

SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST MANAGEMENT PLAN

East Region

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



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This plan of management has been prepared and adopted in pursuance of Sec. 38 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOREWORD

This document has been prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. It relates to six coastal parks of the South East District, namely:

Baudin Rocks Conservation Park
Bucks Lake Game Reserve
Butchers Gap Conservation Park
Guichen Bay Conservation Park
Nene Valley Conservation Park
Penguin Island Conservation Park

The number of South Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Act reserves increased dramatically in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These reserves were dedicated for a variety of purposes including biological conservation, protection of historic relics, scenic values and recreational purposes. Today there are more than 200 reserves under the National Parks and Wildlife Act in South Australia and to carry out detailed surveys of all of these parks prior to providing some guidance for their management is not only a formidable task but also, frequently, an unnecessary one. This is not to say that such surveys are not of value nor that such surveys should not be undertaken in the longer term.

In order to provide immediate guidance for park managers, while enabling optimal public input into the management of reserves, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has prepared a single planning document for several reserves which share similar biological characteristics and management requirements. It is recognised that this approach will not be appropriate in all instances, particularly for reserves which have high visitor pressure or complex management problems. However, it is considered that this planning approach will be useful, not only in guiding the interim management of these reserves but also in highlighting areas where further research and investigation is required. It is intended that these Plans be amended in accordance with such research findings.

This document outlines actions to effectively balance recreational use of the parks with the conservation of coastal habitat and surrounding ecosystems.

The Mt Gambier office of DENR maintains park records and resource information which can be accessed by the general public.

(David C. Wotton, MP)

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Planning Process

There is a requirement under Section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*, to prepare a management plan for each reserve constituted under the *Act*. Such plans "set forth proposals" to manage and improve reserves and the means by which the objectives of the *Act* will be accomplished. A management plan provides the framework for management of a park by stating the philosophy on which management should be based, and by setting out objectives and actions for management. The objectives related to management of conservation parks and game reserves are stated in Section 37 of the *Act* as:

- preservation and management of wildlife;
- preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves;
- preservation of features of geographical, natural or scenic interest;
- destruction of dangerous weeds and the eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants;
- control of vermin and exotic animals;
- control and eradication of disease of animals and vegetation;
- prevention and suppression of bush fires and other hazards;
- encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance; and
- generally the promotion of the public interest.

Once a management plan has been prepared, an announcement is made in the *Government Gazette* and the plan is placed on public exhibition for at least two months. Any person may make submissions in relation to the plan.

The plan and submissions are then referred to the appropriate consultative committee (representing community interests), and the Reserves Advisory Committee who may make further comments or suggestions.

The Minister, after considering all representations, may then adopt the plan with or without alterations. Notice of adoption is published in the *Government Gazette* and copies of the plan are made available to the public.

A similar process applies for any amendment proposed to a management plan.

Once a plan is adopted, its provisions must be carried out in relation to the reserve in question, and no operations may be undertaken unless they are in accordance with the management plan.

1.2 Conservation Parks and Game Reserves

The classification which a reserve receives on being dedicated under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972* is a general statement of the purpose for which that area of land was acquired. Conservation parks protect wildlife and natural or cultural features which they contain, and the development of visitor facilities in conservation parks tends to be kept to a minimum. Game reserves are established to conserve wildlife and manage game species. They have an important conservation role and may be declared open at prescribed times for strictly controlled hunting.

1.3 Regional Management Considerations

1.3.1 Conservation Value of Small Parks

This document contains management plans for six small coastal parks in the South East of South Australia (Figure 1). The mainland parks are separated from each other and other areas of native vegetation by cleared grazing land and townships. Their principal value lies in the conservation of vegetation types or cultural sites otherwise unrepresented in the reserve system, and habitat of endangered species such as the orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) and swamp antechinus (*Antechinus minimus subsp. maritimus*). Isolation, small size, linear shape, and coastal position, makes them vulnerable to the effects of visitor use, and weed and vermin invasion. Their continued viability as conservation reserves is dependent on careful management of the reserves and of disjunct corridors of native vegetation (usually along coastal dune systems) linking them with other areas of remnant vegetation.

The two island parks have conservation value for breeding colonies of seabirds such as crested terns (*Sterna bergii*), fairy penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) and black-faced cormorants (*Leucocarbo fuscescens*).

Treaties between the Commonwealth Government and the Governments of Japan and the People's Republic of China protect the habitat of birds that migrate between Australia and these two countries. Many of the species recorded in these reserves are listed in Migratory Birds Agreements.

Baudin Rocks, Guichen Bay, Nene Valley, Penguin Island and Cape Martin are part of a registered Geological Monument encompassing the coastline from Kingston to Cape Northumberland. Geological monuments are features of geological or scientific value considered worthy of preservation. Their value lies in their uniqueness and use for education and scientific research.

The parks covered by these plans do not have complex management problems and are subject to low to moderate visitor use. The management plan for each park

