

SMALL PARKS OF THE LOWER SOUTH EAST MANAGEMENT PLANS

South East

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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**These plans of management have been prepared and
adopted in pursuance of Section 38 of the
*National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972.***

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FOREWORD

This document has been prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*. It relates to seven conservation parks of the Lower South East Region, namely:

- Belt Hill Conservation Park
- Calectasia Conservation Park
- Furner Conservation Park
- Glen Roy Conservation Park
- Gower Conservation Park
- Penola Conservation Park
- Reedy Creek Conservation Park

The number of South Australia's National Parks and Wildlife 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, recreational purposes and so forth. Today there are more than 200 National Parks and Wildlife Service reserves 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 address the dual task of both providing for optimal public input into the management of reserves and to provide immediate guidance for park managers, the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has taken the initiative of preparing a single planning document for several reserves in a region which shares similar biological characteristics and management requirements.

It is recognised that this approach will not be appropriate in all instances particularly for reserves which have a high visitor pressure and 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 the Plans ultimately be amended in accordance with such research findings.

The draft Management Plans for Small Parks of the Lower South East were released for public review in 1985. Nineteen submissions were received and have been considered in the preparation of these Management Plans. Advice has been received from the Reserves Advisory Committee and some changes to the draft have been made.

These Management Plans have been adopted under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972*.

(Susan M. Lenehan)
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

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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 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 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 The Conservation Parks

This document contains management plans for seven small parks in the lower South East of South Australia (Figure 1). The parks are small (less than 600 ha), and separated from each other and other areas of native vegetation by cleared grazing land and pine plantations. Their principal value lies in the conservation of vegetation types or cultural sites otherwise unrepresented in the reserve system.

The parks covered by these plans do not have complex management problems and are subject to limited 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.

There are a number of other small conservation parks in the lower South East, which have not been included with these plans. Management plans for these parks will be prepared at a later date.

1.3 Regional Management Considerations

1.3.1 Conservation Value of Small Parks

Many of the parks in this document were acquired for conservation after being offered for sale as remnants of native vegetation in areas which were to be cleared. As clearing continued, parks were left as islands of scrub in cleared, cultivated landscapes. While these parks have value as conservation areas, their 'island' status and small size makes them vulnerable to the effects of visitor use, wildfire, weed invasion, and change in nutrient status of the soil through the use of fertilisers in neighbouring paddocks.

Their continued viability as conservation reserves is dependent on disjunct corridors of native vegetation (usually in Road Reserves) linking them with other areas of remnant vegetation.

Objective

- * to retain, as much as is possible, the conservation value of small parks, despite their 'island' status
- * encourage land managers to retain remnant native vegetation

Actions

- * encourage local, State and Federal Governments to retain roadside native vegetation as corridor links between parks and other native vegetation areas
- * encourage landholders to retain corridors and blocks of native vegetation
- * investigate the acquisition of substantial areas of uncleared land and wetlands, particularly areas close or adjacent to existing parks, to complement the scatter of small conservation areas in the lower South East

1.3.2 Fire Management

Fire management in South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service (SANPWS) reserves is based on guidelines and objectives contained in two documents. The Fire Management and Protection Manual (1989) is an internal report which sets out objectives of fire management and the Service'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;
- . to foster sound land use planning in relation to fire hazard;
- . to maintain diversity of native plant and animal communities;
- . to protect special features of the reserve including cultural sites and park facilities; and
- . to manage fire, thus protecting the land from degradation by erosion and subsequent invasion by weeds.

Fire protection plans have been prepared for individual parks in the State. A fire protection 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 and provides historic and logistical information on location and nature of resources.

