

PARKS 2025

Our parks future



Government of South Australia

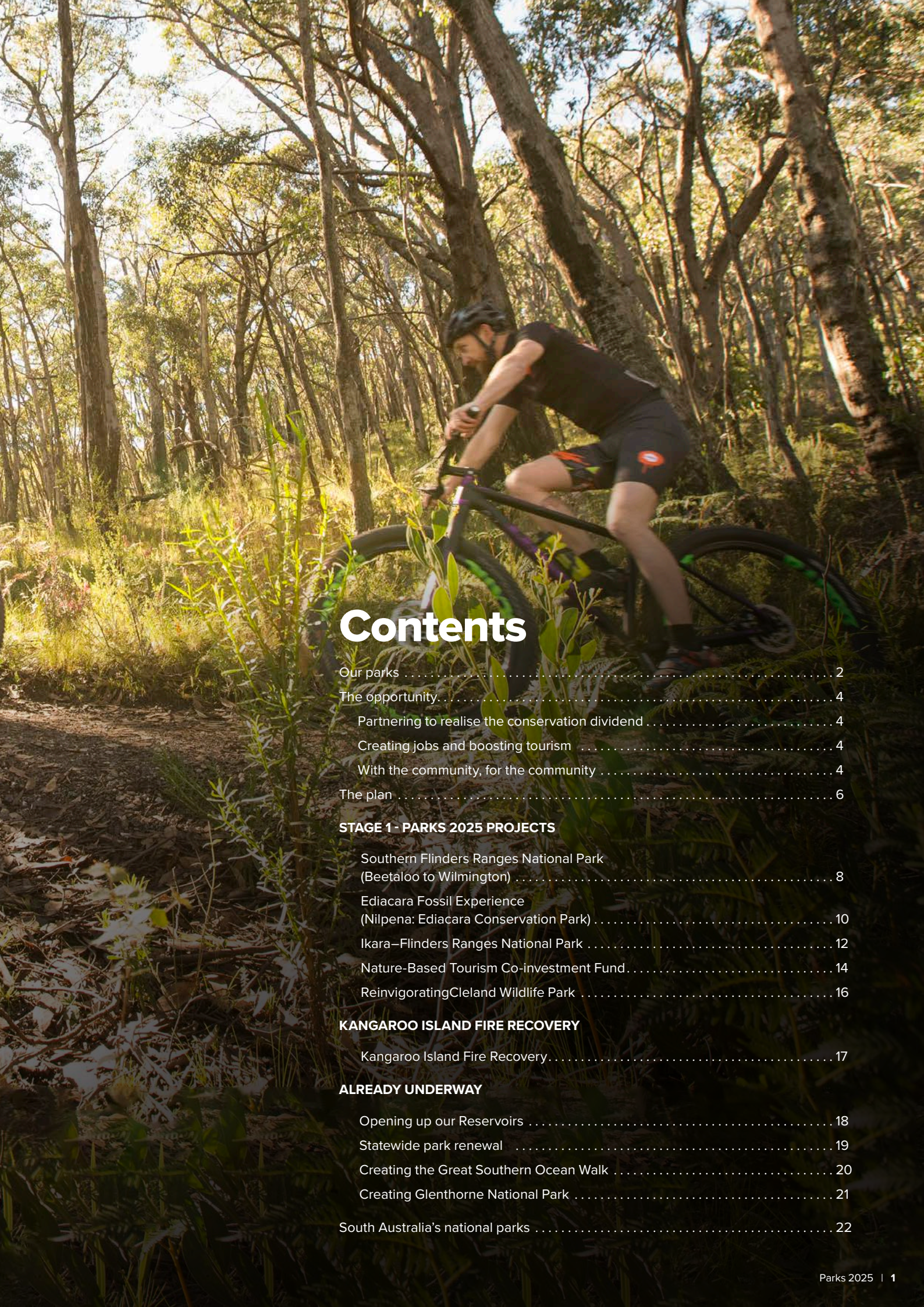
Department for Environment
and Water

A new era for our parks

Parks 2025 is a collection of investment initiatives designed to help build the capacity of parks across our state to conserve our natural landscapes and wildlife, boost the state economy and strengthen local communities.

This investment at a statewide level will also help build resilience for nature-based tourism and broaden the attraction of South Australia to visitors from around the globe.





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Our parks

South Australia has nature like nowhere else, and we want to share it with the world. We have 356 parks covering a fifth of our vast state, and a network of 19 marine parks covering nearly half of our marine waters.

Parks are central to the lives of South Australians and the experience of our visitors. They provide significant social, economic and health benefits to our communities, and improved landscape resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Our parks network includes internationally-recognised tourism destinations such as Seal Bay and the Flinders Ranges. These make a substantial contribution to the state's \$7.8 billion tourism industry.

Many of our parks are cooperatively managed with Aboriginal people and protect places that help to sustain the cultural heritage of Aboriginal nations.