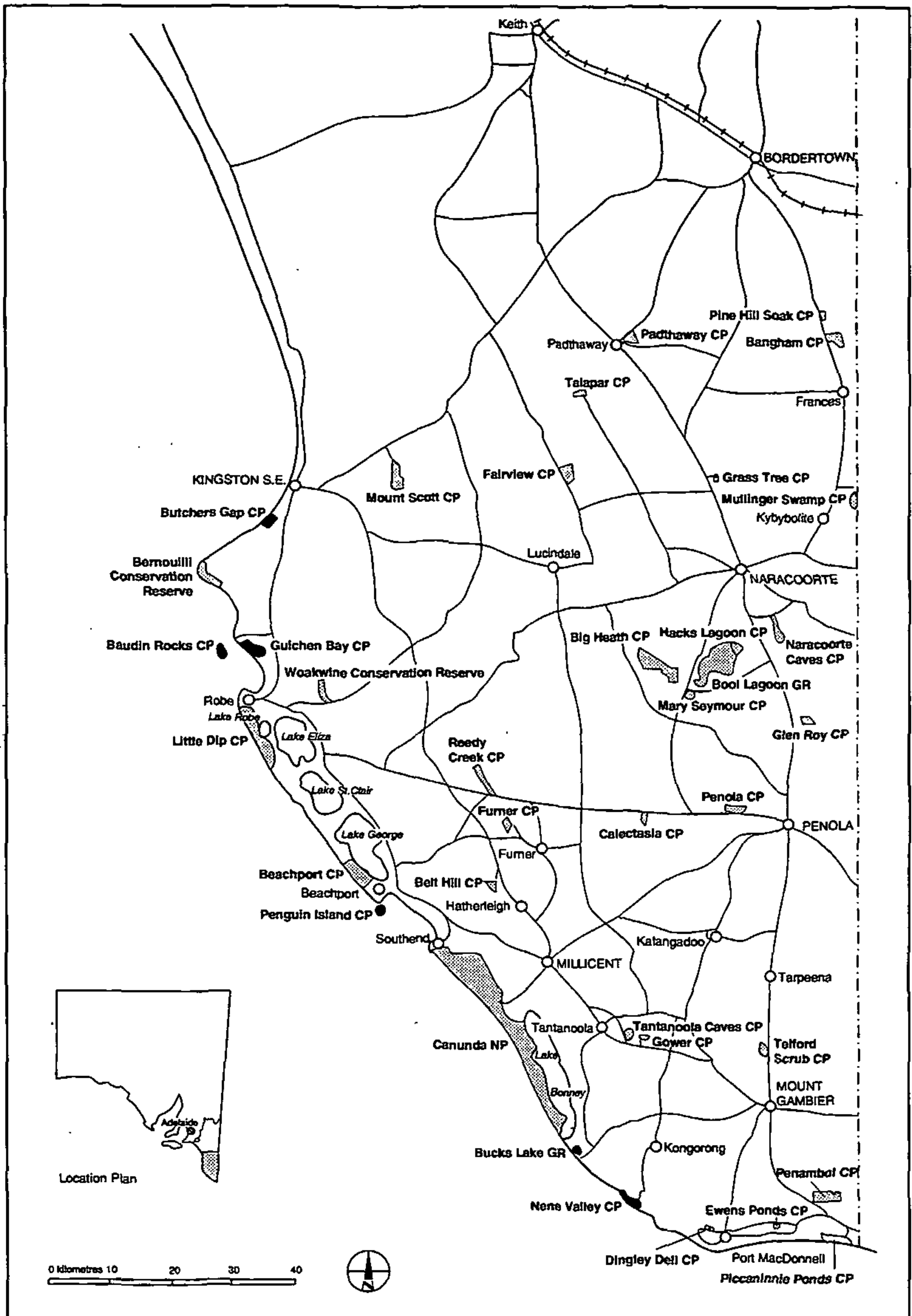
consists of the Foreword of this document, this Introduction (Section 1), a brief description of each park, a statement of management philosophy, a list of management objectives, and the management actions necessary to achieve those objectives.

Objectives

- retain, as much as is possible, the conservation value of small parks, despite their isolation from other areas of native vegetation
- maximise the retention of remnant native vegetation outside the parks

Actions

- prepare and implement weed and vermin control programs
- liaise with neighbouring property holders to maintain boundary fencing
- encourage local, State and Federal Governments, departments and agencies to retain coastal native vegetation as corridor links between parks and other native vegetation areas
- encourage landholders to retain corridors and blocks of native vegetation through voluntary heritage agreements
- raise public awareness of values of Geological Monuments



- Parks covered by this document
- Other Parks of the South East
- CP
- NP Reserves under NPWS Act
- GR
- RR

Figure 1
SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST
Location Map

1.3.2 Fire Management

Fire management in reserves constituted under the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act is based on guidelines and objectives contained in the Fire Management and Protection Manual (1989) and the Fire Prevention Plans.

The Fire Management and Protection Manual is an internal report which sets out objectives of fire management and the Department's fire policy and guidelines. The objectives of fire management as stated in the Manual are to:

- protect human life and the assets of properties adjacent to parks;
- foster sound land use planning in relation to fire hazard;
- maintain diversity of native plant and animal communities;
- protect special features of reserves including cultural sites and built facilities; and
- manage fire, thus protecting land from degradation by erosion and subsequent invasion by weeds.

The South East coastal areas are usually not fire prone, being subject to milder conditions than the inland. In addition, most fires in this region tend to travel south and east, and the risk areas are therefore seen to be more to the north and west.

Fire prevention plans are being prepared for individual parks in the State in accordance with the *Country Fires Act, 1989*. A fire prevention plan provides an account of existing and proposed fire protection strategies for the park; it identifies hazards and risks both within and outside the park. These documents are not a final statement on fire management; fundamental alterations may be made as research provides more information.

The questions of acceptable fire regimes and the ecological effects of hazard or fuel reduction burning are areas of particular concern which need more management-directed research to establish sound policies.

Objectives

- protect people, property, and the parks from wildfire
- determine appropriate fire regimes for the parks in this document

Actions

- implement objectives and policies of the Fire Management and Protection Manual
- prepare and implement fire prevention plans for each park in this document
- encourage research on fire ecology

1.3.3 Visitor Use of Parks

To ensure a consistent and balanced approach to park management, the management of the parks covered by these plans will be considered in the context of managing all parks in the region.

Tourism in South Australia is being widely encouraged on both a State and regional level as a means of stimulating economic activity and providing local employment. It is important in the promotion of tourism that visitor use of parks is directed to those parks which have some focus of interest and which can be adequately managed to satisfy visitor demand and ensure that the parks' conservation values are maintained.

Parks not only attract visitors from far afield; they frequently serve the recreational needs of local communities. It is not expected that the patterns of local visitor use in the South East will change significantly. Some of these parks are used as access for beach and ocean fishing, or as part of four wheel drive vehicle routes along the coast. It is important that these activities are not compromised.

Visitation to the island parks is low. Most visitors are ornithologists, fishers or sightseers. Camping will not be permitted. Visitors are encouraged to notify DENR before visiting the island parks. Signs will be erected at landing sites informing visitors of the significance of the islands, and appropriate use.

Objectives

- provide for conservation and public enjoyment of these parks
- ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the presence and names of the parks, are maintained in good condition
- provide, as required, visitor facilities which enhance visitor use and enjoyment and protect natural resources of the parks

Actions

- provide visitor facilities such as picnic/barbecue furniture, car-parks, ablution facilities, and vehicle and walking tracks
- maintain or replace signs as required
- liaise with Tourism SA, local tourism associations and tour operators to ensure their policies and practices are consistent with DENR policies on recreational use of parks, and DENR is made aware of initiatives in the tourism industry which may affect the parks
- liaise with local user groups to determine their needs

1.3.4 Interpretation

People's appreciation of parks is enriched by effective interpretation of parks and their resources. The availability of information before people visit parks enables them to make informed decisions about which parks to visit, how long to spend there, what they can expect to find in the park and how best to utilise their time.

Many of the small coastal parks in the South East are conveniently located for educational use by local schools, and there is potential for the further development of environmental education by local schools using the parks as a major resource.

Objective

- to provide for public understanding of the purpose and significance of the parks

Actions

- prepare a District interpretive plan and provide interpretive material for the parks
- encourage local schools to use the parks as education resources and to liaise with DENR staff when preparing curricula and field classes

1.3.5 Cultural Heritage

Coastal areas in the South East exhibit an assortment of archaeological sites which relate to Aboriginal occupation. The importance of these areas to Aboriginal people is not yet fully known.

Sites of early European settlement which have cultural relevance to local people are not fully documented. The harsh coastal environment accelerates the deterioration of these sites.

