

EYRE PENINSULA
RECREATION, SPORT AND OPEN SPACE
STRATEGY

SUBMITTED
TO
OFFICE FOR RECREATION AND SPORT
PLANNING SA
EYRE PENINSULA LGA'S

BY
PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES

May 2002

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy - Stage II complements the Port Lincoln Recreation and Sport Strategy (1999) and deals specifically with the needs of rural communities.

The Eyre Peninsula is unique in that it covers a large geographic area, has a relatively small and widely distributed population, and injects a significant amount of money into South Australia's economy. Given these factors a key strategy to ensure the ongoing success of the Eyre Peninsula is to maintain lifestyle services such as health, education and recreation, sport and open space. Strategies and actions outlined below are intended to ensure that recreation, sport and open space opportunities remain relevant to the needs of the Eyre Peninsula community in the short, medium and long term.

The methodology used to prepare the Strategy resulted in a series of stand alone documents, which complement each other. Recommended Strategies and Actions build on the Status Report and the individual reports on each "mini project", which together comprise the Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy - Stage II.

Strategies and Actions recommended below are cross referenced with other parts of the Report.

Status Report

The Status Report details the study objectives, and summarises the methodology, and presents a regional overview which provides a general context within which the Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy has been prepared. A series of issues which affect recreation and sport and open space across the region are discussed, and 27 "mini projects" are identified.

From a list of 27 "mini projects", five were chosen by the Steering Committee which included representatives of each local government authority, the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, the Office for Recreation and Sport and Planning SA. In selecting the "mini projects" the following criteria were used:

- ◆ Projects to preferably involve substantial local community participation.
- ◆ Projects to address a range of recreation, sport and open space issues.
- ◆ Projects to be geographically distributed across the Eyre Peninsula.
- ◆ Projects to be able to be implemented in a relatively short time frame.
- ◆ Projects to be achievable within the predetermined budget.
- ◆ Projects to be relatively easily replicated in other locations.

Eyre Trail Feasibility

This mini project investigates the feasibility of establishing the "Eyre Trail" around the Eyre Peninsula coast, incorporating a series of "drive and" trails for activities such as fishing, boating, surfing, diving, walking and sailboarding.

Recreation and Sport Facility Standards

A model of recreation and sport facility provision on the Eyre Peninsula is proposed as a suggested framework. It offers local communities with a benchmark as to what is a reasonable level of facilities in different size communities.

Eyre Granite Parkway Feasibility

A preliminary assessment of the potential to establish the “Eyre Granite Parkway”, encompassing granite rock formations in the area Koongawa and Minnipa, has been prepared. The Eyre Granite Parkway will incorporate self directed drive and walk/mountain bike trails, providing scenic outlooks and interpretation of the rock formations and native flora and fauna. It is expected to be a valuable tourism product in an area generally devoid of major tourist attractions.

Structure of Sport - Discussion Paper

The purpose of this Discussion Paper is to review the boundaries of sports competitions, particularly football and netball, and consider alternative structures to traditional home and away competitions, and the potential impact on local communities. The Discussion Paper was presented to a Forum of stakeholders, and an Action Plan formulated to address sports competition boundaries in the long term.

Talia Caves Management Plan

A Management Plan was prepared for Talia Caves using the resources of the local community, supported by the Project Consultant. It is expected that a template will evolve which can be used to prepare other management plans without the involvement of consultants.

2 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Five major strategic themes, which underpin all other specific strategies are recommended:

- ◆ Develop active communities, and increase participation in recreation and sport activities by all sectors, particularly people with low participation levels or special recreation needs.
- ◆ Equitably distribute recreation, sport and open space resources to all sectors within the community.
- ◆ Develop and maintain strong and viable sports infrastructure, including facilities, competitions, events, tournaments, volunteers, and sports development programs.
- ◆ Rationalise and, where appropriate, upgrade recreation and sport facilities to ensure cost effective and efficient facilities and to maintain a basic level of community infrastructure.
- ◆ Capitalise upon the natural environment as an economic, tourism, and recreation and sport resource by promoting the coast for fishing, surfing, boating, diving and other aquatic based outdoor recreation activities, and inland parks and natural attractions for eco tourism, outback tourism and nature based tourism opportunities.

Implementation of these strategic themes and the specific strategies and actions detailed in the following section will require a combined effort from a range of government, community and private organisations. Key organisations, and their broad responsibilities are:

Local Government

It has primary responsibility to plan, coordinate and facilitate the ongoing provision of recreation, sport and open space programs, services and facilities. Whilst Local Government provides funds for the development of programs, services and facilities, it is not the major funding source in rural communities. Individual Councils will lobby and advocate for additional services within its local community, and collectively through the Local Government Association has a powerful voice at the State Government level to ensure that adequate and appropriate programs, services and facilities are provided throughout the Eyre Peninsula.