Our parks range from small pockets of precious native vegetation in urban areas to large parks that cover thousands of hectares. They conserve a diverse range of habitats and landscapes, home to our many unique plants and animals including heathlands, woodlands, deserts, beaches, coasts, marine ecosystems and places that conserve our distinctive Aboriginal cultural heritage.

We have undertaken world-leading work in threatened species recovery and species reintroduction, such as with the yellow-footed rock-wallaby and western quoll. We work with local communities to ensure that the government's efforts reflect community desires and expectations, and that community effort helps manage our national parks.

We are committed to ensuring that our parks continue to conserve special places and natural values, while also enabling people to enjoy the benefits they bring.

Parks 2025 represents a once-in-a-generation investment in conserving our unique natural environment, activating nature-based tourism and stimulating regional economies in South Australia.



85%
of our marine
species are found
nowhere else in
the world



We're home to over
450 bird species
with more than
250 recorded species
within 1.5 hours drive
of our capital city



Parks in South
Australia cover
21.1 million
hectares
an area about the
size of the UK

..... In South Australia



(9% international visitors + 91% domestic visitors)

1.8 million
people

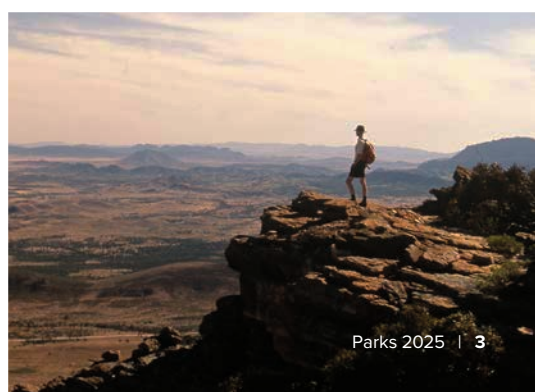
visit parks each year,
with as many as
12 million total visits



More than
163,000
visitor nights in camping
and accommodation
in parks in 2017



More than
150
businesses
are licenced
to operate tours
in national parks



The opportunity

In South Australia we enjoy a great lifestyle – surrounded by national parks, beautiful beaches and impressive landscapes. Our parks are the cornerstone of conservation, bolster regional economies, and help to make South Australia one of the most liveable places in the world.

Parks 2025 will create more places for people to connect with nature, spend time with family, relax, walk, ride, explore, drive, fish and camp. It will also strengthen the conservation of our unique natural values for future generations.

The Parks 2025 initiative is designed to conserve parks for future generations, boost the state economy and strengthen local communities.



Partnering to realise the conservation dividend

Increasingly visitors are searching for world class nature-based tourism experiences. We will seek to boost this offering by partnering with businesses to progress ecologically sensitive developments in ways that are complementary to the state's park management efforts.

Through such partnerships, the use and enjoyment of parks will be increased, and revenue generated can be reinvested into conservation programs.

Tourism operators to contribute to conservation programs in their local area such as restoring damaged habitats, revegetation and rewilding projects.

Shark cage diving is a great example of how this is already happening in South Australia. The South Australian Government together with tour operators and research partners have established the Neptune Islands as an international focal point for white shark research and have helped to raise awareness about white sharks and their conservation. The three licensed tour operators through their tourism business contribute to the shark research program and the success and growth of white shark tourism illustrates the positive relationships that can be achieved between nature-based tourism and the environment.



With the community, for the community

We know that local communities are often the strongest advocates for parks, and many are actively involved in volunteering and park management. Our goal is to deliver long-term and sustainable benefits to our parks, communities and regions through fostering ongoing relationships with local, regional and community groups. We are committed to working in partnership to bring Parks 2025 to life.

Our natural environment plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our communities – access to nature is especially important for children and young people.

We will also make parks more accessible and inclusive. Improvements to parks will embrace a universal design approach - making them available to people regardless of their age, cultural background or level of ability.

Creating jobs and boosting tourism

More than one billion people are now travelling internationally for tourism purposes each year, and South Australia's competitive advantage is well established – a safe destination that provides value for money as well as a sense of awe on account of our natural environment, wild places, coastal experiences and wildlife.

Parks 2025 will help make sure that our parks and tourism experiences equal or surpass those on offer in other states. Nature-based tourism is a high-value and labour-dependent industry – Parks 2025 will create 4000 new jobs by 2030.



99%

of South Australians
say parks are
important to them



7 in 10

South Australians have
visited a national park
in the last 12 months

The plan

Parks 2025 heralds a turning point for our national parks.

Investment in regional parks has a direct impact on local economies – most immediately through procurement of local materials and labour. The flow-on effects – through increased visitation and related spending – can be many times greater. All of this helps create and sustain regional jobs.

Parks 2025 will take a similar approach in key locations across the state.

