important role in the provision of habitat within the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion which has been extensively cleared for agriculture.

Twenty-one islands and islets ranging from 300 metres to 18 kilometres from the mainland make up part of Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. These islands together with coastal features of the parks provide critical habitat for a range of native fauna including the nationally endangered Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*).

The Jussieu Peninsula and surrounding islands have been used sustainably by First Nations people for thousands of years. Sites within these parks relating to First Nations heritage have been recorded in the South Australian Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation's central archives which contains records for sites, objects and ancestral remains.

A number of sites associated with colonial history are listed on the South Australian Heritage Register and the eastern coastline from Cape Donington to Cape Catastrophe is registered as a Geological Heritage Site. This area contains outcrops of charnockite which is considered a globally rare rock-type (McBriar; Mooney 1977).

The Thorny Passage Marine Park surrounds the southern coastline of Lincoln National Park around to Memory Cove acknowledging the connectivity between the rich coastal and marine biodiversity in the area.

Lincoln National Park

Lincoln National Park is one of the state's oldest reserves. The core of the park was first declared a flora and fauna reserve in 1941 to conserve the natural environment and historic values of the area. Since 1941,

additional land parcels have been added to the park and it currently encompasses 21,385 hectares.

The park provides magnificent views of the local coastal scenery including granite headlands, dune systems and offshore islands. It has a significant public profile, is a popular destination for visitors to the region and is used extensively by the local community. Visitor facilities supporting day visits and camping are concentrated along the northern and eastern coastlines. Beach access supports water based activities such as fishing and swimming.

An extensive walking trail network provides a range of bushwalking experiences. The Investigator Trail is made up of sections that can be individually walked or trekked as a long-distance option. Vehicle access to most areas in the park is possible in conventional vehicles, however some tracks are suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles only. Four-wheel driving is a popular activity in the park and the Sleaford-Wanna Track offers some of the best sand dune driving experiences on the Eyre Peninsula.

The park contains a range of vegetation types including shrublands and a complex of mallee woodlands dominated by coastal white mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia* ssp. *diversifolia*) and yorrell (*E. gracilis*) that are important for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), white-bellied whipbird (*Psophodes leucogaster leucogaster*), bush stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*), Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus parimeda*), heath goanna (*Varanus rosenbergi*), large-club spider-orchid (*Caladenia macroclavia*), Goldsack's leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum goldsackii*) and annual candles (*Stackhousia annua*).

The coastal area and many of the 16 islands and islets provide important habitat for Australian sea lion, long-nosed fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*), red-capped plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*), sooty oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus fuliginosus*), little penguin (*Eudyptula minor novaehollandiae*), rock parrot (*Neophema petrophila zietzi*), pied oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*), short-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*), white-faced storm petrel (*Pelagodroma marina dulciae*), ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres interpres*), caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), greater crested tern (*Thalasseus bergii cristatus*), Pacific gull (*Larus pacificus georgii*), Cape Barren goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*



novaeollandiae), curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), fairy tern (*Sternula nereis nereis*), hooded plover (*Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus*), white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and eastern osprey (*Pandion haliaetus cristatus*).

Malleefowl and brush-tailed bettong (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*) were reintroduced into the park in the 1990's. Malleefowl are still found in relatively low numbers but it is thought that the brush-tailed bettong release was unsuccessful based on no recent evidence of bettongs in the area.

Pillie Lake is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. It is a great example of a dry lake with a structurally diverse and species rich buffer. Water on the surface is dependent on direct rainfall during wet years and groundwater recharge from the supporting aquifer. Groundwater remains close to the surface through much of the year, providing for extended periods of damp to dry soil with no surface water. The surrounding vegetation is important for supporting woodland birds including white-bellied whiplbird and provides refuge for low numbers of wetland and shorebirds when sufficient water is present.

There are known First Nations archaeological and arrangement sites within the park that are recorded in South Australia's Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects and it is expected that there are many more that are not recorded.

Areas previously cleared for pasture and grazing are slowly regenerating although there are areas where the impacts of land clearance are still evident, particularly in the Surfleet, Donington and Wanna areas of the park.

The monument on Stamford Hill is listed on the South Australian Heritage Register in recognition of the vantage point that Captain Matthew Flinders used in the ongoing search for fresh water in the area.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area was proclaimed in 2004. It occupies 8,764 hectares in the south-east of the Jussieu Peninsula and is one of the first wilderness protection areas to be proclaimed on mainland South Australia. It contains spectacular wilderness and coastal scenery and protects coastal dunes, shrublands, sandy beaches, mallee heath and woodlands, sheoak woodland and offshore islands. The park is contiguous with Lincoln National Park which provides a natural buffer of native vegetation enhancing the protection of its wilderness values.

Similar to the vegetation in Lincoln National Park, the shrublands and mallee woodlands in the park provide important habitat for malleefowl, white-bellied whiplbird, bush stone-curlew, Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren, heath goanna, Goldsack's leek-orchid and annual candles.

The coastal area including islands provide important habitat and breeding areas for Australian sea lion, long-nosed fur seal, black-faced cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*), pied cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius hypoleucos*), Pacific gull, white-faced storm petrel, short-tailed shearwater, flesh-footed shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*), little penguin, sooty oystercatcher, caspian tern, greater crested tern, hooded plover, white-bellied sea eagle, eastern osprey and Cape Barren goose. The Australian fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) has been recorded in the park.

The park contains high quality wilderness, mostly due to the area's moderate remoteness from access and settlements and low level of land disturbance. This offers a unique wilderness and nature-based experience for visitors, with the provision of facilities for camping and day visits at Memory Cove.



There are known First Nations archaeological and burial sites within the park that are recorded in South Australia's Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects and it is expected that there are many more that are not recorded.

A tablet at Memory Cove erected as a memorial for the 8 crew of the *Investigator* that drowned nearby in 1802 is listed on the South Australian Heritage Register.

Sleaford Mere Conservation Park

Sleaford Mere Conservation Park encompasses 595 hectares and was proclaimed to conserve important feeding habitat for wader birds. The park consists mostly of a shallow and rocky edged permanent saline lake. It is bound in the south and east by steep-sided sand dunes, and to the west by a gently undulating calcarenite landscape.

Sleaford Mere is listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. It is one of few permanent salt lakes protected within South Australia's reserve system (Anderson, 2005). The park provides habitat important for waterbirds and species listed in international agreements for the conservation of migratory species including the nationally critically endangered curlew sandpiper. The nationally threatened fairy tern and hooded plover are known to use the park.

Permanent freshwater soaks occur at the northern end of Sleaford Mere which provide important habitat for frogs and the smooth solenogyne (*Solenogyne dominii*) which has a restricted habitat in the area and is reliant on fresh water.

Vegetation associations surrounding the lake include coastal white mallee woodland, dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) tall open shrubland and sedgeland dominated by gahnia species. The sedgeland has been identified as suitable habitat for the Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren.

Sleaford Mere is among only a small number of places in Australia where stromatolites are found. They provide an opportunity to study some of the oldest known fossil forms of life on earth.

There are no visitor facilities in the park however swimming and kayaking on the lake is permitted. The Sleaford Mere Track provides access along the eastern boundary of the park.

Lincoln Conservation Park

Lincoln Conservation Park encompasses 1,034 hectares and was proclaimed to protect vegetation and underground water resources for public supply purposes. Mallee woodlands dominated by coastal white mallee cover the majority of the park with patches of drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) low open woodland. The regionally rare purple-flowered mallee (*Eucalyptus albopurpurea*) community is also found within the park.

The park provides habitat for the nationally threatened white-bellied whipbird and the inland green-comb spider-orchid (*Caladenia tensa*).

An old railway corridor owned by SA Water dissects the northern half of the park. This thin strip of land is maintained as an access track. Under agreement with SA Water, this track is utilised for park management purposes.

The park is proclaimed jointly under Section 43 of the NPW Act which enables appropriate resource and exploration and development under the *Mining Act 1971*.



What are we looking after?

