

Department for Environment and Heritage

# Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas in South Australia



## A Handbook for Managers and Recreational Users

Department for Environment and Heritage  
South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

2005



Government  
of South Australia





## Foreword

---

Over 20 per cent or more than 20 million hectares, of the State of South Australia is set aside under public ownership for conservation and public use. This parks and reserve system conserves a vast array of landscapes from rugged exposed coastlines, through spectacular mountain ranges, to the sandy deserts of the north. Four-wheel driving is an ideal way to see and appreciate many of these treasures.

DEH (the Department for Environment and Heritage) is responsible for managing parks and reserves to ensure their natural, cultural and spiritual values are preserved for future generations. However, the protection and management of these areas is dependent on wider community support, and in particular, support from people who directly enjoy the experiences provided in these natural settings.

Recognising the benefits of partnerships and a cooperative approach, SAAFWDC (the South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs) willingly accepted an invitation to assist in the development of policy and a minimum impact guide. The result is *Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas in South Australia - A handbook for managers and recreational users*. During the preparation of this handbook, a wide range of interested groups, individuals and government agencies were consulted and their views considered.



DEH and SAAFWDC have established a formal Partnership allowing both parties to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience available within the organisations. This ongoing commitment to cooperation does not exclude other interest groups from contributing to the management of recreational vehicle use; in fact, this is encouraged.

Cooperative and participative approaches to the management of parks and reserves will help to keep our future alive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Minister for Environment and Conservation



# Contents

---

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| Foreword   | 2  | Motor Vehicles and Safety  | 32 |
| Contents   | 4  | Environmental and Cultural   | 34 |
| Introduction   | 5  | Personal Conduct   | 38 |
| Goal of Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas Handbook | 7  | Glossary   | 39 |
| Guiding Principles for Recreational Vehicle Use Management | 9  | <b>Appendix 1</b>  |    |
| Protected Areas in South Australia                         | 9  | National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972   | 41 |
| Legislation  | 11 | Crown Lands Act 1929   | 41 |
| Management Issues  | 11 | Wilderness Protection Act 1992   | 42 |
| Existing Policy Obligations                                | 13 | Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988   | 42 |
| Working Together   | 14 | Coast Protection Act 1972  | 42 |
|  |    | Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989                             | 43 |
|  |    | Soil Conservation and Land Care Act 1989                                       | 43 |
|  |    | Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986 | 44 |
| <b>Section A: A Guide for Managers</b>                     |    | Country Fires Act 1989   | 44 |
| Communication and Consultation                             | 15 | Motor Vehicles Act 1959  | 44 |
| Planning   | 16 | Road Traffic Act 1961  | 44 |
| Recreational Vehicle Access                                | 17 | <b>Appendix 2</b>  |    |
| Camping  | 19 | Volunteer Projects and Process   | 45 |
| Permits/Fees/Commercial Use                                | 20 | <b>Appendix 3</b>  |    |
| Education  | 21 | Department for Environment and Heritage Regional Office Contact List           | 46 |
| Volunteers   | 22 | South Australia Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Contact                  | 46 |
| Motor Vehicles Act/Road Traffic Act and Public Safety      | 22 |  |    |
| Environmental and Cultural                                 | 23 |  |    |
|  |    |  |    |
| <b>Section B: A Guide for Recreational Vehicle Users</b>   |    |  |    |
| Access and Driving   | 24 |  |    |
| Camping  | 27 |  |    |



## Introduction

---

South Australians are blessed with an extensive and enviable system of parks and reserves, which comprise over 20% of the state and representing spectacular coastal, mountain and desert landscapes. These protected areas have been set aside for public benefit and are managed to conserve their natural and cultural values while accommodating and providing for public use and enjoyment.

The economic value of our reserve system is considerable. Each year many thousands of South Australians, interstate visitors and international tourists visit these parks and reserves. Visitors can choose from a wide range of natural and cultural experiences and have preferences for many different kinds of facilities to make their visit enjoyable. Some visitors prefer highly developed, easily accessible destinations with sealed roads, paved walking trails and resort-type accommodation: others prefer remote areas with minimal development and accessible only by undeveloped walking trails or four-wheel drive tracks.

This handbook focuses on the management of protected areas to meet the desires of a rapidly expanding group of recreational vehicle users seeking challenging and rewarding environmental experiences with minimal facilities.

Providing for this type of use is relatively low cost to government when compared with the cost of establishing and maintaining high standard access and infrastructure. However, the cost to the user is high with personal investments in suitable vehicles and associated camping, navigation and communication equipment. Training and the development of skills in remote area touring are necessary for their own safety. Because of a general lack of management presence in remote areas the onus is on users to educate themselves and practice minimal impact recreation.



Many recreational vehicle owners who are actively involved in touring and camping are members of organised clubs under the umbrella of the South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs. As with any group of recreationists, there are a wide variety of skills, expectations and behaviour within the group, therefore equipment is occasionally used inappropriately. It is safe to say, however, that all but a small minority of recreational vehicle users desire to do the right thing and most undesirable impacts are caused by ignorance rather than malice.

### **Recreational Vehicle Clubs:**

- maintain a code of practice for members which fosters responsible use of natural areas
- are identifiable and accessible and cooperate with managers to ensure the conservation of natural areas and their continued access to them
- actively participate in natural area management as volunteers
- offer members and others training in the use of vehicles, camping, navigation and communications equipment and in appropriate behaviour while touring in remote areas
- maintain an effective communications network for club members and other recreational vehicle owners
- sponsor presentations to club members and visitors on issues of concern to them
- maintain their own insurance scheme incorporating third party property insurance for members and visitors on club trips
- act as agents for permits and passes for parks and areas that club members are interested in visiting
- keep trip-logs of all club sponsored trips and visits
- are able to monitor and report on track and environmental conditions, wildlife and visitor behaviour in remote areas where the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) has a low staff presence.

The development of operational policy and ongoing involvement in planning and the management of protected areas in partnership has a



number of advantages for club members and land managers. It is anticipated that this cooperation and joint responsibility, through the partnership, will contribute significantly to environmental protection and improved opportunities and experiences for this and future generations.

The challenge ahead lies for managers and users of protected areas.

## **Goal of Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas Handbook**

---

The sustainable use of protected areas by recreational vehicles through the implementation of legislation, policy and minimal impact practices based on a sound knowledge of the resource, requiring a proactive, consultative and cooperative approach by protected area managers and users.

### **Sustainable Management Practices**

Recreational vehicle use will be managed to meet current needs as fully as possible while ensuring that the quality of the natural and cultural features and experiences available for future generations are undiminished, relative to the present (adopted from Bruntland Commission, 1987).

Where previous recreational uses have impacted on natural and recreational values, the objective is to improve or restore those values rather than set sustainability measures at that level.