Working closely with the industry and tapping into its market knowledge and experiences will see our money go further with greater impact. A central plank of Parks 2025 will be to connect experiences thematically, within particular geographies or precincts, to ensure visitor experiences are compelling, diverse, sustainable and immersive. We want to create destinations that attract people to stay longer and spend more. As part of this, we will also seek to identify opportunities to activate heritage sites. A major emphasis will be placed on identifying the infrastructure required in regional areas to stimulate private sector investment in, and the operation of, guest services, including food, beverage, accommodation, tours and other value-added experiences.

Stage one of the Parks 2025 initiative includes a range of regionally diverse projects.



PARKS 2025 PROJECT 1



Southern Flinders Ranges National Park

\$5 million State Government investment (overall project \$10 million)

PARKS 2025 PROJECT 2



Ediacara Fossil Experience

\$3 million

PARKS 2025 PROJECT 3



Reinvigorating Cleland Wildlife Park

\$1 million

PARKS 2025 PROJECT 4



Ikara–Flinders Ranges National Park

\$1 million

PARKS 2025 PROJECT 5



**Nature-Based Tourism
Co-investment Fund**

\$5 million

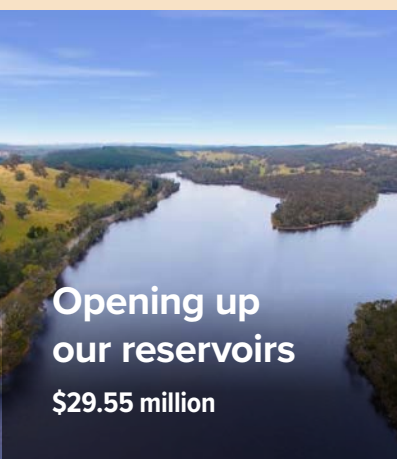
KANGAROO ISLAND FIRE RECOVERY



Kangaroo Island Fire Recovery

\$7 million

Already underway



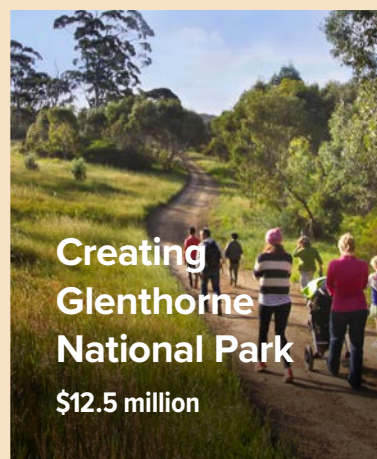
**Opening up
our reservoirs**

\$29.55 million



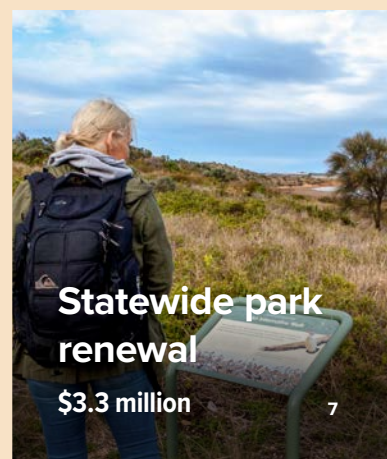
**Creating the
Great Southern
Ocean Walk**