State Government

On the Eyre Peninsula a number of state government agencies have a role to ensure adequate programs, services and facilities are available. In general, State Government has primary responsibility for funding and providing support to service providers, as well as direct provision of programs, services and facilities. The role of each agency varies substantially, for example the Office for Recreation and Sport has more of a funding and support role, whereas National Parks and Wildlife (SA) have a direct provider role.

Local Community Organisations

Community groups include recreation and sporting clubs and associations and community action groups (such as Progress Associations, Coastcare, and "Friends of ..." groups). On the Eyre Peninsula, community organisations are primarily responsible for direct provision of programs, services and facilities. As such they are often responsible for providing the major

proportion of funds, for developing and managing facilities and conducting programs and services.

State Recreation and Sporting Associations

To date very few State Recreation and Sporting Associations have had direct involvement in ensuring adequate recreation and sport programs, services and facilities are available on the Eyre Peninsula. Whilst they have a primary responsibility to provide leadership and support to affiliated local clubs and associations, only a handful of State Associations have made more than a token effort. Greater involvement of these State Associations is required to improve the quality of recreation and sport opportunities on the Eyre Peninsula.

Commercial Sector

By definition the commercial sector will be involved in direct provision of programs, services and facilities which provide a return on investment. To increase the involvement of the private sector, and attract private investment, opportunities for joint ventures between the commercial sector and other stakeholders can be initiated.

3 OPEN SPACE

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Prepare coastal management plan for the whole of the Eyre Peninsula, to complement the GAB 1000 West Coast Strategy [refer Status Report 3.1.2]	Continue implementation of GAB 1000 West Coast Strategy	LGA's State Govt	High
	Establish Coastal Management Group comprising representatives of Commonwealth, State and local Government and community stakeholders	LGA's State Govt	Medium
	Prepare a detailed inventory of coastal sites and amenities	Coastal Mgmt Group	Medium
	Prepare brief for Coastal Management Plan	Coastal Mgmt Group	Medium
	Obtain funding	Coastal Mgmt Group	Medium
Reduce environmental degradation of open space by managing visitor use and by providing appropriate amenities [refer Status Report 3.1.2]	Identify sites which are heavily used by visitors and/or being degraded due to inappropriate visitor behaviour	LGA's	High
	Prepare management plans for each site, with priority given to sites with significant environmental degradation	LGA's Coastcare Landcare	Medium
	At each site, identify works required, capital and maintenance cost and priority	LGA's	Low
	Obtain funding for works	LGA's Coastcare	Medium

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Establish the Edward John Eyre Trail [refer Status Report 3.1.2 and 3.1.3, Eyre Trail mini project report]	Identify an existing or establish a new body which will champion development of the Edward John Eyre Trail	ERDB, Tourism EP	High
	Implement the recommendations in the Eyre Trail Mini Project report	ERDB, Tourism EP	High
	Investigate feasibility of expanding the Investigator Trail	LEPDC	Medium
	Investigate development of multi purpose rail trail on disused railway line between Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay and the applicability of the Greenways Act	LEPDC	Low
	Obtain funding	ERDB, Tourism EP LEPDC	High
Establish the Eyre Granite Parkway [refer Status Report 3.1.3 and 3.14, Granite Parkway mini project report]	Establish a Management Group	LDC	High
	Obtain seed funding	Mgmt Group	High
	Seek support of EPRTDB	LDC	High
	Collect data on visitor use of granite sites	Mgmt Group	High
	Prepare detailed marketing plan	Mgmt Group	High
	Prepare master plan for future development of each granite site	Mgmt Group	Medium

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Establish local trails for walking, cycling and horse riding [refer Status Report 3.1.3]	Determine demand for local trails	LGA's	Medium
	Identify potential routes which take advantage of points of interest (scenic, cultural, historical, environmental etc)	LGA's	Medium
	Obtain funding	LGA's	Medium
	Prepare information strategy to interpret the trail and advise residents and visitors of its existence	LGA's	Low
Increase access to parks under the control of NPW(SA) [refer Status Report 3.1.4]	Encourage NPW(SA) to improve visitor amenities, programs and services	LGA's	Medium
	Improve availability of information to residents and visitors, on each parks significance and features	NPW(SA) LGA's ORS PSA	High

