SMALL INLAND 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 bee prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972.* It relates to nine parks of the South East Region, namely:

Big heath Conservation Park
Dingley Dell Conservation Park
Ewens Ponds Conservation Park
Fairview Conservation Park
Mary Seymour Conservation Park
Mt. Scott Conservation Park
Penambol Conservation Park
Pine Hill Soak Conservation Park
Telford Scrub Conservation Park

The number of South Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Act reserves increased dramatically in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The reserves were dedicated for a variety of purposes including Biological conservation, protection of historic relics, scenic values, and recreation purposes. Today there are more than 250 reserves in SA and to carry out detailed surveys of all these parks prior to providing 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 they should not be undertaken in the longer term.

In order to address the dual task of ensuring optimal public input into the management of reserves and providing immediate guidance for park managers, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has taken the initiative in preparing 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.

The plans outline actions to effectively balance recreational use of the parks with the conservation of 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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1.1 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;
- 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 Conservation Parks

The classification of a reserve is a general statement of the purpose for which that area was acquired. Conservation parks are areas protected to conserve wildlife and natural or cultural features which they contain, and the development of visitor facilities tends to be kept to a minimum.

1.3 Regional Management Considerations

1.3.1 Conservation Value of Small Parks

This document contains management plans for nine small inland parks in the South East of South Australia (Figure 1). They are generally separated from other areas of native vegetation by cleared grazing land. Their principal value lies in the conservation of vegetation types or cultural sites otherwise unrepresented in the parks system. Most of the parks were reserved as representative examples of regional vegetation types while one, Dingley Dell Conservation Park, was reserved to protect cultural heritage values.

Land clearance within the region has been extensive and the parks have been left as islands of scrub in a cleared, cultivated landscape. While these parks have significant value as conservation areas, their isolation from other native vegetation and their small size makes them vulnerable to the effects of visitor use, wildfire, weed invasion, vermin invasion, and change in nutrient status of the soil through the use of fertilisers in neighbouring paddocks. The continued viability of these parks as conservation reserves is dependent on disjunct corridors of native vegetation (usually along 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 isolation from other areas of native vegetation
- to maximise the retention of remnant native vegetation outside 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 to retain native vegetation as corridor links between native vegetation areas
- encourage landholders to retain corridors and blocks of native vegetation through voluntary heritage agreements

1.3.2 Fire Management

Fire management in reserves under the 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 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;
- foster sound land use planning in relation to fire hazard;
- maintain diversity of native plant and animal communities;
- protect special features including cultural sites and park facilities; and
- manage fire, thus protecting the land from degradation by erosion and subsequent invasion by weeds.

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 within and outside the park. 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 management-directed research to establish sound policies.

Objectives

- to protect people, property, and the parks from wildfire
- to determine appropriate fire regimes for the parks

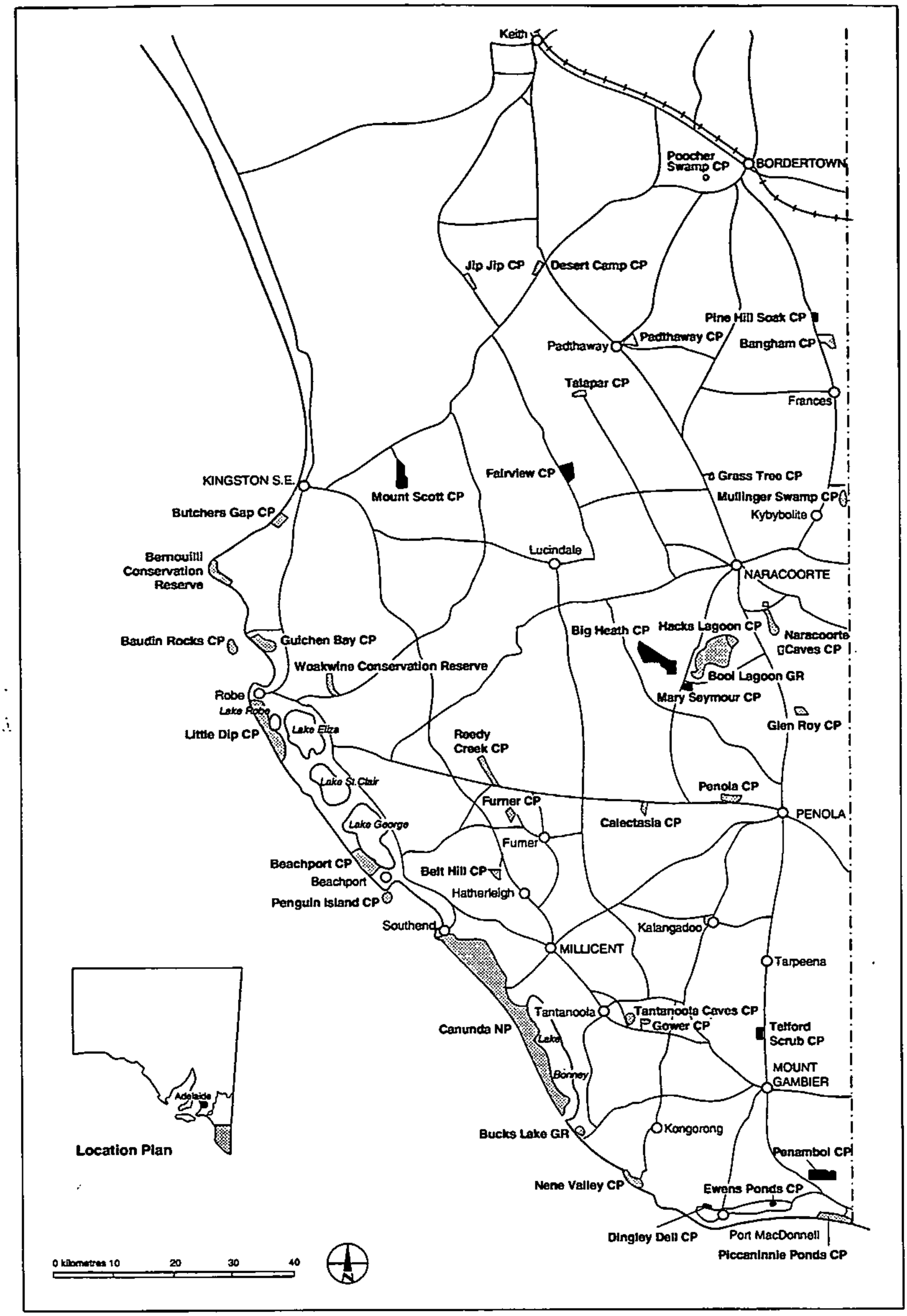
Actions

- implement Fire Management and Protection Manual objectives and policies
- 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, 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 parks' conservation values are maintained.



Parks covered in this document

Other Parks in the South East

CP
NP
GR
RR
Reserves under NPWS Act

Figure 1

SMALL PARKS OF THE UPPER SOUTH EAST

Location Map

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.

Objectives

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

Actions

- provide appropriate visitor facilities (picnic and barbecue furniture, carparks, ablutions facilities, camping areas, vehicle/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 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 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 parks' purposes and significance

Actions

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

1.3.5 Cultural Heritage

The South East exhibits an assortment of archaeological sites which relate to Aboriginal occupation. The importance of these areas to Aboriginal people is not yet known.

Apart from Dingley Dell, sites of early European settlement which have cultural relevance to local people are not fully documented.

Objective

- 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; implement management actions as appropriate
- encourage research into the cultural history of the parks
- remove and dispose of any 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 Users 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 to improve services and facilities in the parks.

Objectives

- to provide appropriate visitor services and facilities by concession where DENR is unable to do so
- to 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

Little research and survey work has been undertaken in most of the small 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 appropriate management programs to conserve these resources

1.3.8 Staffing

All parks in this document fall within DENR East Region. The state is divided into several regions, each containing a number of parks, which are managed by a Regional Manager. 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 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.

DENR encourages the involvement of Friends Groups and volunteers in park management projects.

Objective

- to increase management activity in the parks

Action

- prepare works programs which ensures 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.