Objectives

- to further research and document the cultural history of the parks
- to interpret the cultural history of the parks where appropriate
- to protect culturally important sites

Actions

- consult with and involve Aboriginal people in site documentation, management and interpretation, and implement management actions as appropriate
- encourage research into the cultural history of the parks
- remove and dispose of any built structures or materials which have no historic, cultural, or management value
- erect information and interpretation signs at appropriate sites in the parks
- take appropriate measures to protect significant sites

1.3.6 Commercial Activities

In parks where DENR is unable to provide the services required by visitors, concessions may be made available under strictly controlled leasing arrangements which are in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*, and the Policy Document (SANPWS 1988). It is recognised that there is little need for such arrangements in most of the parks in this document, however, should the needs of park visitors change, licenses may be issued for the operation of appropriate commercial activities. Major concession developments would require an amendment to the management plan of the relevant park.

Commercial User Licenses may also be issued to tour operators who wish to use the parks. Income generated from commercial activities is to be paid into a General Reserves Trust fund and used for improving the services and facilities in the parks.

Objectives

- provide appropriate visitor services and facilities by concession where DENR is unable to do so
- ensure commercial users comply with requirements of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972* and the Policy Document (SANPWS 1988)

Actions

- investigate all applications for concessions and commercial user licenses, and issue where appropriate
- ensure lease and license conditions are complied with

1.3.7 Research and Survey

Limited management-based research and survey work has been under-taken in the small coastal parks of the South East.

Objective

- to provide opportunities for scientific research and survey which contributes to the management of the parks' resources

Action

- encourage research into the natural resources of the parks, and implement management programs to conserve these resources

1.3.8 Staffing

DENR is divided into seven regions, each containing a number of parks. Rangers responsible for the management of individual parks are supported by other regional management, administrative and works staff. Additional project staff may be employed to supplement existing staff in the implementation of these Plans.

To effectively manage the parks and to implement the proposals of these plans within a reasonable time, additional field staff are required. Management and monitoring work in some small parks is further limited by the distance of the parks from work bases. Priority is given to management of high visitor use parks in each Region, with the result that there is only a small investment of resources and staff time in other parks.

The contribution of the Friends Groups and volunteers is acknowledged as valuable and should be encouraged.

Objective

- to increase management activity in the parks

Action

- prepare works programs which ensure the effective deployment of available staff and volunteers on a conservation and visitor needs basis
- encourage Friends Groups

1.3.9 Land Acquisition

DENR will give consideration to the acquisition of available land for addition to parks if it is likely to enhance the conservation or recreation values of those parks, or assist in their management. Management of additions will be subject to an amendment of the relevant plan, including release of draft amendments for public comment.

The boundaries of coastal parks will be extended to the Lowest Astronomical Tide Level, in accordance with the State Cabinet decisions of November 1990. Vehicle access along beaches will require a code of use and will be subject to a regular review.

Objectives

- to increase conservation and recreation values of coastal parks
- to manage ocean beaches for conservation and recreation

Actions

- investigate offers of land adjacent to parks
- prepare a *code of use* in consultation with park user groups

2 BAUDIN ROCKS CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Baudin Rocks Conservation Park, adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. The Foreword and Introduction (Section 1) of this document form part of this Plan.

2.1 Park Description

Baudin Rocks Conservation Park comprises Sections 940-943, Hundred of Waterhouse. The Park is located 2.5 km off Cape Thomas at the northern end of Guichen Bay (Figure 2). It was constituted in 1965, and covers an area of five hectares.

The Park consists of a group of three larger and a number of smaller rocky islands. These offshore rocks form part of the remnants of the Robe Range; a coastal dune range, formed 40,000 to 100,000 years ago, which is now being eroded by the sea.

Vegetation of the Park is predominantly nitrebush (*Nitraria billardierei*). Scattered sparsely over the islands are leafy sea-heath (*Frankenia foliosa*), ruby saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa*), coastal lignum (*Muehlenbeckia gunnii*), and leafy peppergrass (*Lepidium foliosum*). The introduced African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) occurs on the south island.

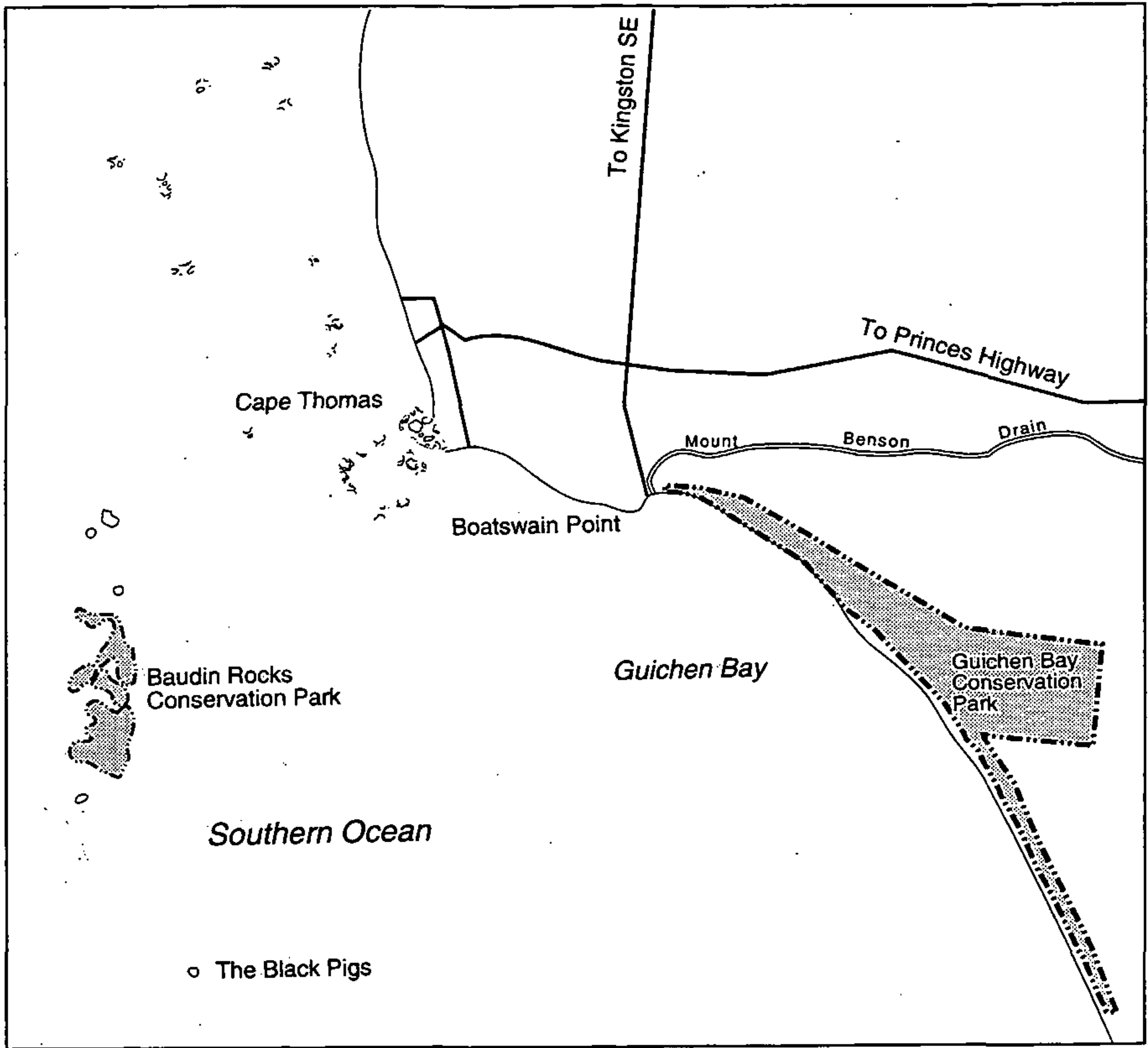
Fauna studies indicate some 30 species of birds live or breed on Baudin Rocks, including the little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*), black faced cormorant (*Leucocarbo fuscescens*), crested tern (*Sterna bergii*), fairy tern (*Sterna nereis*), and several records of the bridal tern (*Sterna anaethetus*). The nankeen night heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) breeds on the southern island - the only known offshore breeding site of this species in South Australia (Bonnin 1982).

