

# Yellabinna and Warna Manda Parks

## Management Plan 2019

We are all custodians of the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks, which are central to Far West Coast Aboriginal communities. Our culture is strong and our people are proud - looking after, and sharing Country. We welcome visitors. We ask them to appreciate the sensitivity of this land and to respect our culture. We want our Country to remain beautiful, unique and healthy for future generations to enjoy.

*Far West Coast Aboriginal people*

### Yellabinna parks

Boondina Conservation Park  
Pureba Conservation Park  
Yellabinna Regional Reserve  
Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area  
Yumbarra Conservation Park

### Warna Manda parks

Acraman Creek Conservation Park  
Chadinga Conservation Park  
Fowlers Bay Conservation Park  
Laura Bay Conservation Park  
Point Bell Conservation Park  
Wahgunyah Conservation Park  
Wittelbee Conservation Park



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Water



National Parks  
South Australia

# Minister's Foreword



These parks are central to the culture of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people. This management plan has been developed by the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board – a partnership between the

Far West Coast Aboriginal people and the South Australian Government.

It sets out the long term management strategies for five protected areas within the Great Victorian Desert called the Yellabinna parks. It also encompasses seven coastal parks called the Warna Manda parks. Collectively, these parks cover over 3 million hectares, of vast mallee landscapes and rugged coastal beauty.

By integrating these parks into a single plan, challenges such as pest animal management can be tackled strategically. Through this broad-scale approach to land management, Far West Coast Aboriginal people, stakeholders and Government will work cooperatively towards the goal of keeping Country healthy.

These parks help to protect the Aboriginal cultural sites, spectacular coastal scenery and amazing wildlife of South Australia's far west coast. Their remote and natural character are core components of the region's identity and are fundamental to the Ceduna region's appeal as an adventurous, nature-based tourism destination. This plan will ensure that these special values are never lost.

I acknowledge the leadership of the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board in overseeing the development of this plan and I look forward to the continuation of Government's partnership with Far West Coast Aboriginal people. I also thank those who helped in the plan's development by making a submission on the draft plan.

I now formally adopt the Yellabinna and Warna Manda Parks Management Plan under section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and under section 31 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1999*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Speirs'.

**David Speirs MP**  
**Minister for Environment and Water**



#### Cultural Sensitivity Warning

Aboriginal people are warned that this publication may contain images of people who have died and other culturally sensitive material.



# Developing this plan

Far West Coast Aboriginal people are members of the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and include Kokatha, Mirning, Wirangu, Oak Valley and Yalata peoples as well as the descendants of Edward Roberts Senior. They have taken care of the Far West Coast of South Australia for eons.

This plan highlights the most important values of the parks, and describes the main threats to these values. It provides strategic direction for the protection of these values at a high level. It is not intended to cover every aspect of management in detail. This approach ensures that the plan is flexible and able to guide a range of future management challenges.

This park management plan was developed by the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board - a partnership between Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and representatives of the South Australian Government. The Far West Coast Aboriginal people contributed to its development through a series of Healthy Country Planning workshops. The Far West Language Centre also contributed by providing advice on the use of Far West Coast languages.

To encourage further community input, a draft park management plan was released for public consultation in October 2017. Seven submissions were received. Each of these have helped in the finalisation of this plan.

## Contents

Directions for management . . . . .	3
Significance and purpose . . . . .	5
What are the challenges and opportunities? . . . . .	7
Management themes and priorities . . . . .	8
References . . . . .	21



## Directions for management

This plan sets directions for the management of two groups of parks within the Country of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people - the Yellabinna parks and Warna Manda parks.

The Yellabinna parks are Boondina Conservation Park (12,554 ha), Pureba Conservation Park (226,404 ha), Yellabinna Regional Reserve (2,000,896 ha), Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area (500,704 ha) and Yumbarra Conservation Park (324,352 ha) (Figure 1). These parks are all within the Great Victorian Desert bioregion (Thackway and Cresswell 1995), are largely adjoining and share many common characteristics. This plan seeks to promote a landscape scale approach to their management by considering the Yellabinna parks as a single protected area landscape.

Warna Manda (alternative spelling Warna Munda) means coastal land. The Warna Manda parks are Acraman Creek Conservation Park (3,952 ha), Chadinga Conservation Park (11,854 ha), Fowlers Bay Conservation Park (9,731 ha), Laura Bay Conservation Park (282 ha), Point Bell Conservation Park (546 ha), Wahgunyah Conservation Park (48,354) and Wittelbee Conservation Park (170 ha) (Figure 1). These parks are located adjacent to the Great Australian Bight. They protect areas of remnant coastal vegetation within the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion (Thackway and Cresswell 1995). They share many common values and threats which enables the management of these parks to be planned collectively.

The continuous connection of Far West Coast Aboriginal people to their Country was acknowledged in 2013 when their native title over an area encompassing the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks was formally recognised under the *Native Title Act 1993*. To ensure that the Far West Coast Aboriginal people have an ongoing and central role in setting directions for the management of their Country, the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board was formed in 2013. The co-management board is a partnership between Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and representatives of the South Australian Government. The Board has specific responsibilities for the management of Yumbarra Conservation Park and provides advice on all other Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks.

The formation of the board recognises Far West Coast Aboriginal people as the original custodians of the land and acknowledges the importance of their traditional knowledge and customs in managing the cultural and natural values of the parks. The parks will be managed using traditional knowledge, scientific knowledge and contemporary park management techniques.

***“This is a two-way learning process. It is only by working together that we can manage these parks for the benefit of all.”***

Leonard Miller Senior,  
Deputy Chair, Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board 2017



Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area is proclaimed under the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*. All other Yellabinna and Wara Manda parks are proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Their proclamation under these Acts ensures that they are all managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural values. The parks will remain subject to the native title rights and interests that exist in relation to the land and the plan will be implemented in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Significant sites according to Aboriginal tradition, and sites that are important to Aboriginal archaeology, anthropology and history, are protected in South Australia under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. All Aboriginal cultural sites, registered and unregistered, are protected under this Act and any significant works within the parks require cultural clearance.

Resource exploration and development may be approved within Yellabinna Regional Reserve and those areas of the other parks that have been proclaimed under section 43 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. These activities are primarily guided by other management frameworks and legislation including the *Mining Act 1971* and the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*.

Directions for the management of each park are broadly consistent. This enables many management activities to be applied broadly across the landscape, within and beyond park boundaries. However there are also sites within the parks that have special values or threats that need localised management.

Once adopted, the Yellabinna and Wara Manda Parks Management Plan will meet the requirements for the development of management plans for these parks under Section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and Section 31 of the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.

## Managing the Far West Coast parks together has a long history

When the parks in the Far West Coast area were proclaimed, Far West Coast Aboriginal people were not allowed to hunt, gather, perform ceremonies and take care of Country as we had been doing for tens of thousands of years. This affected our people's and our Country's health and wellbeing.

In the 1980s we formed the Aboriginal Consultative Committee to help the government understand that we needed to be able to continue our cultural practices in the parks in order for them to be healthy. At that time the parks were being managed from Port Lincoln, which is a long way away. We talked to the manager there about conservation activities including protecting the plants and animals and the need for local rangers to actively manage the parks. This led to changes to allow Aboriginal people to practice cultural activities in the parks and enabled us to care for our Country.

Far West Coast Aboriginal people have continued to provide advice on the management of the parks and our knowledge and skills in caring for Country are now recognised through the co-management of these parks.

Wanda Miller, Chair, Yumbarra Conservation Park  
Co-management Board

# Significance and purpose

## Yellabinna parks

The Yellabinna parks are Boondina Conservation Park (12,554 ha), Pureba Conservation Park (226 404 ha), Yellabinna Regional Reserve (2,000,896 ha), Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area (500,704 ha), and Yumbarra Conservation Park (324,352 ha) (Figure 1, p.17).