Objective

- to increase conservation and recreation values of the parks

Actions

- investigate offers of land adjacent to the parks

2 BIG HEATH CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Big Heath 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

Big Heath Conservation Park was constituted in 1964, and covers an area of 2351 ha, comprising Sections 17-20 and 169, Hundred of Spence. The Park is located 20 km south west of Naracoorte (Figure 2).

Drain M, which carries water from Bool Lagoon to the sea, runs through the easternmost portion of the Park. Road reserves are located on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries of the Park. An undeveloped road reserve is located in the eastern portion of the Park.

The Park contains a diversity of vegetation types, which correlate with the topography and soils of the area. In the higher areas of the north eastern corner of the Park, terra rossa soils support a eucalypt woodland with a sparse understorey. A low woodland of brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) and pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*), with desert banksia (*Banksia ornata*) as the dominant understorey species, occurs on the deep sands of the north western end of the Park. A number of limestone outcrops found throughout the Park support manna gum (*E. viminalis*), South Australian blue gum (*E. leucoxylon*) and pink gum woodlands of varying densities. Deep depressions within the Park lack tree or shrub cover, and are ringed by sedges. However, in the south eastern area of the Park, river red gums (*E. camaldulensis*) of varying age and densities fringe these depressions. A dense heath of mallee honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*), yellow hakea (*Hakea nodosa*), and prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentalis*) occurs on more shallow depressions. As elevation increases, there are corresponding changes to the heath vegetation associations, with broombush (*M. uncinata*), grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) and dwarf sheoak (*Allocasuarina pusilla*) occurring.

Nearly 20% of the plant species recorded for the Park are exotics. Most notable of these is boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), a scheduled pest plant, which has the potential to significantly modify the ecological composition of the Park. Considerable resources have been deployed in controlling this species, with significant results.

An alteration to the surface hydrology of the Park occurred in 1909, when the Bool Lagoon Outlet was constructed. This directed greater volumes of water through the Stewart Range and into the Park (SE Wetland Commit-tee 1984). In 1967, Drain M was completed, and diverted much of the water away from Big Heath (Nature Conservation Society 1969). These changes to surface hydrology are reflected in changes to vegetation associations (Paton 1983).

Local runoff from the Stewart and Woolumbool Ranges into the north east of the Park is now the main source of surface water entering the Park (Nature Conservation Society 1969).

The hydrological changes of the late 1960s may also have affected the bird life of the Park; with 79 species of waterbird recorded breeding in the Park 35 years ago, compared to only 17 species in 1981 (South Eastern Wetlands Committee 1984). A broad range of wildlife species have been recorded in the Park, most notably the little pygmy possum (*Cercartetus lepidus*), a threatened species in South Australia (Paton 1983).

Visitor use of the Park is low, and is confined mostly to nature study by the local and Naracoorte communities. There has been considerable interest expressed by visitors for a walking track to facilitate appreciation of the flora and fauna.

A five metre wide boundary access track has been established on the perimeter of the Park, but it is impassable for much of the year because of localised flooding. A 2.5 m wide track bisects the Park at its narrowest point.

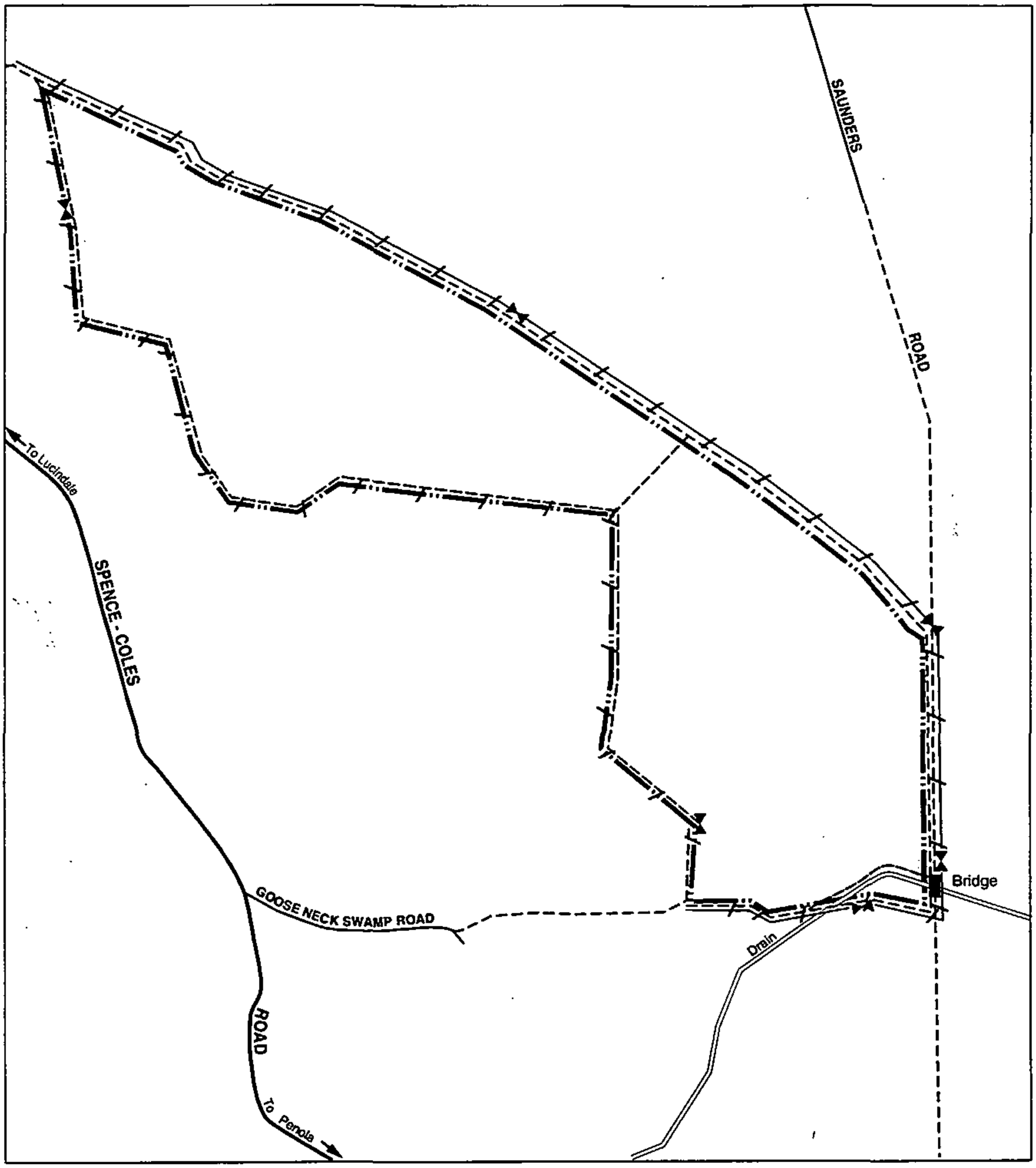
2.2 Management Prescription

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

- enhance wetland habitat values of the Park.

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

	Priority
• consult with neighbouring landholders and South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board regarding the impact of modifying water regimes	High
• investigate, and implement if feasible, the modification of water regime approximating that in existence before drainage	High
• consult with Council on addition of road reserves to the Park	Mod.
• upgrade tracks to facilitate management access	Mod.
• investigate the establishment of a walking track, and implement if feasible	Mod.



Park Boundary (fenced)

Park Boundary (unfenced)

Public Road

Track

Gate

0 kilometres 1 2 3

N

Figure 2

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Big Heath Conservation Park

3 DINGLEY DELL CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Dingley Dell 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

Dingley Dell Conservation Park covers an area of six hectares comprising part Section 138, Hundred of MacDonnell. It is located four kilometres north west of Port MacDonnell and 23 km south of Mt Gambier (Figure 3). The Park contains the home of the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon and was constituted as a conservation park in 1972 because of its historic significance.