A small colony of Australian sea lions (*Neophoca cinerea*) occurs on the north island.

A program to control feral pigeons (*Columba livia*) was undertaken in 1982 and 1983 with support from the South East Field and Game Association.

2.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to protect its habitat value. The management objectives and actions for this Park are listed in Section 1.



----- Park Boundary

———— Road

⊙ Reef

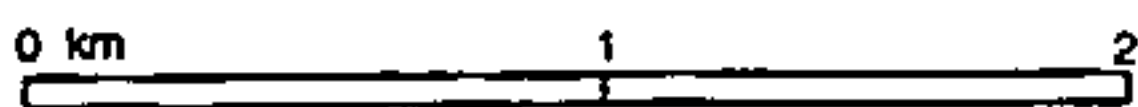


Figure 2

SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Baudin Rocks and Guichen Bay Conservation Parks

3 BUCKS LAKE GAME RESERVE

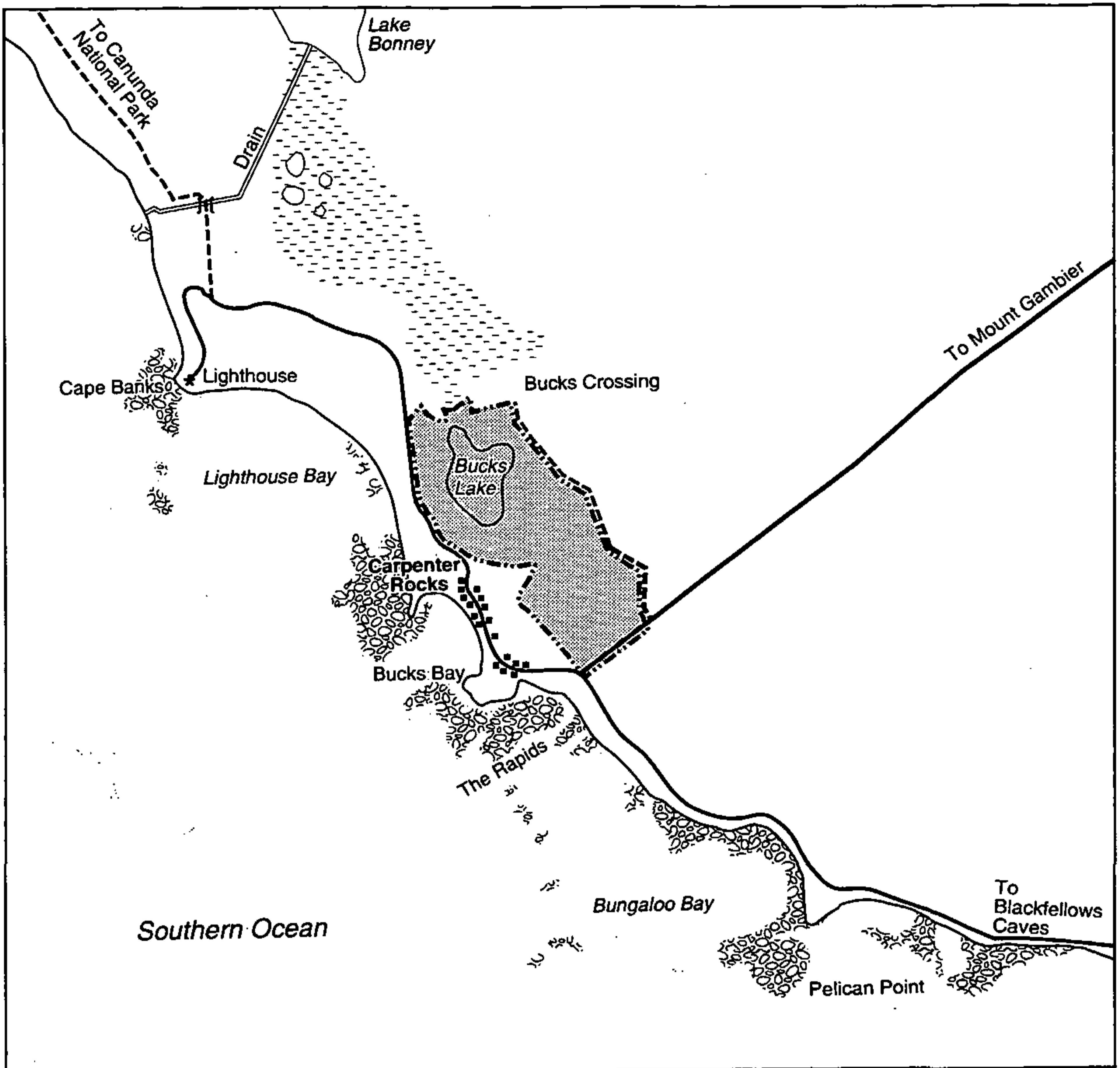
This is the Management Plan for Bucks Lake Game Reserve, adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. The Foreword and Introduction (Section 1) of this document form part of this Plan.

3.1 Reserve Description

Bucks Lake Game Reserve comprises Sections 618 and 758, Hundred of Kongorong, and covers an area of 148 ha. The Reserve is located 37 km south west of Mt Gambier, and adjoins Carpenter Rocks (Figure 4). In 1968 Section 618 was constituted as a national park, and later reconstituted as Bucks Lake Game Reserve. In 1980, an area of 0.6 ha in the southern section of the Park was surveyed as Section 758 for road realignment by the District Council of Pt MacDonnell.