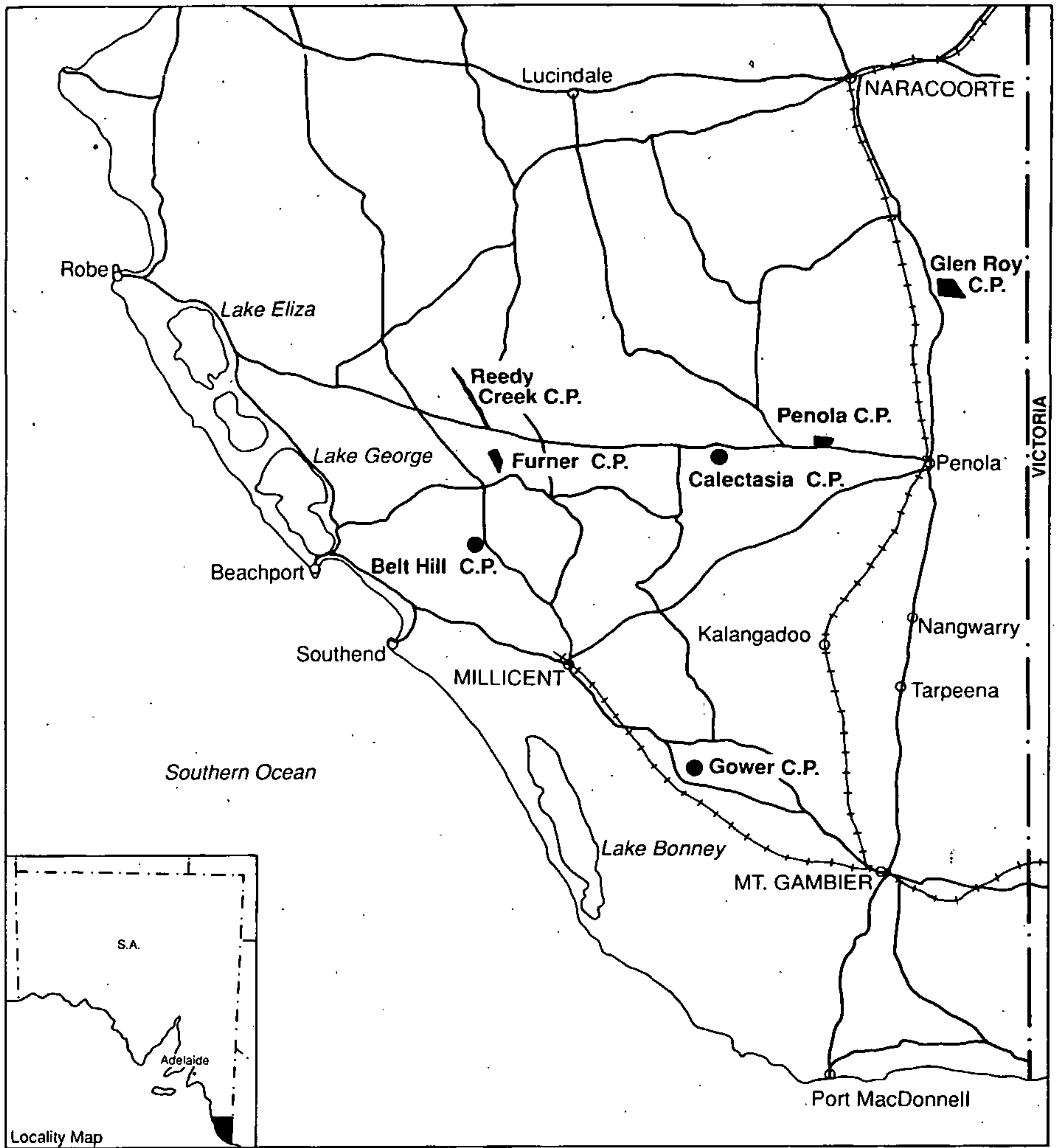
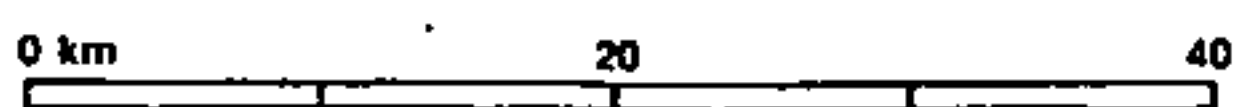


Figure 1

Small Parks of the Lower South East



These documents are not the 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 the objectives and policies of the Fire Management and Protection Manual
- * implement the fire management plan prepared for each park in this document

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 to provide 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 both satisfy visitor demand and ensure that the park's 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 lower South East will change significantly.

Objective

- * to provide for conservation and public enjoyment of parks in the lower South East

Actions

- * monitor public use of the parks
- * provide visitor facilities as required
- * liaise with Tourism SA, local tourism associations and tour operators to ensure their policies and practices are consistent with SANPWS policies on recreational use of parks, and SANPWS is made aware of initiatives in the tourism industry which may affect the parks

1.3.4 Interpretation

People's appreciation of parks is enriched through effective interpretation of parks and their resources. The availability of information before people visit parks allows 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 parks in the lower 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 environmental education resources and to liaise with SANPWS staff when preparing curricula and field classes

1.3.5 Research and Survey

Little research and survey work has been undertaken in the small parks of the lower 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 and cultural resources of the lower South East, and implement appropriate management programs to conserve these resources

1.3.6 Staffing

All parks in this document fall within the SANPWS Southern Region. The region is divided into several districts, each containing a number of parks which are managed by a District Ranger. A Ranger, responsible for the management of each park, is supported by other District 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, additional field staff are required. Management and monitoring work in the small parks is limited by low staffing levels and the distance of the parks from staff bases. Priority is given to management of the major parks in each district, with the result that there is only a small investment of resources and staff time in the small parks. Additional field staff in the lower South East would enable all field staff to manage parks in their districts more effectively.