In the context of this document a recreational vehicle is any four-wheel drive vehicle designed and used for recreational purposes. Protected Areas are natural areas, e.g. national parks and reserves, set aside under various legislation (see section title Protected Areas in South Australia on following page).



## SAFETY IN PROTECTED AREAS

- Ensure your vehicle is in good mechanical order, including navigational instruments and communication equipment.
- Carry basic spare parts that may fail (fan belts, 2 spare tyres, radiator/heater hoses, fuel tank/radiator repair kits and something to cover a broken window) and refill fuel when you can.
- Carry a mobile phone, preferably with CDMA function.
- Pre-plan your trip, taking note of what route you will take, changing weather conditions and capabilities of your driving skills and vehicle in challenging terrain.
- Ensure you carry adequate food and water (at least 2 litres per person, per day, even in cold weather conditions).
- Take appropriate clothing, as well as sunscreen, sunglasses, hat and medication if required.
- Notify a responsible person of your itinerary and contact details, including Department for Environment and Heritage staff in the local area.
- In an emergency (ie. vehicle breakdown), stay with your vehicle. It is much easier for a search team to find a vehicle than a wandering person.

## THE NATIONAL PARKS CODE

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April.  
Check CFS Hotline 1300 362 361
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife wild – do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.
- Firearms are not permitted.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.





## Guiding Principals for Recreational Vehicle Use Management

---

Guiding principles are clear, concise statements that reflect the partners' views on recreational vehicle use in protected areas and therefore set the scene for the development of operational policy and procedures for specific areas.

- Protected areas are public lands set aside for conservation and a variety of recreational uses, where protection of natural and cultural values is paramount.
- Use of protected areas by recreational vehicles must be sustainable.
- Recreational vehicle touring is acknowledged as a legitimate tourism activity.
- Park-specific policies will be based on a sound knowledge of the resource and an understanding of public needs and expectations.
- A proactive, consultative and cooperative approach by protected area managers and users is appropriate.
- Access policies may be influenced by the public through the management planning process.
- Education is an integral part of management responses.
- Policy and minimal impact guidelines are directed at drivers, not vehicles.
- Facility development is a management tool available to minimise and manage visitor impacts on protected areas.
- The Department for Environment and Heritage has a legal obligation to provide a 'duty of care' but the onus for public safety also falls on users.

## Protected Areas in South Australia

---

Protected areas are lands set aside for conservation and public use under state legislation. The Department for Environment and Heritage is the state government department charged with the responsibility of managing protected areas in South Australia.



The classification which a reserve receives on being dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act is a general statement of the purpose for which that area of land was acquired. However, all areas are managed for conservation and public use as directed by the Act. The extent of recreational use is influenced by locality, accessibility, remoteness, size, topography and conservation values.

Five classifications of Protected Areas are included under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*:

**National Parks** - areas considered to be of national significance by reason of the wildlife or natural features of that land;

**Conservation Parks** - areas that are protected or preserved for the purpose of conserving any wildlife or the natural or historic features of that land;

**Recreation Parks** - areas conserved and managed for public recreation and enjoyment;

**Game Reserves** - areas preserved for the conservation of wildlife and the management of game species;

**Regional Reserves** - areas proclaimed for the purpose of conserving any wildlife or the natural or historic features of that land while, at the same time, permitting the utilisation of the natural resources of that land.

One classification for protected areas is included under the *Crown Lands Act 1929*:

**Conservation Reserves** - areas dedicated for conservation, usually as an interim measure.

One classification for protected areas is included under the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*:

**Wilderness Protection Areas** - areas set aside to protect natural and remote areas.

Nearly 21 million hectares representing over 20% of South Australia is protected under state legislation. For further information on these protected areas visit the Department for Environment and Heritage website at [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)



## Legislation

---

Various state acts and regulations govern the management of protected areas in South Australia. Relevant acts and provisions applicable to recreational vehicle use and management are provided in Appendix 1. Provisions are summarised only and reference should be made to the Act and Regulations for a full legal interpretation.

The Department for Environment and Heritage rangers are trained and appointed as wardens under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Whilst powers under the Act are considerable and include the power to arrest, they are used with discretion. In the investigation of suspected offences, wardens are required to follow a strict legal process of questioning and reporting and in some cases they are required to appear in court to give evidence. With minor offences, an expiation notice (on-the-spot fine) may be issued.

## Management Issues

---

Many access routes on protected areas predate proclamation and were designed to achieve other land management objectives rather than provide for sustainable use of natural areas by the wider recreating public. Others have been established through 'traditional use'. Management problems have resulted from inappropriately sited and engineered tracks.

In managing protected areas for conservation and recreation one of the first steps is to define the environmental and cultural values to be protected and then identify the potential impacts of recreational use on those values. In many cases these uses predate proclamation of the area. If strategies and actions cannot be devised to eliminate or manage those impacts then the goal of sustainable use cannot be achieved.



Tools available to managers in monitoring and evaluating user impacts, such as 'Carrying Capacity' and 'Limits of Acceptable Change', are being challenged as new models are developed and tried. A Tourism Optimisation Management Model, which sets opportunities for sustainable growth, rather than limits on activity has recently been developed for Kangaroo Island and may be suitable for wider application. Regardless of methodology, achievement of sustainable use is dependent on ongoing monitoring of the health of the resource and adaptive management.

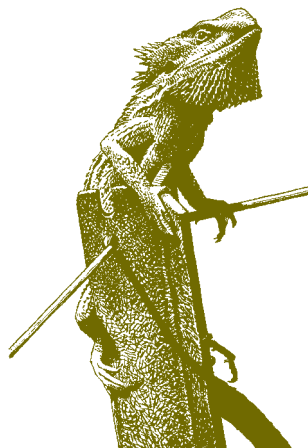
It is obvious that for any management philosophy, strategy and action to succeed, the support of stakeholders is crucial. Partnerships between land management agencies and user groups are an obvious way to achieve sensible policies and public support.

The level of impact is not necessarily proportional to the level of use but rather to the level of non-compliance. In order to develop appropriate policy and model appropriate behaviour it is necessary to identify and acknowledge potential impacts of recreational use on the environment and other users.



## Issues to consider include:

- demand and competition for limited recreation space
- passive versus non-passive activities
- disturbance to wildlife
- physical damage to roads and tracks
- noise and dust pollution
- impact on wilderness values
- threat to Aboriginal and historic sites
- soil erosion and sand mobility
- impact on natural drainage patterns
- pollution of water
- aesthetics
- spread of soil/plant disease
- introduction and spread of weeds
- littering
- fire risk
- removal of vegetation for camp fires
- access and facility maintenance costs
- public safety
- demand on staff resources
- health and hygiene
- need for facilities
- disturbance to livestock (pastoral areas)
- damage to built structures.