\$6 million



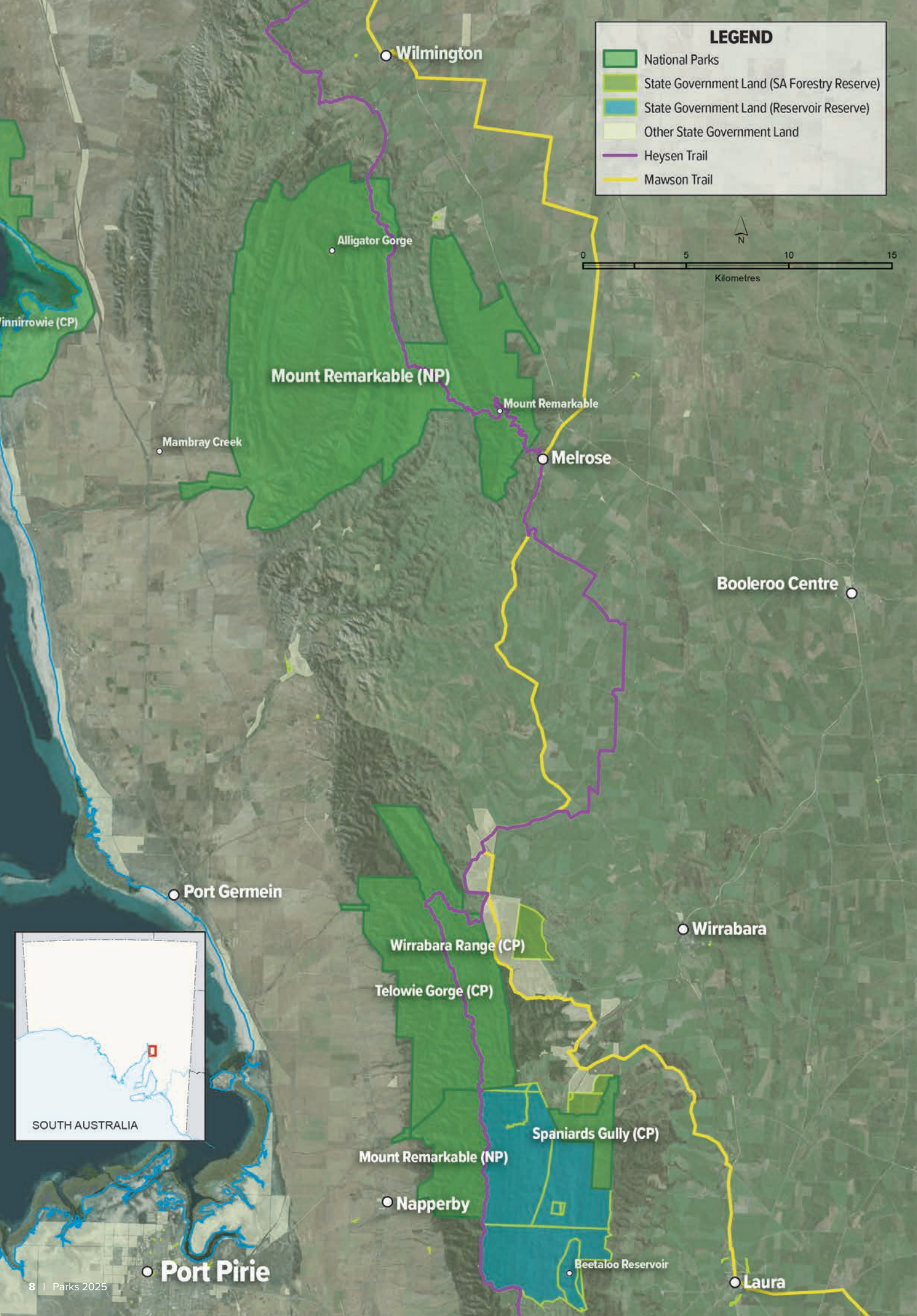
**Creating
Glenthorne
National Park**

\$12.5 million



**Statewide park
renewal**

\$3.3 million





PARKS 2025 PROJECT 1

Southern Flinders Ranges National Park

(Beetaloo to Wilmington)

Overall project investment: \$10 million
(\$5 million State Government investment)

This project will create the Southern Flinders Ranges National Park – a new nature-based tourism destination for South Australia. It will connect the natural landscapes of the region and draw people into local communities.

The project offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to link well established national parks with land recently acquired for conservation and opened reservoirs, to create a vast, connected park of national significance. Local communities will have a key role and strong relationship with the park, which will demonstrate active community participation in park management.









The rugged landscape features ranges, peaks, gorges and forests, including high-quality native vegetation and reservoirs, which stretch from Beetaloo to Wilmington. The area is linked by the Heysen (hiking) and Mawson (cycling) trails, and includes sites of outstanding natural beauty such as Mount Remarkable, Alligator Gorge and Telowie Gorge. It is these expansive natural landscapes and their intact and accessible wildlife that are key to attracting visitors to the region.

Project will include:

- developing an international mountain bike destination at Mt Remarkable.
- upgrading trails for hiking, cycling and horse riding, including a new iconic multi-day hike
- upgrading and expanding campgrounds particularly to cater for caravans
- upgrading facilities including a new visitor centre



LEGEND

-  National Parks
-  Nilpena addition to Ediacara (CP)
-  State Government Land (Reservoir Reserve)
-  Other State Government Land
-  Other Protected Areas
-  Heysen Trail
-  Mawson Trail
-  Main Roads



Leigh Creek

Vulkathunha-Gammon
Ranges (NP)
80 km

Ediacara (CP)

Nilpena addition
to Ediacara (CP)

Beltana

Parachilna

Ikara-Flinders Ranges (NP)

Ediacara Fossil Experience

(Nilpena: Ediacara Conservation Park)

Government investment: \$3 million

This project will create a world class fossil experience in the northern Flinders Ranges with Nilpena becoming the iconic visitor precinct within the new Ediacara Conservation Park.

Ediacara fossil fields in the Flinders Ranges are the single most important site on the planet for the rise of early animal life. This project will allow visitors a unique and exclusive opportunity to discover these ancient landscapes that existed 550 million years ago.

