Cultural richness and diversity are the hallmarks of a great society. It is these qualities that are basic to our humanity. They are the foundation of our value systems and drive our quest for purpose and contentment.

Cultural richness embodies morality, spiritual well-being, the rule of law, reverence for life, human achievement, creativity and talent, options for choice, a sense of belonging, personal worth and an acceptance of responsibility for the future.

Biological richness and diversity are, in turn, important to cultural richness and communities of people. When a community ceases to value and protect its natural landscapes, it erodes the richness and wholeness of its cultural foundation.

In South Australia, we are privileged to have a network of parks, reserves and protected areas that continue to serve as benchmarks against which we can measure progress and change brought about by our society. They are storehouses of nature’s rich diversity, standing as precious biological and cultural treasures. It is important to realise that survival of species in ‘island’ reserves surrounded by agriculture or urban areas is uncertain, and that habitat links between reserves are essential for their long-term value as storehouses.

As a result of more than a century of conserving nature and cultural items, we possess a “legacy” which is worth passing on to future generations.

There are twelve essentials for the protection of our park environments:

- Recognition that a primary purpose of our national parks system is to conserve the wide diversity of South Australia’s native plants and animals and to improve their chances of survival through active wildlife management.
- Recognition that all our parks also protect cultural legacy of relevance to both Indigenous and Non-indigenous people, and that Indigenous people have had cultural association with this land over many thousands of years.
- Freedom to improve our legacy by making additions to the park system – enhancing existing protected areas and including landscapes and environments containing native plant and animal communities not already protected.
- Realisation that the continuance of our native species cannot be dependent upon island reserves alone but should be provided for in a regional landscape with linkages between natural areas to enhance the prospect of long-term survival.
- Recognition that there is potential for new and useful substances or genetic material to be found in native plants and animals.
- Recognition of economic and social benefits for local communities, which arise from the presence of national parks in their region and the consequent opportunities to offer service for visitors.
- Development of close relationships with the community, so that there is an understanding of the role of parks in conserving native wildlife, cultural items and in providing recreational opportunities.
- Promotion of community participation in making decisions on the management of parks, so that a sense of community ownership of the reserve system may be fostered, and so that parks and surrounding landscapes are managed in harmony.
- Appreciation that those qualities presented to visitors for their use and enjoyment in parks, should be the diversity of plants, animals and landscapes for which the parks were set aside.
- Understanding that development in a park should proceed where it:
  - contributes to the conservation of the environment;
  - provides for better appreciation of the need to conserve the diversity of plants and animals;
  - protects wildlife habitats and landscape (especially vulnerable and threatened species or communities); and
  - is necessary for management of the park.
- Reassurance, in support of our cultural character, that natural areas can survive even though those who care deeply for their survival may never visit them.
- Provision of valued natural areas for people to be at one with nature and for personal and spiritual refreshment.
This plan of management has been prepared and adopted in pursuance of section 31 of the Wilderness Protection Act 1992.
FOREWORD

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area conserves 9,336 hectares of spectacular wilderness, coastal dunes, and sandy beaches. The reserve conserves several flora and fauna species of conservation significance, including possible breeding ground for the rare Australian Sea-lion.

The wilderness protection area also protects an area of significant cultural heritage, as it is the location where the cutter from Flinders’ ship, the Investigator, capsized resulting in the death of eight men. The land comprising the reserve is also especially significant to Aboriginal people.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area was, together with Hincks and Hambidge Wilderness Protection Areas on Central Eyre Peninsula, the first wilderness protection area to be proclaimed on mainland South Australia.

The plan defines a series of objectives and actions for the future management and use of this significant reserve and facilitates the development and implementation of high quality conservation programs.

Many people have contributed to the development of this plan of management. Their interest and helpful suggestions are gratefully acknowledged.

I have formally adopted the plan of management for Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area under the provisions of section 31 of the Wilderness Protection Act 1992. I encourage you to read the plan and visit and enjoy this exceptional reserve.

JOHN HILL

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
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1 PARK LOCATION AND FEATURES

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area was proclaimed under the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 on 30 September 2004, to conserve an important area of wilderness. The reserve, which originally formed part of the Lincoln National Park, is one of the first wilderness protection areas to be proclaimed on the South Australian mainland, and consists of the following parcels of land:

- Sections 6, 12, 13, 22 and 23, Hundred of Flinders;
- Allotments 1, 2, 4 and 6 of DP 64397, Hundred of Flinders;
- Allotment 102 of DP 64387, Out of Hundreds (Lincoln);
- Sections 873 (Little Island), 874 (Lewis Island), 875 (Smith Island) and 876 (Hopkins Island), Out of Hundreds (Lincoln);
- Allotments 17, 18, 19, 21 of DP 35926, Out of Hundreds (Lincoln); and
- Allotment 2 of DP 19500 (Williams Island), Out of Hundreds (Lincoln).

The 9,336 hectare reserve is located on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula, approximately 15km south-east of Port Lincoln (Figure 1). It extends to low water mark on the eastern and southern boundaries, and includes Little Island, Lewis Island, Hopkins Island, Smith Island and Williams Island. Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is surrounded to the north and west by Lincoln National Park.

Other parks in the vicinity of the wilderness protection area include Sir Joseph Banks Group Conservation Park, which is approximately 25 kilometres to the north-west, and Neptune Islands Conservation Park, which is approximately 30 kilometres to the south. Gambier Islands Conservation Park is also located approximately 50 kilometres to the south-east of Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

There are three islands surrounding the reserve that are not part of the Department’s protected area system. These are Taylor Island, Grindall Island and Thistle Island.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area protects an abundance of native flora and fauna, including several species of conservation significance at state or national levels.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area also holds a significant cultural history. Prior to European settlement, two groups of Aboriginal people, the Barngarla and the Nauo groups occupied the area. In 1802, Matthew Flinders sailed the coast in the *Investigator*. During this expedition seven of his crew and the ship’s Master, John Thistle, drowned when their cutter capsized during a search for fresh water. The nearby islands were named after the eight lost men, and Memory Cove was named to commemorate this tragedy.