## Existing Policy Obligations

---

Recreational use, including access for recreational vehicles, is currently provided for under an array of operational policies and strategies established through the management planning process or consultation at a local level.



Management plans are legally binding documents so it should not be an expectation that this handbook will result in immediate changes to protected area management.

As management plans come up for review, policy will guide the process and decisions on management actions.

At the state level, some legislation specifies access arrangements (see Legislation P11).

## Working Together

---

Consistent with the principles of Tread Lightly! Australia Inc, appropriate use and behaviour in natural areas is dependent on persons participating in recreational activities taking responsibility for their own actions rather than managers applying ongoing restrictions, regulations and enforcement. The key to achieving this is awareness of Department for Environment and Heritage policy and procedures; open communications; consultation; and, partnerships. A commitment from users and managers towards achieving this is desirable.

Section A, (A Guide for Managers) of this handbook provides relevant extracts or interpretations from the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (Regulations) and the Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas Access Policy (internal policy, June 2000).

Section B, (A Guide for Recreational Vehicle Users) provides minimum impact guidelines prepared by the South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs and is a voluntary code of use that if followed will reduce the need for regulation and enforcement.

# Section A: A Guide for Managers



## Communication and Consultation

---

- A key element of a partnership is good communication. The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and the South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (SAAFWDC) have a commitment to this through the Recreational Vehicle Advisory Committee (RVAC).

The Recreational Vehicle Advisory Committee has been established to:

- meet at least on an annual basis, but more frequently if a need arises,
  - monitor the implementation of DEH policy and SAAFWDC minimal impact practices,
  - identify issues associated with recreational vehicle use and develop strategies for their resolution,
  - action initiatives identified in DEH policy and this handbook,
  - provide advice to the Regional Conservator, DEH.
- 
- The Recreational Vehicle Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (SAAFWDC) and Department for Environment and Heritage. Additional membership from other government, recreation or conservation groups may be considered by the Regional Conservator, DEH (see Appendix 3).
- 
- DEH will consult with the SAAFWDC and other recreational vehicle users on issues relating to recreational vehicle use in protected areas.
- 
- At a district/regional level, DEH and local recreational vehicle clubs will establish and maintain a contact list for consultation on issues relating to recreational vehicle use in protected areas.



- Existing consultation mechanisms between communities and DEH, ie National Parks and Wildlife Consultative Committees, are available and should be used whenever possible, particularly when dealing with local issues. These committees have wide community representation and report to the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Issues of state-wide significance should be referred to the RVAC.
- Aboriginal community involvement in protected area management ranges from consultation to joint management. Unique consultative or management arrangements in place for particular areas will be maintained. The Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and local Aboriginal communities will be consulted in the early stages of planning and prior to the development of new access tracks or associated facilities. Consultation will also take place in situations where cultural sites are being, or are likely to be, impacted by recreational vehicle use.
- Consultation will not be exclusive to recreational vehicle groups but include other groups with specific interests in protected area management.

## Planning

---

- The use, or proposed change in use, of recreational vehicles in specific protected areas will be addressed through the management planning process.
- In the preparation of management plans, strategic plans or other policy for protected areas, DEH staff are required to consult with key stakeholders and the public. Where recreational vehicle access is an issue, the SAAFWDC and local recreational vehicle clubs, as key stakeholders, will be consulted prior to the release of draft management plans to the general public and before the adoption of operational policy and strategies. Issues with wide-ranging implications will be referred to the RVAC.





- Conflict between users over the use of an area occurs from time to time. During management planning and consultation, consideration must be given to the needs of the public for passive and non-passive recreation, e.g. walkers and drivers on beaches. Zoning is a management tool that ensures public use and management actions remain compatible with the protection of reserve values.
- Draft management plans (or pre-release drafts) will be forwarded by DEH regions to members of the RVAC.

## Recreational Vehicle Access

---

- Access to protected areas by recreational vehicles is regulated by the National Parks and Wildlife Act, which provides for roads or tracks set aside by the director for that purpose.
- Public access tracks and routes will be defined in management plans for protected areas. This may include provision for seasonal closures to minimise impact on wildlife, structural damage to tracks and spread of diseases such as *Phytophthora*. Changes to access will require an amendment to the plan.
- Ocean beach access in protected areas will be determined through the management planning process. Monitoring of use and impacts will be established and maintained. Where local government has responsibility for beaches adjacent to protected areas a cooperative approach to management will be sought.
- In situations where the safety of the public is threatened, access may be temporarily closed until such time that safe access is available. These circumstances may include beach conditions, blow-outs, erosion, fallen vegetation or other material, fire and extreme weather conditions such as heat and flooding. Reopening will be as soon as feasible so as not to unduly inconvenience users.



- In situations where Aboriginal cultural sites are being damaged or threatened by vehicle access, the local Aboriginal community and Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation is to be consulted. If alternative access arrangements are not practicable or environmentally acceptable, access may be closed and the provisions of the management plan reviewed.
- In situations where sites of European historical significance are being damaged or threatened by vehicle access, the Heritage Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage is to be consulted. If alternative access arrangements are not practicable or environmentally acceptable, access may be closed and the provisions of the management plan reviewed.
- As soon as practicable after closure, as outlined above, users will be informed through the media, local contacts or temporary signage. Provision for such closure is to be incorporated in management plans but in the absence of this, public safety is the overriding factor.
- Coastal and desert area access requires careful planning and management because of sand drift, vegetation damage, and disturbance to Aboriginal sites; routes may need to be designated, and artificial surfaces applied; advice is to be obtained from the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage.
- The development of new access for fire prevention, park management or public use will be dependant on provision for this in bushfire prevention plans (fire prevention measures) and park management plans.
- The development of new access tracks, or realignment of existing tracks in protected areas is subject to the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993*.



- Opportunities for the use of access not available to the general public may be available to recreational vehicle clubs affiliated with the SAAFWDC or Tread Lightly! Australia. Negotiated arrangements between DEH regions and clubs may include track maintenance, 'Adopt a Trail' or other projects of benefit to DEH management.
- Access to registered bee sites by apiarists will be made available in accordance with State Government policy. In some cases tracks are maintained by apiarists and are not available for public use. Existing arrangements will not be changed unless through the management planning process or unless other circumstances apply.
- A state-wide inventory of recreational vehicle access routes in protected areas will be established and maintained as an audit and benchmark.
- Opportunities to improve recreational vehicle touring experiences in protected areas will be identified and reconciled with the availability of resources required to achieve this.

## Camping

---

- Provisions for camping, if appropriate, will be made in management plans or under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.
- Camp sites may be designated to ensure compliance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act.
- Camp sites to accommodate recreational vehicle touring will be located and designed to provide a level of site development to suit the location and needs of users.