Bucks Lake Game Reserve lies at the southern end of Lake Bonney, and is bounded to the east by an extensive area of native vegetation, and to the west by vegetated coastal sand dunes. The area consists of a low lying wetland with a slight limestone rise on the eastern side of the Reserve. Before the drainage pattern was modified, overflow water from Lake Bonney flowed south east into Bucks Lake, and eventually drained into the sea near Carpenter Rocks. In 1958 the first artificial water outlet for Lake Bonney was constructed. This considerably reduced the amount of water recharging Bucks Lake. The Lake is now a semi-permanent wetland, recharged by run-off water from grazing land to the north east.

The vegetation surrounding the Lake and covering the southern third of the Reserve comprises swamp sedgeland, dominated by chaffy saw-sedge (*Gahnia filum*) and sea rush (*Juncus kraussii*), with patches of South Australian swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*). On higher ground this association grades into closed shrubland dominated by dryland tea-tree (*M. lanceolata*), golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), coastal wattle (*A. longifolia* var. *sophorae*), swamp gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*), and messmate stringybark (*E. obliqua*). The western portion of the Reserve is dominated by coast daisy-bush (*Olearia axillaris*), and sword rush (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*).



- Park Boundary
- Road
- Track
- ▨ Seasonally Inundated
- || Bridge

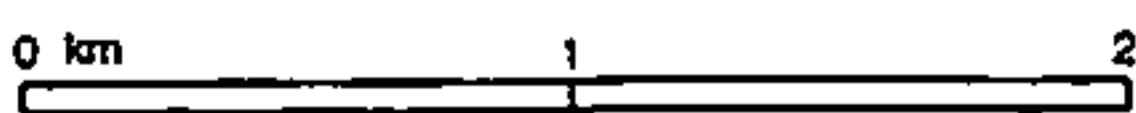


Figure 3
SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST
Bucks Lake Game Reserve

The significant alterations to the water regime in this Reserve are likely to have caused dramatic changes in the distribution and structure of the vegetation associations of low lying areas. The extent to which this has occurred has not been assessed.

There has been some intermittent grazing in the area, but the vegetation of the Reserve appears to have a relatively intact understorey and groundcover.

The Reserve's recent fire history has been well documented. In March 1981, 40 ha in the north of the Reserve was burnt, and in October 1981, 60 ha in the south east of the Reserve (behind Carpenter Rocks) was burnt. Since this latter fire, which burnt through a dryland teatree association, introduced grasses have become dominant in the burnt areas.

Few fauna studies have been undertaken in the Reserve, however, notable species include the swamp antechinus (*Antechinus minimus* subsp. *maritimus*) and the southern bush rat (*Rattus fuscipes*). The preferred habitat of the swamp antechinus is the closed sedge tussocklands and the stands of dryland teatree. The Lake supports a variety of waterfowl, including some migratory waders, however its value to these species is not well understood.

A section of the northern boundary of the Reserve and a 1.5 km section of the south western boundary behind Carpenter Rocks have been fenced to control stock, discourage dumping of rubbish, and prevent unauthorised vehicle access. A very rough five metre wide track defines the eastern Reserve boundary.

The Reserve is infrequently visited. Visitor facilities have not been provided.

The reserve is not used extensively for hunting because of low water levels.

3.2 Management Prescription

The Reserve will be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment and landscape qualities. In addition to the management objectives for small coastal parks in the South East listed in Section 1, the objectives of management are to:

- manage boundary access;
- assure the protection of wetland habitat and the waterfowl populations it supports; and
- protect the swamp antechinus and southern bush rat populations and habitat of the Reserve.

In order to fulfil these objectives, in addition to the actions listed in Section 1, the following actions will be implemented.

Action	Priority
• realign and extend north boundary fence along surveyed lines	Low.
• maintain eastern boundary track for boundary definition and management access	Mod.
• in consultation with E&WS, South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board, SA Field and Game Association, and neighbouring landholders, investigate the feasibility and desirability of increasing water level in Bucks Lake to create a permanent wetland, implement if appropriate	Low
• review status of reserve	Low
• construct vehicle barriers to control access	Mod

4 BUTCHERS GAP CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Butchers Gap Conservation Park, adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. The Foreword and Introduction (Section 1) of this document form part of this Plan.

4.1 Park Description

Butchers Gap Conservation Park comprises Sections 18 and 19, Hundred of Lacepede; an area of 178.3 ha. The Park was constituted in 1990, and is located six kilometres south of Kingston SE (Figure 5).

The Park comprises the foredune and associated swale system surrounding a 40 ha wetland area (including Salt Lake and Butchers Lake), bisected by the Butchers Gap Drain (Figure 5). The wetland supports an association of dense South Australian swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*) over marine meadow, while the remainder of the Park is a coastal scrub association.

A lease of the area of Butchers Gap drain that bisects the Park has been negotiated with the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board.

The Park is an important seasonal habitat for migratory bird species. The wetlands support a variety of waterfowl, including some migratory waders, however, its value to these species is not well understood.

The Park is recognised as suitable habitat for the endangered orange bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*), which has been observed feeding on two-horned sea-rocket (*Cakile maritima*) near the beach and in the extensive samphire habitat around Salt Lake.

Visitation to the Park is moderate, with the majority of users from the nearby settlements of Wyomi and Kingston. Most visitation to the Park is for nature study and walking. Vehicle access for visitors is restricted to the carpark at the northern end of the Park.

A walking track established by the Friends of Butchers Gap commences near the carpark, and passes through some of the diverse habitats of the Park.

Access for fire fighting is through a gate adjacent to the drain on the western boundary of the Park, and through the carpark (Figure 5).