Biogeographic Regionalisation and Environmental Associations

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area lies within the Eyre Yorke Block Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region, which totals approximately 6,108,971 hectares. Of this, 13.5% of native vegetation is represented in protected areas. The Eyre Yorke Block IBRA region is described as “Archaean basement rocks and Proterozoic sandstones overlain by undulating to occasionally hilly calcarenite and calcareous plains and areas of aeolian quartz sands, with mallee woodlands, shrublands and heaths on calcareous earths, duplex soils and calcareous to shallow sands, now largely cleared for agriculture” (Environment Australia, 2000).

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area conserves approximately 19% of the Lincoln Environmental Association (EA) and approximately 31% of the Jussieu EA. Laut describes the Lincoln EA as an undulating calcareous plain with widespread sand dunes, isolated hills and small lakes, with cliffs along the coast, and the Jussieu EA as an undulating plain with extensive dunes and cliffs along the coast (Laut et al, 1977).

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is also located in the Jussieu Peninsula to Coffin Bay Peninsula Large Remnant Area (DEH, 2002). It also lies partially within the Eyre Hills IBRA Subregion.
Figure 1
Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Location

Legend

- Wilderness Protection Areas
- Other DEH Managed Reserves

(LNP) Lincoln National Park
(MCWPA) Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

Map designed and created by Reserve Planning using PAMS
Date: 10 October, 2005
2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

2.1 Wilderness Protection Act 1992

The Wilderness Protection Act 1992 provides for the protection of wilderness and the restoration of land to its condition before European colonisation.

The Act describes the following attributes for land to be considered as wilderness:

(a) land and its ecosystems that have not been affected, or have been affected to only a minor extent, by modern technology, and

(b) land and its ecosystems that have not been seriously affected by exotic animals or plants or other exotic organisms.

Wilderness protection areas are managed by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife subject to any direction by the Minister for Environment and Conservation or the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH).

Section 31 of the Act states that a management plan is required for each wilderness protection area. A management plan must as far as practicable implement the policies set out in the Wilderness Code of Management so far as they are relevant to the wilderness protection area. The management plan must also set forth proposals in relation to the management and improvement of the wilderness protection area and any other proposals to accomplish the objectives of the Act in relation to the wilderness protection area.

DEH is responsible for preparing management plans and undertaking the prescribed community consultation process for the wilderness protection area. A standard management planning process is mandated, to ensure that all statutory obligations are met. Help and guidance with plan preparation is sought and obtained from individuals, community groups or relevant advisory committees, although ultimately the decision on whether or not to adopt a management plan remains a ministerial prerogative.

Before preparing a management plan, the Act requires a process in which a call for submissions must be made for matters that should be addressed by the plan. For the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, an invitation for submissions was made in May 2004 and two submissions were received.

The draft plan for Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area was released for public exhibition in March 2005. At the close of the comment period, six submissions were received, raising issues including the appropriate management of fire, Phytophthora, information on flora and fauna, and the management of tracks.

In accordance with the Act, the provisions of this management plan must be carried out and no actions undertaken unless they are in accordance with this plan. In order to achieve this, each year park managers, taking regional and district priorities into account, draw up work programs to implement some of the strategies proposed in management plans. Implementation of these projects is determined by, and subject to, the availability of resources (eg staffing and funding).

2.2 Wilderness Code of Management

DEH is required under section 12(2) of the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 to manage wilderness protection areas consistent with the Wilderness Code of Management (Attachment A). A management plan for a wilderness protection area must, as far as practicable, implement the policies set out in the Wilderness Code of Management so far as they are relevant to the wilderness protection area.

2.3 Native Title Act 1993

Native Title describes the rights and interests Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs. Commonwealth legislation, in the form of the Native Title Act 1993 was enacted to:

- Provide for the recognition and protection of native title;
- Establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings;
- Establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title; and
- Provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts, and intermediate period acts, invalidated because of the existence of native title.

This management plan is released and will be adopted subject to any native title rights and interests that may continue to exist in relation to the land and/or waters. Before undertaking any acts that might affect native title, DEH will follow the relevant provisions of the Native Title Act 1993.
3 VISION
The vision for Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is the preservation of outstanding wilderness, promoting connectivity with the adjoining Lincoln National Park, thus enabling species and ecosystems to continue to survive, evolve and flourish.

4 WILDERNESS PROTECTION
Wilderness protection areas are proclaimed under the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 and are managed in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management. The Code must be adhered to when undertaking all management activities within the reserve.

The management activities detailed within this management plan have been prescribed in accordance with the Code, to primarily preserve the wilderness values and biodiversity of the reserve, and to secondarily allow for the enjoyment and benefit of the public, where compatible with maximising wilderness quality.

Memory Cove was assessed in 1997 by the Wilderness Advisory Committee as containing some of the highest quality wilderness in the state, and in particular on the Eyre Peninsula, due to the area's moderate remoteness from access and settlement, and low level of disturbance. Since a locked gate was installed in 1992 on Memory Cove Road, just outside the wilderness protection area within Lincoln National Park, the area has been managed to maintain its undisturbed state.

Objective
Maximise the wilderness quality of the reserve.

Strategy
- Manage the reserve in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management.

5 MANAGING NATURAL HERITAGE
5.1 Native Vegetation
Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area conserves a coastal dune association, with coastal heathlands occurring further inland towards Lincoln National Park. A transition from cliff vegetation to low open scrub occurs along the coastline (DEH, 2004).

One hundred and eighty species of native flora have also been recorded within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. Of these there are seven species of conservation significance. These are:

- Alcock's Wattle (Acacia alcockii), state and nationally rare;
- Western Daddy-long-legs (Caladenia bicalliata), state and nationally rare;
- Port Lincoln Mallee (Eucalyptus conglabata), state rare;
- Hidden Leek-orchid (Prasophyllum occultans), state and nationally rare;
- Port Lincoln Guinea-flower (Hibbertia sp. A), state uncommon;
- Fan Pomaderris (Pomaderris flabellaris), state uncommon; and
- Annual Candles (Stackhousia annua), state and nationally vulnerable.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area contains one species listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), which is the Annual Candles (Stackhousia annua) and is listed as vulnerable.

Currently, there has not been any study specifically within the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area to determine threatened flora species or plant communities that require particular management attention. A survey of the reserve is required to collate information on the threatened flora within the reserve.
Phytophthora

Phytophthora cinnamomi (Pc) is an introduced soil-borne pathogen that kills a wide range of native Australian plant species by attacking their root system and reducing or stopping the movement of water and nutrients within the plant.