George Randall built the cottage in 1862 and lived at Dingley Dell for two years. He sold the cottage to Gordon in 1864, and the property was resold in 1898. Little is known of what happened to the cottage after this time. In 1922, at the request of the Dingley Dell Restoration Committee, the South Australian Government purchased the cottage. Since that time it has been a focal point for Adam Lindsay Gordon enthusiasts, and has become a visitor attraction. After much restoration, the cottage now houses a collection of Gordon memorabilia. Other developments in the Park include a caretaker residence, workshop, public toilet facilities and picnic facilities.

The Park comprises gently undulating consolidated dunes with an open woodland of South Australian blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. megalocarpa*), with isolated blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), golden wattle (*A. pycnantha*), coastal bearded-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), and native box (*Bursaria spinosa*). Weeds are a significant problem because of the small size of the Park.

The Park is fenced on its perimeter. Grazing land abuts the northern and western boundaries, while a road reserve adjoins the southern and eastern boundaries.

Visitation to the Park is low, with the majority of visitors viewing the cottage, and a lesser proportion using the walking track behind the cottage.

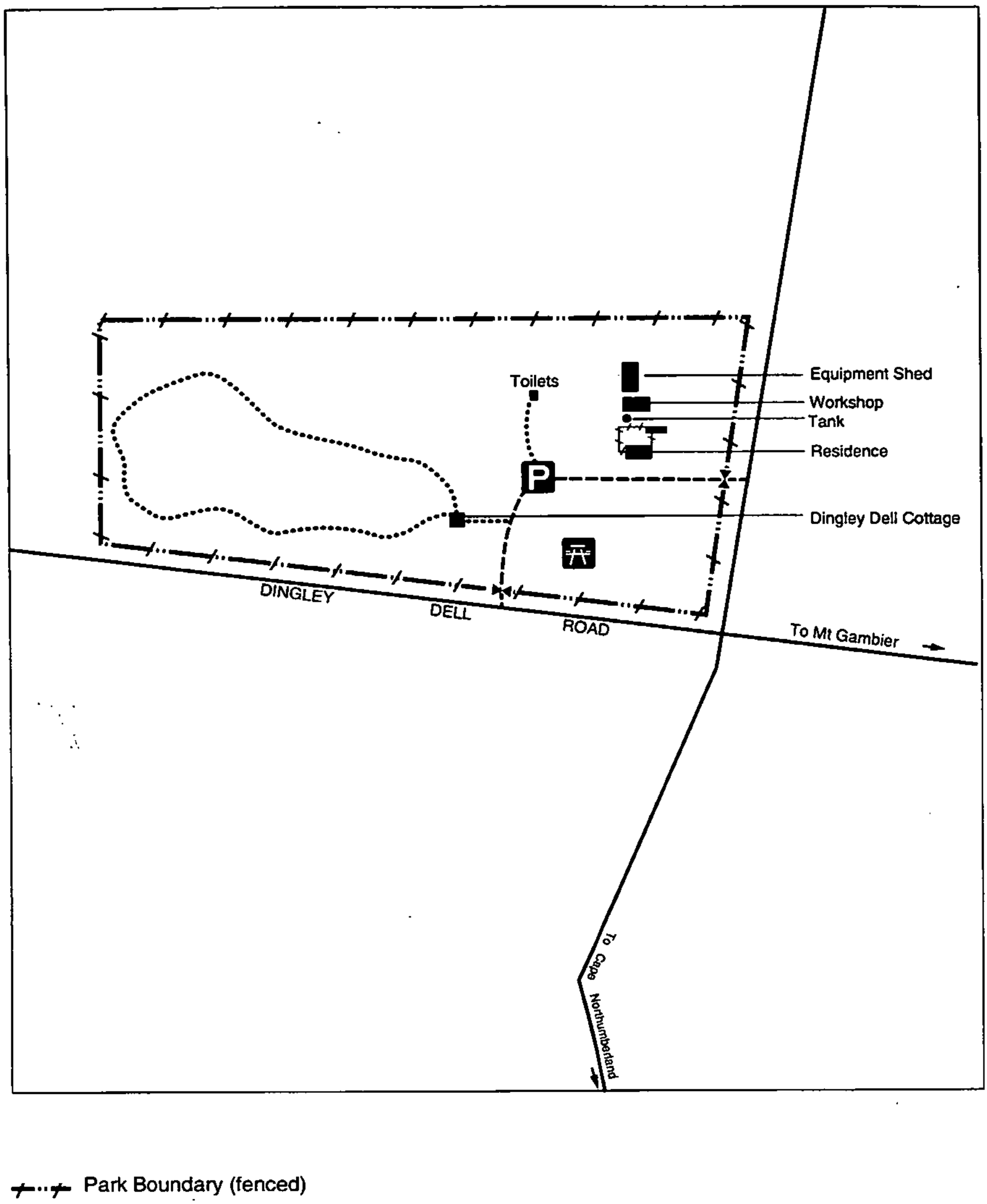
3.2 Management Prescription

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

- provide opportunities for visitors to experience and appreciate the natural and cultural values of the Park, in particular the cottage and its display;
- ensure the Park's role as a significant element in regional tourism is maintained; and
- manage the cultural resources of the Park to preserve their historic value.

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

	Priority
• maintain cottage and historic artifacts, with particular regard to: historic integrity, visitor access, safety, fire protection, asset security	Ongoing
• maintain management infrastructure	Ongoing and high



Park Boundary (fenced)

Public Road

Fence

Track

Walking Track

Gate

Picnic Area

Parking Area

0 metres 125 250

Figure 3

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Dingley Dell Conservation Park

4 EWENS PONDS CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Ewens Ponds 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

Ewens Ponds Conservation Park, constituted in 1976, covers an area of 24 ha, comprising Sections 815, 888 and 904, Hundred of MacDonnell. The Park is located 10 km north east of Port MacDonnell, and 20 km south east of Mt Gambier (Figure 4). On the north eastern corner of the Park is a recreation reserve controlled by the Port MacDonnell District Council. The Ponds, after which the Park was named, are outside the Park boundary and managed by the Lands Department.

Much of the Park has grey sandy loam soils with an accumulation of lime-stone flints. There are also areas of transitional shallow peats and peaty loams. 60% of the Park supports an open forest of messmate stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), with scattered swamp gum (*E. ovata*), blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), and to a lesser extent native cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*). The understorey is dominated by coastal bearded-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), tall saw-sedge (*Gahnia clarkei*) and bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*). A wide variety of orchids also occur in the Park.

A small area in the south east of the Park is leased to the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board for office and storage purposes. The lease area is bordered by a windbreak of radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*). The remainder of the Park is former grazing land, and now supports rank growth of introduced grasses and broad leafed weeds.

The Park is mainly used by schools and visitors to the adjacent Ewens Ponds.