Objective

- * to increase management activity in the parks

Action

- * prepare a works program which ensures frequent management activity in the parks

2 BELT HILL CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Belt Hill 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

In 1971 A McArthur of Rendelsham offered the then National Parks Commission land near Rendelsham for dedication as a Reserve. Belt Hill Conservation Park was dedicated in 1972, and comprises Section 339, Hd of Rivoli Bay. The Park is located about four kilometres north west of Hatherleigh just south of the Princes Highway. It covers an area of 9.8 ha (Figure 1).

A consolidated calcarenite dune overlain by weakly-structured sandy soils extends from the east into the Park. The western part of the Park is a swale or low-lying plain which continues into adjacent farmland.

In the early 1950s vegetation in the area was sparse and a row of pine trees was planted on the southern boundary to control sand drift. The native vegetation in the Park has been considerably disturbed mainly through grazing by stock and rabbits. The vegetation on the dune is an open scrub formation of silver-leaved banksia (*Banksia marginata*), blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and golden wattle (*A. pycnantha*). The swale area has mainly introduced pasture grasses with some kangaroo grass (*Themeda australis*) and knobby club-rush (*Isolepis nodosa*).

There are two archaeological sites in the Park, both located in the dune area, which have a thin scatter of artefacts. Over the years surface artefacts have been collected but the sites have not been excavated. It is thought that the area supported a substantial Aboriginal population as it is elevated, well sheltered and watered, and would have offered many sources of food. At least two burial sites have been reported.

There is an abandoned stone quarry on the southern side of the Park and a small sand pit in the north. Material from these was used by the Highways Department for road construction.

The Electricity Trust of South Australia has a registered easement for the 33 kV transmission line between Hatherleigh and Beachport, which is protected under a licence agreement between the Trust and the SANPWS.

Access for fire fighting is generally adequate from the surveyed roads along the eastern and south western boundaries of the Park, and from a five metre access track along the northern boundary of the Park.

2.2 Management Prescription

The Park should be managed to ensure the conservation of the natural and cultural environment and landscape qualities of the Park.

In addition to the objectives for conservation parks in the lower South East listed in Section 1, the objectives of management will be to:

- . protect Aboriginal archaeological sites in the Park from further interference and deterioration while not excluding archaeological investigation;
- . protect the Park from stock and illegal vehicle access;
- . ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the name and presence of the Park, are maintained in good condition; and
- . encourage public understanding of the significance of the archaeological sites.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| . maintain existing fencing | Priority
High |
| . erect a stile over the fence in the south east corner | Low |
| . provide pedestrian public access | High |
| . remove self-seeded pine trees from the Park | High |
| . remove rubbish which has been dumped in the Park | High |
| . consult with Aboriginal Heritage Branch
to determine if a full archaeological investigation is required | Moderate |
| . consult Aboriginal Heritage Branch regarding excavation works | Moderate |
| . erect interpretation sign explaining significance of the site | Moderate |
| . ensure access from surveyed roads and adjoining paddocks
is maintained for fire-fighting purposes | High |
| . re-paint or replace signs as required | Moderate |

3 CALECTASIA CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Calectasia 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.

3.1 Park Description

The Park comprises Section 157, Hd of Short, and is located about 27 km west of Penola on the southern side of the Robe - Penola road. It covers an area of 14 ha (Figure 1). Both the northern and southern sections of the Park form part of a stranded dune system and have sandy soils. Separating these two areas is a low-lying area, comprising about 70% of the Park, which is subject to inundation during the wetter months of the year.

