

Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area

Management Plans Amendment 2017



**National
Parks
South
Australia**

Minister's Foreword

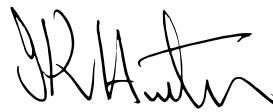
The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail is a 66 km journey through Flinders Chase National Park, Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area and Kelly Hill Conservation Park. The trail will attract visitors from all over the world to experience all that Kangaroo Island has to offer. Over time, it will become one of the world's most iconic walking trails and will have significant flow-on benefits for the State.

There is an opportunity to develop some small scale, ecologically sensitive accommodation adjacent to the trail. There is also a need to develop some minor infrastructure for safety purposes within Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area.

To seek the community's views on these proposals, a draft amendment to the Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area Management Plans was released for public consultation in August 2015.

All feedback received on the draft amendment has now been reviewed. A final amendment has been prepared and has been informed by this feedback. I thank all those that made a submission.

I now adopt amendments to the Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area Management Plans under the provisions of section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and section 31 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.



The Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

Enabling the development of small scale, ecologically sensitive accommodation for trail walkers in Flinders Chase National Park

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail will cater for campers, however research shows that many people prefer a higher standard of accommodation. Providing ecologically sensitive overnight accommodation options has the potential to make the walk an even more appealing experience. As such, the development of small scale, ecologically sensitive accommodation at several designated sites within Flinders Chase National Park is a key component of future plans.

Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area Management Plans provided for the development of camping sites, toilets, water tanks, picnic areas, trail heads and interpretive sites at minor development zones along the trail. This plan did not make provision for the development of

small scale, ecologically sensitive accommodation along the trail. This amendment enables the development of small scale, ecologically sensitive accommodation for trail walkers within minor development zones. It also provides an explanation of strategies to ensure that the trail and its use are compatible with objectives for the management of the parks.

The Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan 1999 has now been amended as follows (see amendments 1, 2 & 3 below).

Amendment 1: Section 10.1 Zoning (Page 43)

The following text is omitted from Section 10.1 Zoning (p.43)

10.1. Zoning

Section 39 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 specifically allows for a management plan to divide a reserve into zones and states that land should be managed in accordance with the conditions declared by the management plan to be appropriate to that zone.

Zoning is a basic tool in land use planning in natural areas and serves two major functions:

1. it excludes areas of high conservation value from inappropriate developments; and
2. it attempts to ensure that sustainable developments are both environmentally and aesthetically compatible.

This plan recognises three zones:

- a) Major Development Zones: which may include park administration, staff accommodation, service infrastructures and major visitor facilities.
- b) Minor Development Zones: which may include camping sites, toilets, water tanks, picnic areas, car parks, trail heads and interpretive sites.
- c) Limited Access Zones: which are areas not zoned for development that may be managed for their high conservation value or for visitor safety.

The following text replaces the omitted text above

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- c) Limited Access Zones: which are areas not zoned for development that may be managed for their high conservation value or for visitor safety.

Amendment 2: Section 10.1 Zoning – Flinders Chase National Park (Page 45)

The following text is omitted from Section 10.1 Zoning – Flinders Chase National Park (p.45)

Major Development Zones (Figure 2) are:

- Rocky River headquarters area;
- Cape du Couedic heritage precinct.

Minor Development Zones are:

- Remarkable Rocks;
- West Bay;
- Bunker Hill;
- Platypus viewing area;
- Snake Lagoon;
- walking trails in accordance with a district walking trail development plan.

Limited Access Zones include:

- Larrikin Lagoon;
- sand dunes west of Rocky River Headquarters area;
- west Gosse Land;
- Rocky River wetland, east of the platypus viewing area.

The following text replaces the omitted text above

Major Development Zones (Figure 2) are:

- Rocky River headquarters area;
- Cape du Couedic heritage precinct.

Minor Development Zones are:

- Remarkable Rocks;
- West Bay;
- Bunker Hill;
- Platypus viewing area;
- Snake Lagoon;
- walking trails in accordance with a district walking trail development plan.
- Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail

Limited Access Zones include:

- Larrikin Lagoon;
- sand dunes west of Rocky River Headquarters area;
- west Gosse Land;
- Rocky River wetland, east of the platypus viewing area.