- Large areas of intact and functional habitat including woodlands, shrublands, dune systems, beaches, wetlands and islands.
- Coastal and island environments that provide secure breeding, feeding and resting areas for shorebirds, seabirds, migratory birds, coastal raptors, reptiles and marine mammals.
- Landscape features and sites that are of cultural and spiritual significance to First Nations people and important for the continuation of their culture.
- Wilderness experiences, tourism, and recreation opportunities where visitors can connect with nature, appreciate the unique features of the natural environment and learn about the area's culture and heritage.
- Areas of nationally threatened ecological communities.
- Thirty-nine fauna species that are listed as threatened under the NPW Act. This includes 8 species that are also listed under the EPBC Act (refer to Appendix 1).
- Twenty-eight flora species that are listed as threatened under the NPW Act and 4 species that are listed under the EPBC Act (refer to Appendix 2).
- Wetlands of National Importance.
- A salt lake containing stromatolites important for their geological and palaeontological significance.
- Sites related to colonial history that remind people of the areas past use and maritime activities.
- Areas not impacted by artificial light, important for the proper functioning of natural ecosystems.
- Globally significant geology.



Challenges and opportunities

Key challenges and opportunities in the protection and management of the parks are:

- Protecting ecosystems and threatened species by managing the impacts of pest plants and animals, fire, total grazing pressure and visitors.
- Providing recreation and nature-based experiences in a way that meets visitor demand and minimises impacts to park values.
- Implementing biosecurity measures with a key focus on islands to mitigate the risks to wildlife and native vegetation from the introduction of pests and diseases.
- Regulating visitor numbers and providing appropriate visitor facilities in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area to help maintain wilderness quality.
- Providing scope for commercial ventures to develop new nature-based tourism experiences consistent with park values and the natural characteristics of the parks.
- Maintaining and restoring vegetation communities that provide the conditions necessary for the survival of threatened species.
- Managing tourism on islands to ensure the ongoing protection of threatened species, island endemic species and species sensitive to disturbance.
- Partnering with First Nations to protect cultural and heritage sites, increase cultural awareness and promote employment and training for First Nations people.
- Supporting partnerships with the community and environmental organisations for the monitoring of biodiversity, and the protection and maintenance of ecological and recreational values within the parks.
- Ensuring visitor facilities and infrastructure are maintained appropriately for short and long-term usage in a way that is adaptable to changes in operational requirements.
- Understanding the impacts of climate change and the actions required to support ecosystem resilience to decreasing rainfall, increasing temperatures and increased risk of extreme fires.
- Supporting connectivity between Lincoln and Coffin Bay national parks, and Lincoln National Park, Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area and Thorny Passage Marine Park, to provide landscape and climate change advantages for biodiversity conservation and threatened species.
- Partnering with the tourism and education sector to develop and deliver low impact, sustainable and meaningful experiences in parks.

THEME 1:

Managing natural values

The range of landforms and large area of native vegetation protected by these parks is of immense conservation value due to the habitat it provides and its role in facilitating the movement of wildlife, maintaining genetic diversity, providing refuge for native fauna and flora and breeding areas for native fauna.

Coastal heath and mallee woodland that has a dense understorey provides habitat for the white-bellied whipbird, heath goanna and Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren. Malleefowl and bush stone-curlew are utilising areas of mallee woodland that has a more open structure. Managing habitat degradation caused by over-grazing from abundant native and introduced herbivores and inappropriate fire regimes will be important for the long-term conservation of these species.

Expansive coastal areas including the islands provide habitat for the white-bellied sea eagle and eastern osprey which rely on cliffs and rock stacks for nesting areas, roosting sites and vantage points. Implementing strategies identified in the *South Australian Recovery Plan for Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle* (DEW 2021) will be important for their ongoing survival.

Beach-nesting shorebirds including the hooded plover, sooty oystercatcher and pied oystercatcher utilise many of the beaches in these parks. These species are all sensitive to human disturbance, particularly during the breeding season. Disturbance can lead to abandonment of nests and breeding areas resulting in detrimental impacts for eggs and young. Monitoring visitor activity, particularly during breeding seasons, will be undertaken where necessary to assess potential impacts to breeding populations. Where human disturbance is having an unsustainable impact, mitigation measures will be implemented and may include awareness raising initiatives, seasonal closures or restricting access.

Islands provide secure breeding sites for key species including Australian sea lions, long-nosed fur seals, little penguins, hooded plovers, short-tailed shearwaters, white-faced storm petrels, flesh-footed shearwaters, eastern osprey, white-bellied sea eagles, Cape Barren geese, rock parrots, as well as pelicans, oystercatchers, cormorants, terns and gulls. Difficulty in accessing many of the islands has largely insulated them from the damage caused by the introduction of pest plants and animals, diseases, and impacts from human disturbance. Maintaining these areas by minimising impacts to species sensitive to human

disturbance and preventing incursions of exotic species are a priority.

High priority flora species including annual candles, Goldsack's leek-orchid, large-club spider-orchid, inland green-comb spider-orchid, smooth solenogyne, Alcock's wattle (*Acacia alcockii*), velvet-leaf guinea-flower (*Hibbertia crinita*) and the endemic Port Lincoln ray-flower (*Anthocercis anisantha* ssp. *anisantha*) are found in these parks. The questionable status of data deficient flora species such as the native manila grass (*Zoysia macrantha* subsp. *walshii*) and endemic silvery spyridium (*Spyridium leucopogon*) in the area warrant further survey and investigation. Impacts from herbivores including grazing and trampling, competition from pest plants and habitat fragmentation are considered some of the key threats to these species and will be a focus.

Actions within recovery plans and conservation advice statements for EPBC Act listed species recorded in the parks will be implemented where necessary to stop their decline and support their recovery. Undertaking further flora and fauna surveys will continue to build a better understanding of the extent and distribution of native species in the parks. This is particularly important for islands so that a thorough baseline can be established and used to track changes over time. Monitoring will enable appropriate management actions to be implemented to ensure positive conservation outcomes.

The Jussieu Peninsula is connected to the mainland at two points north and south of Sleaford Mere totalling approximately 2.5 kilometres. As a result the peninsula is largely isolated and detached providing inherent conservation management advantages and minimising the influences of agricultural practices occurring nearby. These attributes are important considerations for any native fauna reintroduction programs that may be considered in the future to stabilise, re-establish or increase in-situ populations of threatened species. Islands may play a key role in these programs due to their geographical boundaries and lack of introduced predators.

Desktop analysis has identified that saltmarsh communities in Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, including on some islands, are likely to meet the key diagnostic characteristics and condition thresholds of the nationally vulnerable Subtropical and Temperate

Coastal Saltmarsh ecological community. Ground truthing is required to determine the characteristics and composition at individual sites and whether management interventions are required.

Strategic revegetation will be undertaken to rehabilitate recovering areas of the critically endangered drooping sheoak grassy woodland on calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion ecological community in Lincoln National Park. Areas recovering from previous land-use activities, particularly partially cleared areas adjoining remnant vegetation and areas between patches of vegetation, are suited to revegetation. Programs to provide habitat for threatened species and those that are patch-dependent such as the endemic Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren are a priority. Revegetation of riparian areas around Sleaford Mere and Pillie Lake to protect wetland systems may be undertaken if necessary.

Pest plants can threaten habitat integrity by competing with native plants, impeding their growth and altering vegetation structures. Historically, guano mining and grazing occurred on some islands and it was during these activities that land clearance and disturbance led to the ongoing spread of ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*) and African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*). Targeted weed control will be undertaken on islands where pest plants threaten the condition of important habitat for breeding populations of native fauna and where vegetation of conservation significance is at risk of degradation.

On the mainland bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and African boxthorn are a high priority for control at sites with threatened flora due to their ability to aggressively invade and compete with native vegetation and be spread by birds that eat the fruit. High priorities include containing myrtle-leaf milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*) and Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) to the edge of Sleaford Mere Conservation Park and the western boundary of Lincoln National Park to maintain a buffer and reduce the spread further into the parks and into the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Targeted weed control is undertaken by the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks to improve amenity around recreational sites.

Monitoring will be an on-going activity to assess the spread of weeds, their impacts on native species and to detect unrecorded species. The islands and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area are priority areas



for the detection of new species. Controlling new infestations in these areas will be undertaken as a high priority to protect wilderness qualities and areas of high conservation value.