A sandy rise in the south of the Park supports a brown stringybark woodland over austral grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*). Between these two areas is the low lying flat which supports a dense grassland of mainly introduced species. The blue tinsel-lily (*Calectasia cyanea*) grows in the north east of the Park in a low woodland of brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) with large scattered desert banksia (*Banksia ornata*) and a dense heath understorey. The blue tinsel-lily is found in the south east of South Australia and in Western Victoria. A different variety of the species is found in Western Australia. It is considered by Specht et al. (1974) to be endangered in South Australia, and in Victoria it is considered by Willis (1970) to be uncommon. In South Australia, *Calectasia cyanea* has a very limited distribution, with Calectasia Conservation Park being the only known reserve in the State with this species. It formerly had a much wider distribution with vouchers in the State Herbarium as far apart as Bordertown and Kalangadoo. An enclosure has been erected around the main area of tinsel-lily, and the entire Park is fenced with vermin proof fencing.

The Park was burnt during the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983. Access for fire fighting is along the Robe-Penola road and the access track along the road reserve in the north, a stopbank track in the west and south, and the drainage reserve in the east.

3.2 Management Prescription

The Park should be managed to ensure the conservation, in perpetuity, of the natural environment and landscape qualities of the Park, in particular the conservation of the blue tinsel-lily. In addition to the objectives for conservation parks in the lower South East listed in Section 1, the management objectives for the Park are:

- . to protect the native vegetation of the Park, in particular to ensure the protection and survival of the blue tinsel-lily;
- . to ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the name and presence of the Park, are maintained in good condition; and
- . to restrict vehicle access in the Park.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| . maintain rabbit-proof fencing to protect blue tinsel-lily | Priority
High |
| . investigate ecology of the Park, implement appropriate vegetation management procedures to ensure survival of the blue tinsel-lily | High |
| . monitor effects of 1983 fires on blue tinsel-lily, in particular proliferation of <i>Banksia ornata</i> | High |
| . cancel lease for Fencing Number 209/SEDB169/65.3 | High |
| . repaint or replace signs as required | Moderate |
| . provide pedestrian public access | High |
| . maintain internal tracks for management access | High |
| . encourage research on fauna, vegetation, ecology, history | Moderate |

4 FURNER CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Furner 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

The Park occupies Section 245, Hd of Kennion, and is located four kilometres south east of Kangaroo Inn and seven kilometres north west of Furner (Figure 1). It was gazetted on 22.11.1973, and covers 285.5 ha of gently undulating sandy rise with bleached sands and a yellow-grey B horizon. Secondary landforms are parallel stony rises with exposed calcarenite, and red, weakly-structured sandy soils and low-lying sandy flats.

The major vegetation type on the sandy rise is an open woodland of messmate stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), with a similar but denser formation on most of the sandy flats. The flats in the eastern part of the Park near Reedy Creek support a woodland of river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*) and rough barked manna gum (*E. viminalis* subsp. *cygnetensis*). There are also areas of swamp gum (*E. ovata*) on the flats. Vegetation on the stony rises is a pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*) open woodland with isolated drooping sheoaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*).

Previous landholders grazed sheep in the Park area, mainly after the fire danger season. The Park was burnt during the fires of 16 - 18.2.1983. According to local information, it was "regularly burnt" prior to 1968. The draft fire protection plan states that there will be no fuel reduction burning in the Park.

The Park is mainly used by field naturalists. Potential exists for educational use by Kangaroo Inn Area School.

4.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to ensure the conservation of the natural environment and landscape qualities of the Park.

In addition to the objectives for listed in Section 1, the objectives for the Park are:

- . to protect the Park against stock from neighbouring paddocks;
- . to ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the name and presence of the Park, are maintained in good condition; and
- . to limit vehicle access in the Park.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

. monitor <i>Pinus</i> sp. self-seeding in Park, remove any seedlings	Priority High
. continue photographic monitoring of post-1983 fire regeneration	Moderate
. maintain existing boundary fencing	High
. re-paint or replace signs as required	Moderate
. provide pedestrian public access	High

5 GLEN ROY CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Glen Roy 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

The Park, comprising Sections 279, 479 and 276, Hd of Comaum, is located 25 km north of Penola, east of the Penola - Naracoorte road. It was gazetted on 12.11.1970, and covers an area of 541 ha (Figure 1). Section 275, a sand quarry under Extractive Mineral Lease 3246, comprising an area of 2.5 ha in the south of the Park, has been excluded from the Park, as has Section 389, a Stone Reserve managed by the District Council of Penola. This Reserve was substantially unused until 1983 when material was removed for the Naracoorte - Penola Road.