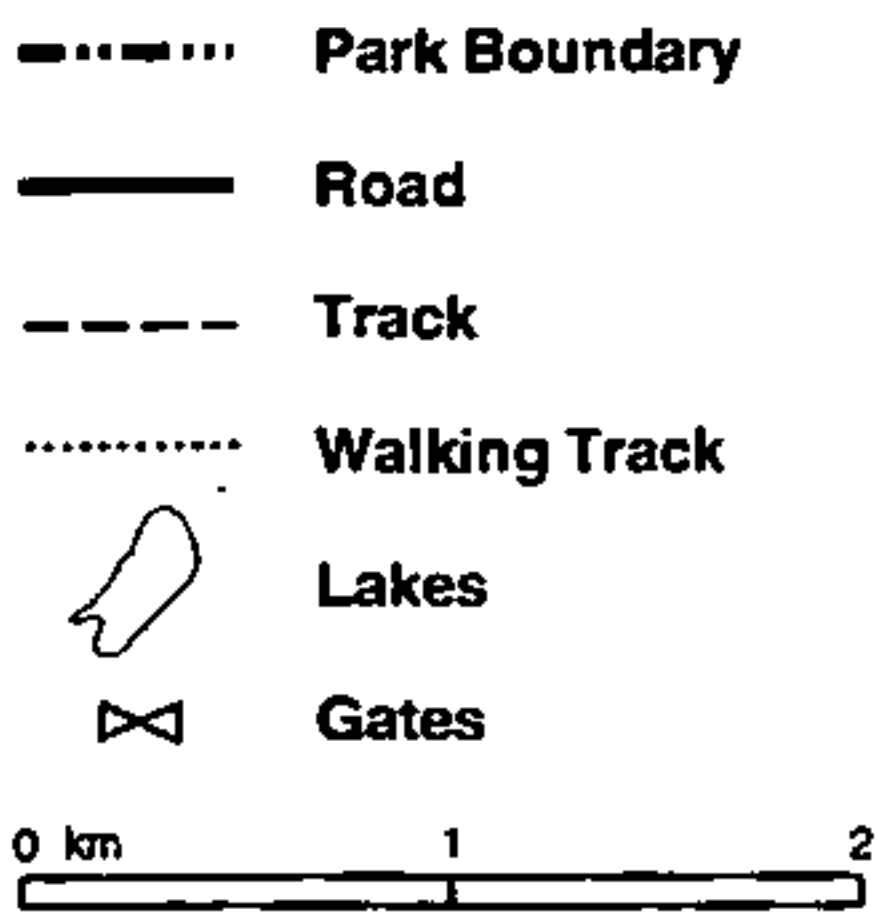
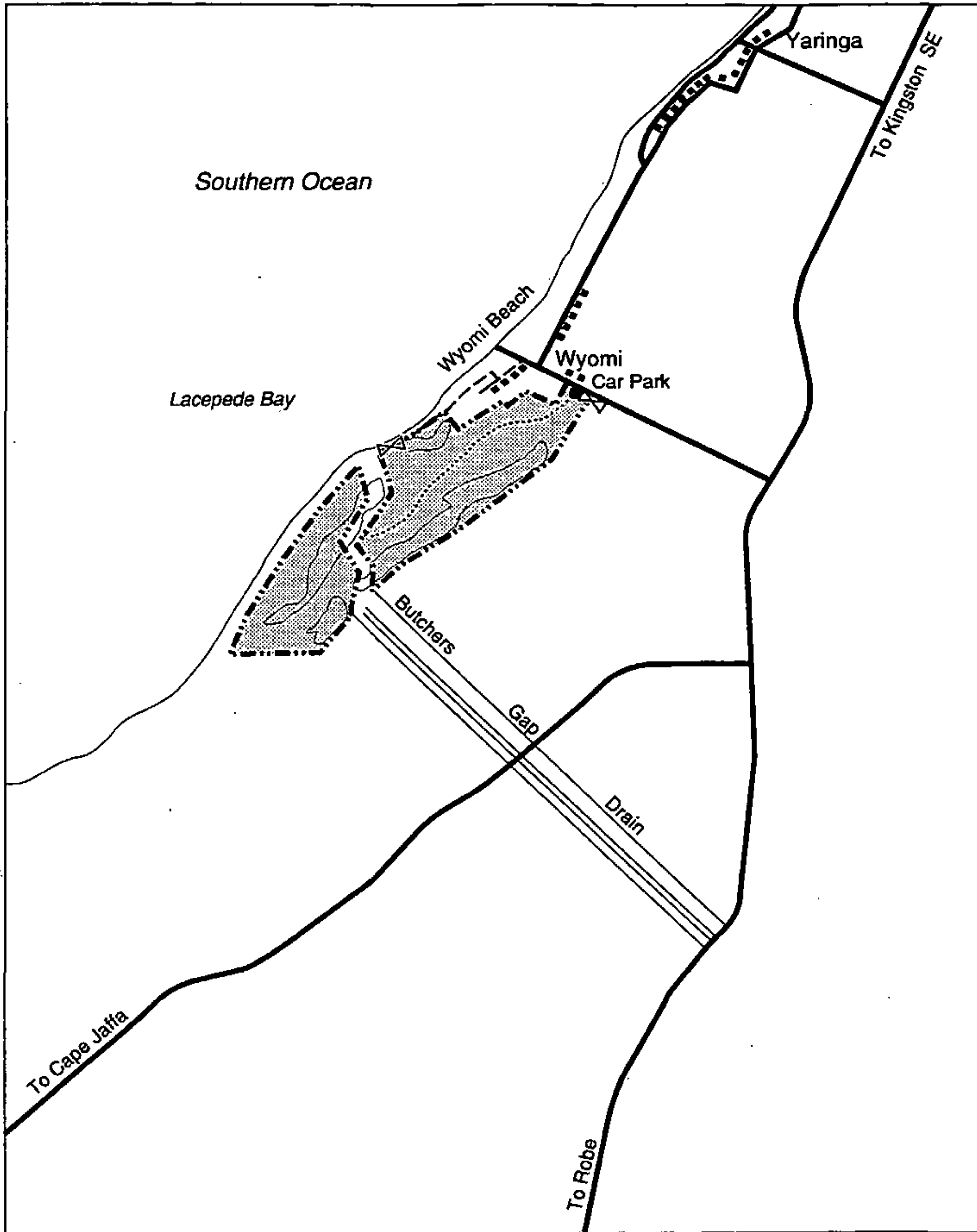


Figure 4
SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST
Butchers Gap Conservation Park

4.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment, with particular regard to wetlands and orange bellied parrot habitat. In addition to the management objectives for small coastal parks in the South East listed in Section 1, the objectives of management are to:

- maintain the natural water regime in the wetlands;
- encourage visitor use of the Park; and
- protect orange bellied parrot habitat.

In order to fulfil these objectives, in addition to the actions listed in Section 1, the following actions will be implemented.

Action	Priority
• consult with the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board regarding drainage issues that may effect the Park	Ongoing
• maintain walking tracks	Mod.
• prohibit the use of solid fuel fires	Mod.
• provide gas/electric barbecues and picnic furniture near the carpark	Low
• maintain existing fences and vehicle barriers	High
• survey and monitor bird populations	Ongoing/high

5 GUICHEN BAY CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Guichen Bay Conservation Park, adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. The Foreword and Introduction (Section 1) of this document form part of this Plan.

5.1 Park Description

Guichen Bay Conservation Park comprises Sections 360, 361, 555, 575 and 576, Hundred of Waterhouse, County of Robe. The Park is located eight kilometres north of Robe, at the northern end of Guichen Bay (Figure 2, page 10). It was first established in 1967, and covers an area of 121 ha. Vehicle access is not provided within the Park.

The Park contains some of the Guichen Bay beach ridge plain; a classic example of Holocene beach ridge development of worldwide interest which records the natural history of the Bay over the last 7000 years.

The area is exposed to moderate wave energy, with evidence of some minor foredune erosion occurring during the last decade. The beach ridges have traditionally been used for grazing, and this has resulted in small areas of dune erosion, some occurring within the Park.

The beach ridges consist of lime-rich sands. Soil development is minimal, especially on the younger ridges near the coast. The swales generally have a higher organic matter content than the ridges. Foredune vegetation is typically rolling spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*), and two-horned sea-rocket (*Cakile maritima*), grading to coastal wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*), coastal bearded-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), and coast daisy-bush (*Olearia axillaris*) in the hind dunes.