The movement of people and material poses a risk of pest plants, pest animals and pathogens being introduced or moved between locations. This can have serious consequences, particularly for islands, including species competition, predation and die-off leading to habitat modification, changes to ecosystem function and impacts to wildlife populations. Biosecurity protocols, education programs and managing visitation will be important to prevent new incursions and help visitors understand the significant conservation values of these parks and the risks associated with their behaviours.

Overgrazing by herbivores can impact the health of native vegetation and suppress seedlings and regrowth resulting in changes to vegetation composition and structure. Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are known to occur in low numbers on the mainland areas of the parks. Their numbers fluctuate in response to seasonal conditions and the impacts of calicivirus and myxomatosis. They will require control when their numbers build up to a point where impacts to conservation values become unsustainable or they are having a direct impact on threatened plants. Impacts from introduced deer species is not currently an issue in the parks but they are becoming an increasing issue across the broader region. They will be monitored and controlled where necessary in partnership at a landscape-scale.

Introduced invertebrates including vineyard snail (*Cernuella virgata*) and white Italian snail (*Theba pisana*) should be observed as when in abundance,

they can account for substantial consumption of vegetation and affect seedling establishment.

In the absence of introduced herbivores, western grey kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) are the biggest contributor to total grazing pressure and their strategic management may be required. Where evidence of total grazing pressure indicates that western grey kangaroos are having an impact on conservation values, strategic management will be undertaken. Where non-lethal options are considered ineffective or not feasible, culling may be implemented. Kangaroo management may include commercial harvest options. Any culling will follow strict procedures for the humane destruction of animals and visitor safety.

Introduced predators including foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and cats (*Felis catus*) can be a significant contributor to the decline of a wide range of fauna species. Fox baiting programs in Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area were initiated prior to the release of malleefowl and brush-tailed bettongs in Lincoln National Park in the 1990's. Fox control will continue, and cat control programs will be explored, to support conservation outcomes such as the recovery or reintroduction of threatened fauna species, and where these predators are contributing to the decline of native species.

There are no apiary licences in these parks, however, feral honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) that are present often occupy tree hollows and rock crevices that would otherwise provide habitat for nesting birds, small mammals and reptiles. Where hives are located near campgrounds and visitor areas it can create an ongoing safety and nuisance concern for visitors and requires a management response. Given the ongoing issue with feral bee hives, the risks to conservation outcomes such



as pollination competition with native species and the pollination of weeds, and the lack of any historic apiary use in these parks, no apiary licences will be permitted.

Silver gulls (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) are opportunistic scavengers and known predators of eggs and chicks of other native bird species. Population estimates of breeding colonies in 2022 on islands near Port Lincoln, including Rabbit Island (Lincoln National Park), have indicated a significant increase since estimates from the late 1990s. The increase is attributed to food availability associated with the growth of the Port Lincoln area and coincides with the development of the local aquaculture industry (Harrison, 2010).

Industry-led monitoring and research into silver gull impacts and population management will be supported to build baseline data and inform future management requirements. Research will include trialling options for reducing silver gull populations.

The Australian Southern Bluefin Industry Association recognises the influence that their tuna feeding practices has on the silver gull population and has implemented changes to mitigate food availability to silver gulls.

Where evidence from monitoring and research indicates that silver gulls are having an adverse impact on fauna species of conservation significance, particularly egg and chick predation on threatened native bird species, and that economic impacts to the local aquaculture industry are unsustainable, strategic management will be required. Management programs will be collaborative and likely to require a combination of changes in reducing access to food sources and treating silver gull eggs to reduce the population. Culling may be undertaken where non-lethal options on their own are

considered ineffective, or it remains the only practicable method of management.

Six koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) were introduced to the lower Eyre Peninsula in 1969. Since then, their abundance and distribution has increased and koalas have been recorded more widely across Eyre Peninsula, including in Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Rapid koala population growth has the potential to significantly impact woodland trees on which they browse. Koala monitoring programs will assess the population and its impact on native vegetation. This will inform any programs that may be required to manage the koala population to a sustainable level and mitigate the impacts on native vegetation and animal welfare.

Climate change projections for the region indicate decreasing rainfall, increasing temperatures and more severe fire danger days (DEW 2022). Implications of climate change may include more time in drought, changes in native vegetation, increased risk of extinction to vulnerable species and further changes to fire regimes. Research and monitoring will be vital in developing an understanding of climate change impacts and implementing programs to support ecosystems to be resilient.

Fire, as a result of lightning and cultural burning, has been part of the Australian landscape for thousands of years. It has shaped flora and fauna communities and continues to contribute to a healthy ecosystem. Landscape modification, changes in First Nations fire management practices, active fire suppression and climate change have resulted in changes in fire regimes in these parks. Long intervals between fires can lead to changes in habitat density and make vegetation, such as heath, less suitable for a range of fauna. Bushfires



burning large areas in a single event can be severe for species sensitive to changes in habitat, species in low numbers or at-risk species such as the Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren that have a limited capability to disperse to safe habitat during large fire events.

Prevention and preparedness fire management activities, including prescribed burning, are guided by the relevant fire management plan. They will be implemented across strategic areas of the parks to reduce the risk, intensity and spread of bushfires, and make suppression safer and more achievable. Prescribed burning will also be used as an ecological tool to manage fire-dependent species such as mallee species, the showy firebush (*Apalochlamys spectabilis*) and species within the *Zygophyllaceae* family, and promote habitat for heath-dependent species such as the Eyre Peninsula southern emu-wren and white-bellied whiplbird. Fire management activities in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area will be undertaken in accordance with the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones*.

The risk of bushfire on the islands is low and there are no fire access tracks on any of the islands. Given the relative remoteness and logistical problems associated with fighting fires on remote islands, it is likely that most bushfires will be left to burn out naturally. Any response to limit the impact of bushfire on islands will be determined after consideration of the potential impact, prevailing weather conditions, access and resources available.

Lincoln and Sleaford Mere conservation parks and the western half of Lincoln National Park are within the Southern Basins Prescribed Wells Area. Groundwater is the major water resource in this area and is used for town water supply, stock and domestic use and irrigation. A network of bores, pipelines and associated

infrastructure within Lincoln National Park is used for public water supply and water monitoring purposes and is managed by SA Water under licence.

The limited surface water features that exist include Sleaford Mere which is a permanent saline lake. Pillie Lake has groundwater close to the surface through much of the year however the lake generally only has water above the surface in wet years. Smallmouth hardyhead (*Atherinosoma microstoma*) are an important part of biodiversity in Sleaford Mere and the only species of fish recently recorded. A population of skates were known to be in the Mere in the late 1980s however there have not been any recent observations indicating that they may have died out. Further monitoring or research is required to develop a better understanding of marine species in the Mere. Fragile stromatolites occurring on the shoreline around Sleaford Mere will be monitored for changes in condition.

The health of these wetland systems is important for many bird species that utilise the waters for feeding, including species listed in international agreements for the conservation of migratory shorebirds. The shoreline of these wetlands may play an increasingly important role for beach-nesting birds as climate change results in rising sea levels and an impact on their preferred breeding habitat. Effective management of these wetland systems cannot be considered in isolation from the dynamics of the surrounding wetland dependant vegetation.



Objective

Protect natural values by managing threats to threatened species and their habitats and delivering programs to enhance habitat integrity.