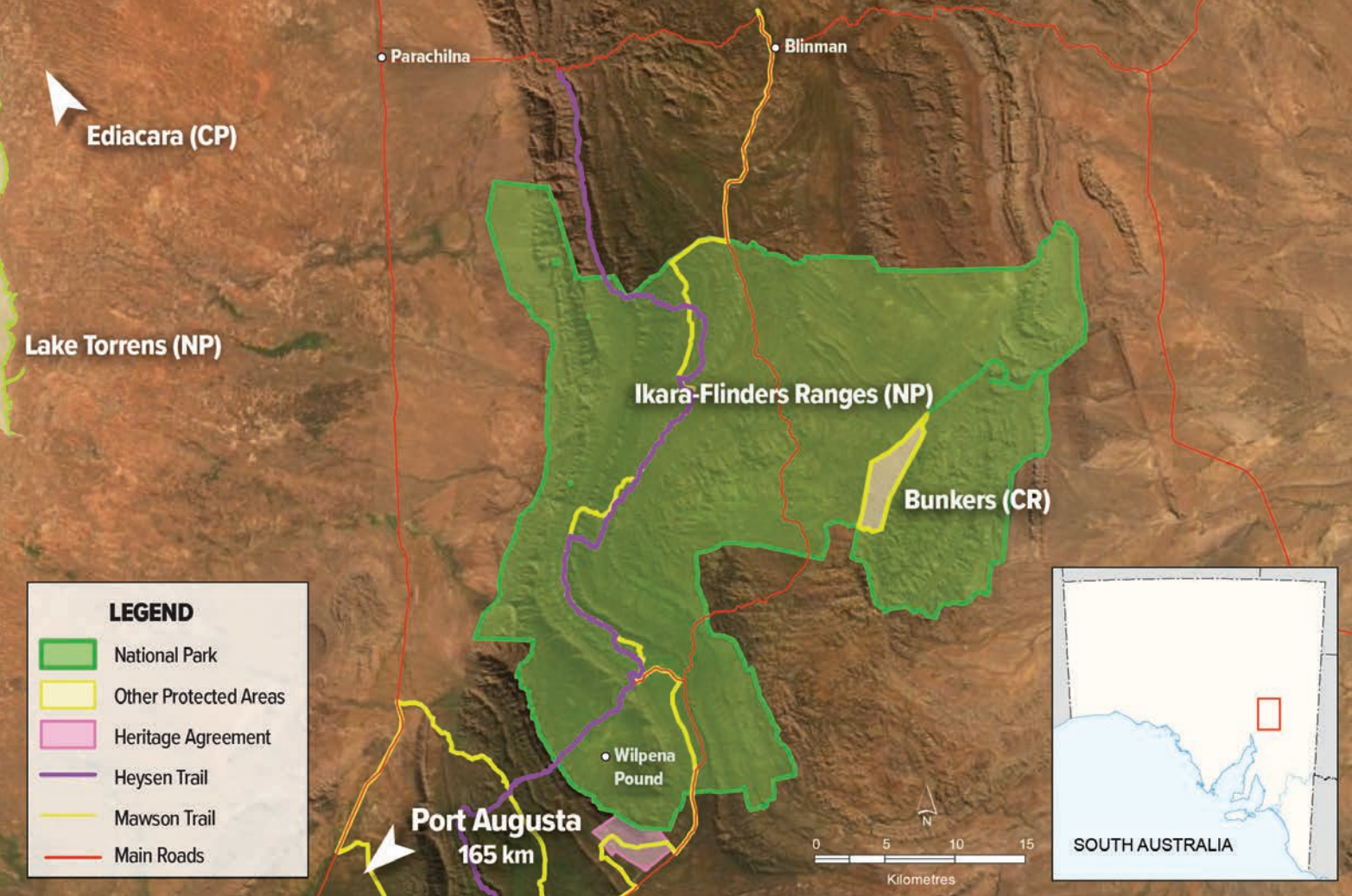
This project is central to the proposed Flinders Ranges World Heritage application and will create an interpretive experience of a quality rarely seen in regional Australia.

The precinct will encompass an immersive fossil experience in Nilpena's Blacksmith Shop and development of the Shearer's Quarters for accommodation and the Woolshed for functions and events. The creation of access paths and an elevated boardwalk with viewing platforms of the fragile fossil fields will ensure sustainable access to the sites.

The Nilpena fossil experience will create an outstanding opportunity for tour operators to create standout tourism products for a global audience. A partnership has been formed with the newly created Flinders Ranges Ediacara Foundation to ensure the fossils at Nilpena are well managed, protected and promoted into the future.

Other locations within the proposed World Heritage Flinders Ranges site will also be improved to support visitor experiences.







PARKS 2025 PROJECT 3

Ikara–Flinders Ranges National Park

Government investment: \$1 million

This project will revitalise South Australia’s most iconic landscape and significantly boost regional tourism and employment. It will renew and expand visitor infrastructure and experiences in partnership with traditional owners.

The Heysen Trail, drive routes, visitor sites and other trail experiences will be transformed into iconic tourism experiences that drive tourism and link visitors to accommodation and service providers in adjacent properties and townships.

In partnership with Adnyamathanha people, this project will generate an opportunity for local Aboriginal communities to develop businesses that provide tours and cultural experiences.