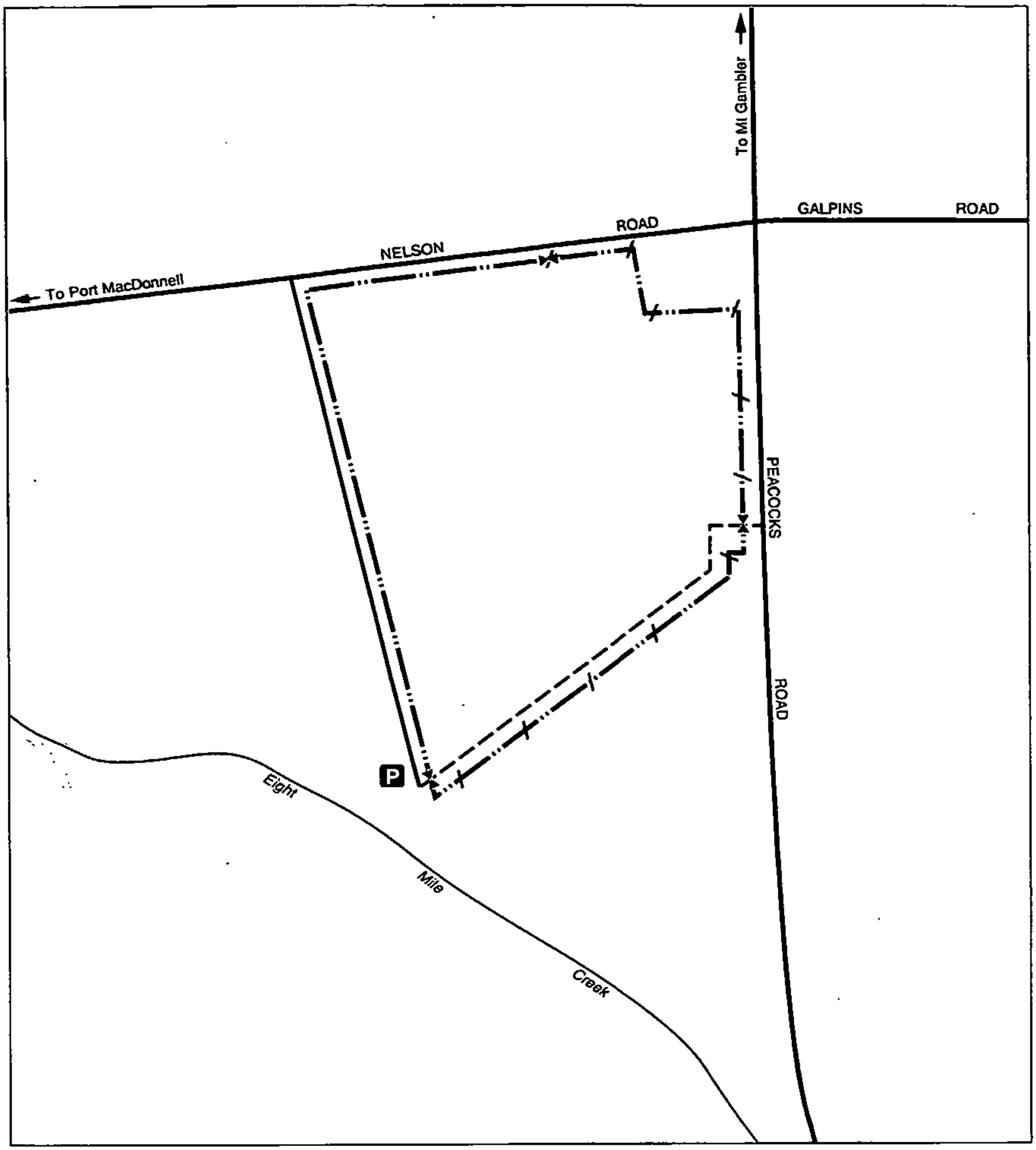
4.2 Management Prescription

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

- rehabilitate the former grazing land.

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

	Priority
• remove the radiata pine from the Park	High
• revegetate the cleared area with endemic species	Mod.



— ·· — Park Boundary (unfenced)

— ≠ ·· ≠ — Park Boundary (fenced)

——— Public Road

- - - - - Track (Management Access Only)

⋈ Gate

P Parking

0 metres 250 500

N

Figure 4

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Ewens Ponds Conservation Park

5 FAIRVIEW CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Fairview 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

Fairview Conservation Park, constituted in 1960, covers an area of 1398 ha comprising Sections 61, 93 and 98, Hundred of Woolumbool, and is located 17 km north of Lucindale (Figure 5).

The Park contains two semi-permanent lagoons, extensive areas of seasonally inundated flats, sandy flats and ridges, and limestone ridges. A South Australian swamp paper-bark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*) association, with sedges and sandy beaches characterises the lagoon edges. Open heath and tussock grasslands cover the seasonally inundated flats, while a low open woodland of South Australian blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) and rough-barked manna gum (*E. viminalis subsp. cygnetensis*) occupies the sandy flats and limestone ridges. The presence of the lagoons and diverse vegetation associations is reflected in the broad range of faunal species occurring within the Park.

Vehicular access by visitors is restricted to a track leading from the north west corner of the Park to the picnic area. Visitor use of the Park is not high, although a picnic area situated between the lagoons attracts irregular use by the Naracoorte and Lucindale communities. Bushwalking for field nature study is an occasional activity within the Park, but defined tracks have not been established.

Developments within the Park include:

- storage shed for housing materials and equipment associated with weed and vermin control programs;
- picnic area with barbecue facilities, and surrounded by vehicle barriers; and
- three rabbit proof exclosures associated with an Animal and Plant Control Commission research program to study the relationship between grazing pressure and pest plant invasion of natural areas.

A five metre wide boundary access has been established around the perimeter of the Park, and a reduced fuel zone has been established around the northern section of the Park. The width of the fuel reduced zone will comply with the Native Vegetation Act 1991. A former quarry and associated access track is located in the centre of the southern portion of the Park.

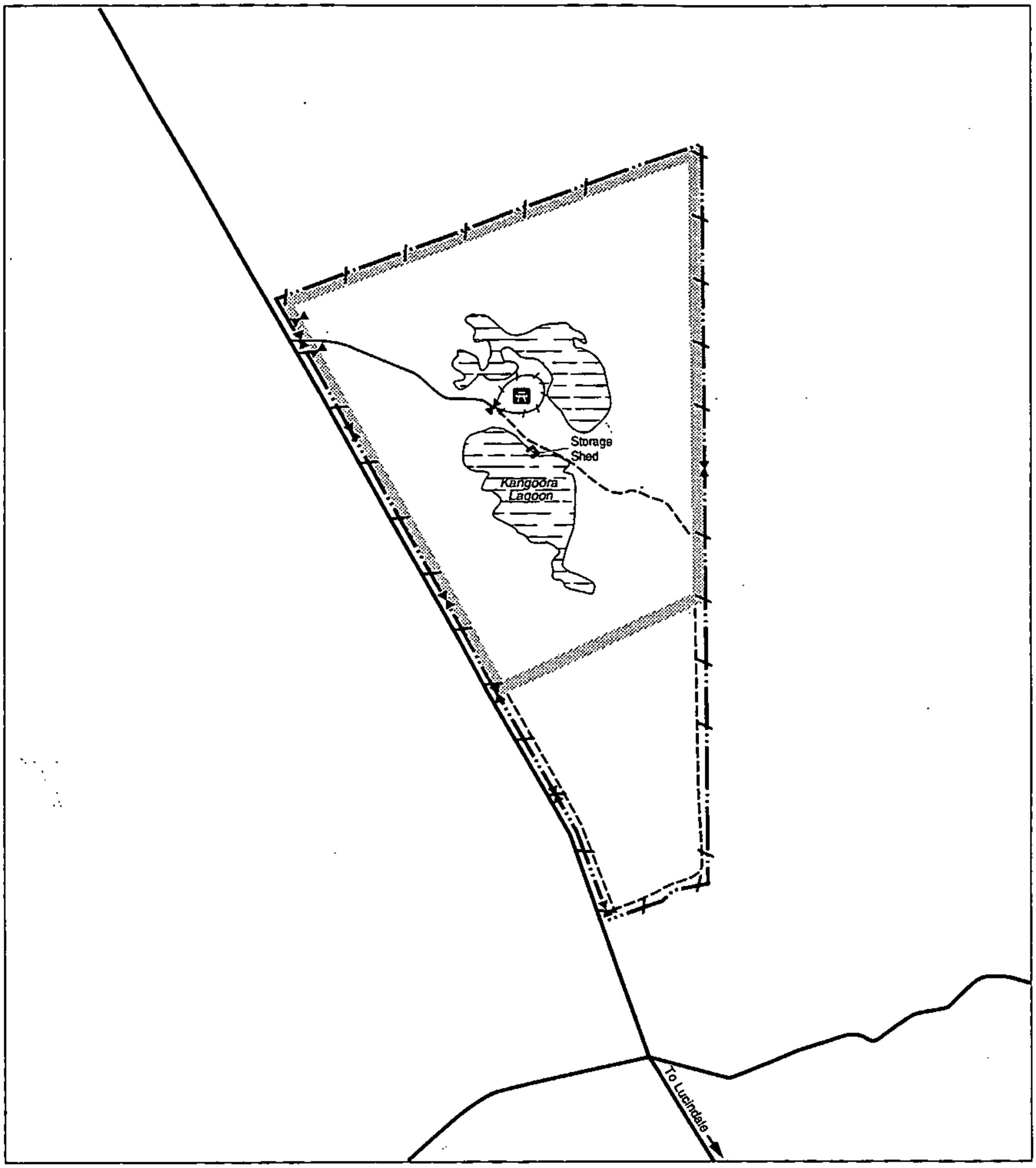
5.2 Management Prescription

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

- maintain the natural water regime of the lagoons.