Strategies

- Monitor populations of threatened species and support further surveys to better understand the health and extent of flora and fauna populations and to inform operational requirements for their protection. Consider threatened species reintroduction programs to stabilise, re-establish or increase in-situ populations.
- Implement strategies in the *South Australian Recovery Plan for Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle* and actions identified in recovery plans and conservation advice statements for species listed under the EPBC Act to prevent further decline or extinction and to support their recovery.
- Implement strategic revegetation of the critically endangered drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) grassy woodland on calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion ecological community, and cleared areas to enhance habitat, support recovery of native species and improve ecological function. Consider revegetation of riparian areas to protect wetland systems.
- Monitor impacts of visitor activity on native wildlife sensitive to disturbance, particularly during breeding seasons. Implement mitigation measures where human disturbance is having an unsustainable impact.
- Develop and implement biosecurity protocols and education programs to prevent new incursions of introduced species and help visitors understand the significant conservation values of these parks and the risks associated with their behaviours.
- Manage pest plants in accordance with regional management plans and protect sites of high conservation value and where pest plants threaten the survival of threatened flora or fauna populations or important breeding habitat. Control new outbreaks on islands and in Memory Cove Wilderness Cove Protection Area as a priority.
- Control pest animals including foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), cats (*Felis catus*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) where their impact on biodiversity and a decline in native species becomes evident. Work in partnership with neighbours and stakeholders and contribute to landscape-scale control programs for effective outcomes.
- Implement programs to manage western grey kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) where they are causing or likely to cause adverse impacts to conservation values. Consider commercial management options in consultation with the kangaroo industry.
- Work in partnership with aquaculture industries, research organisations and other agencies to establish management requirements to limit the impact of silver gulls (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*). Consider management proposals to reduce breeding populations and permit their implementation where silver gulls are causing unsustainable impacts to ecological or economic values.
- Monitor koalas and their impact on native vegetation and implement management strategies to protect native vegetation and animal welfare if necessary.
- Implement strategies identified in the fire management plan for these parks to reduce the risk, intensity and spread of bushfires, reduce the risk of fires burning large areas in these parks and make fire suppression safer and more achievable.
- Use prescribed burning to enhance habitat quality, promote habitat for heath-dependent species and promote fire-dependant flora.
- Work with SA Water and the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board to ensure the protection of ground water resources within the Southern Basin Prescribed Wells Area.
- Continue to liaise with SA Water regarding the long-term management of water supply infrastructure within Lincoln National Park.
- Support monitoring and research to inform climate change adaptation actions for threatened species and ecosystem health.

THEME 2:

Providing nature-based experiences

Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area are noted for their scenic and wilderness qualities. They provide access to stunning natural places that are wild and rugged, contain abundant wildlife, protect cultural sites, and provide opportunity for recreation and nature-based experiences. Visitors to the area enjoy camping, bushwalking, fishing, bird watching, photography, four-wheel driving, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking and diving. Interest in a diverse range of new experiences including dark-sky, adventure, cruise, cycling, islands and voluntourism is expected to continue to develop in the tourism sector.

The 2025 South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy identifies that capitalising on its pristine nature, immersive wildlife experiences and coastal lifestyle are opportunities for regional tourism on Eyre Peninsula. Enabling nature-based tourism in the parks enhances visitor experiences and provides economic benefit for the local community. Activities that enhance or have minimal impact on habitat and wildlife will be supported.

A license or a lease is required for organisations and individuals to undertake commercial activities in parks. This ensures that activities are compatible with park values and can be managed within sustainable limits, as well as ensuring that visitors will have a safe and rewarding experience. Commercial tours in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area are managed within the daily vehicle limit.

Working closely with the tourism sector regarding eco-tourism accreditation will support a commitment to the provision of sustainable high-quality nature-based tourism experiences in the parks. Cultural tourism delivered in partnership with First Nations is an opportunity to create a unique sense of place and prosperity for community. It establishes links between different cultures and can help to conserve cultural and artistic heritage.

Facilities and infrastructure designed to support visitation and management can impact on the immediate environment. Every effort will be made to minimise this disturbance, including sensitive design and construction, monitoring and maintenance activities to ensure that ecological, cultural and scenic values are not compromised further.

Lincoln National Park

Lincoln National Park is one of the most visited parks in South Australia. It is a well-known park and is popular with both visitors and the local community. The majority of visitor facilities and associated infrastructure to support recreation within the parks in this plan are located within Lincoln National Park. Enhancing nature-based experiences and continuing to provide the quality and range of experiences that attract people to the park is a key focus.

A large trail network provides for a range of bushwalking experiences. The Investigator Trail is a long-distance walking trail made up of sections which can be walked individually or trekked over multiple days. Scope for the designation of existing trails and service tracks for cycling, and upgrading trails with a provision for multi-use to enable cycling will be explored as a way to diversify recreation opportunities in the park.

The road network provides good access for conventional vehicles to most areas in the park. Sealing Donington Road from the Stamford Hill turn-off to Cape Donington will be investigated as a way to provide better access within the park and minimise on-going road maintenance costs. Two existing small quarry sites within the park may be utilised for road works and development or upgrade of visitor facilities. If quarry material from these sites is exhausted they will be closed and rehabilitated. New quarry sites may be opened in the park based on the assessment of needs and suitable locations.

Several tracks in the park are suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles only. The track that traverses the Sleaford to Wanna dune system is a popular challenge for four-wheel drive enthusiasts. Ownership of four-wheel drive vehicles in Australia is continuing to rise as is the volume and pressure of vehicles on off-road tracks in the park. Vehicle tracks will be managed to prevent inappropriate access to areas of cultural or ecological importance and risks to public safety. Tracks resulting in unsustainable impacts on park values may be closed to public access.

Sand boarding is permitted on un-vegetated dunes within specified areas along the Sleaford to Wanna dunes. Vehicles must remain on designated tracks and

if negative impacts become evident the activity will be reviewed.

The Sleaford Bay Sanctuary Zone is important for southern right whales, gummy sharks and school sharks. Fishing in a sanctuary zone is generally not permitted, however, the Special Purpose Area along Sleaford Bay permits recreational shore-based line fishing within the zone (refer to Figure 1).

Day visit and camping facilities are spread around the coastline and have been strategically concentrated in the northern section of the park to provide remote nature experiences for visitors while maintaining a buffer to the natural values and the wilderness quality of Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

The Visitor Use Zone allows for small-scale tourist accommodation and commercial ventures that support nature-based activity. The types of tourist accommodation envisaged include, but are not limited to, permanent or semi-permanent tent, pod, dome or cabin style structures. The development of small-scale auxiliary buildings or structures to support commercial activity such as small events and outdoor activities will be considered in this zone to support nature-based experiences.

Sites with semi-permanent tents and ensuites have been established at the September Beach campground as a unique option for accommodation in the park. The installation of up to 5 sites similar to those at September Beach are planned for a new campground at Donington Beach. A day visitor area and path provides public access to Donington Beach and enables the separation of the campground and day visit areas. Additional sites may be used for tourist accommodation within the Visitor Use Zone in the future based on the level of public demand and an assessment of the potential benefits. The semi-permanent tent sites and Donington Cottage may be operated by external parties under a lease agreement.

Proposals for the development of tourist accommodation and commercial ventures within the park will be assessed on their merits, including a thorough analysis of risks to park values, impacts to other park users

and the delivery of high quality visitor experiences. Development will be subject to formal assessment and approval processes under the provisions of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act) and *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. Donington Cottage is protected as a Local Heritage Place under the PDI Act. Any proposal to alter or further restore the cottage will need to be compatible with the site's heritage values and will be subject to assessment and development approval under the Local Heritage Place Overlay in the *South Australian Planning and Design Code*.

The management, upgrading and development of visitor facilities will remain flexible to meet visitor needs and adapt to changing environmental conditions. Upgrades and new infrastructure in day visit areas and campgrounds will be considered where there is a need to improve the visitor experience, accommodate higher demand, reduce environmental impacts or improve park management operations. Upgrades and new facilities will ensure inclusive access and experiences for all abilities wherever possible. During peak holiday times parking areas and campgrounds can experience increased vehicle traffic and environmental pressure. Alternative car parking arrangements during these peak times may be considered to mitigate impacts.



Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

The Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area provides a special wilderness experience for visitors. Access to the day visit area and campground is suitable by four-wheel drive vehicles via the Memory Cove Track. Vehicle tracks and walking trails provide opportunities for visitors to explore special parts of the park and provide access to the coastline.

Visitor facilities in the Memory Cove Visitor Zone will be reconfigured to support better nature experiences and improve functionality. This includes providing better segmentation of the day visit area and campground, upgrading facilities and rehabilitating impacted areas. Upgrades will be done in accordance with the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones*.

Watercraft often anchor in the sheltered waters at Memory Cove. Visitors that enter the park from the water are subject to normal park regulations and the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy.

Islands

There are 21 islands and islets within Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Most are difficult to access and visitation is predominately for operational and scientific purposes. Occasional visits occur by people from recreational watercraft (e.g. yachts, kayaks), fishing charters and commercial fishing boats where there is easy access and safe anchorage. There are no airstrips and the landing of aircraft in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is only permitted for emergency and essential management operations.