The disease spreads quickly downhill with the movement of water through the soil. It can also spread slowly in any direction through root-to-root contact. The spread of Pc has been dramatically increased by human activities, particularly by moving soil, gravel and plant material on vehicles, footwear and camping equipment.

There is currently no recorded presence of Phytophthora cinnamomi within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, or the surrounding Lincoln National Park. However, conditions are favourable for its existence, especially due to the popularity of the area for visitation, and a suspected infestation should be treated the same way as a confirmed infestation, as outlined in the Threat Abatement Plan for Dieback Caused by the Root-rot Fungus Phytophthora cinnamomi (Environment Australia, 2001). Therefore it is essential to take control measures to ensure that no contaminated soil enters the reserve, to reduce the chance of Pc becoming established within the reserve.

Objectives

Maintain and restore natural processes, communities and habitats.

Prevent the introduction and spread of Pc in the wilderness protection area.

Strategies

- Survey, identify, monitor and develop action plans for threatened flora and vegetation communities within the reserve.
- Continue to promote awareness among DEH staff and the wider community of the potential for introduction and establishment of Pc, the plant species susceptible to it and indicators of its presence.
- Undertake a Pc survey of the wilderness protection area and continue to repeat this survey periodically. Programs should be put in place to contain this pathogen and to restrict the movement of visitors and management of staff through infected areas.

5.2 Native Fauna

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area contains 39 native fauna species. Of these, 17 are birds, five are mammals and 17 are reptiles.

There are three species of bird recorded in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area listed as rare under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. These are the Cape Baren Goose (Cereopsis novaehollandiae), the Rock Parrot (Neophema petrophila) and the Fleshy-footed Shearwater (Puffinus carneipes). There are three bird species recorded within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area listed as vulnerable under the Act. These are the White-bellied Sea-eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster), the Hooded Plover (Thinornis rubricollis) and the Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata). The Eyre Peninsula Southern Emu-wren (Stipiturus malachurus parimedia) has also been recorded within the reserve and is listed as endangered under the Act (Pickett, 2004).

There are two species of mammal, the Australian Sea-lion (Neophoca cinerea) and the Brush-tailed Bettong (Bettongia penicillata), and two species of reptile, the Western Three-lined Skink (Bassiana trilineata) and the Heath Goanna (Varanus rosenbergi), recorded in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area listed as rare under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

As part of the “Ark on Eyre” Program, DEH has used Lincoln National Park as a location for the reintroduction of fauna species. The “Ark on Eyre” Program concentrates on conserving nature across the entire Eyre Peninsula, through community involvement and educational programs.

In 1991 four Malleefowl were released into Lincoln National Park. Since this time an active Malleefowl nest has been located in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, indicating their spread into the reserve.
In 1999 several Bettongs were released into Lincoln National Park. They have since been recorded in Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

Reintroduction of species is permissible under the Wilderness Code of Management, which states that “action will be taken to maintain and, where possible, restore natural processes, communities and habitats”. As such, it is intended to use Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area for the reintroduction of endangered fauna species to restore their communities within the reserve.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area contains four species listed under the EPBC Act. Three of these are birds, which are the Malleefowl and the Eyre Peninsula Southern Emu-wren which are listed as vulnerable, and the Short-tailed Shearwater (Puffinus tenuirostris) which is a listed migratory species, that has breeding habitat within the reserve. The Australian Sea-lion (Neophoca cinerea) has been located on Hopkins Island, and is listed under the EPBC Act. It is believed that the Australian Sea-lion uses the Island as a breeding ground, however this has not been verified. Monitoring is therefore required to determine the extent of the population and its use of Hopkins Island and any appropriate management strategies.

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, together with Lincoln National Park, has an abundant kangaroo population, which is believed to be larger than the pre-European kangaroo population. This population growth can be attributed to an increased availability of water, a decline in predator numbers, and the cessation of the hunting of kangaroos once the reserve was originally proclaimed as a National Park. Currently, there is no action being taken to reduce the kangaroo numbers within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

The kangaroo population will continue to be monitored, and should culling be deemed necessary this will primarily occur within Lincoln National Park as provided for in the management plan for that park (Department for Environment and Heritage, 2004). The only area within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area that is likely to be used for the culling of kangaroo populations is Follets Flat, which is a cleared area where Western Grey Kangaroos congregate in large numbers. Culling as a control method will be undertaken as part of a broader management strategy for the Eyre Peninsula.

**Objective**
Maintain and restore natural processes, communities and habitats.

**Strategies**
- Identify, monitor and develop action plans for rare, vulnerable and endangered species.
- Use the reserve for the reintroduction of rare or endangered species.
- Monitor the population of Western Grey Kangaroos, and if necessary reduce the kangaroo population to a sustainable level by targeted culling, as part of control programs within Lincoln National Park.
- Monitor the population of the Australian Sea-lion on Hopkins Island.

**5.3 Introduced Plants**
There are 38 introduced species of flora recorded within the wilderness protection area. Of these the Bridal Creeper has been identified to be specifically targeted for control. Bridal Creeper is widespread across the lower Eyre Peninsula and a regional program has been established to manage this pest species. Biological controls, such as rust fungus and the leaf hopper grub have been utilised to control the Bridal Creeper within the Lincoln National Park and the wilderness protection area over the past few years, and will continue to be used in the future.

Other introduced flora that have been identified to be targeted for management, on a lower scale, include the Box Thom and Hore Hound. Hore Hound is present in Follets Flat due to previous agricultural activities.

The Wilderness Code of Management states that any non-indigenous species that impacts the wilderness quality of a wilderness protection area will be controlled or eradicated, and that action
will be taken to prevent the establishment of non-indigenous species within a wilderness protection area.

**Objectives**

Control and eradicate, where possible, all introduced flora already established within the reserve that impact on the wilderness and biodiversity values.

Prevent the establishment of introduced flora within the reserve where possible.

**Strategies**

- Survey and monitor the extent of weeds in the reserve.
- Undertake control measures for eradicating weed infestations, in particular Box Thorn and Hore Hound, using methods that do not impact on the wilderness values of the reserve.