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

	Priority
• encourage natural regeneration of the quarry area	Low
• continue weed and vermin research and control programs	High
• maintain existing infrastructure including storage shed, vermin exclosures and vehicle barriers, until such time as research and control programs have been completed	High
• maintain existing internal and boundary access tracks	Ongoing and high



Park Boundary (fenced)

Public Road

Track

Management Access Track

Fence

Reduced Fuel Zone

Gate

Picnic Area

Land Subject to Inundation

0 kilometres 1 2 3

Figure 5

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Fairview Conservation Park

6 MARY SEYMOUR CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Mary Seymour 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

Mary Seymour Conservation Park was constituted in 1980 and covers an area of 264 ha, comprising Sections 199, 200, and 365, Hundred of Robertson. The Park is located 25 km south of Naracoorte (Figure 6).

The western quarter of the Park is characterised by a limestone ridge supporting a low open forest of brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) and pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*) associations over a sparse low shrub layer. The remainder of the Park is a complex wetland system, with limestone outcrops. The wetland area supports three distinct vegetation types:

- a two strata mid-dense low shrub formation of mallee honey-myrtle (*Melaleuca neglecta*) with cutting grass (*Gahnia trifida*) over a sparse tussock grass and dwarf shrub stratum dominated by bare twig-rush (*Machaerina juncea*) and small darwinia (*Darwinia micropetala*);
- a two strata low shrub formation of prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentalis*) and mallee honey-myrtle over a sparse dwarf shrub layer dominated by clustered sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma congestum*), bare twig-rush, running marsh-flower (*Villarsia reniformis*), and prickly tea-tree; and
- an isolated tree formation of South Australian blue gum (*E. leucoxylon*), pink gum and river red gum (*E. camaldulensis*), over a sparse ground stratum of clustered sword-sedge and bare twig-rush with annual grasses and forbs.

The Killanoola Drain, which bisects the eastern quarter of the Park, has modified the natural water regime of the wetland system.

Other developments within the Park are:

- a former sand quarry and two stone quarries in the south west corner;
- a boundary access track and internal access tracks (one on the western edge of the Drain, the other bisecting the Park running north to south); and
- yards constructed on the eastern side of the drain which are historically significant remnants of past land use.

The southern and eastern boundaries of the Park are unfenced and abut undeveloped road reserves.

Visitor use is low, confined mostly to members of the local and Naracoorte communities for nature study, with the former sand quarry used regularly for picnicking. Camping is an occasional activity, however designated sites and facilities are not provided. Visitors have suggested that there is a need for walking tracks to be developed.

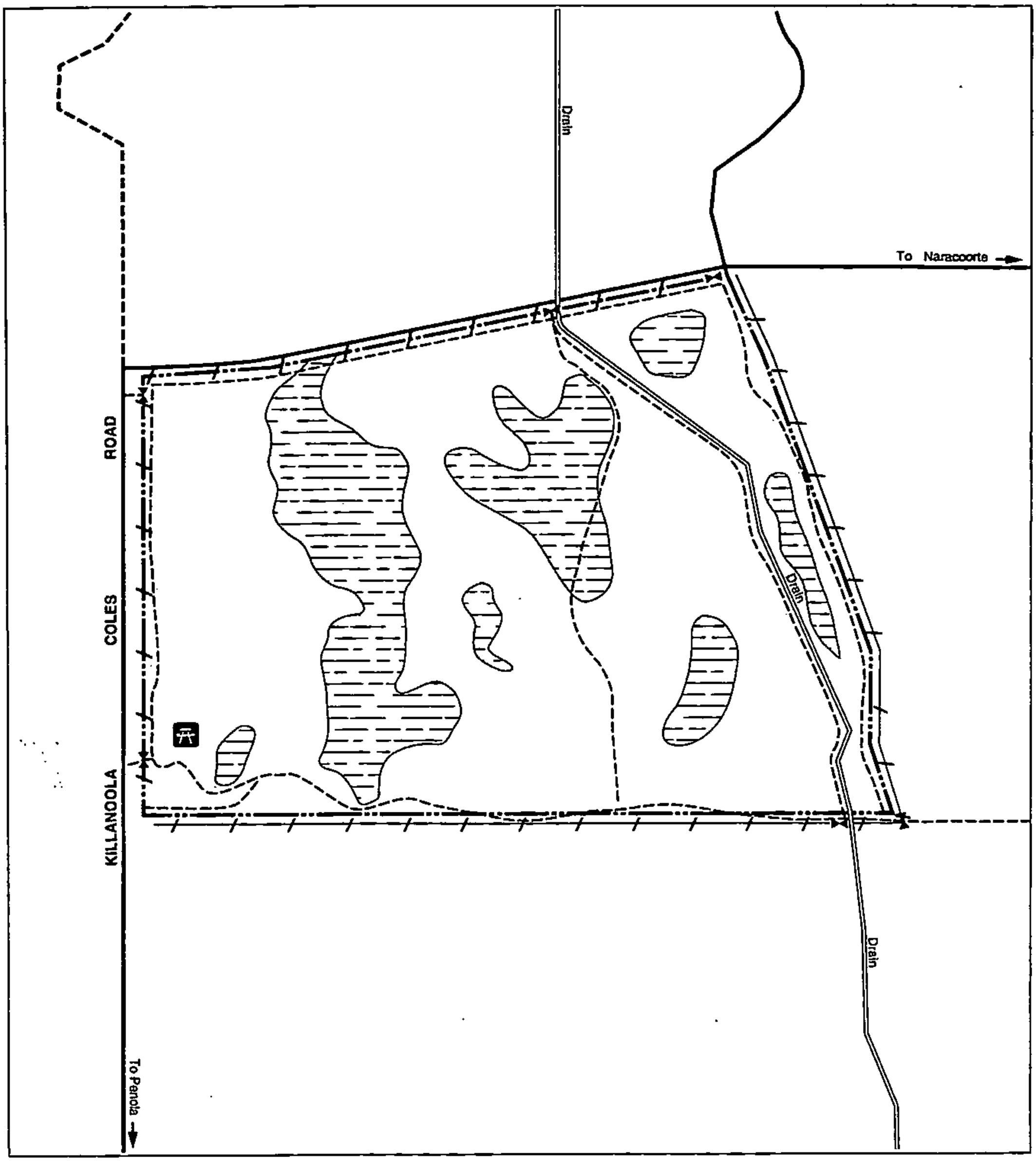
6.2 Management Prescription

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

- increase the value of wetland habitat; and
- rehabilitate the former quarry areas.

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

	Priority
• determine the pre-drainage water regime	Mod.
• consult with South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board and adjoining landowners regarding water management	Mod.
• if required, carry out earthworks to retain appropriate water levels within the Park, and prevent flooding of adjoining land	Mod.
• encourage natural regeneration of native vegetation in the former quarry areas by formalising vehicle access and parking area	Mod.
• develop walking trails	Mod.



Park Boundary (fenced)

Park Boundary (unfenced)

Public Road

Track

Fence

Gate

Picnic Area

Land Subject to Inundation

0 metres 500 1000

N

Figure 6

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Mary Seymour Conservation Park

7 MT SCOTT CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Mt Scott 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

Mt Scott Conservation Park was constituted in 1972, covers an area of 1238 ha, and comprises Section 71, Hundred of Murrabinna. The Park is located 22 km east of Kingston SE (Figure 7).

The Park is located on part of the South East relict beach dunes which run north west and south east. These ranges are usually less than 30 m high, and are approximately parallel to the present coastline.