PARKS 2025 PROJECT 4

Nature-Based Tourism Co-investment Fund

Government investment: \$5 million

The NBT co-investment fund will support businesses and organisations to activate sustainable and ecologically sensitive tourism experiences and products in South Australia's nature, parks and places.

This in turn will support regional jobs and growth, conservation outcomes and the delivery of sustainable visitor experiences in South Australia.

The fund will open in April 2020 with the aim of delivering:

- a clear economic benefit for SA by creating new sustainable jobs and economic growth
- sustainable tourism services that benefit and are supported by local communities and visitors
- positive benefits for the conservation of South Australia's nature, parks and places.



The conservation dividend

The Nature-Based Tourism Co-Investment Fund will encourage tourism operators to invest in expanded or new operations, with grant criteria to be determined in consultation with industry.

Operators will contribute to conservation programs in their local area such as restoring habitats, revegetation and rewilding projects.

Through such partnerships, the use and enjoyment of parks will be increased, and revenue generated can be reinvested into critical conservation programs.





PARKS 2025 PROJECT 5

Reinvigorating Cleland Wildlife Park

Government investment: \$1 million

Through experiences and interpretation designed to engage visitors on a deeply emotional level, Cleland Wildlife Park can play an integral role in increasing people's sense of connection to the natural environment.

Creating an environment that nurtures a spirit of play and discovery makes learning about our role as stewards of the ecosystem we belong to, called Earth, fun and encouraging.

The Mount Lofty Ranges provides a very special setting for the Cleland Wildlife Park experience. Great views over the city remind you how close we are to the built urban environment.

This project will create an exceptional nature-based experience at one of South Australia's iconic tourist destinations with a new purpose built koala hold facility.





Kangaroo Island Fire Recovery

Government investment: \$7 million

Fires on Kangaroo Island burnt about 210,000 hectares of land – almost half the island – when they broke out in December 2019. But it's a big place, home to unique natural beauty and a wide variety of things to see and do. This project will ensure that a visit to Kangaroo Island stays on the bucket list of interstate and international visitors by enhancing and upgrading experiences and facilities at must-see locations on the eastern side of the island.

This includes magnificent Seal Bay, the only place in the world where you can walk on a beach with an experienced guide into the heart of a sea-lion colony. Or if you prefer, you can set your own pace on the wheelchair accessible boardwalk which meanders through the dunes to a number of viewing platforms. There are no enclosures or cages here.

Visitors can look forward to:

- enhanced visitor experience and facilities at Seal Bay
- a new visitor precinct at Antechamber Bay
- upgraded visitor facilities at Murray's Lagoon
- a signature camping experience at D'Estrees Bay
- new visitor experiences at Cape Willoughby.





Opening up our reservoirs



Government investment: \$29.55 million over four years

The government's commitment to opening reservoir reserves has already had a number of successes during the first phase of the project with Myponga and South Para Reservoir Reserves opening in 2019 for visitor access and expanded activities at Bundaleer and Warren reservoir reserves.