The Yellabinna parks form a large and interconnected area in which natural ecological processes can flourish. The Yellabinna parks consist of large areas of red quartzitic sand dunes with mallee, mulga and associated spinifex. The dunes are interspersed with salt lakes and rocky outcrops with rock holes that have sustained life in this landscape for eons.

These parks protect over 3 million hectares of mallee woodland – the largest intact area of mallee woodland in the world. They link the woodlands of the Eyre Peninsula to the Great Victoria Desert, the Nullarbor Plain, the Maralinga Tjarutja lands and Mamungari Conservation Park. These large and interconnected protected areas are critical for biodiversity conservation and may contribute to the resilience of species to the effects of climate change.

The Yellabinna parks are part of the traditional lands of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people. The health of Far West Coast Aboriginal people and that of the land is inseparable. The parks provide for their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. A series of songlines connect sites throughout the area and have significance to other Aboriginal groups beyond the region.

## What are we looking after?

- An extensive and unmodified landscape encompassing sites such as Mount Finke, Googs Lake and rock holes that are of profound cultural significance, enabling Far West Coast Aboriginal people to continue their culture.
- Bush medicines, bush tucker such as quandong and bush banana, and bush meat such as bush turkey, marlu (red kangaroo), wardu (wombat), galda (sleepy lizard), goanna and garliya (emu).
- A harsh, rugged, semi-arid, fragile and remote landscape of dunes, red sandhills, salt lakes, rock holes, granite outcrops and Mount Finke; a quartzite inselberg rising from the dune fields.
- South Australia's largest and most intact protected area landscape, including the world's largest area of mallee woodland.
- Culturally significant animals such as dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*), waldya (wedge-tailed eagle) (*Aquila audax*) and Australian bustard (*Ardeotis australis*).
- Iconic species such as Major Mitchell's cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*), scarlet-chested parrot (*Neophema splendida*) and thorny devil (*Moloch horridus*).
- Thirty two plant species that are listed as rare or threatened under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. This includes four species that are also listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* – granite mudwort (*Limosella granitica*) Ooldea guinea-flower (*Hibertia crispula*), desert greenhood (*Pterostylis xerophila*) and yellow Swainson-pea (*Swainsona pyrophila*) (Appendix 1).
- Eighteen animal species that are listed as rare or threatened under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. This includes two species that are also listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* – sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) and malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) (Appendix 2).
- Gabi (water) sites that have cultural significance and are ecologically important in the semi-arid environment. Some of these include rock holes and lakes.
- Remote and natural destinations such as Mount Finke, Googs Lake and Yumbarra Rock Hole. Googs Track offers a unique four-wheel drive and camping opportunity through Yumbarra Conservation Park, Yellabinna Regional Reserve and Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area.

The features of the Yellabinna parks such as the rock holes, salt lakes, plants and animals form a complex and interconnected cultural landscape. This landscape, and the cultural sites within it, help to sustain a living connection to Country for Far West Coast Aboriginal people.

The Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area contains one of the largest and most intact natural areas in South Australia. It is particularly important for the conservation of natural vegetation communities and also contains culturally significant sites such as Mount Finke. Its remoteness and naturalness provides the opportunity for self-reliant visitors to be immersed in this unique landscape.

The Yellabinna Regional Reserve was created to facilitate conservation while also enabling the use of mineral and energy resources under strict conditions to ensure environmental sustainability. There are ongoing mineral exploration activities throughout the reserve. Iluka's Jacinth-Ambrosia heavy mineral sands mine has been carefully developed within the Yellabinna Regional Reserve and within an Aboriginal site. This mine contributes to the local economy and provides significant employment opportunities for people in the region. In particular, the mine provides the opportunity for Far West Coast Aboriginal people to work on Country.

## Warna Manda parks

The Warna Manda parks are situated between the Yalata Indigenous Protected Area and Streaky Bay (Figure 1). They include: Acraman Creek Conservation Park (3,952 ha), Chadinga Conservation Park (11,854 ha), Fowlers Bay Conservation Park (9,731 ha), Laura Bay Conservation Park (282 ha), Point Bell Conservation Park (546 ha), Wahgunyah Conservation Park (48,354 ha) and Wittelbee Conservation Park (170 ha) (Figures 2 to 4, p.18 to 20).

While relatively small, these parks are very important to Far West Coast Aboriginal people. There are significant cultural sites throughout the parks, including burial sites, ancient campsites and middens. Far West Coast Aboriginal people still spend time on Country: looking after cultural sites, camping, fishing, cooking and passing on their cultural traditions and knowledge.

The Warna Manda parks help to conserve fragile coastal vegetation communities, many of which have been cleared in surrounding areas. These parks complement two nearby marine parks - Far West Coast Marine Park and Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park.

The Warna Manda parks contain a variety of coastal habitats including beaches, mangroves, salt marshes, samphire flats, low rocky headlands and sand dunes. Some of these habitats provide feeding grounds for shorebirds and a nursery for marine life.

These parks are an important refuge for many species and are key components of the large marine and terrestrial protected area landscape of the far west coast. Therefore they are critical in maintaining the resilience of ecosystems against the effects of a changing climate.

These parks have basic infrastructure providing access to a coastline with spectacular views and secluded beaches. Many of these parks are popular for fishing, camping and observing wildlife. Fowlers Bay Conservation Park is an excellent vantage point for viewing southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*) and Australian sea lions (*Neophoca cinerea*).

### What are we looking after?

- Coastal features and sites, such as burial sites, that are of profound significance and enable Far West Coast Aboriginal people to continue their culture.
- Bush medicines, bush tucker such as pigface and bush tomato, and bush meat such as bush turkey, marlu (red kangaroo), wardu (wombat), galda (sleepy lizard), goanna and garliya (emu).
- Coastal food including periwinkles, scallops, razor fish, crabs, mussels, limpets, oysters, abalone and mudi (fish).
- A harsh, rugged, semi-arid, fragile and remote landscape of dunes, wetlands, salt lakes, beaches and rocky reefs.
- Vegetation communities including mangroves, samphire, coastal heath and successional coastal communities that are not widely represented in the reserve system.
- A Wetland of National Importance within Acraman Creek Conservation Park.
- Animals which are culturally significant, such as Major Mitchell's cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*), wardu (southern hairy nosed-wombat) (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*) and short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*).
- Seven plant species that are listed as rare or threatened under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. This includes two species that are also listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* – *Microlepidium alatum* and bead samphire (*Tecticornia flabelliformis*) (Appendix 1).
- Twenty-one animal species that are listed as rare or threatened under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. This includes five species that are also listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* - fairy tern (*Sternula nereis*), hooded plover (*Thinornis rubricollis*), far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), and the Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) (Appendix 2).
- Gabi (water) sites including soaks and lakes that are ecologically important and culturally significant to Far West Coast Aboriginal people.
- Sites of geological and historical significance including Chinaman's Hat and the whaling station ruins at Fowlers Bay.
- Opportunities for people to enjoy spectacular views, remote camping, fishing and wildlife viewing.



Far West Coast Aboriginal people and DEW staff at the Healthy Country Planning Workshop.