- Fire restrictions in protected areas will be gazetted on an annual basis in conjunction with the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the information made available to the public through notices in the media. Copies will be provided to the SAAFWDC for distribution to members.
- Park-specific fire restrictions may be displayed at protected area access points.
- The carrying and use of chainsaws for recreational purposes in protected areas is prohibited under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.
- Generators or alternators cannot be used in a protected area unless an area has been set aside for that purpose or unless the director's approval has been granted. This may be the case in more remote areas with low density camping. Hours of operation may apply.

## Permits / Fees / Commercial Use

---

- The minister may, under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, set and apply fees for entry or use of a protected area. Information on fees and passes will be available from DEH.
- Tour operators are required to have a commercial licence to use a protected area for commercial purposes. Licence conditions, policy and the National Parks and Wildlife Act must be complied with.



## Education

---

- DEH regions/districts will ensure that information relating to recreational use in protected areas by recreational vehicles is available, accessible and up-to-date.
- Priority will be given to the development or support of education and training programs that will improve attitudes, skills and behaviour as promoted by this handbook and Tread Lightly! Australia.
- DEH is a member of, and actively supports Tread Lightly! Australia.
- Safe driving guidelines for protected areas subject to significant recreational vehicle use will be developed for inclusion on signage and in publications.
- A uniform system and standard of access track designation and signage will be developed and implemented for all protected areas. Recreational user groups will be kept informed.
- Signage and its installation will be of a high standard, user friendly and satisfy public safety and legal requirements. DEH standards and specifications will be complied with.
- Training and promotional exercises that have potential to damage tracks or the environment or are in conflict with the appropriate use of protected areas will not be permitted. A set of guidelines will be developed to assist staff in making these decisions.



## Volunteers

---

- The extensive Friends of Parks Inc. network of volunteers will be promoted and utilised in park management and maintenance programs.
- Volunteer work by recreational vehicle clubs and associations will be encouraged and supported. Examples of suitable projects and the process are provided at Appendix 2. Opportunities for recreational vehicle user groups to be involved in access maintenance will be available through the National Parks and Wildlife 'Adopt a Trail' program.
- Safe work practices will be established for recreational vehicle club members involved in volunteer projects.
- Opportunities for the use of access not available to the general public may be available to recreational vehicle clubs affiliated with the SAAFWDC or Tread Lightly! Australia. Negotiated arrangements between DEH regions and clubs may include track maintenance, 'Adopt a Trail' or other projects of benefit to DEH management.



## Motor Vehicles Act / Road Traffic Act / and Public Safety

---

- All vehicles must comply with the requirements of the *Motor Vehicles Act 1959*.
- Drivers must be licensed and are required to comply with the provisions of the *Road Traffic Act 1961* and National Parks and Wildlife Act.



- DEH has a duty of care to park visitors and must take reasonable steps to ensure public safety. This may impact on access. Recreational vehicle access tracks will be assessed as part of the public risk audit process.
- Protected areas may be closed by the director, in the interests of public safety, under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This is only likely to occur during extreme weather conditions or bushfires.
- The park manager must approve organised group activities involving access to protected areas.

## Environmental and Cultural

---

- DEH has an obligation to protect environmental and cultural values under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and park management plans.
- DEH will provide information on natural and cultural values through signage and printed and electronic media for key tourism areas.
- Monitoring programs will be established for key protected areas to enable periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of management in protecting environmental values.
- Aboriginal communities will be encouraged to be actively involved in protected area management through the development of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.





## Section B: A Guide for Recreational Vehicle Users

### Access and Driving

---

Modern recreational vehicles, as opposed to two-wheel drive or 'domestic' constant four-wheel drive, are capable of negotiating difficult, slippery and muddy terrain. Those who drive four-wheel drive vehicles for recreational touring should not attempt to 'push on' or 'try to make it through regardless' in difficult areas. Due consideration must be given to the damage that could be caused to track surfaces, and resultant damage to the environment of the area in which a vehicle is travelling. All track users should be conscious of the limitations of their vehicles and the condition of the terrain over which they will drive, as well as the likely impact of the vehicle upon the track surface.

### Choice of Tracks and Driving

- Use only designated vehicle tracks when driving.
- Do not leave the road or formed track without permission.
- Do not drive on walking or riding trails.
- Observe all advisory and regulatory signage with regard to track/road closures, as well as restrictions. Where necessary, obtain permission/permits for access, track use and camping on public, indigenous and private lands.
- Do not travel on wet, unsealed roads or tracks where such action is likely to cause damage to the road/track surface.
- Leave all gates as found.
- If conditions are such that there is cause to consider road/track damage, question the need to proceed immediately or to wait until conditions improve.
- Always seek advice from local residents with knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to you.
- Drive only to the limits of the track surface and conditions and the ability of your own skills and the vehicle limits.
- Where possible, remove any obstacle from the track, do not create a new track by driving around an obstacle.





- Do not widen tracks by cutting corners on bends, turns or junctions.
- Parking vehicles under trees should be avoided to prevent soil compaction, which restricts natural irrigation of the root system.
- Avoid wheel-spin. This damages the track surface through rutting, which in turn causes erosion in times of heavy rainfall.
- When in a recreational vehicle in potentially hazardous terrain, select and remain in four-wheel drive.
- Take the time to repair any track damage, whether you have caused it or not, in the interests of user safety and track conservation.
- Be aware of surface conditions, which may require reduction in tyre pressures to improve traction and minimise surface damage.
- On unsealed surfaces, be courteous and safety conscious. Slow down when passing other vehicles (in either direction) so as to minimise possible damage from stones and other debris thrown up from the wheels.
- On dusty surfaces travel slowly near homesteads, outbuildings, campers and other road/track users, thereby reducing danger and discomfort caused by dust.

## Driving in Sand

Driving in sand requires flotation gained through momentum and gear selection. You should be aware that most beaches are designated roadways and normal road rules apply. Remember that beaches are important breeding and feeding areas for many coastal birds. To safely negotiate sand tracks, (beach, bush, desert or river), it is recommended:

- Reduce tyre pressures to between 15 and 20 psi (105 and 140 kPa), depending on conditions and weight of the vehicle, minimising the impact on the environment and assisting in both flotation and traction.
- Reduce speed when tyre pressures are lowered. It is relatively simple to roll a tyre off the rim when turning with low pressure in tyres.