The abundance of wildlife, scenic qualities and sense of remoteness of the islands are conducive to providing unique visitor experiences. However, these island environments can be fragile and many of the key species that utilise these islands are threatened, uniquely island endemic and can be sensitive to direct and indirect disturbance. The risks and impacts of visitation to these islands are real and have the potential to result in catastrophic consequences to plants and animals that rely on these places. Finding a balance between enabling people to experience these special places and protecting their values is one of the challenges for future management.

Island Management Zones

Access to the islands for any purpose requires prior approval from the Department for Environment and Water. Applications will be assessed to identify alignment with management zones, identify potential risks and to ensure strategies are in place to minimise impacts.

Island Visitation Zone

North and south Bickers islands, Horse Rock, Carcase Rock, and beach areas on Rabbit, Williams and Owen islands have been designated Island Visitation Zones (refer to Figures 2 and 3). Day visits for nature-based tourism and recreation experiences will be permitted in these areas subject to the assessment of applications. Infrastructure and visitor facilities will not be developed in these zones and camping is not permitted. Visitation by large groups such as those from cruise ships are not supported due to the concentrated impacts that large groups can have on sensitive island environments and the lack of infrastructure to support large numbers of people accessing and staying onshore for periods of time.

While Carcase Rock and Horse Rock have been designated Island Visitation Zones, both are less than one hectare and are subject to inundation. They aren't considered potential tourism destinations but may provide opportunity for short visits by small craft such as kayaks.

All visitors will need to respect and observe wildlife from a distance, apply the leave no trace ethic and comply with the *National Parks and Wildlife (Protected Animals-Marine Mammals) Regulations 2010* at all times.

Island Wilderness Zones

Island Wilderness Zones (refer to Figure 2 and 3) comprise areas that have exceptional ecological value and are largely free of the impacts of introduced pests, diseases and impacts from human disturbance. They provide secure areas and breeding sites for a range of wildlife. They have been determined by applying a set of criteria as outlined on page 4. The likely impacts to natural values and high risk to visitor safety and equipment during attempted access to the islands outweighs the benefits provided by visitation and therefore tourism and recreation is not permitted.



Island Access Principles

The following high-level principles have been developed to guide the decision making process regarding requests to access islands:

1. Visitation furthers research and conservation outcomes or is necessary for operational or cultural heritage purposes
2. Ecological processes and wildlife can sustain the form of visitation and activities which are occurring, or that are proposed
3. The purpose, intensity and frequency of visitation does not damage island values or result in risks to visitor safety
4. Commercial tourism is high quality and enriches visitor experiences through interpretation and opportunities to connect with the natural and cultural environment.

Approvals will include conditions to minimise disturbance to wildlife and the environment, manage the number of people, keep visitors safe and ensure biosecurity protocols are in place. Other conditions or approvals such as a scientific research permit or a commercial tour operator's licence may also be required.

Park management operations, scientific research, conservation work and cultural heritage management are considered foundational activities and will be permitted on all islands subject to specific conditions.

The marine navigational aid on Williams Island is owned and maintained by the Australian Maritime Services Authority (AMSA). National Parks and Wildlife staff will work closely with AMSA regarding maintenance schedules and to ensure that strategies are in place to minimise potential impacts from management operations and ensure biosecurity protocols are in place.

Some interactions and experiences may be best achieved from the water or on nearby private islands that have established tourism operations. Working with commercial operators and the tourism sector will ensure delivery of high quality visitor experiences that are sustainable and will explore opportunities for collaboration across the public and private sector.

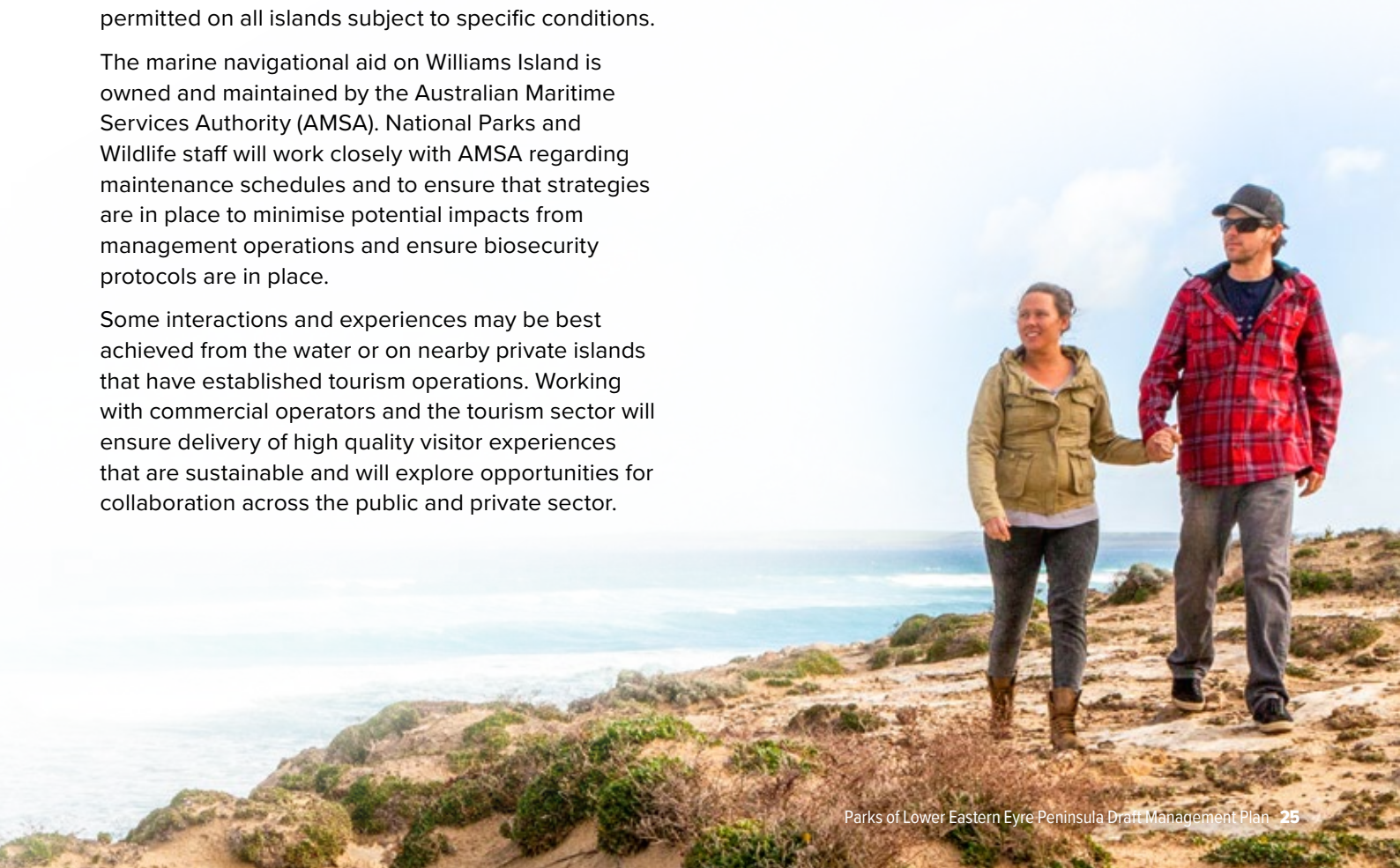
The area is rich in First Nations heritage. Engaging with First Nations groups will provide the most appropriate pathway to recognising and protecting cultural values from the impacts of visitation as well as provide opportunity for cultural tourism. Some islands have been subject to guano mining and grazing but there are no remaining relics that provide any real heritage value.

Sleaford Mere Conservation Park

Sleaford Mere Conservation Park is managed primarily for biodiversity conservation and does not have any visitor facilities. There are no access tracks within the park however visitors are able to walk and drive around the park on public roads and the four-wheel drive track within Lincoln National Park. Kayaking, canoeing and swimming are permitted in the park but due the size, depth and salinity of the lake, these activities are only occasionally undertaken. Given the significance of stromatolites on much of the shore, if visitors accessing the water lead to negative impacts on the condition of stromatolites, mitigation measures will be implemented to prevent further damage.

Lincoln Conservation Park

Lincoln Conservation Park is managed for biodiversity conservation. There are no visitor facilities and visitation is infrequent and predominantly for bird watching, bushwalking and spending time in nature.