Few fauna studies have been undertaken in the Park.

Visitation to the Park is low.

5.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to protect the habitat value of the coastal vegetation associations. Management objectives and actions for this Park are listed in Section 1.

6 NENE VALLEY CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Nene Valley Conservation Park, adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. The Foreword and Introduction (Section 1) of this document form part of this Plan.

6.1 Park Description

The Park comprises Sections 388-391 and 604-606, Hundred of Kongorong, and is located approximately 35 km south west of Mt Gambier (Figure 1). It was constituted in 1972, and covers an area of 373 ha (Figure 7). The Park is separated from the foreshore by a road reserve approximately four kilometres long.

Most of the Park consists of unstructured skeletal sand dunes dominated by a coastal wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*) and coastal bearded-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*) association. There is an area of mobile dunes with a large parabolic dune rising approximately 20 m to form the highest point in the Park. An elongated strip of Bryozoic limestone with little or no vegetation lies midway along and adjacent to the coast. Between the vegetated dunes are lowlying swales dominated by sedges such as knobby club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*).

The Park is bordered and made disjunct by road reserves which are largely undeveloped, or which form part of the fire access system (Figure 7).

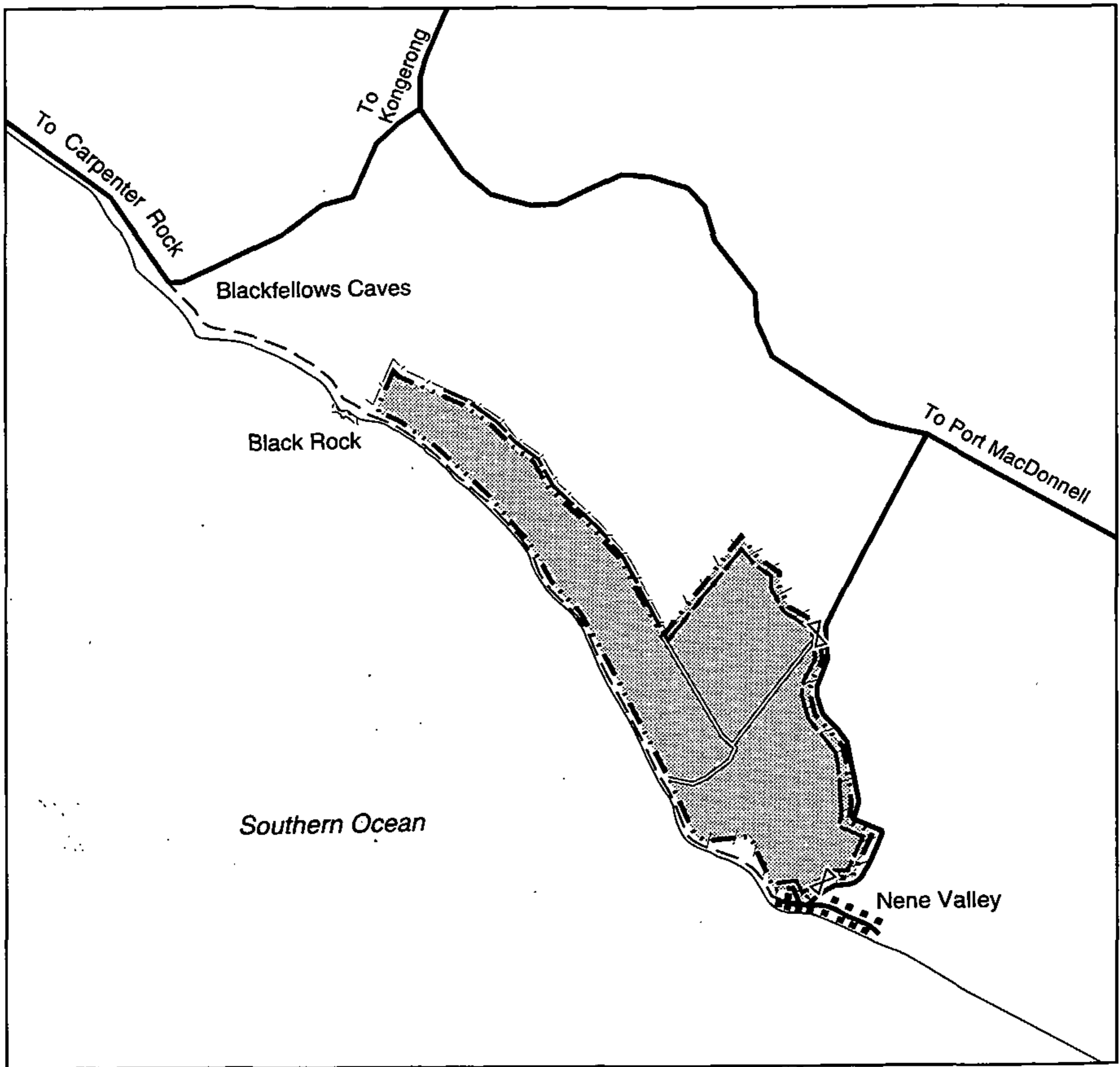
6.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment and landscape qualities. In addition to the management objectives for small coastal parks in the South East listed in Section 1, a management objective for the Park is:

- consolidate the Park's boundaries.

In order to fulfil these objectives, in addition to the actions listed in Section 1, the following actions will be implemented.

Action	Priority
• consult with Council regarding addition of the northern boundary and internal road reserves to the Park	High
• consult with Council regarding adding the southern boundary road reserve to the Park; maintain track for coastal access	Mod.
• maintain existing fire access tracks and liaise with neighbouring landholders regarding fire prevention works in accordance with the fire prevention plan.	High



- Park Boundary (Unfenced)
- +--+ Park Boundary (Fenced)
- Road
- ==== Road Reserve
- - - - Track
- X Gate
- - - - Fire Access
- / - Fence

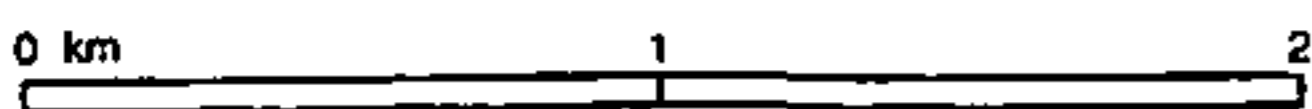


Figure 5
SMALL COASTAL PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST
Nene Valley Conservation Park

7 PENGUIN ISLAND CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Penguin Island Conservation Park, adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. The Foreword and Introduction (Section 1) of this document form part of this Plan.