**Do not forget get to reinflate tyres when leaving sandy areas.**



- Leave in 4WD as much as possible and use only the necessary power to maintain momentum, this will assist in reducing corrugations and avoid track 'scalloping'.
- Use only designated entry and exit routes on beaches. Do not drive over or along the base of vegetated sand dunes as this could destabilise them.
- When driving on beaches, drive on the 'hard pack' below the high-water mark. Do not drive too close to the water as soft spots or holes are concealed by the wet sand. Local knowledge should be sought as conditions vary from area to area and at different times of the year.
- Respect other beach users and do not travel at unsafe speeds.
- When driving on beaches, be aware of tide movement and times, and plan your trip around this.
- In any sandy area, do not drive over the crest of dunes without knowing where the track is.
- Do not descend any dune by driving diagonally across it, always drive down in as straight a line as possible.
- If you can't traverse a steep dune don't create detours, turn back or try again when conditions are more favourable e.g. evening or morning when sand is moist.





## Camping

---

### Camp site Selection

The pleasure of visiting areas of natural beauty is that they are pristine and unspoiled. This is achieved by those who have been before you leaving nothing but footprints when they have departed.

To protect these areas of natural beauty, recreational vehicle users have a responsibility to ensure that those that follow may also enjoy the same experience.



- Dispersed camping is recommended so the ground surface is not compacted and grass growth or regrowth is not inhibited.
- Use huts (where provided) or established camp sites. Where either of these options exist, do not create new camp sites.
- Camp sites in protected areas are usually designated by a sign, or indicated on a map of the area. Camping is not permitted elsewhere.
- Ensure that the area is not so sensitive that your presence will leave a permanent impact.
- Do not dig trenches or gutters around tents/swags.
- Do not locate your camp where trees may drop limbs.
- Do not create another fireplace where one already exists.
- Do not camp within a 500 metres radius of, interfere with, or use soaps in bores, tanks, dams, troughs or windmills (in accordance with the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*).
- Do not camp in a creek bed or watercourse. Such practice is extremely dangerous as flash flooding can, and does, occur.



- Do not camp near any natural waterhole, creek or river in such a way that you may prevent native fauna and station stock from gaining access to water.
- Do not camp within 1000 metres of any building, unless specific permission has been granted, (Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act).
- Do not extend existing sites into surrounding vegetation.

## Camp Washing

When camping, special thought needs to be given to maintaining personal hygiene by washing, and cleanliness of cooking and eating utensils. This requires careful thought as to where to locate wash points and the type of cleaning agent to be used.

- Washing should not occur directly in any watercourse or any form of tank or stock watering facility. Wash points should not be located within 50 metres of any creek, stream, river or waterhole to prevent contamination of such waters. Care must also be taken to ensure that a wash point is not located over a watercourse that feeds into the water supply.
- When choosing a cleaning agent to be used for both personal and general hygiene, there is really only one choice - pure soap made from natural animal or vegetable oils with no additives. Pure soap biodegrades quickly leaving no toxic residue. Other products which are advertised as 'biodegradable' are usually supplemented with toxic additives and should be avoided.
- Plan meals to avoid greasy foods where possible as the grease or fat residue can be harmful to native fauna.
- Pre-cleaning of cooking utensils can be achieved with the use of scourers or sand, thereby reducing the amount of cleaning agent/soap used.
- When disposing of waste-water, spread it across the ground to enable natural filtration. Do not use waste-water to feed the root systems of native flora as the residue contained within the water could be harmful.



## Rubbish Disposal

Rubbish around camp sites is unhealthy, unsightly and inexcusable. If someone has the space available to carry in unused goods, then there is space to remove the spent remains.

Adopt the practice of leave no trace camping, and take out what you bring in and dispose of it in designated rubbish bins or dumps.

- Rubbish to be removed from a camp site can be reduced by burning combustible rubbish, but remember to check the ashes prior to departure and remove those items which may not have burnt away completely.
- Carry a sealable rubbish bag in which to place non-combustible items such as tins, bottles, plastics etc. (Do not burn plastics in fires as this leaves a highly toxic residue).
- Nappies and sanitary napkins should not be disposed of in a campfire. These items give off a foul odour and rarely burn away completely. They should be placed in a lined, sealed container and disposed of in the appropriate manner as soon as the opportunity occurs.
- Remove unnecessary packaging prior to commencing trips.
- Avoid carrying high rubbish potential items such as bottles, cans and plastics.
- Carry suitable containers in which to store rubbish and reuse where possible.
- Burn tins and food scraps in fire, then remove all remains including bones. This eliminates odour and accelerates decomposition.
- Check ashes thoroughly to ensure that nothing remains to attract native animals.

## Campfires

Campfires are a traditional part of the camping experience. They are a focal point, provide warmth and encourage conversation. Campfires, while pleasant, are not essential to the camper, and at times can become a distraction to the sights and sounds of the night. Responsible campers will



bring with them alternative sources of energy for cooking, such as solid fuel, liquid fuel or gas cookers.

Remember, a Total Fire Ban is applicable to all types of fuel including gas, but excepting electricity, so be prepared. It is your responsibility to know when bans are applicable.

When selecting a site for your campfire, it is recommended that you:

- Check that campfires are allowed. Some parks have total bans on campfires all year round.
- Use an existing fireplace where possible.
- Clear the area surrounding and above any open fire of vegetation for a radius of 4 m. Please note that it is an offence to clear an area of vegetation in a protected area. You need to use a designated fireplace or naturally cleared area.
- Store firewood a minimum of 3 m from a fire.
- Do not use stones in the construction of a fireplace. Many creatures reside under stones and should not be disturbed. Stones are also prone to exploding from the heat of the fire, sending dangerous shrapnel in all directions.
- If a fire pit needs to be dug it should be a trench at least 30 cm deep. Try to remove the topsoil as a sod and place to one side. When the fire has been extinguished and will not be used again, replace the sod over the cold ashes.
- Use only deadfall timber for fuel, do not use chainsaws to cut away at trees as these trees are usually habitats for small animals or birds. Do not use hollow logs for fuel either as they are also habitat for small creatures.

Fire management and safety is paramount as wildfire's are easily started by a simple careless act.



- Never leave a fire burning unattended.
- Remember a campfire is not a bonfire and should not exceed 1 m in diameter and 0.5 m in height.
- A separate cooking fire may be permitted if fuel is in abundance.
- Set a time at which combustible rubbish, food etc, may be reduced in the fire.
- When decamping, ensure that the fire is completely extinguished as residual hot ashes/embers not only present a fire hazard, but also are likely to cause injury to animals or other campers.
- Dispose of cold ashes around plants, as these will liberate nutrients in the soil.
- Prior to departure, try to leave the area as if no-one had been there, or at worst, in the same or better condition as found.

Wood as a fuel is being consumed at an alarming rate, leaving many areas bare. Alternative fuels recommended are:

- Heat beads, shellite, methylated spirits, unleaded petrol used in appropriate cookers,
- In warm weather conditions, a candle or lamp may provide a focal point.
- When a fire ban is in force and the weather is cool, a sheepskin chair cover will assist in minimising loss of body heat.