Objective

Provide nature-based experiences and support opportunities for high quality and ecologically sustainable tourism.

Strategies

- Explore opportunities for new visitor experiences and tourism activities in partnership with the tourism sector, commercial operators and key stakeholders.
- Work closely with the tourism sector and commercial operators to ensure delivery of high quality visitor experiences and an eco-accreditation system appropriate for protecting park values.
- Partner with First Nations to explore opportunities for cultural tourism activities and enterprises to raise awareness of culture and to help generate employment for First Nations people.
- Monitor the impact of visitor use on park values, particularly in relation to native species that are threatened or sensitive to disturbance. Develop strategies and take appropriate action where impacts are unsustainable.
- Monitor impacts from vehicles and close tracks or restrict vehicle access to certain areas to protect environmental or cultural values.
- Continue commercial leasing and licencing arrangements with external parties in Lincoln National Park for the provision of overnight stays at campgrounds and Donington Cottage. Facilitate the development of semi-permanent tent sites at Donington Beach to expand the range of overnight options in the park and provide additional nature-based experiences.
- Collaborate with key stakeholders regarding improvements to the trail network in Lincoln National Park. Consider upgrading trails, providing interpretive information and enabling cycling to diversify recreation activities in the park.
- Investigate sealing the remaining section of Donington Road from the Stamford Hill turn-off to provide better access for visitors and minimise on-going road maintenance costs. If feasible, progress the development and construction of the road.

- Manage and maintain visitor facilities and infrastructure for the provision of quality experiences. Consider upgrades and new facilities in Lincoln National Park to improve visitor experiences, accommodate higher demand, reduce environmental impacts or improve maintenance efficiency. Apply universal design principles to ensure parks are inclusive for all abilities.
- Reconfigure the Memory Cove visitor area to separate the campground and day visit area to maximise wilderness qualities for visitors. Remove obsolete infrastructure and rehabilitate areas no longer required for visitation.
- Undertake detailed assessments of proposals to access islands to ensure alignment with the island visitation principles and management zones. Ensure approvals include conditions to minimise wildlife disturbance, manage visitor numbers, keep visitors safe and prevent biosecurity incursions. Conditions can include, but not be limited to, clauses that specify:
 - visitors are informed about sensitive island values and appropriate behaviours through the distribution of pre-visit information, guidelines and interpretation materials
 - access points and permitted areas
 - approved activities while on islands
 - seasonal restrictions during key wildlife breeding seasons
 - biosecurity protocols
 - the maximum number of people to be on an island at any one time
 - the frequency and timing of visits
 - eco-tourism accreditation as a minimum standard
 - a guide nominated by DEW to be present on visits to monitor impacts and contribute to the purpose of the visit
 - the research and conservation outcomes required.
- If visitors accessing Sleaford Mere are leading to detrimental impacts on stromatolites, undertake appropriate actions to prevent further damage.

THEME 3:

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy

The WP Act defines wilderness criteria for South Australia. For land to be considered 'wilderness', it must be relatively free from the effects of modern technology and not be seriously affected by exotic animals, plants or organisms. Wilderness areas are a critically important resource for the long-term protection of biological diversity and self-sustaining ecosystems, particularly in the face of climate change.

The area incorporating Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area was assessed in 1997 by the then Wilderness Advisory Committee as containing some of the highest quality wilderness in the state, and in particular on the Eyre Peninsula, due to its remoteness from access and settlement, and low level of disturbance (DEH 2005).

To maintain the values of this wilderness protection area, it is important that these features are retained in their natural state and that development or activities that would lead to an adverse effect on the native vegetation, biodiversity or landscape values are not permitted.

In South Australia, wilderness protection areas are managed according to the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones*. The Code requires a visitor management strategy to be included in any management plan. With this in mind, enabling visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and unique wilderness experience of the park requires sustainable management of visitation and infrastructure to protect and improve long-term integrity of wilderness quality. To help retain wilderness qualities, visitors are encouraged to adopt the *Minimum Impact Code for Wilderness Use in South Australia*.

Entry to the mainland section of Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area will be restricted to a maximum of 15 vehicles per day to maintain the parks wilderness qualities and provide a unique wilderness experience for visitors. This is regulated by means of a locked gate within Lincoln National Park, at the entrance to Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Vehicles in the park are restricted to the Memory Cove Track. The track is suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles

and off-road trailers only. Caravans and large vehicles such as motorhomes and buses are not suitable for the track regardless of their four-wheel drive capability.

Facilities in the Memory Cove Visitor Zone support camping and day visits. The development of visitor facilities and infrastructure is not envisioned outside of this zone. Designated walking trails provide access to scenic lookouts and areas along the coast, particularly in the southern end of the park. Gas fires and liquid fuel fires are permitted throughout the year, other than on days of total fire ban. Wood fires and the use of generators are not permitted within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, including at the campground and on beaches.

Williams Island is 2 kilometres off the southern tip of the wilderness protection area. The u-shaped bay on the northern coast contains a beautiful sandy beach and sheltered anchorage for watercraft.

The beach area has been designated as an Island Visitation Zone (refer to Figure 2) which enables day visits for nature-based tourism and recreation experiences subject to prior approval. Hopkins, Lewis, Little and Smith islands and the area on Williams Island adjacent the Island Visitation Zone have been designated as Island Wilderness Zones and visitation for tourism and recreation is not permitted.

On-shore excursions by passengers from small cruise ships impact on the wilderness experience for other visitors and are not permitted.

Impacts to the wilderness values such as human disturbance to wildlife, off-track walking, physical damage to landscape and vegetation, littering and the introduction of pest plants and animals will be monitored to inform future decision making in managing the wilderness protection area.

Objective

Provide a unique wilderness experience for visitors and maintain the wilderness qualities of Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

Strategies

- Make information available to visitors and the local community to encourage awareness of wilderness values and adoption of the *Minimum Impact Code for Wilderness Use in South Australia* (DEH 2006) and the principles set out in this plan.
- Maintain the 15 vehicle per day limit to manage visitor numbers and ensure a unique wilderness experience.
- Periodically assess the impact of visitor activities on wilderness values with a particular focus on Memory Cove.
- Implement management strategies that are consistent with the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones* (DEH 2004) to address any emerging impacts arising from visitor activities.
- Consider approving commercial tourism proposals that are consistent with the Wilderness Protection Regulations 2006, the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones* (DEH 2004) and the requirements of the *Minimum Impact Code for Wilderness Use in South Australia* (DEH 2006) and the principles set out in this plan.



THEME 4:

Maintaining culture and heritage

First Nations people have a relationship with Country built on an understanding of natural cycles and an intricate knowledge of the landscape and species within it. The southern Eyre Peninsula is rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage and First Nations people maintain a strong connection to the area bound by heritage, birth rites, dreaming and stories.

Sites and features across the landscape are connected to stories that have been passed down over generations. Burial sites and archaeological sites including fish traps, stone working sites and middens are still present in the parks. Ensuring sites of cultural importance are protected from impacts associated with visitation, conservation programs and park maintenance activities will be achieved in consultation with First Nations. All sites, objects and remains are protected from damage, disturbance or interference by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, regardless of whether they are known in the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects. Any significant works within the parks will require cultural clearance.

The Nauo #2 native title claim was lodged with the Federal Court of Australia in 2016 on behalf of the Nauo native title claim group for an area that covers approximately 536 square kilometres of the south east of the Eyre Peninsula, including the parks covered in this plan. The claim includes several islands in the Spencer Gulf and extends 10 metres seaward into the Great Australian Bight.

Matthew Flinders' visited the Port Lincoln area aboard the *Investigator* in 1802. He surveyed, mapped and named much of the coastline of the lower Eyre Peninsula. Flinders erected a tablet at a site he named Memory Cove, after the tragic loss of 8 crew at sea. Many landscape features were named by Flinders in memory of this tragedy, including Cape Catastrophe, Memory Cove and 8 of the islands in Thorny Passage. The Memory Cove area is one of the few sites in South Australia where Flinders came ashore. In 1841 a monument was erected on Stamford Hill, commemorating Flinders' voyage. Flinders tablet at Memory Cove and the Stamford Hill monument are listed on the South Australian Heritage Register and protected under heritage legislation.