## What are the challenges and opportunities?

Key challenges and opportunities in the protection and management of the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks are:

- Increasing the understanding of, and respect for, the cultures of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people and their role in the management of the parks.
- Incorporating traditional knowledge into the management of the parks and assisting Far West Coast Aboriginal people with the use and transfer of traditional knowledge through the maintenance of cultural sites.
- Ensuring that hunting of bush meat and gathering of coastal food, bush medicine and bush tucker by Far West Coast Aboriginal people is enabled in a sustainable way.
- Minimising the impact of feral animals including cats, foxes and wild dogs on native fauna, and the impact of camels on rock-holes and native vegetation.
- Minimising the impact of pest plants, particularly buffel grass, on flora, fauna and cultural sites across a vast landscape.
- Providing visitors with access to an outstanding park experience while protecting cultural sites and fragile habitats.
- Providing opportunities for visitors to learn about the unique landscapes, features, animals, plants and Far West Coast Aboriginal people's culture so they gain a greater appreciation of the parks.
- Managing fire in a large and mostly inaccessible area to protect life, property, cultural sites and rare or threatened species such as sandhill dunnart.
- Ensuring that approved mineral and energy resources exploration and extraction, including existing activities, have a minimal impact on the parks' cultural, environmental and tourism values.
- Providing scope for commercial tourism businesses to develop new nature-based and cultural experiences while maintaining the remote and natural characteristics of the parks.
- Facilitating opportunities for Far West Coast Aboriginal people to work on country.
- Understanding and responding to the effects of climate change on flora and fauna.
- Helping rare or threatened species to recover by implementing recovery plans



# Management themes and priorities

This section of the plan addresses the most important issues for the parks, focusing on four key themes.

## Theme 1: Maintaining Healthy Country

The Yumberra Conservation Park Co-management Board will maintain healthy Country by implementing the strategies identified in this park management plan, the *Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan* and regional natural resources management plans. This will involve working closely with neighbouring communities and stakeholders.

The implementation of these plans will be monitored and evaluated to understand management effectiveness. Regular review of the park management plan's implementation, combined with adaptation of the strategies, will be used to ensure that the objectives in this plan are achieved.

### Yellabinna parks

Due to their remote location, size, and lack of modification, the Yellabinna parks have remained in a healthy condition. To maintain the health of these parks, a combination of Aboriginal traditional knowledge and contemporary park management techniques need to be used. Local communities will also need to be involved.

Fire is a natural part of the Yellabinna ecosystem and is required to maintain the health of the parks. The seeds of some species, such as yellow Swainson-pea, only germinate after fire.

The Yellabinna Parks are located to the north of the dog fence (Figure 1). Wild dogs, including dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*), are found within the regional reserve. They are a part of the ecosystem and have cultural significance, however they may also impact on livestock. The SA Arid Lands Wild Dog Management Plan (2015) has been developed to guide the management of wild dogs in accordance with Commonwealth and State Government legislation and policies.

Uncontrolled bushfires can threaten cultural sites and can affect infrastructure within the parks and on neighbouring properties. Prescribed burns have been used to protect the habitat of threatened species, such as the sandhill dunnart and malleefowl. Prescribed burns are also used to prevent large uncontrolled bushfires from burning into neighbouring properties.

The *Alinytjara Wilurara Fire Management Strategy* (Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) 2014) directs the management of fire within these parks and the surrounding landscape.

Water is a critical but scarce element of the Yellabinna ecosystem. The survival of people and wildlife in the arid landscape has relied on the presence of healthy soaks and rock holes. To maintain a healthy condition, rock holes need to be cleaned and protected according to cultural traditions. Feral animals, particularly camels, contaminate these water sources. It is important to control pest species to prevent the degradation of such water sources.

Pest plants and animals pose a threat to cultural sites, and native flora and fauna. The vast area that the parks cover makes managing such pests difficult. Some pests, such as buffel grass, are a major priority. Others, such as the Italian white snail (*Theba pisana*), are managed as part of the cultural maintenance of rock holes.

There are a number of rare or threatened plants and animals which exist in the Yellabinna parks. These species require special attention to prevent further decline or extinction. Recovery plans for malleefowl (Benshemesh 2007), sandhill dunnart (Churchill 2001), desert greenhood (Duncan 2010) and yellow Swainson-pea (Tonkinson & Robertson 2010) have been developed to guide the recovery of these species.

Other rare or threatened species will be managed through habitat protection measures. These include reducing new track development which affects native vegetation and can allow pests to enter, or by managing feral predators around sensitive sites such as rock holes.

Over eighty percent of the Yellabinna parks is available for the exploration and development of mineral and energy resources. All of the Yellabinna Regional Reserve, Pureba Conservation Park and Boondina Conservation Park, as well as most of Yumberra Conservation Park, are available for approved mineral and energy resources activities (Figure 1).

All mineral and energy resource activities involve liaison with stakeholders and are managed in accordance with the *Mining Act 1971* and the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000*. The mining of heavy mineral sands at Iluka's Jacinth-Ambrosia mine in the Yellabinna Regional Reserve commenced in 2009 and is regulated through the *Mining Act 1971*.

## Warna Manda parks

The Warna Manda parks conserve the most significant areas of native vegetation along that stretch of coastline and are considered to be a good representation of the pre-pastoralism vegetation. Some of the natural ecological processes such as fire and seed dispersal have been irreversibly changed by alterations to land use surrounding these parks. However, the Warna Manda parks are generally healthy as their remote location limits their use.

Healthy Country not only has a high degree of naturalness, it is also understood, appreciated, enjoyed, and is a central part of the culture of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people. Maintaining public access to these parks while protecting sensitive areas, such as middens, is a priority.

Once established, pest plants and animals have the potential to alter natural ecosystems and damage cultural sites. Pest plant species including buffel grass, African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) and beach daisy (*Anthothea populifolia*) are found within or in close proximity to some of the parks, but are not widespread. These species are a priority for management. The management of pest animals, particularly cats and foxes, is also a priority.

The varied coastal habitats of the Warna Manda parks are important for the survival of several species of migratory shorebirds that spend the Australian summer feeding in the parks.

Due to the migratory nature of these species a variety of threats are present throughout their range. However, the parks protect the valuable feeding grounds of these species.

Shorebirds usually nest above the high tide mark, and are vulnerable to disturbance from vehicles on the beach. Drivers are encouraged to drive below the high tide mark on beaches and to take care not to disturb shorebirds. This will help to ensure the sustainability of their breeding populations.

The coastal habitat of the Warna Manda parks also supports breeding colonies of the nationally vulnerable Australian sea lion, a species which is recorded as declining on the IUCN red list. The recovery plan (Commonwealth Government 2013) for this species outlines management actions to improve the species' chances of survival.

Rare or threatened plants, along with other native plant species, will be managed through reducing the threats such as grazing and trampling by camels, competition with weeds and being damaged through off-track driving.

Approved resource exploration and development is allowed in sections of Acraman Creek Conservation Park, Fowlers Bay Conservation Park and Wahgunyah Conservation Park (Figures 2 & 4, pages 18 & 20).

## Managing the buffel grass threat

Originating in eastern Africa and the Middle East, buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) is thought to have arrived in Australia in the 1860s. Afghan camel drivers padded their saddles with buffel grass and as the seats wore through, seeds would be released and germinate.

In the early 1900s, pastoralists took an interest in the grass for its drought-hardy quality and it was soon planted to provide pasture for cattle and used as a management tool to control dust and erosion.

Buffel grass has spread at a great rate and now threatens native grasses and the broader ecological landscape. It burns at a greater intensity than native plants, creating hotter fires that impact on native plants and animals and destroy cultural sites. It also changes the landscape, impacting on seasonal activities and sites of cultural significance.

South Australia declared buffel grass as a weed in 2015. Buffel grass is managed in the parks in line with the *SA Buffel Grass Strategic Plan* (2012), and the *Alinytjara Wilurara Buffel Grass Operational Strategy* (Tschirner et al. 2012). The Yellabinna and Warna Manda Parks are within an area classified by the operation strategy as Zone 3. The management objective within this zone is to locate and destroy all buffel grass infestations.



## Objective and strategies

Protect and conserve the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks' natural environmental values and rich Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage.