5.4 **Introduced Animals**

 Introduced fauna species that have been recorded or sighted within the wilderness protection area include the House Mouse (*Mus musculus*), Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Cat (*Felis catus*) and Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

Previously regular 1080 baiting by DEH and the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks has been undertaken within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area and Lincoln National Park, primarily for the control and eradication of foxes. Opportunistic cat control, including sporting shooters, will be primarily carried out within Lincoln National Park to minimise the cat population and its disturbance to Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

The Wilderness Code of Management states that non-indigenous species that significantly impact on the wilderness quality of a wilderness protection area will be controlled or eradicated, and that action will be taken to prevent the establishment of non-indigenous species within a wilderness protection area. Monitoring is required to appropriately understand the level of impact to enable appropriate management techniques to be implemented.

**Objective**

Control and eradicate, where possible, all introduced fauna established within the reserve that significantly impacts on the wilderness and biodiversity values.

**Strategies**

- Monitor the impact of introduced fauna on wilderness and biodiversity values and develop and implement control programs.
- Continue fox baiting in accordance with regional programs and monitor the results.
6 MANAGING FIRE

The geography of Jussieu Peninsula and prevailing weather conditions determine that fires which occur in mid-summer are most likely to burn into Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area and be contained on the Jussieu Peninsula. Records for the Lower Eyre Peninsula show that several large, intense fires have occurred since the 1950’s with fires in 1950 and 2001 originating near Tulka and burning several thousand hectares of the Jussieu Peninsula between Tulka and Memory Cove. During the early 1980’s a fire, caused by a lightning strike, travelled along the coast, to the Memory Cove camp ground, which burnt several thousand hectares. Management of the fire involved active fire fighting and the establishment of a control line from the Memory Cove Road to Shag Cove. These previous fire events demonstrate the potential for most of the wilderness protection area to be burnt in a single bushfire.

The community of Eyre Peninsula has expressed the view that fires which occur in reserves during mid-summer conditions should be extinguished, especially in light of recent fires on Eyre Peninsula. DEH will respond to mid-summer fires and use techniques that minimise fire suppression impacts and the risk to fire fighters. Where possible, fires will be fought in the adjoining Lincoln National Park. During appropriate weather conditions and depending on the location, a fire may be left to burn out if it does not pose any significant threat to conservation values and will remain contained.

As much as possible fires will be managed to limit the impact on conservation and wilderness values of the wilderness protection area. Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area conserve significant species of conservation value which merit management and protection, including the Southern Emu-wren (Stipiturus malachurus parimeda), the Western Whipbird, (Psophodes nigrogularis), and the Heath Goanna (Varanus rosenbergi).

DEH will plan and conduct prescribed burning over Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area to limit the area of large fires and manage habitats to maintain and enhance conservation and wilderness values. Prescribed burning is permitted under the Wilderness Code of Management to protect ecological processes and in essential management operations.

A fire management plan will be prepared for the reserves of the Lower Eyre Peninsula, in consultation with the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the District Bushfire Prevention Committee. Stakeholders and the wider community will be consulted to ensure an understanding of the fire risks and mitigating actions being proposed or undertaken in the reserve.

Fire management planning will:
- identify natural and cultural heritage values (including wilderness values) and built assets;
- provide a framework for the management of wildfire suppression, including identification of strategic access and control lines;
- provide a framework for prescribed burning for ecological management and fuel reduction purposes; and
- identify performance indicators.

As previously mentioned (Section 5.1 Native Vegetation), Pc has not been discovered within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. However, as conditions are favourable for its existence it is important to ensure that any fire fighting equipment or vehicles that are used in the event of a fire, including for prescribed burning, undergo Pc hygiene practices prior to entering the reserve, as per DEH policy.

Objective

Manage fire to ensure the protection of life and property, the maintenance of wilderness and biodiversity, and the protection of natural, cultural and built values.

Strategies

- Develop, implement and review the fire management plan in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management, and in association with CFS and other stakeholders.
- Continue to work with the relevant District Bushfire Prevention Committee and CFS to minimise risk to life and property within and surrounding the reserve.
- To limit the introduction of Pc into the wilderness protection area as a result of fighting fires, vehicles, plant and equipment used during the fire suppression methods will undergo Pc hygiene practices as per DEH policy prior to entering the wilderness protection area.

- Where possible, undertake fire fighting activities in the Lincoln National Park.
7 MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE

7.1 Indigenous Heritage

Nauo and Bamgala Culture and Heritage

The land comprising the reserve within this management plan was traditionally associated with the Nauo and Bamgala people (Tindale, 1974). For Nauo and Bamgala people, land and waters have many interconnected complex meanings and values. The significance of land and waters is central to their lives at birth, death, ceremonies and socially, whilst hunting, gathering camping, and travelling.

Following colonial settlement, the Nauo and Bamgala population was substantially reduced as a result of introduced diseases, dispersal, dispossession of their land and water supplies, and sometimes through violent conflict.

Today, Nauo and Bamgala people still practise their culture and language. Some of the language and traditional stories have been recorded. However, to date, the full extent of Aboriginal heritage within the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area has not been comprehensively researched.

Due to historical or cultural reasons, any knowledge of the cultural heritage of the region may be privileged to selected Nauo and Bamgala people and therefore unable to be recorded. Given the lack of existing information, it is considered important that further research be undertaken in order to gain a better understanding of the Aboriginal occupancy and use of the area.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

The purpose of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 is to protect and preserve Aboriginal sites, objects and remains. “Aboriginal site” and “Aboriginal object” are defined to mean an area of land or an object that is of significance according to Aboriginal tradition or of significance to Aboriginal archaeology, anthropology or history. The Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (DAARE) maintains a Central Archive, including the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects.

Currently there are six burial sites and four archaeological sites listed on the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects for Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. These recordings do not reflect a comprehensive survey of the wilderness protection area, however, and there may be other, as yet unidentified, Aboriginal sites, objects or remains in the reserve. In carrying out the activities and strategies envisaged in this plan, DEH will ensure that it complies with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988.

Objective

Ensure that any Aboriginal sites, objects and remains are protected and preserved in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988.