Sealing and whaling occurred for a few decades in the early 1800s. Seal numbers were depleted quickly and interest turned to whaling. A whaling station operated in Spalding Cove from 1828 to about 1832. By the late 1840s, whale numbers had declined to a point where whaling had become unviable.

Shipwrecks dotted around the coastline of the mainland and islands provide insights into the maritime history of the area. Any shipwreck or associated object that is 75 years old or older, or has been declared as a historic shipwreck by the Minister, is protected by either the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* (SA waters) or the *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* (Commonwealth waters).

Colonial activity in the area including farming, grazing, woodcutting and guano mining drastically altered the landscape contributing to the displacement of First Nations people. Donington Cottage was built in around 1899 by a leaseholder of the area and is available as holiday rental accommodation for park visitors. A reminder of the past uses of the area, including cleared areas, wells, ruins, fence lines and farm machinery are still present and help preserve the history of the parks.

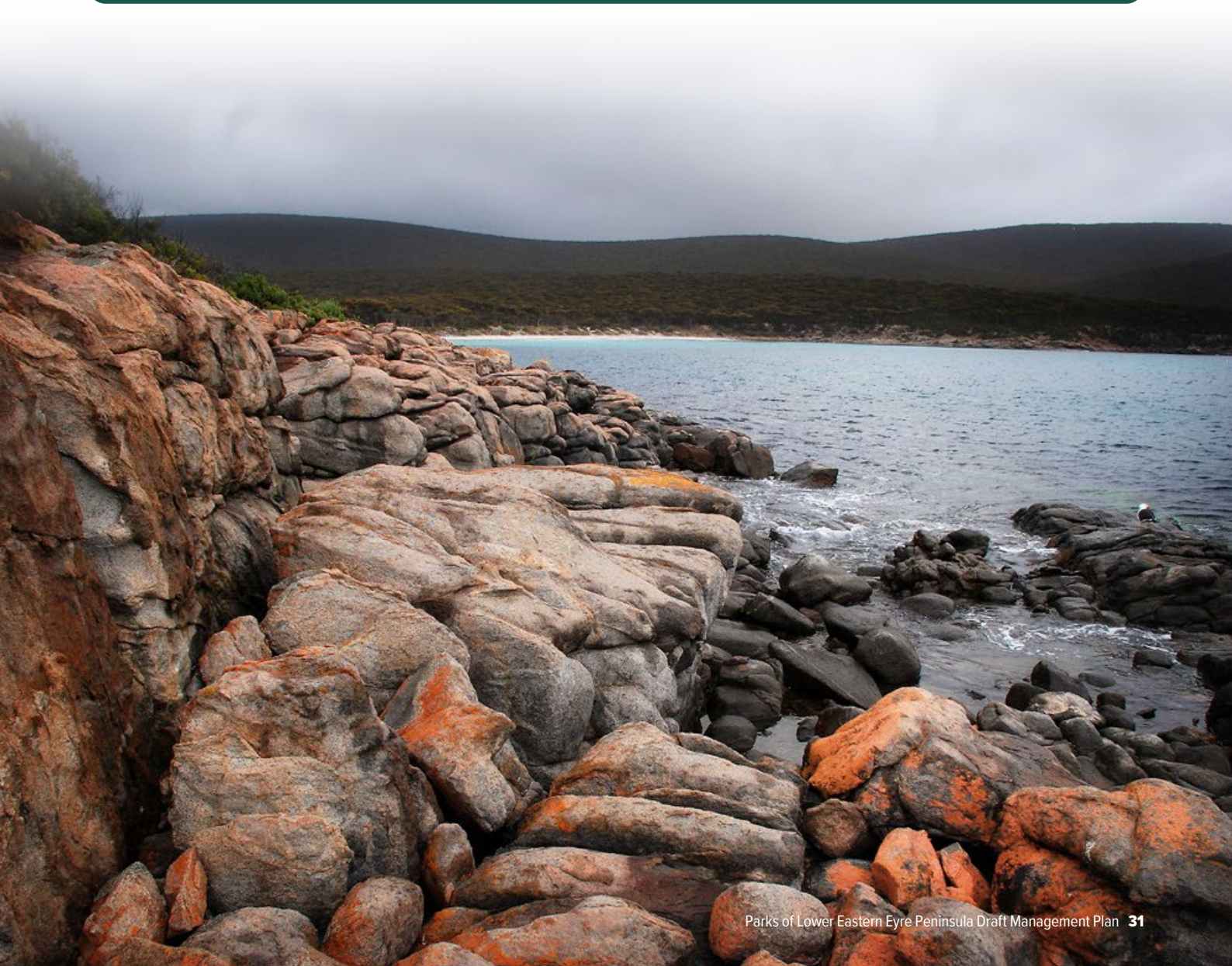
The cultural heritage values of these parks provide important links to the history of Eyre Peninsula, and are of continuing cultural importance to First Nations people and the Eyre Peninsula community. Interpretation of the history and natural environment within Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area will be central to creating meaningful connections for visitors and the community. Interpretive material will be developed in collaboration with First Nations and key stakeholders.

Objective

Work with First Nations and stakeholders to maintain, protect and raise awareness of the parks cultural and heritage values.

Strategies

- In consultation with First Nations groups, ensure sites of cultural and heritage importance to First Nations people are protected.
- Explore opportunities with First Nations groups to inform visitors on First Nations culture and heritage in the parks.
- Work in collaboration with First Nations groups, scientists, archaeologists, historians, community and others to develop interpretation that creates meaningful connections for parks visitors.



THEME 5:

Working with others

Strategic partnerships and collaboration with volunteer groups, research organisations, Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board, park neighbours, non-government organisations, commercial tour operators, aquaculture industry, First Nations and the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula are important for successful park management outcomes and supporting community participation in park management.

Maintaining and developing relationships with these organisations will provide opportunities to:

- protect and enhance biodiversity
- undertake monitoring
- support cross-cultural learning
- ensure cultural sites are protected
- provide opportunities for volunteer involvement
- ensure opportunities for economic ventures are explored
- contribute to social wellbeing.

Partnerships with First Nations will provide opportunities to include traditional knowledge and skills in park management activities, promote reconciliation, raise cultural awareness and generate employment, enterprise and training opportunities.

The Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks formed in 1995 and predominantly focuses on activities in Lincoln National Park. The group is involved with restoring drooping sheoak grassy woodlands, amenity planting around campgrounds and visitor areas, control of pest plants, maintenance of visitor facilities, trail maintenance and monitoring programs. Other groups including the Friends of Osprey in SA, the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association and the Eyre Peninsula 4WD Club also volunteer in the parks. Volunteer assistance is of great benefit in helping to manage the parks and to provide links with the broader community. Support for volunteer groups and volunteer activity will continue.

Promoting public participation in programs such as citizen science will encourage community involvement in monitoring and reporting and help to increase scientific knowledge and build a better understanding of wildlife populations. Working closely with researchers and environmental groups will support better outcomes.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) owns and manages the navaid facility on Williams Island and the lighthouse at the tip of Cape Donington. Access requirements and management of these facilities are done by AMSA in liaison with National Parks and Wildlife staff.



Objective

Nurture partnerships with First Nations and key stakeholders to achieve ecological and social outcomes and foster community stewardship of the parks.

Strategies

- Continue to support volunteer activity and facilitate opportunities for community participation in park management activities.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with environmental organisations, research groups and volunteers and support monitoring activities and on-ground works programs to enhance habitat and protect threatened species.
- Collaborate with the aquaculture and fishing industry to ensure marine based activities adjacent to the parks do not adversely impact biodiversity or natural values.
- Explore opportunities to partner with First Nations and include traditional knowledge in park management, raise cultural awareness and generate employment, enterprise and training opportunities.
- Liaise with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority regarding the management of marine navigation equipment to ensure maintenance supports park values.

Invitation to contribute

The Parks of Lower Eastern Eyre Peninsula Draft Management Plan has been released for public consultation to facilitate community input into the management of the parks.

You are invited to contribute by making a submission. Please consider the points below when drafting your submission to help ensure that it is effective:

- Make your feedback concise and clear
- Reference any specific comments to a page or section within the draft plan
- Identify aspects of the draft plan that you support, or do not support. Explain your reasons for disagreeing with the content of the draft plan and suggest alternatives
- Highlight any information that may be inaccurate and provide a reference to assist with further editing.