Reedy Creek abuts the south western boundary of the Park, while the West Avenue Range approaches the eastern edge of the Park. The undulating slopes have deep sandy loams with outcrops of limestone on the ridge tops. The flats, which have clayey loam soils, are subject to inundation and become waterlogged during wet periods.

There is a variety of vegetation types present in the Park. The flats bordering Reedy Creek are dominated by river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), while the central limestone ridge supports South Australian blue gum (*E. leucoxylon*) and pink gum (*E. fasciculosa*). The eastern range is more sandy, and tends to be dominated by mallee vegetation. Outcrops of South Australian swamp paper-bark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*) and mallee honey-myrtle (*M. neglecta*) occur on the calcareous flats.

Fauna studies have identified notable species present, including the red necked wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*), western grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*), silky mouse (*Pseudomys apodemoides*), and common wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*). The Park also provides important habitat for mallee fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).

The Park is surrounded equally by native vegetation and cleared grazing land.

The last major wildfire in the Park occurred in the early 1960s.

Access to the Park is via the north western corner, off Mt Scott road. A five metre wide management access track follows the Park boundary.Visitation to the Park is low; most visitors are walkers, campers or field naturalists. A picnic and camping area is located in the grassland area of the north west corner of the Park, near the main Mt Scott road. Barbecues and small fires are permitted in this area (subject to fire ban restrictions).

7.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to ensure the conservation of its natural environment with particular emphasis on retaining the Park's value as mallee fowl habitat.

In addition to the objectives for parks in the South East listed in Section 1, an objective of management is to:

- maintain mallee fowl habitat.

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

	Priority
• maintain vehicle access tracks for management purposes	High
• survey mallee fowl populations	High
• determine and implement the appropriate fire regime to maintain a viable mallee fowl population	High
• maintain picnic and camping area	Mod.

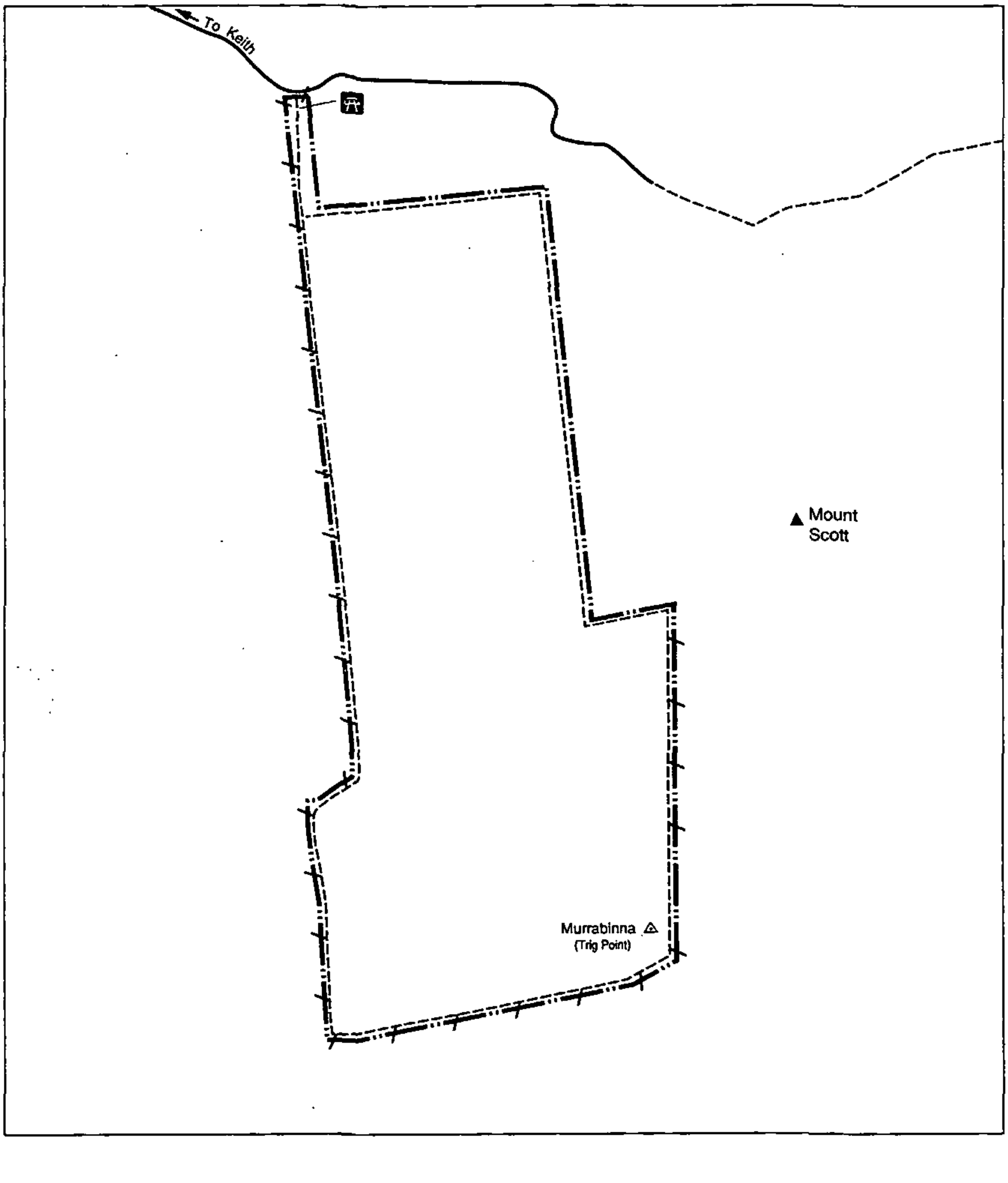


Figure 7

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Mount Scott Conservation Park

8 PENAMBOL CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Penambol 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

Penambol Conservation Park was acquired for conservation purposes in 1984, and was constituted in December 1993. The Park covers an area of 178 ha, comprising Sections 382- 384 and 701, Hundred of Caroline. It is located approximately 22 km south east of Mt Gambier (Figure 8).

The Park is located on a consolidated inland dune system, and contains three significant karst features:

- a small doline (a depression formed by solution of the underlying limestone) is located in the central part of the Park, which has been used as a dump for farm rubbish;
- a large cenote (a collapsed doline), known locally as the Caroline Sinkhole, located in the north eastern section of the Park, has cultural value resulting from Aboriginal and European use; and
- a large doline is located in the south east section of the park.

The Park and the adjoining land known as Bottlebrush Scrub contain vegetation and fauna associations which represent the western extent of communities typical of south eastern Australia, and consequently this tract of scrub is significant.

The Park is dominated by messmate stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) open woodland with an understorey which includes clover glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*), rough bush-pea (*Pultenaea scabra*), tiger-orchid (*Diuris sulphurea*), hop wattle (*Acacia stricta*), Derwent speedwell (*Parahebe derwentiana*), ivy-leaved violet (*Viola hederacea*) and golden-tip (*Goodia lotifolia var. lotifolia*). The central section of the Park, previously cleared for cropping, is dominated by introduced grasses. However, native species, predominantly blackwood (*A. melanoxylon*), are beginning to regenerate in this area.

Locally significant fauna occurring in the Park includes the eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*), red-necked wallaby (*M. rufogriseus*), ring tailed possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*), brush tailed possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), common wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*), bush rat (*Rattus fuscipes*), and gang-gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*). The rare yellow-bellied glider (*Petaurus australis*) and red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*) may also occur. Both of the bird species are threatened in South Australia.

A fire water supply tank and windmill are located in the central section of the Park.

The area was subject to regular grazing until the time of acquisition.

Road reserves border the northern, eastern and western boundaries of the Park.

Part of a Primary Industries SA - Forestry airstrip extends into the Park.