Strategies

- Consult with the traditional owners in decisions regarding the management of Aboriginal heritage in the reserve.
- Identify and protect any Aboriginal sites, objects and remains in cooperation with the traditional owners, DAARE, and relevant authorities.
- In consultation with the traditional owners, submit Aboriginal sites, objects and stories that relate to the reserve for inclusion on the DAARE Central Archive.
7.2 Non-Indigenous Heritage

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is a significant area for European heritage. In 1802 Matthew Flinders sailed around the coast of the Eyre Peninsula in the Investigator, where he lost seven crew and the ship's Master, John Thistle, when their cutter capsized in their search for fresh water.

Memory Cove commemorates this tragedy, and contains a replica of the bronze plaque erected by Matthew Flinders, in memory of his lost crew members. Nearby islands, five of which are part of Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, were also named in their memory.

The Memory Cove area, consisting of the Flinders tablet, and the beach and foreshore between each end of the cove, including the land 100 metres inward from high water mark, is registered on the Australian Heritage Database.

Objective
Conserve and protect significant European cultural heritage sites.

Strategy
- Identify, record, protect, restore, conserve and monitor sites of non-indigenous cultural and historical significance located in the reserve in cooperation with the Heritage branch of DEH.
8 MANAGING TOURISM AND RECREATION

This section provides the visitor management strategy for Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area as required by the Wilderness Code of Management.

The Visitor Management Strategy for Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area identifies that future use will be conducted in a way that minimises impacts on the wilderness values and environment.

8.1 Visitor Access

Entry to Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is regulated by means of a locked gate within Lincoln National Park, prior to the entrance to Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. A maximum of 15 vehicles per day, including commercial use vehicles and tour vehicles, are permitted entry and may obtain a key from the Visitor Information Centre in Port Lincoln to unlock the gate.

The majority of the access tracks within the reserve will remain open for public use, however the track to West Point will be closed to vehicle access for safety reasons and to maintain the wilderness quality of that area. This track will be maintained as a walking track.

The vehicle track next to West Point also needs some alignment. As a precautionary measure, DEH will monitor public risk issues associated with its use, including vehicle access.

The tracks within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area are illustrated in Figure 2.

Yachts and boats regularly anchor in the sheltered waters at Memory Cove, and Williams Island.

Recreational fishing is often undertaken at Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

Objectives

Minimise the impact of all forms of visitor access on the wilderness quality of the park.

Provide walking opportunities for visitors to enjoy the natural values of the reserve consistent with maintaining wilderness quality.

Review public risk issues associated with public access into the park.

Strategies

• Close the track to West Point to vehicle access for visitor safety reasons, and maintain the remaining four-wheel drive tracks to their current standard.

• Maintain existing walking trails.

• Monitor all visitor access to assist with future management.

• Continue to permit boats to anchor at Memory Cove and Williams Island, in accordance with the Wilderness Protection Regulations 1992.

• Continue to permit recreational fishing, in accordance with the Wilderness Protection Regulations 1992.

8.2 Visitor Facilities

Camping

Camping is permitted at the camp ground at Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, with five sites available. Booking is required. The current set-up of the camp ground requires day access visitors to walk across the camp ground to access the beach. The design of the existing camp ground requires review so that the day visit area and the camp ground remain separate, whilst not impacting on the wilderness quality of the reserve. The site will be redesigned, to avoid damage to the surrounding wilderness by vehicles accessing the campsites, and visitors on foot accessing the beach, and will maintain the limit of five campsites. The redesign of the camp ground will not compromise the wilderness values of the reserve, and will allow easier access to defined sites.

Campfires, and the use of generators, are not permitted within Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area, including at the camp ground and on the beaches. Only gas stoves are permitted. It is proposed that an interpretive sign will be installed at the boat ramps to inform people landing at Memory Cove of the dangers associated with fires, of the areas total fire ban.
and will reinforce to campers that they are only allowed to use gas stoves within the wilderness protection area.

**Objective**
Review the standard of camping for the enjoyment of visitors.

**Strategies**
- Redesign the existing camp ground to a more accessible and useable camp ground for visitors.
- Install an information sign at the boat ramp to inform people of the dangers associated with fire, of the area's total fire ban, and to reinforce that only gas stoves are permitted in the area.

### 8.3 Commercial Tourism

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is currently utilised by one tour operator. The tour operator is managed within the 15 vehicle limit, and is required to book the camping site for overnight tours. There is no priority received over booking or entrance.

Should a commercial tour operator wish to enter a reserve, licenses are available from DEH. DEH will maintain liaison with tour operators to ensure that they are complying with the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 and the Code of Management.

**Objective**
Provide for the use of the reserve by approved, licensed tourism operators.

**Strategies**
- Issue licenses for approved commercial tourism operators to bring visitors to the reserves and, by agreement, permit parties to visit selected locations.
- Ensure all commercial tour operators conducting tours in the wilderness protection area comply with the Minimum Impact Code for visitors to wilderness areas.
- Regulate the number of commercial tours in the wilderness protection area to ensure that the enjoyment of visitors is not compromised.

### 8.4 Information and Interpretation

DEH has adopted a self-guided tour method of providing interpretation, whereby visitors are provided with an interpretive brochure containing information relating to specific sites along the track, which are marked by numbered pegs. This is an effective method of providing information and is preferred over the placement of interpretive signs, which will detract from the wilderness quality of the reserve.

**Objective**
Promote the understanding of the reserve's role in conservation.

**Strategies**
- Provide interpretive information for visitors that enhances the importance of wilderness, but does not impact on the wilderness quality of the area, including maintaining the self-guided tour currently in use.
- Only install signs that are necessary to assist with visitor risk management or essential management operations within the reserve.
Figure 2
Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area

Features and Public Access

Legend
- Vehicle Access Track
- Walking track
- To be closed to vehicle access
- Wilderness Areas
- National Parks
- Day Visit and Camping Area
- Lookout

Map designed and created by Reserve Planning using PAMS
Date: 11 October, 2005

Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan 2005
9 MANAGING RESOURCE USE

9.1 Management Infrastructure
Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area contains interpretive and safety signs, and fencing. Memory Cove contains a replica of the plaque erected by Matthew Flinders, an interpretive sign, a block of toilets, and a camp ground.

The existing infrastructure within the reserve is necessary for managing biodiversity, ensuring public safety and interpreting the history of the area. It will be managed and maintained to conserve biodiversity, in a manner that does not impact on the biodiversity values of the reserve.

