



MARINE PARKS—UPDATE

VISITS FROM :

ROBERT SIMMS MLC, SUSAN CLOSE M.P., PETER OWEN T.W.S., and CRAIG WILKINS Conservation Council of S.A.

The *Lensink* Marine Park Bill has been disallowed and the Government has finally reached a negotiated agreement with key players (TWS, CCSA, PEW Foundation and the fishing industry) including the peak fishing bodies to significantly reduce changes to Marine Parks Sanctuary Zones in SA. An attempt was made remove most of the Marine Parks sanctuary zones across the State (12) to satisfy the professional fishing lobby [mainly the Lobster and Abalone industry.

Eco-action members, Tony Geyer and Fraser Vickery spent many hours meeting with SA Best cross benchers Connie Benaras and Frank Pangallo and others to ensure that this did not happen, especially in relation to Sanctuary Zones around Kangaroo Island

Changes affecting Kangaroo Island include the removal of approximately half of the Cape duCouedic Sanctuary Zone—despite it's proven success and potential long-term benefit to the rock lobster industry! This will be somewhat offset by the addition of a new Sanctuary Zone [SZ-2] at D'Estrees Bay, which will incorporate healthy inshore *Posidonia* seagrass beds. All of the other Sanctuaries [around KI] remain unchanged.

Following our AGM where Robert Simms was the guest speaker, he visited Kangaroo Island to see first hand the issues that were raised with him via the Zoom presentation.

He spent the day with members from Eco-Action, Friends of Parks and local residents discussing coastal protection, endangered birdlife, threats to biodiversity, Blue Gums and forestry, and fire management.



Meeting with The Wilderness Society of S.A. and Conservation Council of S.A.

Peter Owen, Director TWS, Eric Bills and Fraser Vickery, Board members TWS, and Bill Doyle, life supporter and photographer TWS, together with Craig Wilkins, Chief Executive Officer CCSA spent several days touring Kangaroo Island looking at the Wilderness Protection Areas.

The main concern is the proposed destruction [cutting up into sections] of the WPAs, based on the misguided principles that this will stop wild fires.

Members of Eco-Action were able to meet with Susan Close MP, over dinner at *Bella Cafe* while she was on Kangaroo Island recently.

Issues discussed—

- Draft Management Plan for KI parks, particularly the management of the Wilderness Protection Areas
- Blue Gums/Forestry
- Smith Bay
- Marine Park / Sanctuary Zones Issues





Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Draft Management Plan 2021— PLEASE TAKE ACTION



Closing date for submissions—17th December

Members of Eco-Action and Friends of Parks met recently to workshop issues of concerns from the Parks of Western and Central KI Draft Management Plan, at Colin Wilson and Bev Maxwell's property, *Strepera*.

While there are numerous problems with the Draft, the key concerns are

- Too many parks are lumped into one very brief and generalised plan
- Management priorities are tourism based rather than conservation driven
- Zoning/development areas are unclear and open-ended giving minimum direction as to where development activities can take place

- Management of threats to biodiversity
- Fire management [proposals to cut up the WPAs]
- Preservation of Wilderness quality and the potential destruction of Wilderness up into management blocks

If you would like more detailed information to assist in preparing your own submission, contact fopkiwd@gmail.com

You can also have your say /taking the survey by going to <http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/ki-west-central-manage-plan>

CLOSING DATE DECEMBER 17

The PPnotPP campaign and protest against the KI Wilderness Trail accommodation siting was based on the old Flinders Chase Management Plan, and we need to make sure that the new plan gives an equally strong basis for conservation of our wild places.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF THE ECO-ACTION CORE GROUP?

Looking for two new Core Group members who are passionate about the Environment, keen to take an active role in Eco-Action's stand for the Environment.

Speak to a Core group member if this is YOU.

Eco-Action is always looking to increase our membership base. Do you know of any one who would be interested?

They can contact any Core Group member for more information and/or newsletters so they can understand what Eco-Action's objectives are.



Kangaroo Island Eco-Action is an environmental organisation and an Incorporated

Thanks to Sarah Strong-Law for her support and amazing IT skills.

Check it out.

<https://www.eco-action.com.au>





FLINDERS CHASE CONSERVATION DIVIDEND

As part of an agreement between all parties [Eco-Action, DEW and AWC] from the Supreme Court action over the proposed development in Flinders Chase National Park, DEW has provided funding for four years to support a conservation dividend project in Flinders Chase.

An overseeing committee was established to manage the project /funds

Peter Hammond, Chair [FOPs rep]

Caroline Paterson [FOPs rep]

Fraser Vickery [Eco-Action rep]

Jody Gates [DEW rep]

Lisien Loan [DEW rep]

The group decided that a Project looking at the ecological recovery in fire effected Parks following the Black Summer fires

The Project will follow the work, and survey data from the Kangaroo Island Monitoring Biodiversity Assets [KIMBA] which was established in the early 2000's. Since then surveys have been inconsistent and not all element of biodiversity was monitored.

The Project will consist of fire recovery monitoring based at the existing sites, with the aim of developing a long-term dataset, and increase the knowledge base to inform management of the park to protect the unique biodiversity of Flinders Chase National Park

In addition to existing surveying at the KIMBA sites, we will begin surveying invertebrates, fungi, bats and nectar production. This will give a deeper understanding of post-fire ecosystem recovery and the resilience of biodiversity to climate change. The analysis of data may detect changes over time to determine conservation priorities and fire management decisions.



Nest Boxes

The Kangaroo Island Conservation Land Association [KICLA] group have sited 689 nest boxes across twelve Kangaroo Island properties. Data analysis is underway and results show the impact of fire, with invertebrates, geckos and frogs in burnt habitat, bats and western pygmy possums, including breeding individuals using boxes in remnant unburnt bush or long unburnt bush.

The data collection builds quantitative evidence of how habitat augmentation projects (nest boxes) con-

tribute to recovery by species after bushfires.

The group is also developing an understanding of how the local community may be encouraged to remain engaged in long term conservation projects.

AUSTRALIAN WALKING COMPANY VISIT

During the mediation process between Kangaroo Island Eco-Action members and the Australian Walking Company (AWC) the company agreed to relocate the Sandy Beach component of the development to the Rocky River precinct thereby reducing the impact of the development for access.

AWC also made significant reductions in access tracks at the Sanderson Bay site. AWC also agreed to undertake a field/site assessment of both sites with Kangaroo Island Eco-Action representatives to attempt to further reduce the footprint and visual impact of the developments at the Rocky River and the Sanderson Bay sites.

The site visit will take place on Friday 10 December following a meeting with key stakeholders in Kingscote on Thursday 9 December.

WESTERN KI PARKS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Set up in early 2021 following a meeting between the Minister and CE of DEW and Eco-Action and FOP's representatives as a means to facilitate ongoing consultation with key stakeholder groups on western KI regarding the ongoing management of parks on western Kangaroo Island and particularly in relation to management planning.

Some of the items discussed at November's meeting—

- ◆ Planned prescribed burns
- ◆ The Reimagine
- ◆ Apiary policy
- ◆ Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island Draft Management plan
- ◆ Developments at Cape Willoughby and Eastern end of KI
- ◆ Changes to the KI Wilderness Trail
- ◆ Post fire recovery plans
- ◆ Feral pig eradication

CORE GROUP –

Fraser Vickery, Tony Geyer, Ingereth MacFarlane, Deb Laver, Peter Hammond, Caroline Paterson