- Continue to encourage and recognise the contribution of neighbours, partners and volunteers.
- Develop and implement pest predator management programmes at priority rock holes and shorebird nesting sites to help protect native animal populations and promote threatened species recovery.
- Monitor and destroy buffel grass outbreaks as guided by the *South Australian Buffel Grass Strategic Plan* (Biosecurity 2012) and the *Alinytjara Wilurara Buffel Grass Operational Strategy* (Tschirner et al. 2012).
- Monitor camel congregations and manage them around sensitive sites through collaboration with regional stakeholders.
- Continue to work with the Country Fire Service and neighbouring landholders to undertake prescribed burning.
- As appropriate, authorise resource exploration and development activities and work with mining and petroleum companies to ensure that the impact of any current or future resource development activities on the natural and cultural values of the parks is minimised.
- Encourage research and monitoring in collaboration with Far West Coast Aboriginal people that will help to maintain healthy Country. Priorities include gaining a better understanding of threats to rare or threatened species, including the effects of climate change.



From Wardugu Wirn - Hunting for wombat. © Gladys Miller 2005

## Theme 2: Keeping culture strong

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been the custodians of the land and sea of this continent for many tens of thousands of years. Their connection to Country demonstrates the link between people and Country. Country must be carefully cared for and healthy to continue supporting people's health and wellbeing. The Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks are a part of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people's traditional lands.

Far West Coast Aboriginal people were living on and caring for Country, until being forced off the land. They were often placed in missions where using Aboriginal languages and practising culture was discouraged or forbidden. Despite this, Far West Coast Aboriginal people have maintained their connection to Country and continue to practice their traditions to keep their culture alive.

***"This land is our school, church, pharmacy, supermarket, butcher and cemeteries"***

Sue Haseldine, Member, Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board 2017

Traditional knowledge is passed on in the form of stories that tell of how spirit ancestors created places, plants and animals. Each group maintains a story, or part of it, about how these events took place.

These stories and associated songlines are the basis for knowledge about caring for Country. They are passed on from generation to generation. Through these stories and traditional practices, obligations and responsibilities for care of the environment, plants, animals, cultural sites and people are passed on. Relationships between all of these things are interconnected and deeply spiritual.

***"By reconnecting people to their land in a way that benefits them, culture becomes strong again"***

Leonard Miller Senior, Deputy Chair, Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board 2017

For the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks to be healthy, Far West Coast Aboriginal people need to be on Country, carrying out their traditional practices and the management of the parks using both traditional and contemporary land management knowledge.

The role of the Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board is to manage the Yumbarra Conservation Park and provide advice on the management of other parks. It also aims to build the capacity of both partners to manage the parks and to progress opportunities for greater involvement of Far West Coast Aboriginal people.

Far West Coast Aboriginal people are able to continue to hunt, fish, gather traditional foods and medicines, camp, have fires for cooking and ceremonial purposes, have gatherings, and conduct burials in the parks. Far West Coast Aboriginal people collect bush medicines and bush tucker from the parks such as pigface and bush tomatoes. They have specific rights in relation to the parks which enable them to collect coastal food such as limpets, and to hunt bush meat such as wardu (wombat).

Eating traditional foods and using traditional medicines are important for the physical health of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people and for their spiritual, social and mental wellbeing. The acts of hunting and gathering, preparing, sharing and using natural resources allows for the transfer of knowledge and keeps Aboriginal culture strong. Aboriginal people live in two worlds, in both Aboriginal culture and mainstream Australian culture. Maintaining their traditional cultures and languages through activities in the parks is particularly important.

The use of modern technology for hunting and gathering instead of only traditional practices has potential to place pressures on these resources. For example, wardu (wombat) is a popular bush meat and is hunted in the area, however not everyone has the knowledge about the right time and methods to hunt them. This could result in wardu (wombat) being overharvested. Far West Coast Aboriginal people are encouraged to minimise their impact on the parks by keeping to designated vehicle tracks and using traditional methods for hunting and gathering wherever feasible.

## Conserving wombats

Aboriginal people have been hunting wombats for thousands of years. We always look after the wombats and other bush foods because we want to be able to get them again the year after and the year after that.

Wombat hunting is seasonal. It begins in spring. By the end of September when it starts to warm up and all the flowers come out, the galda (sleepy lizard) wakes up and wombats grow fat. The hunting season slows down by the end of March but will pick up again the next September.

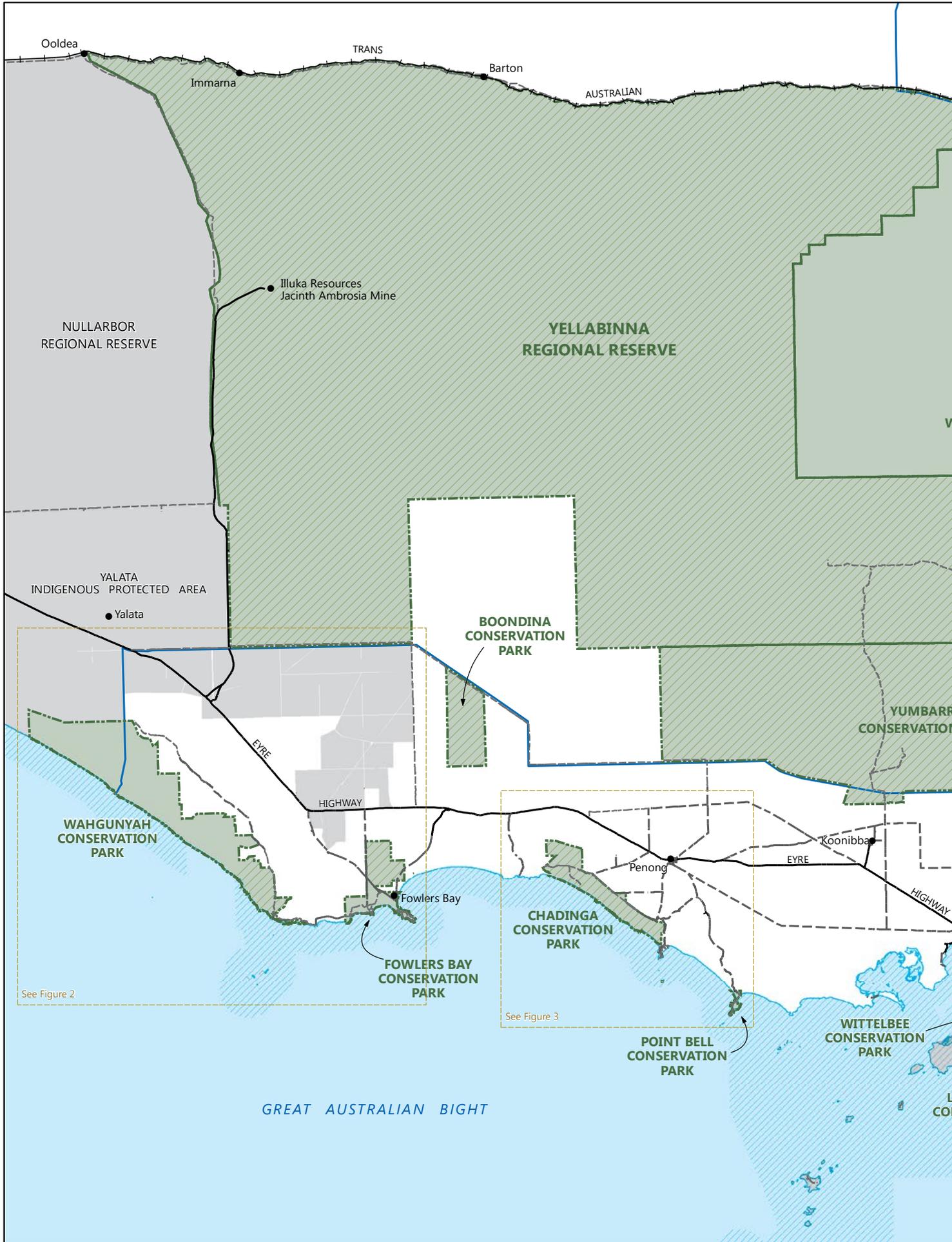
To look after the wombats we go to a different area each time we go out hunting. We keep an eye out for tyre tracks; they tell us that someone else has been there.