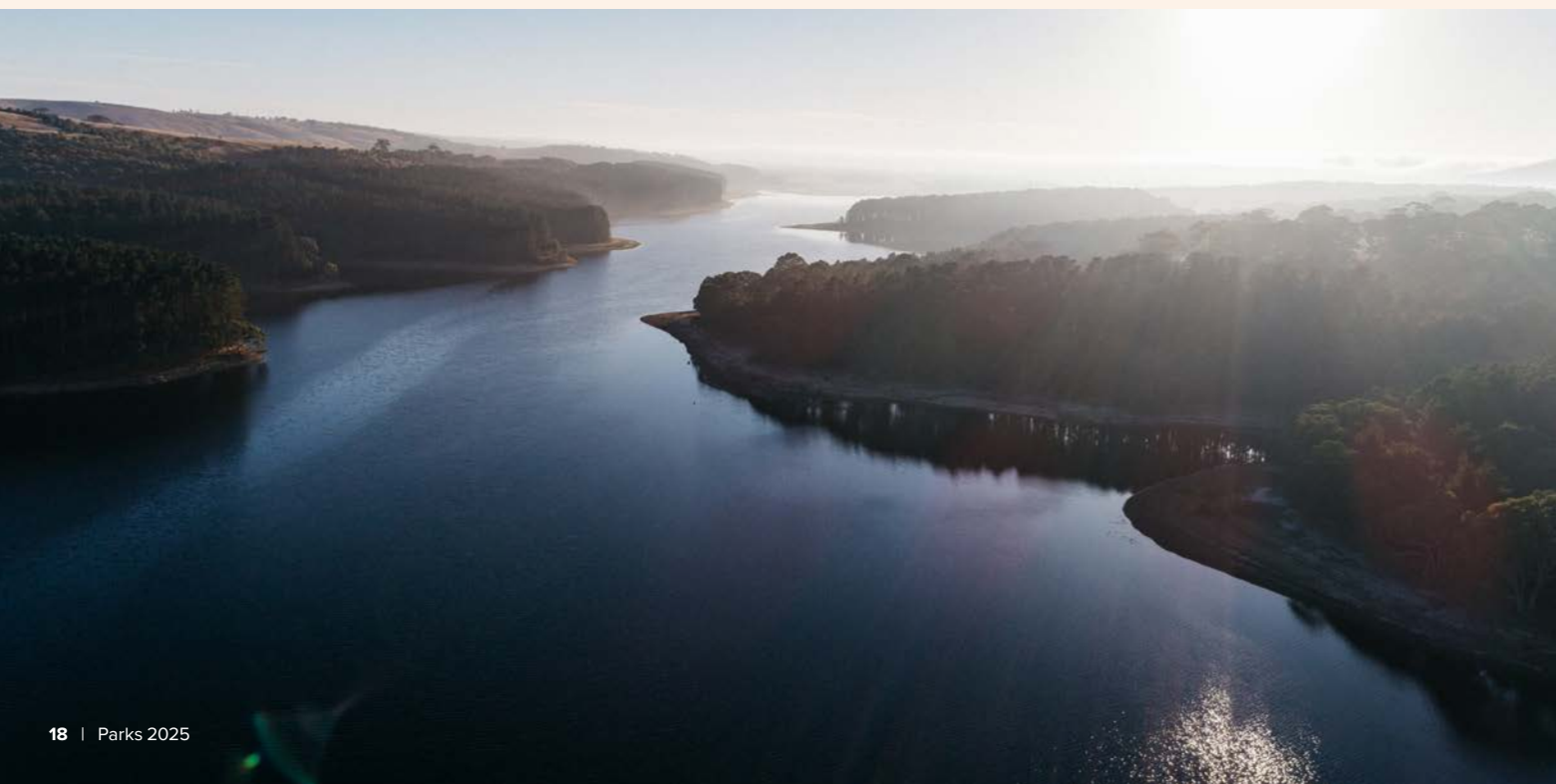
Investment during Phase One of the project has allowed these reservoir reserves to be opened for selected recreational activities tailored to each site including walking, cycling, picnicking, fishing and kayaking whilst ensuring the ongoing safety and security of drinking water supply. This has already seen social benefits for local communities as well as tourism and economic benefits through the boost of thousands of visitors to the reservoirs.

The project will now move into its second phase which will look to deliver recreational access at other reservoirs around the state, and further enhance some of the sites already opened. This will allow South Australian families to enjoy these picturesque landscapes and provide further opportunity which will have significant environmental, social and economic benefits for generations to come.

Phase Two will include:

- Land-based access will be explored at Little Para and Hope Valley Reservoir Reserves by October 2020, seeking opportunities for walking, cycling and picnicking at these sites, while protecting the safety and security of drinking water supplies.
- Land-based access at Barossa Reservoir Reserve by December 2020, linking to the trails network for South Para Reservoir Reserve, Para Wirra Conservation Park and Williamstown.
- Improved land and water access to Warren and South Para Reservoir Reserves by December 2020.
- Kayaking access at Myponga Reservoir Reserve by March 2021.
- Land and water access at Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve by December 2021, linking in with the establishment of the new Glenthorne National Park.