## Toilets

Bush toilets come in various forms, but all have in common the need for correct use in the environment in which they are used. Chemical toilets should be used in those areas where the ground surface prevents digging adequate toilet holes or the soil is of a type that is not suited to such a purpose. They should also be used in sensitive environments.

- Use constructed toilets where provided.
- Individual toilet holes should be as deep as practicable to prevent excavation by fauna.



- Self-made toilets should be not less than 100 m distant from camp sites and watercourses/waterholes.
- Toilet paper should be of the unbleached, dye-free type which is free of chemicals.
- Latrines should only ever be used for large groups of people in a bush camp over an extended period, i.e.: when the number of people multiplied by the number of days in that location has a total greater than 20.
- If a latrine is to be constructed, it should be to a depth that requires not less than 30cm of fill along its entire length to bring it level with the ground surface.
- To neutralise odour and pH of latrines, cold ash from the campfire should be applied at regular intervals.
- Do not attempt to burn toilet paper in toilet holes. Large and damaging wildfires have been started by this practice.
- As fauna frequently dig out toilet holes, used toilet paper should be removed in an appropriate bag or container, it may be burnt in the campfire but be aware of the odour that it will emit.
- Faecal waste contains the seeds of foods eaten and may contribute to the spread of unwelcome feral plants. Exclude blackberries, tomatoes and other seed bearing fruits and vegetables from menus where possible.
- Waste from chemical toilets should be disposed of at authorised sewage points, or may (on advice from the Health Commission) be disposed of in properly dug toilet pits.

## Motor Vehicles and Safety

---

No matter what means of motorised transport that might be used when travelling through protected areas and remote parts of South Australia, they all have in common the need to be well-maintained, serviceable, registered and roadworthy.

Vehicles in poor mechanical condition are dangerous to their owners, other road/track users and the environment.





- Leaking oil or fuel may foul/contaminate watercourses and land, particularly during prolonged stops.
- Excessive exhaust emissions foul the air.
- Mechanical failure has potential for serious consequences.

To ensure the comfort of your trip for yourself and others, take steps to:

- Have your vehicle mechanically checked, serviced and tuned,
- Have an understanding of basic mechanical maintenance for your vehicle,
- Carry adequate fuel, water, oils, basic spares and tools.
- If recovery of a vehicle is necessary, consider safety, and the potential to damage either the environment or track surface. Repair any damage caused by a recovery operation.
- Deflate tyre pressures where appropriate to minimise surface damage and increase traction, at all times driving to track conditions and not speeding.

## Pre-trip Planning

- Obtain access details, including restrictions, from the relevant authority.
- Obtain information about the environment of the area that you plan to visit.
- If planning a trip through remote or difficult areas, inform a responsible person of your itinerary and/or make use of the DEH *Let Us Know Before You Go* form and lodge this with your responsible person .  
**DEH and the SA Police do not provide a safety logging service for individual travellers.**
- Obtain permission from lessees before entering a pastoral lease.
- If you are going into an area requiring the use of HF radio for communication, ensure you have access to such a radio and set a communications schedule prior to departure.



- If travelling in a group of vehicles, it is recommended that such a group not exceed ten vehicles and that these vehicles be formed into a 'convoy' with pre-planned organisation and spacing so as not to inconvenience other road users. This allows for controlled and safe passage of the group.
- When travelling in remote areas, it is recommended that this not be done without another vehicle in company for safety reasons. Also adequate supplies of food, water and fuel, allowing for unexpected delays of up to three days, should be carried. More water should be carried in summer.
- All vehicles, be they four-wheel drive or family sedans, should be equipped with basic spares. These include radiator hoses/v-belts), a first aid kit, fire extinguisher and basic recovery equipment suited to the vehicle and required purpose.
- Special care needs to be exercised when travelling in the outback in summer. Seek expert advice.

## Environmental and Cultural

---

### Flora and Fauna

All native flora and fauna are protected by law. Many of these are rare species that can only be found in remote and environmentally fragile areas. Disturbance or removal of flora, in particular, can result in severe disruption of the ecology in the immediate area.





- Do not pick wildflowers or unduly disturb wildlife.
- Do not feed wildlife with scraps of food. Food consumed by humans is not necessarily compatible with the biological structure of native animals and could be life-threatening to them. Also, as there is almost always some living bacteria in the food we consume, there is also the possibility of passing disease on to native animals through food scraps.
- Domestic pets are banned from most protected areas. Always check the restrictions on domestic pets with DEH. If in doubt, do not take them.
- Remember, wildlife has the right of way across tracks and roads; be alert.

Avoid the spread of disease and introduction of species of flora that are foreign to the area by ensuring that vehicles, shoes, clothing and camping equipment are clean and free from seeds before entering and leaving camp sites and protected areas.

## Weeds and Diseases

Seeds of weeds are easily transported in the mud that builds up under vehicles. Weeds like Three-Corner Jack and Caltrop can be carried as burrs on tyres and camping equipment. To reduce the spread of weeds the following is recommended:

- Use a car wash, or other wash-down point where water is safely collected, to clean vehicles - never a camp site.
- Check tyres for plant burrs, removing any found at least 10 metres away from the vehicle track. Do not carry these out of the area you are in.
- Do not pick and transport the flowers or seed heads of weeds.
- If weed species are present at camp sites, attempt to remove seeds from camping equipment and clothing before moving on.

*Phytophthora* is a water mould carried in soil and water that causes disease and often death to many of our native and garden plants by attaching to the roots and stems. It has been found in the Mount Lofty



Ranges around Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula, on Kangaroo Island and in the Lower South East of South Australia. The presence of *Phytophthora* is also suspected on the Eyre Peninsula.

There is no cure for *Phytophthora* but you can help to minimise its spread by following a few simple rules:

- Avoid driving or walking in areas when soils are wet and sticky.
- Avoid sites prone to flooding.
- Stay on formed roads and tracks. People or vehicles moving off roads into infested areas may pick up the infested soil and transfer it to uninfested areas.
- Obey road signs.
- Roads and tracks may be closed, sometimes permanently, to help stop the spread of the fungus.
- Brush soil from vehicles, boots and camping gear before and after each trip to an area where *Phytophthora* is known to occur. Do not take this equipment home to clean.
- Use wash down stations or hygiene stations when provided.
- Report any unusual plant death. Please report the death of groups of dead plants to your local Department for Environment and Heritage office.

## Heritage Sites and Buildings

Heritage sites can be of geological, archaeological, cultural or historical significance, attracting international interest. These sites are to be preserved without interference from visitors, particularly with regard to artefacts and geological items such as stones or fossils.