Wombats are also important to the spiritual life of the Far West Coast people. The wombat is cut up following the proper way – it has been done this way for thousands of years. Wombats and the places where they live have always been and always will be respected by Aboriginal people.

## Objective and strategies

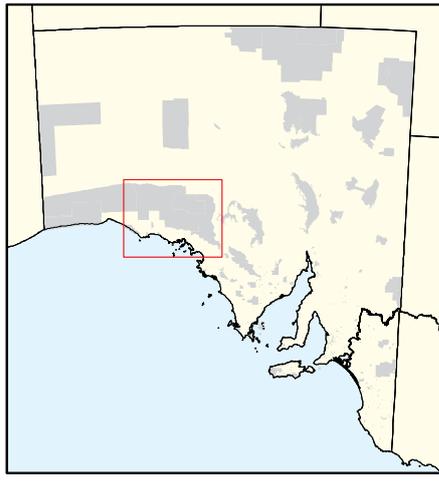
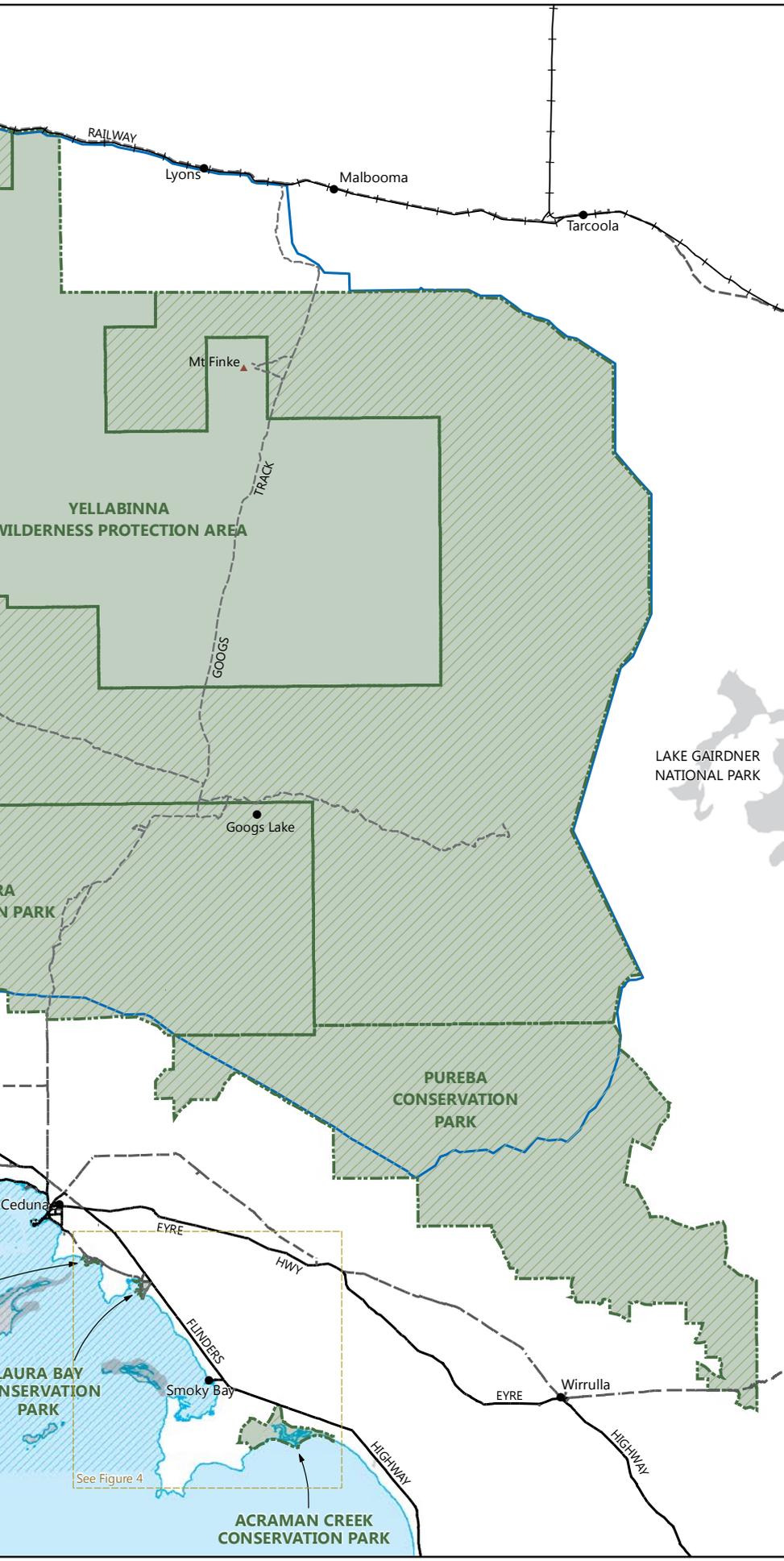
### Protect and care for cultural sites and enhance Far West Coast Aboriginal people's connection to Country.

- Enable Far West Coast Aboriginal people to use the parks to maintain their culture, take care of Country and transfer knowledge.
- In partnership with the Far West Coast Aboriginal people, develop a traditional hunting and gathering protocol and establish a process for monitoring species taken to ensure sustainability.
- Incorporate traditional knowledge and skills of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people into research, monitoring and management activities whilst ensuring intellectual property rights are respected.
- Protect the cultural and ecological values of important cultural sites.
- Facilitate opportunities for Far West Coast Aboriginal people to work on Country including employment and enterprise development.

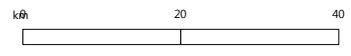


See Figure 2

See Figure 3



**Figure 1**  
Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks



**LEGEND**

- Sealed Road
- - - Unsealed Road (generally 4WD)
- Dog fence
- ▭ Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks
- ▭ Other protected areas
- ▨ Areas that allow for approved resource exploration and development activities
- ▨ Marine park



### Theme 3: Respecting and enjoying Country

The Yellabinna parks comprise one of the largest untouched remote and natural areas in Australia. Travelling through this area on Googs Track gives people access to a truly unique four-wheel drive experience which is regarded as one of Australia's most iconic outback journeys.

The Warna Manda parks consist of exposed headlands and sheltered bays stretching from near Streaky Bay to the Yalata Indigenous Protected Area. Their proximity to towns make the parks popular with locals, yet they retain a remote and undeveloped character which is an important part of their appeal.

The Far West Coast Aboriginal people recognise that the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks are a part of South Australia's identity, have special meaning to many people, and contain places that play an important role in the lives of people from local communities such as Ceduna, Fowlers Bay and Smoky Bay. Part of the appeal of living in these towns is the accessibility of the parks and the recreational opportunities they provide. Locals enjoy four wheel driving and camping in the Yellabinna parks. The Warna Manda parks provide a range of coastal recreational activities including four wheel driving, camping, fishing, and surfing, and many people have favourite spots.

Within the Yellabinna parks, camping is confined to designated areas at Googs Lake and around Mount Finke. Within the Warna Manda parks camping is confined to designated camping areas. These are defined in Figures 2 to 4, p.18 to 20.

The campsites have been developed to provide campers with the best spots for views or access to popular sites while protecting the sensitive environment.