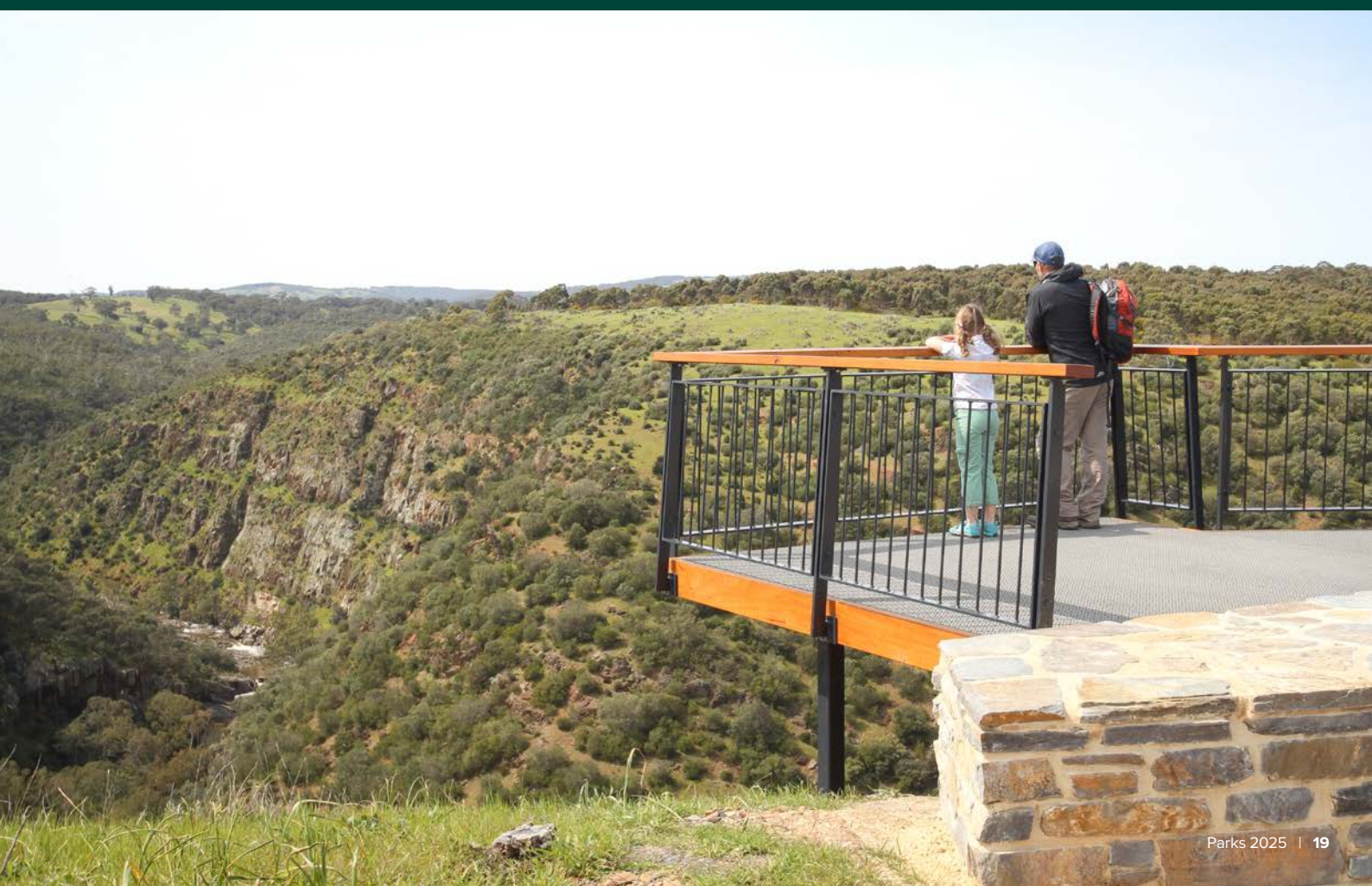
www.reservoirs.sa.gov.au



Statewide park renewal

Government investment: \$3.3 million over four years (then \$2 million annually)

To assist in activating nature-based tourism in South Australia, a program of upgrades and improvements to existing park facilities and infrastructure has commenced. A parks restoration fund of \$3.3 million to be spent over four years will improve the foundational elements of what visitors really want from our parks. The planned work will focus on day visitor sites, signage, campgrounds, toilets, trails, roads and carparks as well as improved accessibility for park visitors.



Already underway



Creating the Great Southern Ocean Walk

Government investment: \$6 million

The Fleurieu Peninsula has some of South Australia's most diverse and dramatic landscapes. The creation of the Great Southern Ocean Walk will attract more visitors, promote accessibility for all, and provide opportunities for private sector investment in nature-based tourism.

It will connect the parks that run along our breathtaking southern coastline and become a beacon for locals and tourists alike, driving sustainable economic growth in the region.

This exciting project will upgrade sections of the iconic Heysen Trail from Cape Jervis to Deep Creek Conservation Park. The visitor experience at Deep Creek will be enhanced and expanded with the construction of a new day visitor facility and a universally accessible walking trail, and existing campgrounds and amenities will also be upgraded.

Delivered in partnership

The Great Southern Ocean Walk will be developed in consultation with Friends of Parks, other partner organisations, park users and the private sector.

We will strive for partnerships that will deliver ecologically sensitive business opportunities, drive nature based tourism activities, and support regional economies.



Creating Glenthorne National Park

Government investment: \$12.5 million

We've seized a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve and revitalise a large area of existing open space in Adelaide's southern suburbs and turn it into a thriving environmental and recreational precinct for the whole community.

The creation of Glenthorne National Park will bring together several important parcels of land – a total area of more than 1,500 hectares – to create and expand wildlife and vegetation corridors, supporting native plants and animals to survive and thrive.

By the community, for the community

We've put community engagement at the heart of creating this park. Local communities and groups have been provided with an unprecedented opportunity to shape and manage this community asset.

An extensive community consultation process involving community open days, stakeholder roundtable events and workshops with Kaurna Traditional Owners has culminated in a master plan for Glenthorne National Park.

We are now working with the Kaurna and broader community to prioritise and implement elements detailed in the plan, which includes a hub with an events space and visitor centre, heritage precincts, nature play and picnic areas, camping, and much more.

There will be many milestones and much to celebrate in this journey to create a new national park in our capital city.





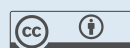
South Australia's national parks



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.



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