Most of the Park comprises undulating consolidated calcarenite dune ridges overlain by red, weakly-structured sandy soils generally associated with open forests of brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) and pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*), and unconsolidated dunes overlain by bleached sands with a yellow-grey B horizon, generally associated with brown stringybark. In the west are low-lying river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*) woodlands subject to minor periodic inundation. Interdunal swamps in the east of the Park have black, organic soils overlying clay or marl, and support *Leptospermum juniperinum* closed heath and areas of sedgeland.

Few fauna studies have been undertaken in the Park, however, notable species include the red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*), yellow footed antichinus (*Antichinus flavipus*), and the common wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*).

A program of control burning was undertaken in the Park between 1971 and 1974 by the Woods and Forests Department. The Park has not been burnt since.

Visitation to the Park is low, and most visitors are field naturalists.

5.2 Management Prescription

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

- . to co-ordinate fire protection with neighbouring properties;
- . to consolidate the Park's boundaries;
- . to protect the Park from intrusion by the quarries in Sections 275 and 389; and
- . to regulate vehicle access in the Park.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

- | | Priority |
|--|----------|
| . maintain tracks, construct western boundary track for management use | High |
| . monitor site of former pine plantation, remove pine seedlings in the Park | High |
| . provide pedestrian public access | Moderate |
| . re-paint or replace signs as required | Moderate |
| . with Dept. Mines and Energy and Penola DC, formulate rehabilitation plan for S. 389 when quarrying ceases, after rehabilitation add S. 389 to Park | High |
| . with Dept. Mines and Energy, prepare sand quarry rehabilitation plan, after rehabilitation include S. 275 in Park | Moderate |
| . maintain boundary fencing | High |
| . investigate addition of Road Reserve adjacent S. 30, S. 392 | Moderate |

6 GOWER CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Gower 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 Section 517, Hd of Hindmarsh, and is located 25 km north west of Mount Gambier. The Park was gazetted on 21.1.1971, and covers an area of 39.5 ha (Figure 1).

Undulating consolidated calcarenite dunes are overlain by brown/grey, weakly-structured sandy soils. Some limestone outcrops occur in the central and southern parts of the Park in association with rough barked manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *cygnetensis*).

The vegetation of the Park is mainly an open forest of messmate stringybark (*E. obliqua*) and brown stringybark (*E. baxteri*) with a shrub understorey of austral bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) and a sparse shrub layer of spike wattle (*Acacia oxycedrus*), grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*) and some silverleaved banksia (*Banksia marginata*). In the south of the Park is a stand of rough barked manna gum and some large black wattle (*A. mearnsii*).

In the 1930s a wildfire swept through the Park. In more recent years, up until about 1965, the Woods and Forests Department undertook fuel reduction burns. From the information available, the area has not been burnt since then. The fire protection plan for the Park proposes no fuel reduction burning. Fire access is via a Council track leading east from the Princes Highway. The Park has a three metre wide access track around the west, south and east perimeters and a 20 m break on the northern perimeter. The pine plantations to the north, west and east are separated from the Park by wide fire breaks.

6.2 Management Prescription

The Park should be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment and landscape qualities. In addition to the objectives listed in Section 1, the management objectives for the Park are:

- . to protect the Park from stock from neighbouring paddocks;
- . to ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the name and presence of the Park, are maintained in good condition; and
- . to restrict vehicle access in the Park.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| . remove all pine seedlings which have self-seeded in the Park | Priority
High |
| . maintain existing fencing | High |
| . re-paint or replace signs as required | Moderate |

7 PENOLA CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Penola 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

The Park comprises Sections 255 and 256, Hd of Monbulla, and is located 12 km west of Penola on the northern side of the Robe - Penola road. It was gazetted on 10.9.70, and covers an area of 226 ha (Figure 1).

The Park is underlain by consolidated calcarenite dunes, overlain with red, weakly-structured sandy soils and unconsolidated stranded dunes of bleached sands with a yellow-grey B horizon. Two large wetland areas have a marl base and black organic soils. River red gum flats have sandy, mottled-yellow, duplex soil.

Vegetation on the dunes is a woodland or open woodland of brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus Baxteri*). The flats associated with the wetlands support a river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*) woodland over annual grasses and herbs and scattered shrubs. There are also isolated stands of swamp gum (*E. ovata*) and rough barked manna gum (*E. viminalis* subsp. *cygnetensis*) on the edges of the wetter areas. In the north west of the Park is a large area of low heath which is periodically inundated. Water-ribbons (*Triglochin procerum*) and yellow marsh flower (*Villarsia reniformis*) grow in the wetlands.