Fishing, camping, four wheel driving and surfing are enjoyed by tourists. There are opportunities to expand the range of visitor experiences. Short walks could enable visitors to enjoy a more immersive experience in the parks and visit specific features such as rock formations and lakes that do not have vehicle track access. Interpreting the ancient Aboriginal and post-colonisation heritage sites could provide visitors with an understanding of the parks from a different perspective. These sites will need to be carefully developed with interpretive signs through a visitor experience strategy that involves Far West Coast Aboriginal people and the local community. This could also form the basis for cultural tourism in the parks where visitors can learn about the local Aboriginal cultures through interpretive material or cultural tours with Far West Coast Aboriginal people.

The development of any new facilities for visitors in parks requires appropriate approvals. Any on-ground works are carefully planned to ensure that Aboriginal cultural values are not impacted. Facilities in the Warna Manda Parks in particular require careful design and placement to ensure that coastal views are not compromised.

The parks will continue to provide access to visitor sites and points of interest via a network of authorised vehicle tracks. Unauthorised off road driving in these parks has potential to destroy cultural sites and fragile vegetation. Providing information to ensure that visitors stay on authorised tracks will be a major focus.



There is basic information for visitors, however some improvements to the information provided is needed to communicate to visitors how they can prevent any disturbance to cultural sites, vegetation, fragile soils or other park features. Further promotion of the special environmental values of these parks, their significance to Far West Coast Aboriginal people and the role of the Yumberra Conservation Park Co-management Board is needed.

***“We need to look after these places, for all Australians, we don’t want to stop people enjoying this beautiful place but we do want them to respect the Country and respect our culture.”***

Wanda Miller, Chair, Yumberra Conservation Park  
Co-management Board

## Objectives and strategies

Ensure that the range of experiences that can be enjoyed in the parks is maintained and expanded.

Help visitors to develop greater appreciation, understanding and respect for the deep relationship between the Far West Coast Aboriginal people and their Country.

- Develop a visitor experience strategy for the Yellabinna and Warna Manda parks that:
  - Identifies the location of signage that welcomes visitors to the Country of the Far West Coast Aboriginal people.
  - Identifies sites that require improved information or interpretation for visitors.
  - Identifies opportunities for investment in tourism enterprises.
  - Sets out strategies for the improvement of vehicle access to sites that have been degraded over time.
- In consultation with the broader community and Far West Coast Aboriginal people, continue to define and maintain visitor access and camping areas, including suitable amenities and beach access for vehicles where required.
- Encourage the establishment of tourism enterprises that are culturally appropriate, environmentally sustainable and create new opportunities for unique tourism experiences.
- Update park visitor information to promote respect for, and understanding of, the Far West Coast Aboriginal people’s aspirations and culture.



## Theme 4: Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area Visitor Management Strategy

The Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area has been used wisely, and managed carefully, by the Aboriginal custodians. It is one of Australia's largest unmodified areas, and has retained its natural character. For these reasons, it meets the international criteria for classification as wilderness.

In South Australia, wilderness protection areas are managed according to the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones* (DEH 2004).

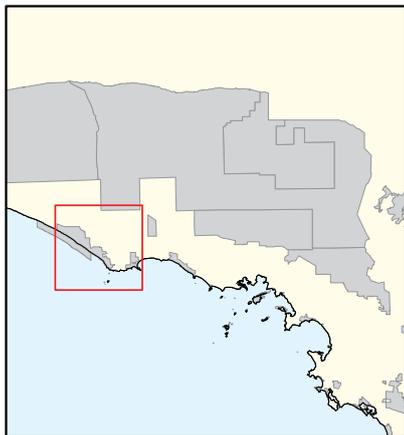
This code guides the management of wilderness protection areas and requires a visitor management strategy to be included in any management plan.

Resource exploration and development is not allowed in wilderness protection areas. Any major alteration to the landscape such as the spread of pest plants, the construction of obvious visitor facilities or the development of vehicle tracks has potential to diminish wilderness qualities. Facilities for visitors within the Wilderness Protection Area will remain very minimal.

### Objectives and strategies

Maintain the wilderness qualities of the Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area while also maintaining opportunities for four-wheel driving and camping.

- Make information available to visitors and the local community to encourage awareness of wilderness values, adoption of minimal impact practices and awareness of appropriate activities.
- Approve commercial tourism proposals that are consistent with the *Wilderness Protection Regulations* (2006), the principles contained in the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones* (DEH 2004) and the requirements of the *Minimum Impact Code for wilderness use in South Australia* (DEH 2006).
- Periodically assess the impact of visitor activities on wilderness values within the Wilderness Protection Area with a particular focus on Mount Finke.
- Implement strategies that are consistent with the *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones* (DEH 2004) to address any emerging impacts arising from visitor activities.



**Figure 2**

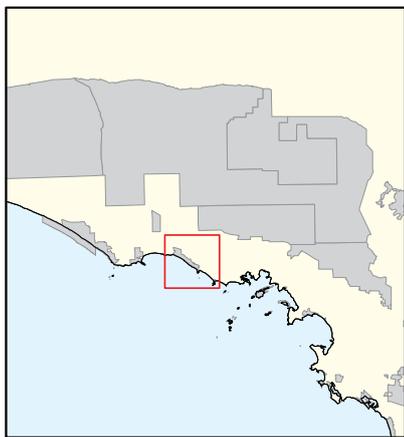
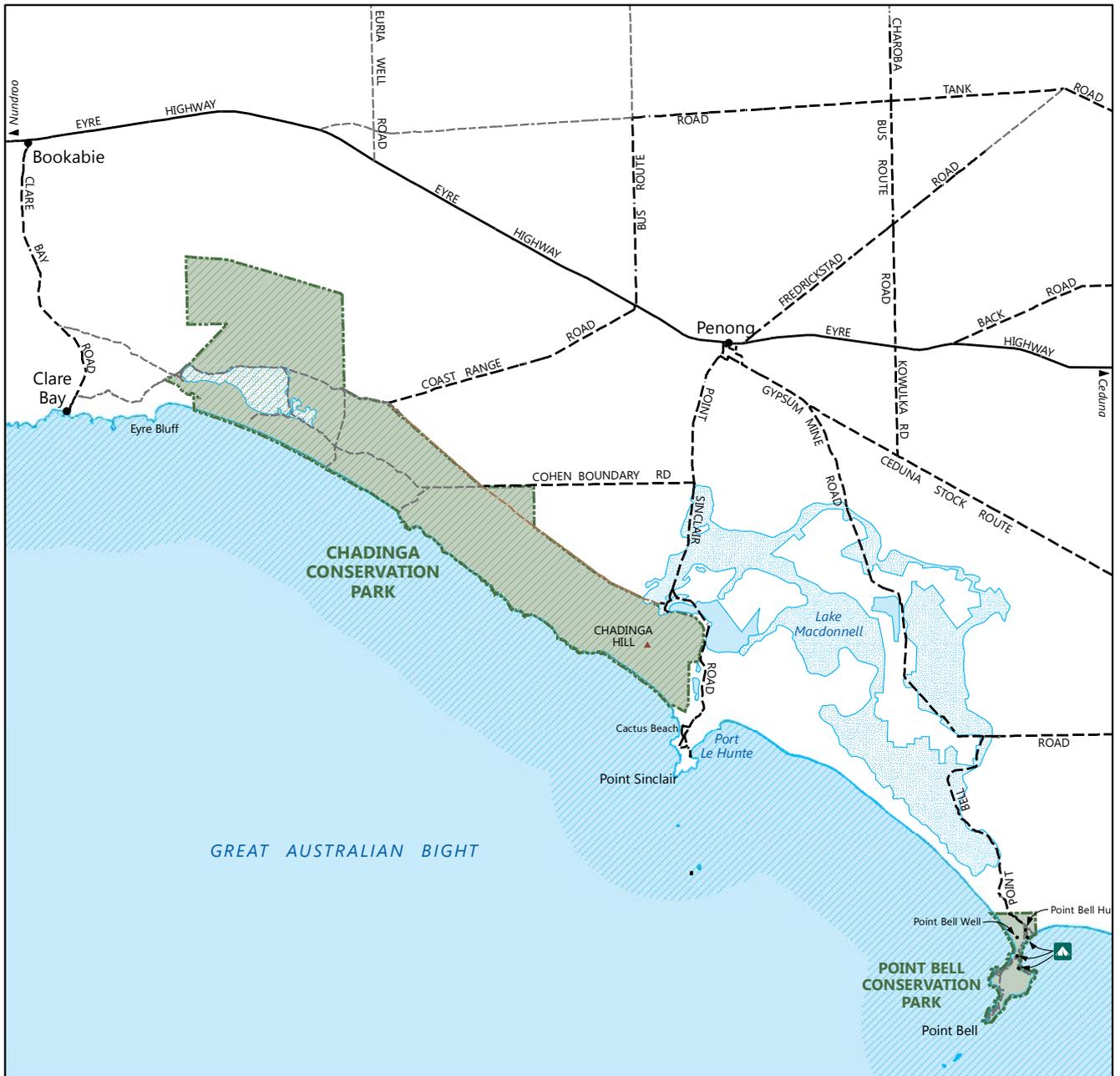
Wahgunyah and Fowlers Bay Conservation Parks



