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## **NEW LAKE ST CLAIR CONSERVATION PARK PROCLAIMED**

A new 198 hectare conservation park has been established as Lake St Clair, near Robe in the state's south-east providing greater protection for a range of native flora and fauna in the region.

Announcing the new park, Environment and Conservation Minister, Gail Gago said the Lake St Clair region was a truly special area and home to wombats, echidnas and a habitat for the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot and rare Swamp Antechinus.

“The state government recognises the important roles our native vegetation and protected parks play in establishing healthy ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and retaining our environmental heritage for generations to come,” Minister Gago said.

“The land purchase had been made possible through funding assistance from the National Reserve System program of the federal government's Natural Heritage Trust.

“The shoreline of Lake St Clair is fringed with patches of remnant vegetation including rush, sedge, samphire and tea tree communities, which makes this area of particular importance.

“The Naracoorte Coastal Plain bio-region, where Lake St Clair is found, is a high priority for our conservation initiatives and this new park is a significant step toward preserving the biodiversity in the area.

“Under conservation park status, rare plants like the Creeping Cotula and White Sebaea will now be properly managed along with vulnerable bird species like the Beautiful Firetail and Blue-Winged Parrot.

“The state government has made a commitment to protecting our vulnerable habitats and fostering biodiversity,” Minister Gago said.

“Establishing parks like Lake St Clair is another important step in that process.”

“We have made a commitment to protecting our vulnerable habitats and fostering biodiversity in the South Australian Strategic Plan.

“We have worked hard to achieve that vision over the past four years, and are continuing to do so by upgrading areas like Lake St Clair to conservation park status.

“In our first term of government, we established 11 new national parks and four new wilderness protection areas. Overall, we increased the level of protection for more than 1 million hectares during that period,” Minister Gago said.