The Wilderness Code of Management requires that structures incompatible with wilderness values are to be removed from the reserve, and that rehabilitation is to be undertaken following the removal of the structure. Signs will only be allowed if they are for essential management operations. As the reserve has been managed as wilderness for some time, little reserve infrastructure rationalisation will occur.

Objective
Maintain infrastructure that is necessary for reserve management, and visitor safety and enjoyment.

Strategy
• Undertake regular maintenance of interpretive and risk management signs and fencing.

9.2 External Influences
Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area is surrounded on all boundaries by Lincoln National Park or water. The impact of external influences on the wilderness quality of the reserve is likely to be low.

The Wilderness Code of Management indicates that where possible, management operations should be carried out on land outside of the wilderness protection area. The main influences will be biodiversity conservation (including kangaroo management) and fire management, however as identified elsewhere in the management plan, kangaroo management and fire management may be more appropriate to be undertaken on Lincoln National Park.

Use of the waters surrounding the wilderness protection area has the potential to influence the wilderness quality of the land. This may include marine litter from commercial and recreational boating activities. In the past, there have been attempts to seek approval to establish aquaculture sites near the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area.

Objective
Ensure that external influences do not negatively impact on the wilderness values of the wilderness protection area.

Strategies
• Where possible, undertake essential management operations in Lincoln National Park.
• Monitor activities in the waters surrounding the Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area and their impact on the wilderness qualities of the land.

9.3 Research
According to the Wilderness Code of Management, research that will contribute to implementing the objectives of wilderness management should be encouraged.

Objective
Only undertake research that will not affect the wilderness quality of the area, and that will assist in the implementation of the management plan.
Strategies

• Allow for access to undertake geological and biodiversity research and investigations, for the purpose of implementing the objectives stated in this management plan, which do not impact on the wilderness quality of the area.

• Allow for access to undertake geological and biodiversity research and investigations that can not be carried out elsewhere, and that will not affect the wilderness quality of the area.

9.4 Public Utilities

Marine Navigation Aids
There is currently a beacon located on Williams Island, which forms part of Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area. The beacon is located on an area of land, approximately 0.3 hectares in size, belonging to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. Access to the Island is via helicopter.

Objective
Ensure that maintenance of the beacon does not impact on the wilderness or wildlife on Williams Island.

Strategies

• Liaise with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority regarding access to Williams Island and the maintenance of the beacon.

• Ensure that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority is kept informed of relevant wilderness and wildlife issues which may affect the maintenance of the beacon.
10 INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

Friends and Volunteers
Volunteer support and community-based involvement that conserves and improves biodiversity and cultural values, and establishes quality management of recreational use, has become an essential component of park management. DEH acknowledges and supports the active volunteer contribution of the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks in the management of the reserve.

It is important for DEH to continue communication with Friends members, provide support and assistance, including legal and policy advice, technical, planning and management direction.

Regional Communities and Park Neighbours
DEH supports and promotes partnerships and cooperative management arrangements to establish integrated natural resource management. This requires the development of effective working relationships with government agencies, local authorities, non-government organisations and the local community.

Aboriginal Partnerships
DEH is committed to reconciliation and to the development of partnerships with the Nauo and Bamgarla community to effectively manage Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area in a way that respects both contemporary and traditional culture, knowledge and skills. Partnerships involve the delivery of programs that promote reconciliation, cultural awareness, Indigenous employment and training, cooperative management and Indigenous cultural heritage management in parks.

Objective
Maintain partnerships with Friends and other volunteer groups to assist with the management of the wilderness protection area and help fulfil the reserve’s potential without compromising its natural values.

Strategies
- Consult with the local council, relevant management boards, the local community and other relevant bodies to explore the benefits of partnership arrangements that will support future management decisions on issues of common interest.
- Encourage and contribute to the development of partnership arrangements to integrate biodiversity and recreation management in the region, with organisations that have an interest in contributing to the sustainable management of the reserve.
- Provide opportunities for volunteer and community groups to assist in the management and monitoring of the reserve by facilitating the implementation of programmed activities.
### SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGY</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wilderness Protection</strong></td>
<td>- Manage the reserve in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managing Natural Heritage</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native Vegetation</strong></td>
<td>- Survey, identify, monitor and develop action plans for threatened flora and vegetation communities within the reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Continue to promote awareness among DEH staff and the wider community of the potential for introduction and establishment of Pc, the plant species susceptible to it and indicators of its presence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Undertake a Pc survey of the wilderness protection area and continue to repeat this survey periodically. Programs should be put in place to contain this pathogen and to restrict the movement of visitors and management of staff through infected areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native Fauna</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Identify, monitor and develop action plans for rare, vulnerable and endangered species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Use the reserve for the reintroduction of rare or endangered species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Monitor the population of Western Grey Kangaroos, and if necessary reduce the kangaroo population to a sustainable level by targeted culling, as part of control programs within Lincoln National Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Monitor the population of the Australian Sea-lion on Hopkins Island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduced Plants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Survey and monitor the extent of weeds in the reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Undertake control measures for eradicating weed infestations, in particular Box Thorn and Hore Hound, using methods that do not impact on the wilderness values of the reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduced Animals</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Monitor the impact of introduced fauna on wilderness and biodiversity values and develop and implement control programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Continue fox baiting in accordance with regional programs and monitor the results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managing Fire</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Develop, implement and review the fire management plan in accordance with the Wilderness Code of Management, and in association with CFS and other stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Continue to work with the relevant District Bushfire Prevention Committee and CFS to minimise risk to life and property within and surrounding the reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- To limit the introduction of Pc into the wilderness protection area as a result of fighting fires, vehicles, plant and equipment used during the fire suppression methods will undergo Pc hygiene practices as per DEH policy prior to entering the wilderness protection area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Where possible, undertake fire fighting activities in the Lincoln National Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Managing Cultural Heritage</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indigenous Heritage</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Consult with the traditional owners in decisions regarding the management of Aboriginal heritage in the reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Identify and protect any Aboriginal sites, objects or remains in cooperation with the traditional owners, DAARE, and relevant authorities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STRATEGY

- In consultation with the traditional owners, submit Aboriginal sites, objects and stories that relate to the reserve for inclusion on the DAARE Central Archive.

### Non-Indigenous Heritage

- Identify, record, protect, restore, conserve and monitor sites of non-indigenous cultural and historical significance located in the reserve in cooperation with the Heritage branch of DEH.