0 km 5 10 15 20

**LEGEND**

- Campsite
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicular track (generally 4WD)
- Management track (no public access)
- Wahgunyah and Fowlers Bay Conservation Parks
- Other protected areas
- Marine park
- Areas that allow for approved resource exploration and development activities



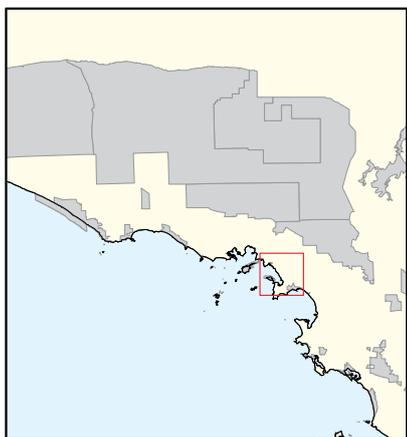
**Figure 3**  
Chadinga and Point Bell  
Conservation Parks



km 0 5 10

**LEGEND**

- Campsite
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicular track (generally 4WD)
- Management track (no public access)
- Chadinga and Point Bell Conservation Parks
- Marine park
- Areas that allow for approved resource exploration and development activities
- Salt lake



**Figure 4**

Acraman Creek, Laura Bay and Witelbee Conservation Parks



**LEGEND**

-  Campground
-  Day visitor site
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Vehicular track (generally 4WD)
-  Acraman Creek, Laura Bay and Witelbee Conservation Parks
-  Other protected areas
-  Marine park
-  Areas that allow for approved resource exploration and development activities



## References

Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (AW NRM) Board (2011) *Alinytjara Wilurara Regional NRM Plan*. NRM Board, Adelaide.

Australian Museum (2017) Glossary of Indigenous Australia terms, viewed 10 July 2017, <<http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/glossary-indigenous-australia-terms>>

Benshemesh, J. (2007) National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Biosecurity SA, (2012) *South Australia Buffel Grass Strategic Plan: A plan to reduce the weed threat of buffel grass in South Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA, Adelaide.

Caton, B., Detmar, S., Fotheringham, D., Laurence, S., Quinn, J., Royal, M., Rubbo, N. and Sandercock, R. (2011) *Eyre Peninsula Coastal Action Plan and Conservation Priority Study Volumes 1 and 2*. Eyre Peninsula NRM Board and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Adelaide.

Churchill, S. (2001) *Recovery Plan for the Sandhill Dunnart, *Sminthopsis psammophila**. Department of Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Commonwealth Government (2013) *Recovery Plan for the Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*)*, viewed 6 June 2016, <<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/recovery-plan-australian-sea-lion-neophoca-cinerea>>

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2004) *South Australian Code of Management for Wilderness Protection Areas and Zones*. DEH, Adelaide.

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) (2006) *Minimum Impact Code for Wilderness use in South Australia*. DEH, Adelaide.



Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) (2014) *Alinytjara Wilurara Fire Management Strategy*. DEWNR, Adelaide.

Duncan, M. (2010) *National Recovery Plan for the Desert Greenhood *Pterostylis xerophila**. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne.

Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) (2016) *Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan*. FWCAC, Ceduna.

Miller, G. (2005) *Wardugu Wirn-Hunting for wombats*. Linguistics Discipline, University of Adelaide, Adelaide.

R Thackway and I D Cresswell 1995 (Eds). *An Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia: a framework for establishing the national system of reserves, Version 4.0*. Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra.

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board (SAAL NRM Board) 2015. *Wild Dog Management Plan 2015*. SAAL NRM Board, Port Augusta.

Tonkinson, D. and Robertson, G. (2010) *National Recovery Plan for Yellow Swainson-pea *Swainsona pyrophila**. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria.

Tschirner, K. Read, J.L. Graham, J.K and Ward, M.J. (2012). *Alinytjara Wilurara Buffel Grass Operational Strategy*. Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia.

Wilderness Advisory Committee. (2004) *Wilderness Assessment Report: Proposed Yellabinna Wilderness Protection Area*. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