After all submissions received have been carefully considered, a final park management plan will be prepared and forwarded to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for consideration together with a detailed analysis of submissions received.

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 5 pm on 22 August 2024

Written submissions:

National Parks and Protected Areas Program Unit
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

E-mail submissions:

DEWProtectedAreaManagement@sa.gov.au
with 'Parks of Lower Eastern EP' in the
subject heading.

Online submissions:

YourSAy.sa.gov.au



References

Anderson, G (2005). *Review of South Australian Wetlands for 'A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia'*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2002a). *Biodiversity Plan for Eyre Peninsula*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2004). *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2005). *Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2006). *Minimum Impact Code for Wilderness use in South Australia*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) (2021). *South Australian Recovery Plan for Eastern Osprey and White-bellied Sea Eagle*. Department for Environment and Water, South Australia.

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) (2022). *Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia 2022*. Government of South Australia, through the Department for Environment and Water.

Harrison SJ. (2010). *Interactions between Silver Gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*) and Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) aquaculture in the Port Lincoln area*. Unpublished PhD thesis, Flinders University of South Australia.

South Australian Tourism Commission (2021). *South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy 2025*. Government of South Australia, Adelaide.

McBriar, E.M, Mooney, P.A. (1977). *Geological Monuments in South Australia*. Geological Monuments Subcommittee, SA Division of the Geological Society of Australia Incorporated.



Appendix 1: Threatened fauna

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status		Lincoln National Park	Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area	Sleaford Mere Conservation Park	Lincoln Conservation Park
		EPBC Act ¹	NPW Act ²				
<i>Acritoscincus trilineatus</i>	Western three-lined skink		R	✓	✓		
<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	Australian fur seal (Brown fur seal)		R		✓		
<i>Ardenna carneipes</i> ³	Flesh-footed shearwater		R		✓		
<i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> ³	Ruddy turnstone		R	✓	✓		
<i>Biziura lobata menziesi</i>	Musk duck		R	✓		✓	
<i>Burhinus grallarius</i>	Bush stone-curlew		R	✓	✓		
<i>Calidris alba alba</i> ³	Sanderling		R	✓			
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> ³	Curlew sandpiper	CR	E	✓		✓	
<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Cape Barren goose		R	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</i>	Banded stilt		V			✓	
<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	White-winged chough		R	✓			
<i>Egretta sacra sacra</i>	Pacific reef heron		R	✓		✓	
<i>Falco peregrinus macropus</i>	Peregrine falcon		R	✓			
<i>Falco subniger</i>	Black falcon		R	✓			
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty oystercatcher		R	✓	✓		
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Pied oystercatcher		R	✓		✓	
<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	White-bellied sea eagle		E	✓	✓		
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little eagle		V			✓	
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	VU	V	✓	✓		
<i>Lerista microtis</i>	Long-legged slider		R		✓		
<i>Lewin pectoralis pectoralis</i>	Lewin's rail		V			✓	

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status		Lincoln National Park	Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area	Sleaford Mere Conservation Park	Lincoln Conservation Park
		EPBC Act ¹	NPW Act ²				
<i>Lichenostomus cratitius occidentalis</i>	Purple-gaped honeyeater (mainland SA)		R	✓	✓		✓
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed kite		E			✓	
<i>Neophema elegans elegans</i>	Elegant parrot		R	✓			
<i>Neophema petrophila zietzi</i>	Rock parrot		R	✓	✓		
<i>Neophoca cinerea</i>	Australian sea lion	EN	V	✓	✓		
<i>Pandion haliaetus cristatus</i>	Eastern osprey		E	✓	✓		
<i>Petroica boodang boodang</i>	Scarlet robin		R	✓			✓
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> ³	Glossy ibis		R	✓			
<i>Podiceps cristatus australis</i>	Great crested grebe		R			✓	
<i>Pseudemoia baudini</i>	Bight coast skink		R	✓			
<i>Psophodes leucogaster leucogaster</i>	White-bellied whipbird (eastern subspecies)	VU	E	✓	✓		✓
<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	Australasian shoveler		R			✓	
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond firetail	VU	V	✓		✓	✓
<i>Sternula nereis nereis</i>	Fairy Tern	VU	E	✓		✓	
<i>Stipiturus malachurus parimeda</i>	Southern emuwren (Eyre Peninsula)	VU	E	✓	✓		
<i>Thinornis cucullatus cucullatus</i>	Hooded plover	VU	V	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	Common brushtail possum		R	✓			
<i>Turnix varius varius</i>	Painted buttonquail		R	✓			
<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	Heath goanna		V	✓	✓		

✓ There is a formal recording of these species within the biological database

✓ There has not been a formal recording of this species but it has been observed

¹ Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Commonwealth). CR - Critically Endangered, EN – Endangered, VU – Vulnerable.

² National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia). E – Endangered, V – Vulnerable, R – Rare.

³ Listed on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth) Migratory Species List.

Appendix 2: Threatened flora

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status		Lincoln National Park	Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area	Sleaford Mere Conservation Park	Lincoln Conservation Park
		EPBC Act ¹	NPW Act ²				
<i>Acacia alcockii</i>	Alcock's wattle		R	✓	✓		
<i>Acacia dodonaeifolia</i>	Hop-bush wattle		R	✓			
<i>Anthocercis angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf ray-flower		R	✓			
<i>Anthocercis anisantha</i> ssp. <i>anisantha</i>	Port Lincoln ray-flower		R	✓			
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Common spleenwort		R			✓	
<i>Austrostipa echinata</i>	Spiny spear-grass		R	✓			
<i>Caladenia bicallata</i> ssp. <i>bicallata</i>	Western daddy-long-legs		R	✓	✓		
<i>Caladenia macroclavia</i>	Large-club spider-orchid	EN	E	✓			
<i>Caladenia tensa</i>	Inland Green-comb Spider-orchid	EN					✓
<i>Eucalyptus globata</i> ssp. <i>globata</i>	Port Lincoln mallee		R*	✓	✓		
<i>Haeckeria cassiniiformis</i>	Dogwood haeckeria		R	✓			
<i>Hibbertia cinerea</i>	Port Lincoln guinea-flower		R	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Isotoma scapigera</i>	Salt isotome		R		✓		
<i>Lobelia cleistogamoides</i>			R	✓	✓		
<i>Lysiandra calycina</i>	Snowdrop spurge		R	✓			✓

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status		Lincoln National Park	Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area	Sleaford Mere Conservation Park	Lincoln Conservation Park
		EPBC Act ¹	NPW Act ²				
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Creeping boobialla		R	✓			
<i>Orobanche cernua</i> var. <i>australiana</i>	Australian broomrape		R		✓		
<i>Poa fax</i>	Scaly Poa		R	✓			
<i>Prasophyllum calcicola</i>	Limestone leek-orchid		V	✓	✓		
<i>Prasophyllum fecundum</i>	Self-pollinating leek-orchid		R	✓			✓
<i>Prasophyllum goldsackii</i>	Goldsack's leek-orchid	EN	E	✓	✓		
<i>Prasophyllum occultans</i>	Hidden leek-orchid		R	✓	✓		
<i>Pteris tremula</i>	Tender brake		R	✓		✓	
<i>Spyridium leucopogon</i>	Silvery spyridium		R	✓			
<i>Stackhousia annua</i>	Annual candles	VU	V	✓	✓		
<i>Tecticornia lepidosperma</i>			R	✓			
<i>Thysanotus nudicaulis</i>			E	✓			✓
<i>Wurmbea decumbens</i>	Trailing nancy		R	✓			✓
<i>Xanthorrhoea semiplana</i> ssp. <i>tateana</i>	Tate's grass-tree		R	✓			

✓ There is a formal recording of these species within the biological database

¹Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Commonwealth). CR - Critically Endangered, EN – Endangered, VU – Vulnerable.

² National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia). E – Endangered, V – Vulnerable, R – Rare



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.

Recognition of Aboriginal Culture:

All references to Aboriginal culture within this document including images, quotes, stories and language have copyright and cultural use protocols which apply. Any reproduction of this material must seek appropriate authority.



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, images and other material or devices protected by a trademark and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia | 2023 | FIS 975607