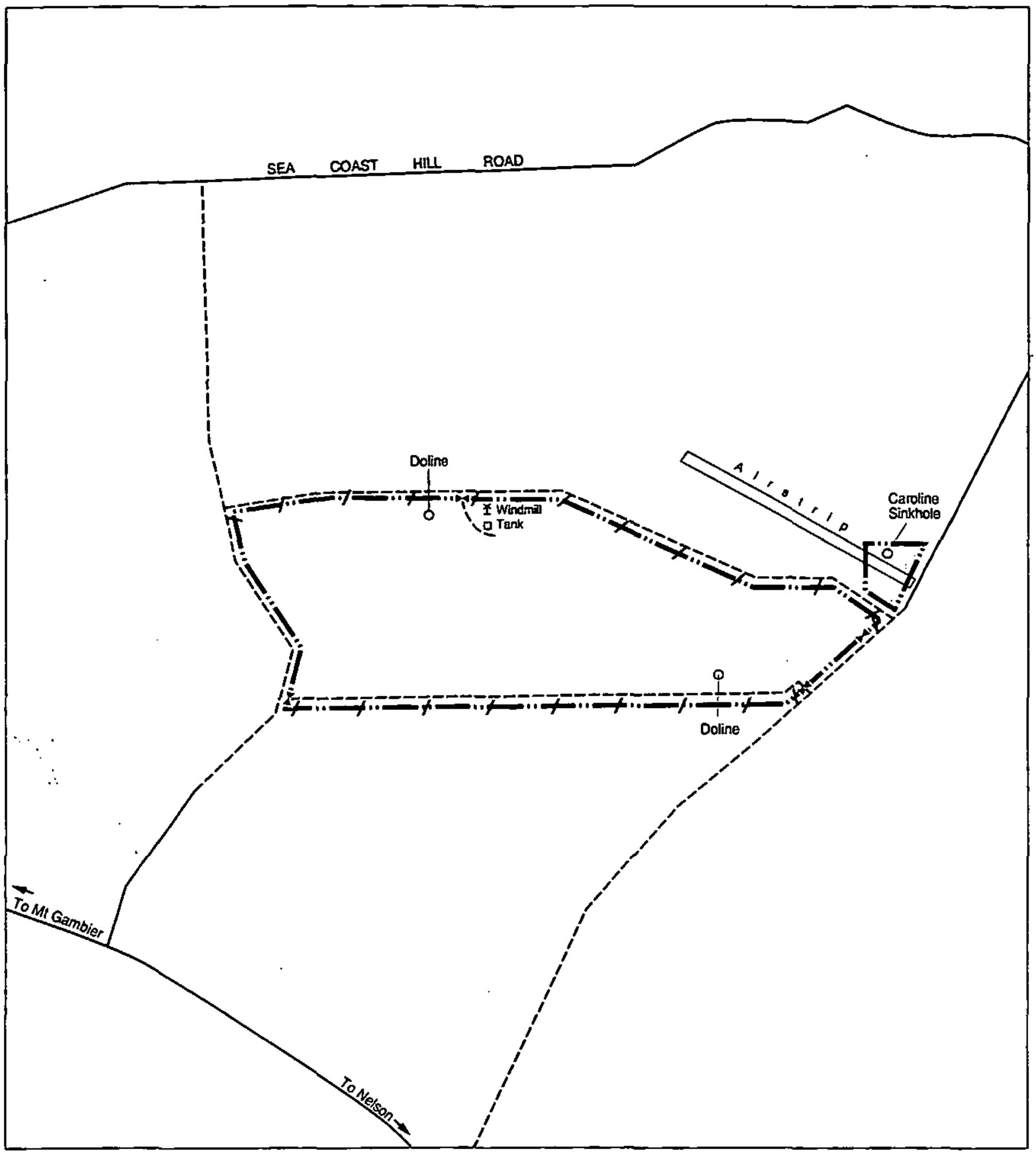
8.2 Management Prescription

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

- minimise the impact of the airstrip and its use on Park values;
- ensure adequate public safety in Caroline Sinkhole; and
- ensure protection of Caroline Sinkhole.

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

	Priority
• liaise with Woods and Forests Dept. regarding use of airstrip	High
• consult with Council on addition of road reserves to the Park	High
• remove rubbish from doline	Mod.
• define public access to and use of Caroline Sinkhole	Mod.



Park Boundary (fenced)

Park Boundary (unfenced)

Public Road

Track

Gate

0 metres 1000 2000

Figure 8

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Penambol Conservation Park

9 PINE HILL SOAK CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Pine Hill Soak 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.

9.1 Park Description

Pine Hill Soak Conservation Park, constituted in 1987, covers an area of 49 ha, comprising Section 97, Hundred of Geegeela. The Park is located 30 km south of Bordertown (Figure 9). Pine Hill Soak, from which the Park derives its name, is located south east of the Park.

The Park contains relict sand dunes and associated swale depressions. The deep sands of the dunes support brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) open forest, with desert banksia (*Banksia ornata*) as the dominant shrub species. A woodland of river red gum (*E. camaldulensis var. camaldulensis*) and South Australian blue gum (*E. leucoxylon var. pruinosa*), with an open understorey of grasses, sedges and herbs occupies the swales. The Park contains native pine (*Callitris preissi*), an occurence close to the southern limit of this species' distribution, and also provides suitable habitat for the red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptor hynchus magnificus*) (a threatened species in South Australia) which is dependant on brown stringybark for food and nesting resources.

A recreation reserve containing Bangham Hall and tennis courts is adjacent to the Park's south western boundary. Visitation to the Park is low.

A vehicle track runs along the southern and eastern boundaries, and road reserves abutting the northern and western boundaries are maintained by local government and the Department of Road Transport respectively.