# Appendix 1 - Rare or threatened flora

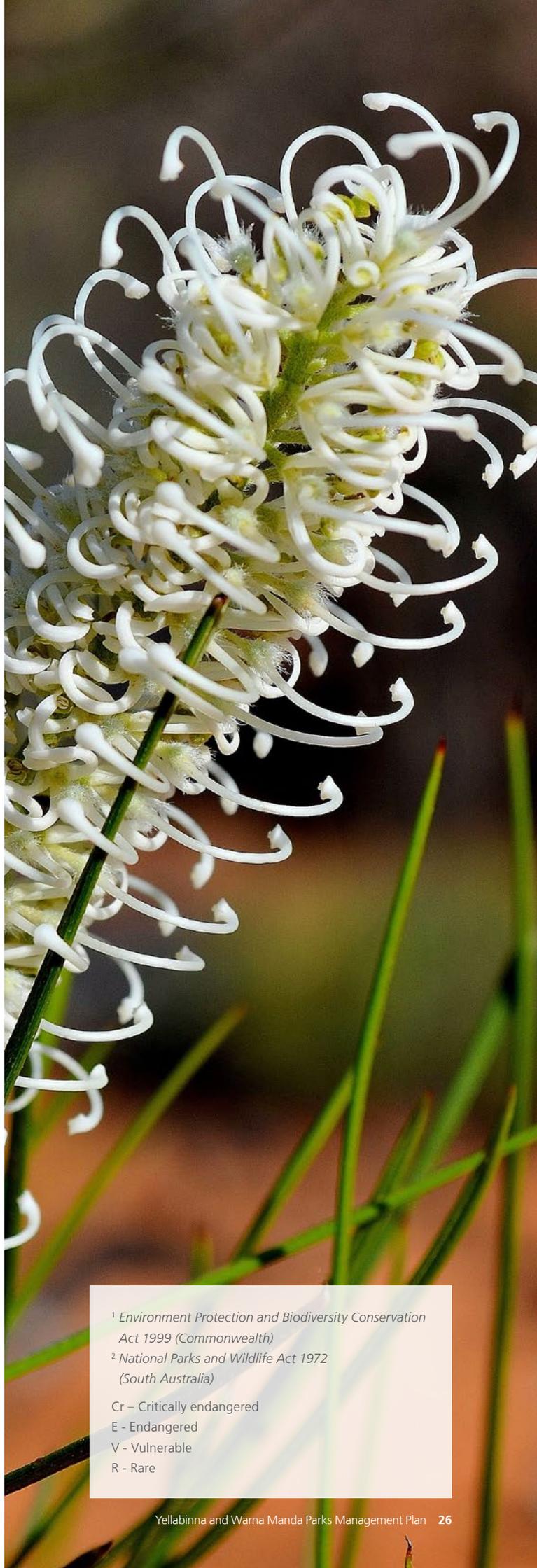
Flora Species	Common Name	EPBC Act Cwlth <sup>1</sup>	NPW Act SA <sup>2</sup>	Yellabinna Parks				
				Boordina Conservation Park	Pureba Conservation Park	Yellabina Regional Reserve	Yellabina Wilderness protection Area	Yumbaara Conservation Park
<i>Acacia jennerae</i>	Coonavittra wattle		R			✓	✓	
<i>Austrostipa nullanulla</i>	Club spear-grass		V			✓		✓
<i>Austrostipa plumigera</i>			R		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Austrostipa vickeryana</i>	Vickery's spear-grass		R			✓		
<i>Centrolepis cephaloformis</i> ssp. <i>cephaloformis</i>	Cushion centrolepis		R			.		
<i>Ceratogyne obionoides</i>	Wingwort		R		✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Choretrum chrysanthum</i>	Yellow sour-bush		R					✓
<i>Corynotheca licrota</i>	Sand lily		R			✓		
<i>Crassula peduncularis</i>	Purple crassula		R			✓		
<i>Eremophila hillii</i>	Hill's emubush		R			✓		
<i>Eremophila parvifolia</i> ssp. <i>parvifolia</i>	Small-leaf emubush		R			✓		
<i>Eremophila praecox</i>			R		✓			✓
<i>Frankenia cinerea</i>			R			✓		
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga		R		✓			
<i>Goodenia glandulosa</i>			R			✓		✓
<i>Gratwickia monochaeta</i>			R		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Haegiela tatei</i>	Small nut-heads		R					
<i>Hibbertia crispula</i>	Ooldea guinea-flower	V	V			✓		
<i>Lechenaultia aphylla</i>	Leafless lechenaultia		V			✓		
<i>Leiocarpa pluriseta</i>			R					✓
<i>Limosella granitica</i>	Granite mudwort	V	V					✓
<i>Maireana rohrlachii</i>	Rohrlach's bluebush		R			✓		
<i>Maireana suaedifolia</i>	Lax bluebush		R			✓	✓	
<i>Melaleuca leiocarpa</i>	Pungent honey-myrtle		R			✓	✓	✓
<i>Microlepidium alatum</i>		V	V					
<i>Microlepidium pilosulum</i>	Hairy shepherd's-purse		R					
<i>Ophioglossum polyphyllum</i>	Large adder's-tongue		R			✓		
<i>Plantago</i> sp.	Pearson Island plantain		R				✓	
<i>Poa drummondiana</i>	Knotted poa		R					
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	Showy copper-wire daisy		R					
<i>Pterostylis xerophila</i>	desert greenhood	V	V				✓	
<i>Sarcozona bicarinata</i>	Ridged noon-flower		V			✓		
<i>Scaevola myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle fanflower		R					✓
<i>Spyridium tricolor</i>	Rusty spyridium		V					✓
<i>Swainsona microcalyx</i>	Wild violet		R		✓			
<i>Swainsona pyrophila</i>	Yellow Swainson-pea	V	R		✓			✓
<i>Tecticornia flabelliformis</i>	Bead samphire	V	V					
<i>Templetonia battii</i>	Spiny templetonia		R					
<i>Teucrium grandiusculum</i> ssp. <i>pilosum</i>			E			✓		✓
<i>Velleia cynopotamica</i>			R				✓	
<i>Wurmbea stellata</i>	Star nancy		R				✓	



## Appendix 2 - Rare or threatened fauna

Fauna Species	Common Name	EPBC Act Cw <sup>1</sup>	NPW Act SA <sup>2</sup>	Yellabinna Parks				
				Boordina Conservation Park	Pureba Conservation Park	Yellabina Regional Reserve	Yellabina Wilderness protection Area	Yumbaara Conservation Park
<i>Acanthiza iredalei iredalei</i>	Slender-billed thornbill (western)		R			✓		
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common sandpiper		R					
<i>Amytornis striatus</i>	Striated grasswren		R			✓		✓
<i>Ardeotis australis</i>	Australian bustard		V			✓	✓	✓
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy turnstone		R					
<i>Calamanthus (Hylacola) cautus cautus</i>	Shy heathwren		R		✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling		R					
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great knot	CR	R					
<i>Cereopsis novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>	Cape Barren goose		R					
<i>Climacteris affinis affinis</i>	White-browed treecreeper		R		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	White-winged chough		R		✓	✓		✓
<i>Ctenophorus mckenziei</i>	McKenzie's dragon		R			✓		
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Eastern reef egret		R					
<i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	Sooty oystercatcher		R					
<i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	Pied oystercatcher		R					
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	VU	V		✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Lerista arenicola</i>	Beach slider		R					
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed godwit	VU	R					
<i>Lophochroa leadbeateri mollis</i>	Major Mitchell's cockatoo		R		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Morelia spilota</i>	Carpet python		R					✓
<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>	Restless flycatcher		R			✓		✓
<i>Neelaps bimaculatus</i>	Western black-naped snake		R			✓		
<i>Neophema petrophila</i>	Rock parrot		R					
<i>Neophoca cinerea</i>	Australian sea lion	VU	V					
<i>Northiella narethae</i>	Naretha bluebonnet		R	✓		✓		
<i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>	Southern marsupial mole		V			✓		
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Far eastern curlew	CR	V			✓		
<i>Pachycephala inornata</i>	Gilbert's whistler		R		✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Sminthopsis psammophila</i>	Sandhill dunnart	EN	V			✓		
<i>Sternula nereis</i>	Fairy tern	VU	E					
<i>Turnix varius</i>	Painted buttonquail		R					✓
<i>Thinornis cucullatus</i>	Hooded plover	VU	V					
<i>Varanus brevicauda</i>	Short-tailed pygmy goanna		R			✓		
<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>	Heath goanna		V					

Warna Manda Parks						
Acraman Creek Conservation Park	Chadlinga Conservation Park	Fowlers Bay Conservation Park	Laura Bay Conservation Park	Point Bell Conservation Park	Wahgunyah Conservation Park	Wittelbee Conservation Park
	✓		✓			
✓			✓	✓		
✓		✓		✓	✓	
			✓			
				✓		
✓						✓
				✓		
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓			✓			
		✓			✓	
	✓	✓			✓	
✓			✓	✓		
					✓	
✓			✓			
✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
						✓



<sup>1</sup> Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)

<sup>2</sup> National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (South Australia)

Cr – Critically endangered  
 E - Endangered  
 V - Vulnerable  
 R - Rare

## For further information please contact

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

## Photography

Cover, page 7 courtesy of Tammy Cox.  
Page 1,3, 10 & 13 courtesy of Paul Gregory  
Page 5 courtesy Brett Dalzell  
Page 9, 14 courtesy of Robbie Sleep  
Page 12, courtesy of Stuart Cowell  
Page 15 & 16 courtesy of Lee Jedani  
Page 17 courtesy of Jason Irving



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, images on pages 1, 10 and 16, and other material or devices protected by a trademark and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Department for Environment and Water. 2019 | FIS 95219