Amendment 3: Section 10.3 Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure Development (Page 48)

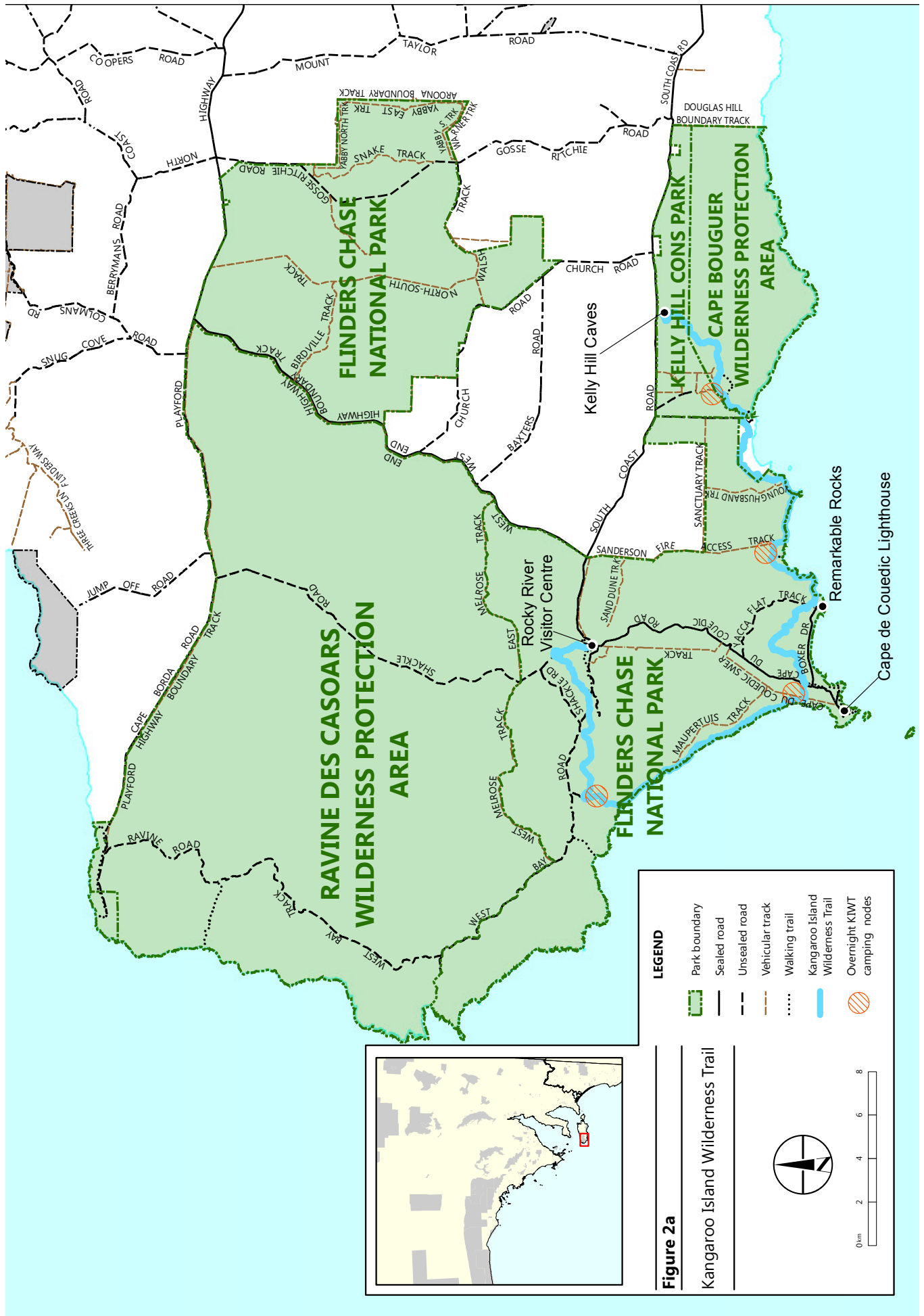
The following text and map has been included in Section 10.3 Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure Development (p.48)

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail

The Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail will be a five-day walking experience between Rocky River and Kelly Hill Caves (Figure 2a). The Trail will incorporate upgraded sections of existing trail as well as new sections. Overnight camping nodes will be provided along the trail (figure 2a), and small scale, ecologically sensitive accommodation may be developed.

