

Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks

Management Plan Amendment 2017



National
Parks
South
Australia

Minister's Foreword

South Australia has wonderful parklands and open spaces including a network of 29 parks that surround Adelaide. These areas are essential for the conservation of South Australia's unique natural environment. They are also valuable community assets, providing places for nature-based tourism, recreation, exercise, learning, relaxation and recuperation.

In 2015, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources invited people to participate in a series of community engagement events – focusing on Adelaide's national parks. During these events, South Australians identified an opportunity to increase the use, appreciation and enjoyment of Hallett Cove Conservation Park by enabling visitors to use trails in this park for the walking of dogs.

Park management plans may be revised and amended as our knowledge of the park grows, and to reflect the community's aspirations. In 2016, Government commenced a process to seek the community's views about this idea by releasing a draft amendment to the Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks Management Plan 2010 for public consultation. This draft amendment proposed to alter the management plan so that the walking of dogs in Hallett Cove Conservation Park could be authorised by Government.

After careful consideration of submissions received on this proposal, Government concluded that the proposed amendment to the Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks Management Plan 2010 would further the objectives of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* by providing for greater use, appreciation and enjoyment of Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

I thank all those that made a submission.

I am pleased to formally adopt the Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks Management Plan Amendment 2017 under section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.



The Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

Encouraging more people to walk in parks

One of the most accessible and popular forms of exercise is walking. For many people, walking with their dog is part of a daily exercise routine which has significant physical and mental health benefits.

The Coast Park Walking Trail is very popular for walking. It extends along the Adelaide coast from North Haven in the north, through Hallett Cove Conservation Park, to Sellicks Beach in the south. To date, dog walkers have been unable to use the entire trail because the walking of dogs was prohibited in Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

The Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks Management Plan 2010 prohibited the walking of dogs as a strategy to help protect fragile land forms and native fauna. However, the park is surrounded by areas that are very popular for walking with dogs and it has proven difficult and resource intensive to exclude dogs from the park.

To address this problem and to encourage more people to use Hallett Cove Conservation Park for walking, a draft amendment to the Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks Management Plan 2010 was released for public consultation in 2016. The draft

amendment proposed to enable Government to authorise the walking of dogs on a lead on designated trails within the Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

Some people expressed support for this proposal. Others expressed concerns about the environmental impact of allowing dogs in this park. These impacts can be maintained at an acceptable level, provided that visitors keep their dogs on a lead and stay on designated trails.

After the consideration of all submissions received, it has been concluded that allowing the walking of dogs on a lead on designated trails, and promoting responsible behaviour by people walking dogs, will be the most effective way to meet the needs of people while also protecting park values from the impact of dogs.

The Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks Management Plan 2010 has now been amended as follows:

Amendment 1: Section 8.1 Visitor Access and Activities (Page 16 -17)

The following text is omitted from Section 8.1 Visitor Access and Activities (Page 16 -17)

Exercising Dogs

The impact of dog-walking on the natural values of Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks has been assessed in the preparation of this plan. Dogs will continue to be permitted in Marino Conservation Park when on-lead and on trails identified by signage as being suitable for this activity. There is anecdotal evidence that suggests native vegetation has been degraded by dogs walking along the Botanical Trail in Marino Conservation Park. If the impacts of this activity do become unsustainable as assessed by DEH then the continuation of this activity in some or all locations will be reviewed and a revised Director's notice issued.

Dog-walking is not considered to be a suitable activity in Hallett Cove Conservation Park and is therefore not permitted in this park. Prevention of this activity assists in the protection of fragile landforms and native fauna such as bird and reptile species. For example, permitting dog-walking in native habitat has been found to significantly reduce the diversity and abundance of bird species (Banks and Bryant, 2007). There are more than ten parks or public areas within close proximity of Hallett Cove Conservation Park where dogs can be exercised. One of these areas is adjacent to the south of the park and connects to the beach that is adjacent to part of the western boundary of the park. Clear signs and indicators are needed to ensure that people are aware that they cannot bring their dogs into the park from this area (Section 8.2 Information and Interpretation).

Strategies

- Continue to permit dogs on-lead on some of the walking trails within Marino Conservation Park subject to on-going assessment by DEH and maintain prohibition on dogs in Hallett Cove Conservation Park.

The following text replaces the omitted text above

Exercising Dogs

The impact of dog-walking on the natural values of Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks has been assessed in the preparation of this plan. Dogs will continue to be permitted in Marino Conservation Park when on-lead and on trails identified by signage as being suitable for this activity. There is anecdotal evidence that suggests native vegetation has been degraded by dogs walking along the Botanical Trail in Marino Conservation Park. If the impacts of this activity do become unsustainable as assessed by DEWNR then the continuation of this activity in some or all locations will be reviewed and a revised Director's notice issued.

Hallett Cove Conservation Park contains a network of walking trails that enable visitors to exercise, learn about the park and enjoy coastal scenery. It also includes a part of the very popular Coast Park Walking Trail - an ideal trail for exercising and walking with dogs. Dog walking is compatible with the objectives for Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks, provided people pick up after their dog, stay on approved trails and keep their dog on a lead.

Strategies

- Allow visitors to walk dogs on a lead on designated trails in Marino Conservation Park and Hallett Cove Conservation Park.
- Ensure visitors pick up after their dog, stay on designated trails and keep their dog on a lead.

For further information please contact

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources phone information line (08) 8204 1910, or see SA White Pages for your local Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resource office.



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources



National Parks South Australia



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