Green Swamp, in the south west of the Park, is a semi-permanent wetland of approximately 10 ha. It provides habitat for waterbirds in all seasons and presents a picturesque aquatic landscape.

There is a small disused quarry in the south east of the Park. Parts of the Park, notably the river red gum flats, have apparently been grazed by stock in the past. A well, sunk at the edge of Green Swamp, probably dates back to use of the area for grazing.

The Park's recent fire history has been well documented. In November 1974 a small area in the south east of the Park was burnt as a result of a fire escaping from the rubbish dump in Section 348. In December 1975 the entire Park was burnt as a result of an illegal fire deliberately lit in the north west corner of the Park. In December 1979 about 0.5 ha in the centre of the Park was burnt as a result of a deliberately lit fire. In June 1980 one hectare of the Park was burnt along the southern and eastern boundaries, again deliberately lit.

Access for fire fighting is via the Park's diagonal and boundary tracks as well as via surveyed roads on the western, southern and eastern boundary.

An underground telecommunications cable runs along the southern boundary of the Park.

The Park is visited mainly by local residents and schools groups, and is occasionally used for bush camping.

7.2 Management Prescription

The Park should be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment and landscape qualities.

In addition to the objectives for conservation parks in the lower South East listed in Section 1, the management objectives for the Park are:

- . to protect the Park against intrusions from the Council garbage dump;
- . to ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the name and presence of the Park, are maintained in good condition; and
- . to control vehicle access in the Park.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| . liaise with Penola DC regarding fire and garbage from dump | Priority
High |
| . maintain existing access tracks, liaise with Penola DC and the public to ensure the Park is adequately protected from fire | High |
| . provide vehicular access to a minor development node (small scale development permitted) near south eastern corner of the Park | Moderate |
| . provide pedestrian public access to the body of the Park | Moderate |
| . maintain Park tracks for management purposes only | Moderate |
| . inform public about fire and appropriate use of Park through staff contact and public education program | High |
| . re-paint and replace signs as required | Moderate |
| . erect boundary fencing | High |

8 REEDY CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Reedy Creek 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.

8.1 Park Description

The Park comprises: Section 227, Hd of Kennion; Section 288, Hd of Fox; Section 154, Hd of Smith; and Section 186, Hd of Smith. It is located along Reedy Creek 0.5 km east of Kangaroo Inn Area School on the northern side of the Robe - Penola road, and covers an area of 146.8 ha (Figure 1). The Park was dedicated in 1973 because of its fine stand of river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), but continued to be grazed (under lease) until 1978. A trash and fodder removal lease should be set up over Section 186 so the lessee progressively revegetates the Section over a number of years, correspondingly reducing the leased area.

The Park is located on an interdunal plain of calcarenite with sandy, mottled yellow, duplex soils. Some native vegetation has been retained on the sandy rises of the Reedy Creek Range to the west of the Park. The vegetation of the Park is primarily a river red gum open forest/woodland community, grading into a brown stringybark (*E. baxteri*) woodland along the western boundary. The Park is the only part of Reedy Creek which ensures regeneration of the river red gums, as all other sections of the Creek and its environs are used for grazing. The Park is entirely fenced.

The southern half of the Park was burnt during the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983. The draft fire protection plan for the Park proposes protection from fire in order to protect regenerating river red gum saplings. Access for fire fighting is generally adequate from a Road Reserve south of Section 186, from Jorgensens Lane on the western boundary of the Park, from the Robe Penola road in the south, and from open pasture country in the east.

Visitation is mainly by local residents. Potential exists for educational use by Kangaroo Inn Area School.

8.2 Management Prescription

The Park should be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment and landscape qualities, in particular the conservation of river red gums. In addition to the objectives for conservation parks in the lower South East listed in Section 1, the management objectives for the Park are:

- . to ensure the survival and regeneration of river red gums in the Park;
- . to ensure that signs, particularly those indicating the name and presence of the Park, are maintained in good condition; and
- . to regulate vehicle access to the Park.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the following actions will be implemented.

- | | Priority |
|---|----------|
| . maintain existing boundary fencing | High |
| . remove rubbish which has been dumped in the Park | High |
| . investigate, and implement if appropriate (in consultation with adjoining landholders), diversion of water | High |
| . re-paint or replace signs as required | Moderate |
| . initiate discussion with relevant District Councils and Department of Lands to including the road reserve in the Park | High |
| . phase out grazing in Section 186 as soon as possible | High |
| . investigate methods of enhancing regeneration of vegetation | High |
| . give consideration to use of community groups in revegetation | Moderate |

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