Historical buildings are a record of our early explorers and pastoralists as well as progression through European settlement. Many buildings and the surrounding areas hold items of significance e.g. utensils, pottery, crockery, bottles, machinery and equipment as well as clothing. These items provide



the ability to obtain a detailed knowledge of the life and times of those early occupants not available from any other source.

Aboriginal cultural sites are often difficult to recognise but damage can be avoided by keeping to designated access tracks and complying with any signage. Do not take or disturb exposed material.

Preservation of these sites and buildings is essential to the recorded history of Australia and its settlement. Please do not remove or disturb any of this material.





## Personal Conduct

---

All road-using tourists and visitors should be aware that in all protected areas the Road Traffic Act applies, and that their driving behaviour will impact upon future decisions on vehicle access to roads and tracks through these areas.

- The simple courtesy of expressing your appreciation to land owners/managers for their permission to visit their property should never be overlooked.
- Be considerate of others and take particular care around or with children. Remember, when touring or visiting protected areas and other areas, there is a duty of care, not only to the environment and its ecology, but to the rights and safety of others.
- Observe all regulatory and advisory signs, they are there for your protection as well as the protection of fragile areas.
- Do not create unnecessary and undue noise. Respect the rights of others and their comfort.
- When travelling through fenced properties with gates, be sure to leave all gates as they are found. Gates on pastoral properties are used to control stock movement.
- Always keep in mind the sensitivity and fragility of the area through which you are travelling.
- The South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs is a member of Tread Lightly! Australia. The association and its members will promote Tread Lightly! and its aim of responsible use to other recreational users.
- The SAAFWDC and recreational vehicle clubs will actively promote the benefits and advantages of club membership.
- Recreational vehicle users should practice and promote minimum impact guidelines.
- The SAAFWDC has a commitment to education through the RVAC.
- Recreational vehicle users are encouraged to report to DEH or the SAAFWDC any incidents of inappropriate behaviour by other users.

# Glossary



**Adopt a Trail:** DEH scheme allowing an organisation or club to take responsibility for the maintenance of an access track or walking trail.

**Bushfire Prevention Plan:** a plan prepared in consultation with Country Fire Service District Bushfire Prevention Committees outlining fire prevention works and fire suppression strategies.

**Code of Practice:** a self-imposed set of 'rules' agreed between parties/members.

**DEH:** Department for Environment and Heritage.

**Designation (camp sites & access):** the National Parks and Wildlife Act refers to 'areas set aside for that purpose' and these areas are normally indicated (designated) by the use of signage or in-park information.

**Friends of Parks:** volunteer groups registered under Friends of Parks Inc, who undertake work projects in protected areas. Contact through DEH regional offices or head office.

**Indigenous Land Use Agreement:** a negotiated agreement outside the courts between native title claimants and other people who have an interest in land covered by a claim.

**Management Plan:** a plan prepared under the requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, outlining management objectives and actions for a specific park/s.

**Minimum Impact Practices:** self-imposed guidelines on how users can take responsibility for actions and behaviour to minimise impact on the environment and cultural sites to lessen the need for regulation and enforcement.

**National Parks and Wildlife Consultative Committee:** regional committees established by the minister to represent the community interest in the management of protected areas and the conservation of biodiversity. Contact through DEH regional offices.



**Operational Policy:** policy that relates to management and is implemented by managers of protected areas, as opposed to higher level administrative or political policy.

***Phytophthora:*** a soil-borne fungus that causes disease and death to many native plants by attacking the roots and stems.

**Protected Area:** land that is set aside for conservation and public use under state legislation and mostly under the management responsibility of DEH.

**Public Risk Audit:** process to identify and document public risks and how to best manage them to meet a duty-of-care.

**Recreational Users:** people who use four-wheel drive vehicles to access and recreate in protected areas.

**Recreational Vehicle:** any four-wheel drive vehicle designed and used for recreational purposes.

**RVAC:** Recreational Vehicle Advisory Committee. Can be contacted through DEH or SAAFWDC.

**SAAFWDC:** South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs.

**Stakeholders:** individuals or organisations who have a direct interest/involvement in a protected area and may be affected by management decisions.

**Strategy:** a plan or set of actions that outlines how a particular goal will be achieved.

**Sustainable Use:** see definition in Goal of Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas (page 9).

**Values:** things that are identified as being important and can include wildlife, recreation, spiritual, social, cultural. These values can then be monitored to see how they are being affected by management actions.

**Zoning:** areas designated (usually on a map in a management plan) for specific uses and/or management e.g. development zone, conservation zone, and passive use zone.



# Appendix 1



## National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

*An Act to provide for the establishment and management of reserves for public benefit and enjoyment; to provide for the conservation of wildlife in a natural environment; and for other purposes.*

- Legal requirement for management plans; public process; zones; implementation of plans (Sec 38, 39, 40).
- Entry fee required for some reserves (Reg 6).
- Director may close park during fire risk and for public safety (Reg 7).
- Vehicles restricted to roads and tracks set aside for that purpose; speed limits; driving without due care, reckless driving; vehicles to be registered and insured (Reg 10).
- Camping only permitted at areas set aside for that purpose (Reg 13).
- Fires not permitted if ban or restriction in place, fires only permitted in fireplaces provided for that purpose (Reg 14).
- Carrying or use of chainsaws not permitted in reserves (Reg 15).
- Use of generators and alternators only permitted in areas set aside for that purpose (Reg 16).
- Disturbance to soil, wood and vegetation not permitted (Reg 29).
- Offence to have control of, carry, or use a firearm in a reserve (Reg 18).
- Littering and disposal of garbage and other substances in a reserve (Reg 31).
- Offence to pollute water in a reserve (Reg 32).

## Crown Lands Act 1929

*An Act to consolidate certain Acts relating to Crown Land.*

- The minister may dedicate any Crown lands for any purpose he thinks fit (e.g. conservation) and declare them under the care, control and management of any minister (Section 5).
- Penalties for misuse of Crown lands are provided (Part XVII).



## Wilderness Protection Act 1992

*An Act to provide for the protection of wilderness and the restoration of land to its condition before European colonisation; to make consequential amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972; and for other purposes.*

- Minister to adopt a Code of Management (Sec 12).
- Vehicles only permitted on access routes prescribed in a plan of management (C of M 3.2).
- A strategy specifying an acceptable level and type of use will be included in the management plan; recreation will be in accordance with the Wilderness Regulations and the Minimum Impact Code (C of M 3.4).

## Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

*An Act to provide for the protection and preservation of the Aboriginal heritage; to repeal the Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act 1965, and the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1979; to amend the Mining Act 1971, the Planning Act 1982, and the South Australian Heritage Act 1978; and for other purposes.*

- A person must not damage, disturb or interfere with any Aboriginal site or damage any Aboriginal object or disturb, interfere with or remove any Aboriginal object or remains (Sec 23).
- Minister may give directions prohibiting or restricting access or activities (Reg 24).
- An inspector may give directions prohibiting or restricting access or activities (Reg 25).

## Coast Protection Act 1972

*An Act to make provision for the conservation and protection of the beaches and coast of this state; and for other purposes.*



- The minister may declare any part of a coast protection district to be a restricted area with prohibitions and restrictions as seen fit (Sec 34).

## **Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989**

*An Act to make provision for the management and conservation of pastoral land; to repeal the Pastoral Act 1936; and for other purposes.*

- The Board (Pastoral) may dedicate delineated routes over pastoral land as public access routes or vary or revoke them; a map showing public roads must be published; (Sec 45).
- Access may be temporarily closed for public safety (Sec 45).
- A person may travel or camp temporarily (prescribed period or not exceeding two weeks) on a public access route: camping is not permitted within a one kilometre radius of any building or within a radius of 500 metres of a dam or stock watering point (Sec 48).
- Unlawful to damage, interfere with pastoral land, damage vegetation, pollute water, litter or hunt or shoot on pastoral land (Sec 57).
- A person may take water for personal use (Sec 59).
- Gates must be left as found (Reg 5B).
- Consent from the minister or lessee is required before travelling across pastoral land (other than on a public access route) by means of a motor vehicle.

NB this Act does not apply to protected areas but is included because of its relevance to remote area travellers.

## **Soil Conservation and Land Care Act 1989**

*An Act to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of the land of this State.*

- It is the duty of an owner of land to take all reasonable steps to prevent degradation of the land.
- Restrictions may be placed on the use of land if land is degraded or is likely to suffer degradation.



## **Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986**

*An Act to provide for the control of animals and plants for the protection of agriculture and the environment and for the safety of the public.*

- A person must not transport any proclaimed plant (such as Caltrop, Noogoora Burr, and Khaki Weed), or a vehicle or goods carrying such plants, on roads.

## **Country Fires Act 1989**

*An Act to provide for the prevention, control and suppression of fires; to provide for the protection of life and property in fire and other emergencies; to repeal the Country Fires Act, 1976; and for other purposes.*

- Regulations and penalties relating to fires during the fire season.

## **Motor Vehicles Act 1959**

An Act to make provision for the registration of motor vehicles, drivers licences and third party motor insurance; and for other purposes.

- Various provisions relating to registration of motor vehicles, drivers licences and third party insurance.

## **Road Traffic Act 1961**

*An Act to consolidate and amend certain enactments relating to road traffic; and for other purposes.*

- Various provisions relating to duties of drivers and vehicle equipment, size, mass and safety provisions.

## Appendix 2



### Volunteer Projects and Process

Projects may include the following:

- Assisting with planning recreational vehicle access, camping areas and visitor information.
- Monitoring and recording visitor use, track conditions, camping area usage.
- Visitor surveys.
- Monitoring and recording wildlife and vegetation.
- Help maintain communications networks and provide information to managers.
- Encouraging all users to comply with regulations and adopt minimum impact practices.
- Distributing information.
- Track, camping area and facility maintenance.
- Track rehabilitation.
- Construction of walking trails and lookouts.
- Cultural site protection and restoration.
- Acting as an information source for non-club members and international visitors.

Interest in registering for a volunteer project should first be directed to the ranger responsible for the area in question or the DEH regional office. If the project is supported, a Volunteer Project Commencement Advice Form will be forwarded to the DEH Community Liaison Unit for processing. The process includes consultation with staff and Unions to ensure their support. Registration ensures that volunteers are adequately trained to undertake the proposed work safely and that they are covered by appropriate insurance.

Volunteers may wish to have ongoing involvement by joining a Friends of Parks Inc. group. Contact the local ranger or regional office for details on local groups.



## Appendix 3

### Department for Environment and Heritage Regional Offices Contact List

#### **OUTBACK**

Regional Conservator  
PO Box 78  
Port Augusta SA 5700  
Phone: (08) 8648 5300  
Fax: (08) 8648 5301

#### **WEST**

Regional Conservator  
PO Box 22  
Port Lincoln SA 5606  
Phone: (08) 8688 3111  
Fax: (08) 8688 3110

#### **NORTHERN AND YORKE**

Regional Conservator  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
115 Maryvale Rd  
Athelstone SA 5076  
Phone: (08) 8336 0926  
Fax: (08) 8336 0994

#### **MURRAYLANDS**

Regional Conservator  
PO Box 231  
Berri SA 5343  
Phone: (08) 8595 2111  
Fax: (08) 8595 2110

#### **ADELAIDE**

Regional Conservator  
Black Hill Conservation Park  
115 Maryvale Rd  
Athelstone SA 5076  
Phone: (08) 8336 0924  
Fax: (08) 8336 0994

#### **KANGAROO ISLAND**

Regional Conservator  
PO Box 39  
Kingscote SA 5223  
Phone: (08) 8553 2381  
Fax: (08) 8553 0311

#### **SOUTH EAST**

Regional Conservator  
PO Box 1046  
Mount Gambier SA 5290  
Phone: (08) 8735 1111  
Fax: (08) 8735 1110

### **South Australia Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs**

Contact:  
The Secretary  
PO Box 178  
Enfield Plaza 5058  
Phone: (08) 8359 0627  
Fax: (08) 8359 0632  
[saafwdc@saafwdc.asn.au](mailto:saafwdc@saafwdc.asn.au)



## TREAD LIGHTLY ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND



Tread Lightly! is more than just a concept. It's a non-profit organisation that actively promotes a responsible land use-ethic.

The Tread Lightly! philosophy is to promote the concept of individuals, organisations and corporations taking responsibility for their own actions and demonstrating responsibility within whatever outdoor activity they choose.



The Mission of Tread Lightly! is:

"To encourage all involved in outdoor recreation to be responsible and apply low impact principles to all outdoor recreational activities"

For information on the organisation and membership contact:

Jan Scudamore  
Director, Public Relations  
Tread Lightly! Australia Ltd  
PO Box 220 Crows Nest, Queensland 4335  
E-mail: [info@treadlightlyaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@treadlightlyaustralia.com.au)  
[www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au](http://www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au)

**For further information contact:**

Department for Environment and Heritage  
Information Line

Phone: (08) 204 1910

Email: [dehinformation@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:dehinformation@saugov.sa.gov.au)

Web Address: [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

© Department for Environment and Heritage  
ISBN: 1 921018 32 1  
Printed: April 2005  
FIS. 2095.04



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department for  
Environment and Heritage