Actions

- Ensure that trail development and maintenance is conducted in a manner that protects natural areas, habitats and wildlife of the parks.
- Provide dedicated overnight camping nodes along the trail that offer camp platforms, toilets, rain water and food preparation / dining areas.
- Provide the opportunity for walkers to have access to a range of accommodation options that are ecologically sustainable, ranging from basic camp sites to small-scale, low-impact eco-huts (or similar).
- Set limit on the number of people staying at each dedicated overnight tent based camping node at any one time to evoke a sense of wilderness and minimise any potential environmental impacts. Initially this limit will be set at 24.
- Ensure all facilities are designed and constructed according to best practice sustainable development guidelines and meet all development planning approvals where required.
- Assess facilities and undertake monitoring on a regular basis to ensure their safety. Identify and manage any unforeseen ecological impacts or safety risks.
- Monitor popular visitor sites adjacent to the trail to ensure visitor impacts are being managed effectively and there are no adverse effects to wildlife, vegetation, heritage sites or other natural assets.



Enabling safe passage of walkers through Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area

Walkers will enter the Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area at the point where the trail crosses the South West River. To ensure that this river crossing is safe, it will be necessary to establish a small amount of unobtrusive infrastructure, including a short section of walking trail within the wilderness protection area.

To protect their wilderness values, wilderness protection areas are managed in accordance with South Australia's Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones. The code specifies that walking tracks should only be constructed in wilderness protection areas to achieve the stated objectives of a management plan.

This amendment enables the development of a small section of walking trail through Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area to facilitate the safe crossing of the South West River by walkers.

The Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area Management Plan 1999 has now been amended as follows (see amendment 4 below).

Amendment 4: Section 10.3 Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure Development (page 50)

The following text is omitted from Section 10.3 Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure Development (p.50)

Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area

Strategies

The existing nine kilometre walking trail leading from the caves area at Kelly Hill Conservation Park, past the lagoons and wetlands south-east of Grassdale, to the mouth of the South West River at Hanson Bay will be maintained to a high standard to preserve its wilderness quality. Environmental impacts will be monitored, and, where appropriate, protection works or trail developments will be undertaken in accordance with the district walking trail development plan and the Wilderness Code of Management.

The lagoons at Grassdale have not been affected by European settlement to any great extent, except for the construction of a dyke into the area to drain Little Terror Creek and the northern area of Grassdale. They are the habitat for many water-birds and rare plants. Uncontrolled access to the lagoons may impact on these. The site will be monitored and if necessary, visitor access will be controlled.

Action	Priority	Duration
Maintain the walking trail from the Kelly Hill visitor centre to Hanson Bay adjacent to the lagoons and wetland habitat near Grassdale and if necessary, provide controlled access to avoid environmental impact.	Medium	Ongoing

The following text has been included in Section 10.3 Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure Development (p.50)

Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area

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The existing nine kilometre walking trail leading from the caves area at Kelly Hill Conservation Park, past the lagoons and wetlands south-east of Grassdale, to the mouth of the South West River at Hanson Bay will be maintained to a high standard to preserve its wilderness quality. Environmental impacts will be monitored, and, where appropriate, protection works or trail developments will be undertaken in accordance with the district walking trail development plan and the Wilderness Code of Management.

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Some infrastructure is required to facilitate safe passage across for walkers across the South West River. It is essential that any infrastructure does not compromise the wilderness value of the area.

Action	Priority	Duration
Maintain the walking trail from the Kelly Hill visitor centre to Hanson Bay adjacent to the lagoons and wetland habitat near Grassdale and if necessary, provide controlled access to avoid environmental impact.	Medium	Ongoing
Consistent with South Australia's Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones, develop the minimal amount of unobtrusive trail infrastructure necessary to facilitate safe passage for walkers across the South West River.		
Encourage walkers to leave no trace while walking in the wilderness protection area by promoting the Minimum Impact Code for wilderness use in South Australia.		

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



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