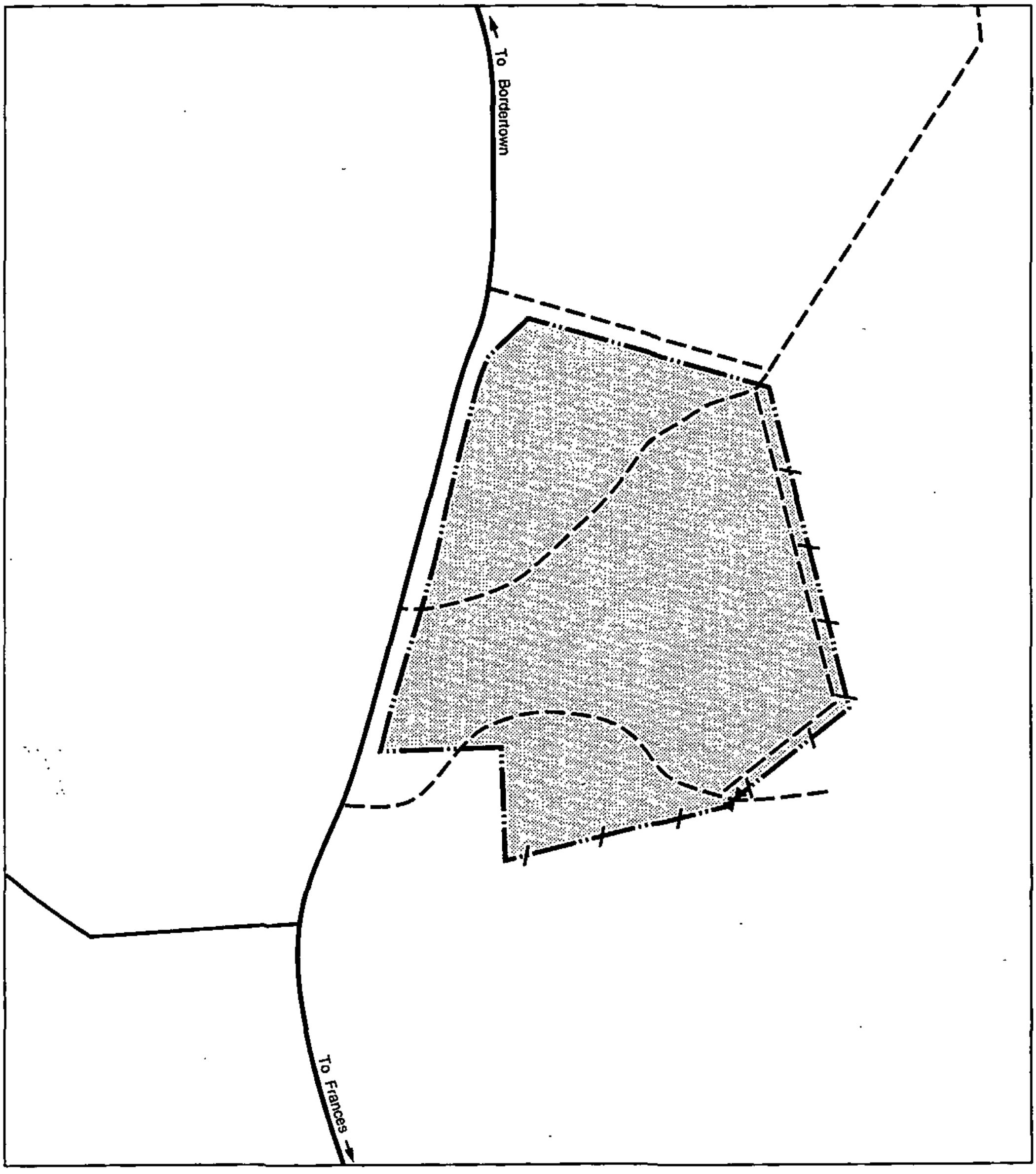
9.2 Management Prescription

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

- protect red-tailed black cockatoo habitat; and
- encourage regeneration of native pine.

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

	Priority
• encourage research to determine effective management of red-tailed black cockatoo habitat	Mod.
• construct exclosures around remnant native pines to encourage natural regeneration	High
• upgrade and maintain perimeter tracks for management access	Mod.
• define boundary with recreation reserve	Mod.



Park Boundary (fenced)

Park Boundary (unfenced)

Public Road

Track

Gate

0 metres 250 500

N

Figur e 9

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Pine Hill Soak Conservation Park

10 TELFORD SCRUB CONSERVATION PARK

This is the Management Plan for Telford Scrub 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.

10.1 Park Description

Telford Scrub Conservation Park covers an area of 169 ha, comprising Section 134, Hundred of Young, and was constituted in 1987. The Park is located 14 km north of Mt Gambier (Figure 10).

The Park comprises a series of sand ridges overlying limestone, giving way to low lying wetlands in the southern and eastern sections. It supports four major vegetation associations:

- brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) open woodland;
- brown stringybark/rough barked manna gum (*E. viminalis subsp. cygnetensis*) open woodland with isolated blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), and silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*), native box (*Bursaria spinosa*), and bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) understorey;
- swamp gum (*E. ovata*) *open* woodland with an understorey of heath tea- tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*), bottlebrush tea-tree (*Melaleuca squarrosa*), sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma* sp.), and rushes (*Juncus* sp); and
- low open shrubland dominated by tea-tree (*L. continentalis*), heath tea-tree (*L.myrsinoides*), sedges (*Gania* sp.) and rushes (*Juncus* sp.).

The brown stringybark/rough barked manna gum association covers the majority of the Park. The southern end of the Park is dominated by the swamp gum open woodland, an association poorly conserved in south eastern South Australia (Davis 1982). The Park has a rich faunal population including a population of short-nosed bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*).

The Park is fenced on the boundary, and bordered on three sides by grazing land, and by a pine plantation on the southern boundary. Small patches of natural vegetation abut the north eastern and south western boundaries. A five metre wide management access track has been established adjacent to the boundary.

The Park is the closest reserve under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to Mt Gambier (population 22 000). Visitors tend to be local residents, school groups, and guests at Pine Lodge Holiday Camp (located near the north eastern corner of the Park).

The park was proclaimed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act allowing existing rights of prospecting, exploration and devolopment of petroleum resources under the Petroleum Act. A Declaration of Environmental factors (DEF) is produced by licencees before any works are carried out. Any development must comply with the Code of Environmental Practice which states how those works are carried out.

10.2 Management Prescription

The Park will be managed to protect its habitat value. In addition to the objectives for parks in the South East listed in section 1, an objective of management is:

- to ensure any hydrocarbon exploration or development work does not significantly impact on the Park's conservation values.

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

	Priority
• ensure adherance to correct planning procedures	High
• monitor activities to ensure complience with the Code of Environmental Practice.	High

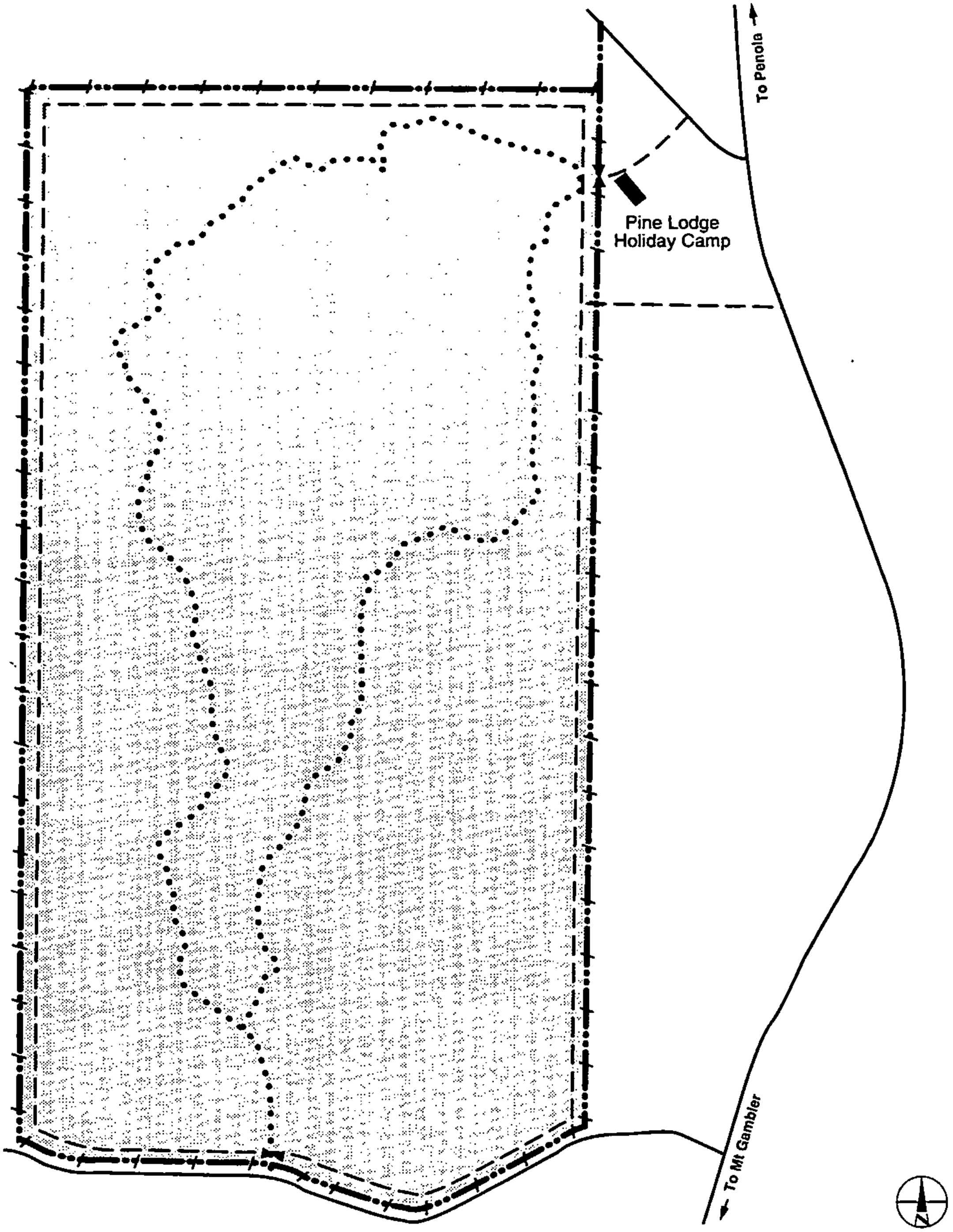


Figure 10

SMALL INLAND PARKS OF THE SOUTH EAST

Telford Scrub Conservation Park

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