### Managing Visitation

#### Visitor Access

- Close the track to West Point to vehicle access for visitor safety reasons, and maintain the remaining four-wheel drive tracks to their current standard.
- Maintain existing walking trails.
- Monitor all visitor access to assist with future management.
- Continue to permit boats to anchor at Memory Cove and Williams Island, in accordance with the Wilderness Protection Regulations 1992.
- Continue to permit recreational fishing, in accordance with the Wilderness Protection Regulations 1992.

#### Visitor Facilities

- Redesign the existing camp ground to a more accessible and useable camp ground for visitors.
- Install an information sign at the boat ramp to inform people of the dangers associated with fire, of the area total fire ban, and to reinforce that only gas stoves are permitted in the area.

#### Commercial Tourism

- Issue licenses for approved commercial tourism operators to bring visitors to the reserves and, by agreement, permit parties to visit selected locations.
- Ensure all commercial tour operators conducting tours in the wilderness protection area comply with the Minimum Impact Code for visitors to wilderness areas.
- Regulate the number of commercial tours in the wilderness protection area to ensure that the enjoyment of visitors is not compromised.

#### Information and Interpretation

- Provide interpretive information for visitors that enhances the importance of wilderness, but does not impact on the wilderness quality of the area, including maintaining the self-guided tour currently in use.
- Only install signs that are necessary to assist with visitor risk management or essential management operations within the reserve.

### Managing Resource Use

#### Management Infrastructure

- Undertake regular maintenance of interpretive and risk management signs and fencing.

#### External Influences

- Where possible, undertake essential management operations in Lincoln National Park.
- Monitor activities in the waters surrounding Memory Cove Wilderness Protection Area and their impact on the wilderness qualities of the land.

#### Research

- Allow for access to undertake geological and biodiversity research and investigations, for the purpose of implementing the objectives stated in this management plan, which do not impact on the wilderness quality of the area.
### STRATEGY

- Allow for access to undertake geological and biodiversity research and investigations that can not be carried out elsewhere, and that will not affect the wilderness quality of the area.

### Public Utilities

- Liaise with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority regarding access to Williams Island and the maintenance of the beacon.

- Ensure that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority is kept informed of relevant wilderness and wildlife issues which may affect the maintenance of the beacon.

### Involving the Community

- Consult with the local council, relevant management boards, the local community and other relevant bodies to explore the benefits of partnership arrangements that will support future management decisions on issues of common interest.

- Encourage and contribute to the development of partnership arrangements to integrate biodiversity and recreation management in the region, with organisations that have an interest in contributing to the sustainable management of the reserve.

- Provide opportunities for volunteer and community groups to assist in the management and monitoring of the reserve by facilitating the implementation of programmed activities.
REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Department for Environment & Heritage (2002), Biodiversity Plan for Eyre Peninsula, Department for Environment & Heritage, South Australia.

Department for Environment & Heritage (2004), Management Plan Amendment, Innes National Park, Department for Environment & Heritage, South Australia.


APPENDIX A: WILDERNESS CODE OF MANAGEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Code is the Wilderness Code of Management prescribed in the Wilderness Protection Act 1992.

1.2 Any terms used in this Code have the same meaning as those used in the Wilderness Protection Act and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

1.3 A wilderness area means land constituted under the Wilderness Protection Act, 1992 as a Wilderness Protection Area or Wilderness Protection Zone.

2. OBJECTIVES OF WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

2.1 To maximise the naturalness and remoteness, i.e. the wilderness quality, of wilderness areas, and in particular:

(i) protect and, where practicable, enhance wilderness quality;
(ii) protect wildlife and ecological processes;
(iii) control and, where practicable, eradicate non-indigenous plants and animals;
(iv) protect geographical features;
(v) protect sites of scientific significance;
(vi) protect sites of historical significance;
(vii) protect sites of Aboriginal cultural significance;
(viii) provide for public use and enjoyment where compatible with maximising wilderness quality; and
(ix) promote public awareness of, and education in, the natural features of and proper use of wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones.

3. MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

3.1 General Principles

(i) All management operations will be carried out in a manner consistent with maximisation of wilderness quality except where provided for in this Code (see 3.10).

(ii) A Plan of Management will be prepared for a designated wilderness area as soon as practicable after the area's constitution. The Plan will provide clear direction for the protection and management of the wilderness area, in particular:

(a) proposals to achieve the management objectives (2 above);
(b) priorities for actions, including:

• the removal of existing incompatible uses and/or structures except those permitted under this Code; and
• appropriate rehabilitation to be undertaken following the removal of structures and incompatible uses;
(c) recognition of the need to review management if indicated by results of monitoring and research;

(iii) No additional incompatible uses and/or structures will be permitted except those provided for in this Code.

(iv) Nothing in this Code derogates from any rights exercised in mining tenements in wilderness protection zones. In relation to mining operations in wilderness protection zones, environmental protection policies in section 5 of this Code will apply.
3.2 Access and Transport

(i) The use of vessels, motorised or wheeled transport will be permitted only on prescribed access routes, and for emergency and essential management operations (see 3.10) when alternative measures which do not degrade the wilderness quality of an area are unavailable.

(ii) Access routes may be prescribed in a plan of management for use by vessels, motorised or wheeled transport in circumstances where this type of transport is essential for effective management.

(iii) Construction of vehicle or walking tracks will be permitted only where re-direction of existing access requires construction of alternative tracks or for management works to achieve objectives identified in a plan of management. The construction of vehicle tracks for specific operations as provided for under 3.6(vi), 3.10 and 5.0 may be permitted on the basis that they will be rehabilitated as soon as possible.

(iv) Vehicle and walking tracks that are not essential for management purposes as specified in 3.10, or for mining operations in wilderness protection zones (see 5.0) will be closed and rehabilitated as prescribed in a plan of management.

(v) Over-flying for recreational purposes under an altitude of 1500m above ground level will be prohibited.

(vi) The landing of aircraft will be prohibited, except by permission of the Director and for emergency and essential management operations. Helipads and airstrips that are identified as essential for emergencies and management operations will be maintained. All other strips or helipads will be rehabilitated as soon as possible or allowed to regenerate naturally.