7.1 Park Description

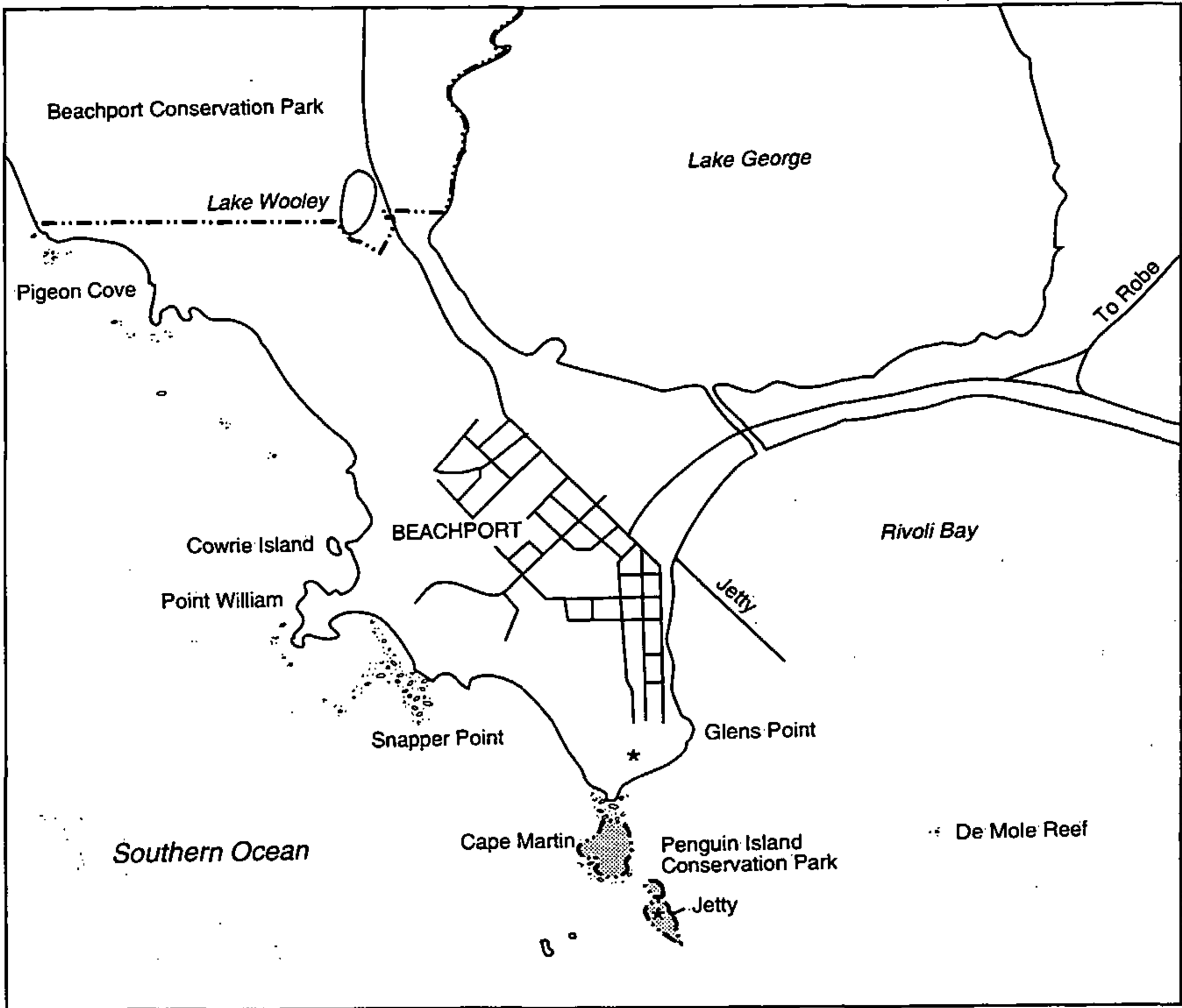
Penguin Island Conservation Park covers an area of 7.8 ha, comprising three islands: two islands (Sections 1182 and 1183 Out of Hundreds) which together form Penguin Island, and the northern island (Sections 374 and 398 Hundred of Rivoli Bay). The Park is located in inshore waters, immediately south-east of Cape Martin and one kilometre south of Beachport (Figure 8).

In 1900, the whole of Penguin Island was dedicated as a Commonwealth Reserve for lighthouse purposes. When the Cape Martin Light was established in 1960, Penguin Island was resumed under the *Crown Lands Act, 1929-57*. It was later declared a Closed Area under the *Animals and Birds Protection Act 1919-1953*, and in 1961, the Island was constituted a wildlife reserve. Sections 374 and 398 were added to the Park in 1970 and 1976 respectively.

The islands are remnants of the now partially submerged Robe Range. Recent dune material, with partial soil development, covers the islands. The island margins are steep eroded cliffs, approximately 10-15 m high, and the south-western sides of the islands are protected by extensive wavecut platforms.

A low shrubland dominated by grey saltbush (*Atriplex cinerea*) partially covers the more protected parts of the islands. In 1977 marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) was planted on the northern island to stabilise sand drift and assist regeneration of native vegetation. African boxthorns (*Lycium ferocissimum*) have spread onto the islands.

During the late 1960s and the 1970s several wildlife surveys were conducted. The islands support breeding colonies of numerous seabird species including fairy penguins (*Eudyptula minor*), silver gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*), and crested tern (*Sterna bergii*). In addition, breeding muttonbirds (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) and black-faced cormorants (*Leucocarbo fuscescens*) have been observed. Feral animals can access the northern island at low tide, however only starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and pigeons (*Columba livia*) have been recorded on Penguin Island.



- Park Boundary
- Road
- ★ Lighthouse

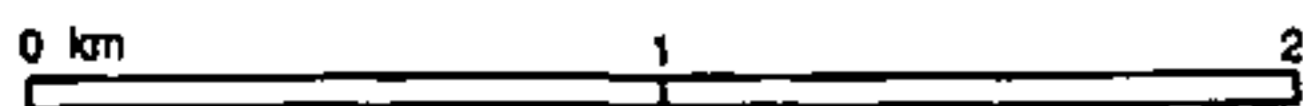


Figure 6

SMALL COASTAL PARK OF THE SOUTH EAST

Penguin Island Conservation Park

The close proximity of the Park to Beachport encourages visits to the islands. At low tide the northern island is accessible by foot, however the southern island can only be accessed by boat or by swimming.

The Penguin Island lighthouse and shed are in reasonable condition, and some minor maintenance works have been implemented. A small jetty on the eastern side of the island has fallen into disrepair.

7.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural and cultural environment and landscape qualities. In addition to the management objectives for small coastal parks in the South East listed in Section 1, the objectives of management are to:

- promote community understanding of the presence and importance of seabird breeding colonies;
- encourage the regeneration of native vegetation to control soil erosion; and
- protect the heritage value of those items listed on the National Trust Register.

In order to fulfil these objectives, in addition to the actions listed in Section 1, the following actions will be implemented.

Action	Priority
• provide interpretive information regarding seabird breeding colonies	High
• prepare and implement a vegetation regeneration program	Low
• liaise with the State Heritage Branch (Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources) regarding the management of historic items	Low

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