3.3 Tourism

(i) Commercial tours may be accommodated where their size and planned activities are compatible with maintenance of wilderness quality. Those permitted will have obtained a licence and will be conducted in accordance with licence conditions, the Visitor Management Strategy for the wilderness area (see 3.4), and the Minimum Impact Code (see 6.0). Tour groups will be monitored and regulated where necessary to prevent significant adverse impacts on wilderness quality and opportunities for solitude.

3.4 Recreation

(i) The level and type of visitor use and visitor conduct will be managed in accordance with the objectives stated in section 2.0 of this Code.

(ii) A visitor management strategy that specifies an acceptable level and type of visitor use and visitor conduct will be included in the management plan for each wilderness area.

(iii) Visitor management strategies will include the promotion of the Minimum Impact Code and the distribution of any information about the wilderness values of particular wilderness areas.

The following information should be used as a basis for monitoring the effectiveness of each strategy:

(a) the long-term limits of acceptable change for environmental (wilderness quality) and social (opportunities for wilderness dependent experiences) conditions within the wilderness area; and

(b) change in environmental and social conditions within the wilderness area.

(iv) Constructed walking tracks, signs, track markers and other management devices or structures will be used only for essential management operations (see 3.2(ii) and 3.10).

(v) Recreation will be in accordance with the Wilderness Regulations and the Minimum Impact Code.
3.5 Cultural Heritage

(i) Places, sites and objects of significance to Aboriginal people are protected under State and Commonwealth Aboriginal heritage legislation.

(ii) Access by Aboriginal people to their sites of significance and protection of these sites will, as far as possible, be by methods compatible with the maintenance of wilderness quality.

(iii) Nothing in this Code prevents Aboriginal people from doing anything in relation to Aboriginal sites, objects or remains in accordance with Aboriginal tradition. Furthermore, this Code does not prevent the taking, by Aboriginal people, of native plants, protected animals, or the eggs of protected animals, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

(iv) Sites of historic significance will be conserved, using access and methods compatible with maintenance of wilderness quality in the long-term.

(v) Non-Aboriginal structures and artefacts that are of no historic significance, as determined by the relevant authority, will be removed or allowed to deteriorate naturally. Removal will not be undertaken if the only method of removal significantly reduces wilderness quality in the long-term.

3.6 Fire

(i) Fire management will be based on continuing research into the fire history of the area, the relationships between fire and the natural communities occurring within the area, and on the maintenance of wilderness quality.

(ii) Deliberately lit fires will be used only in emergency situations, and in essential management operations as listed in 3.10 and subject to (i) above.

(iii) Other human caused fires should, where practicable, be extinguished consistent with maintenance of wilderness quality.

(iv) Naturally caused fires will be extinguished when, in view of the direction, intensity and extent of the fire and the fire suppression techniques available, they pose a threat to human life and property, and to habitats requiring protection.

(v) Where fire suppression action is required, the methods utilised will be, wherever possible, those which will have the least long-term impact on wilderness quality.

(vi) The use of heavy machinery for fire suppression within a wilderness area will be prohibited except:

(a) where it is considered to be the only way of preventing greater long-term loss of wilderness quality;

(b) where specific machinery use techniques, that do not result in significant disturbance to the landscape or create a new access network, are considered the only feasible method of preventing long-term loss of wilderness quality; or

(c) to mitigate hazard to human life, where alternative measures which do not impact on the wilderness quality of the area are unavailable.

(vii) Wherever possible, fire management practices designed to protect land adjacent to or within a wilderness area will be conducted outside the wilderness area.

3.7 Research

(i) Research that will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of wilderness management will be encouraged.

(ii) Research that will not affect wilderness quality and cannot be carried out elsewhere may be permitted.

(iii) Research not covered under (i) and (ii) will not be permitted.
3.8 Biological Conservation
(i) Management of threatened species, communities and habitats will, as far as possible, be consistent with maintenance of wilderness quality.
(ii) Action will be taken to maintain and, where possible, restore natural processes, communities and habitats.

3.9 Non-indigenous Species
(i) Non-indigenous species which significantly affect the wilderness quality of a wilderness area will be controlled or eradicated.
(ii) Action will be taken to prevent the establishment of non-indigenous species.

3.10 Emergency and Essential Management Operations
(i) All emergency and essential management operations will be carried out with the least possible impact on wilderness quality.
(ii) Actions that cause short-term degradation of wilderness quality but are necessary for emergency and/or essential management operations will be permitted. The only specific situations acknowledged in this Code as possibly requiring such actions are:
   • control or eradication of non-indigenous species;
   • conservation of threatened species, communities and habitats;
   • protection of fire-sensitive species and communities;
   • management of visitor use;
   • management action or use of devices to mitigate hazard to human life;
   • restoration of natural processes, communities and habitats; and
   • research

   Where degradation has occurred as a result of these activities, rehabilitation will be undertaken as soon as practicable.

3.11 Wilderness Protection Zones
(i) Protection of wilderness quality in wilderness protection zones will be negotiated with tenement holders on the basis of the environmental protection policies in section 5. Management undertakings will be incorporated in a plan of management.

4. EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

4.1 Close liaison with adjoining landholders and managers will be established to ensure that adverse impacts on the wilderness quality of an area resulting from activities outside that area are minimised or prevented.

4.2 Where a wilderness area does not comprise a whole catchment, close liaison with upstream landholders and relevant authorities will be established to encourage the maintenance of water quality and flow regimes as close as practicable to their natural state.

4.3 Wherever possible management activities essential to the maintenance of the wilderness quality of a wilderness area to be on land outside the wilderness area.
5.0  EXERCISE OF MINING RIGHTS IN WILDERNESS PROTECTION ZONES

The holder of a mining tenement shall:

5.1  Have regard to the provisions of the plan of management under section 31 of the Wilderness Protection Act; and

5.2  In undertaking any operations:
   (i)   protect native flora and fauna;
   (ii)  avoid the pollution of land, water and air;
   (iii) avoid disturbance to known sites of natural, scientific, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural significance;
   (iv)  minimise the potential for wind and water erosion;
   (v)   avoid unnecessary track creation;
   (vi)  avoid introduction of non-indigenous species;
   (vii) establish environmental monitoring and rehabilitation programs; and
   (viii) upon completion of the operation remove or obliterate all structures and materials used in the carrying out of mining operations.