4 SPORT

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Establish viable competitions for each sport. [refer Status Report 3.2.1, Structure of Sport Discussion Paper]	Football and netball work together on an equal basis, to address the long term viability of both sports across all rural areas and prepare, adopt and implement a joint business plan for football/netball on the Eyre Peninsula.	SANFL, SANA	High
	Provide financial incentives to State Sporting Associations to prepare business plans for each country region including the Eyre Peninsula.	ORS	High
	Each sport with clubs or associations based on the Eyre Peninsula, prepare a business plan outlining a strategy to ensure its long term viability.	Local clubs and associations	Medium
	Allocate a significant proportion of funding to State Sporting Associations to the delivery of sports development programs, such as coaching and umpire accreditation courses, in country areas.	ORS	Medium
	Sporting clubs and associations establish or reinforce links with schools and investigate the potential to provide specialist skills coaching and introduce students to the benefits of playing sport with the club.	Local clubs and associations	Medium
	Investigate practical strategies for delivering sports development programs to the Eyre Peninsula.	Sport SA, State sporting associations	Medium
	Local government lobby ORS and Sport SA to address and support initiatives which improve sports development on the Eyre Peninsula.	EPLGA	High

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Consolidate sports facilities wherever possible [refer Status Report 3.2.2]	Identify examples of successful consolidated sports facilities, and obtain information on process used, and constitution of club	ORS	High
	Provide information to interested clubs	LGA's	Ongoing
	Provide capital development funds and other financial and non financial assistance, to clubs willing to consolidate their facilities	ORS, LGA's	Ongoing
Reduce the cost of maintaining sport facilities [refer Status Report 3.2.2]	Research the availability, suitability and cost of using non mains water to irrigate turf sports areas, such as bore water, neutralising saline water, recycling storm water and using treated effluent	SA Water, ORS	High
	Investigate potential for sporting clubs to share sport facilities	LGA's, local sports clubs	Ongoing
	In each community investigate shared use of plant and equipment required to maintain sports facilities, such as mowers	LGA's, local sports clubs	Ongoing
	Negotiate long term community use of school recreation and sport facilities and school use of community facilities, including maintenance costs	LGA's, school councils	Ongoing

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Increase the number of sports development programs [refer Status Report 3.2.3]	Establish complementary links between club sports programs and school based physical education and sports activities	Local sports clubs, school PE staff	Medium
	Conduct talent identification programs for the major sports, through schools and sports clubs, in sub regional locations (eg Ceduna and Wudinna)	ORS, State Sporting Associations	Low
	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the viability of establishing an Eyre Peninsula Sporting Centre of Excellence, with a mandate to provide specialist sports advisory and support services to athletes, officials and administrators	ORS, ERDB	Low
	Investigate benefits of the Active Australia Provider Network, a club management improvement program	LGA's, Active Australia, ORS	High
	Establish a club administrators mentoring program mini project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prepare guidelines for the mentoring program ▶ Compile a directory of personnel who have skills in club administration and are willing to act as mentors ▶ Advise clubs of mentoring program ▶ Link people seeking assistance with suitable mentors 	ORS, LGA's	Medium
	Conduct Volunteer and Club Management Programs	ORS	Medium
	Increase the number of accredited coaches and umpires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Conduct more coaching and umpiring accreditation courses in accessible locations and at times convenient to participants ▶ Subsidize the cost of completing accreditation courses 	State Sporting Associations	High

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Increase the number of sports tournaments and events which attract competitors from outside the region [refer Status Report 3.2.4]	Establish a Eyre Peninsula Sports Tourism Group with responsibility for increasing the number of visitors to sporting events, and affiliated Sports Tourism Groups in each Council	Tourism EP	Medium
	Compile a Calendar of Sporting Events	Tourism EP LGA's	High
	Actively search for competitions and events which can be attracted to the Eyre Peninsula, targeting sports which have high quality facilities on the Eyre Peninsula	Tourism EP, local sporting associations	High
	Prepare a Procedure Manual or "How to attract and conduct tournaments and events kit", for distribution to local clubs and associations	ORS Tourism SA	High
	Provide administrative support to clubs submitting applications to host regional or national events	LGA's	High
Ensure a basic level of provision of recreation and sport facilities in each community [refer Status Report 3.2.2]	Assess the provision of recreation and sport facilities in each community against the notional basic level of provision in Recreation and Sport Facility Standards - Discussion Paper	LGA's	Medium
	Determine priorities for upgrading existing or developing new facilities	LGA's	Medium
	Obtain funding	LGA's, local community groups	Medium
	Assess feasibility of developing school/community use sports halls in Kimba and Cowell	LGA's, schools	Medium

5 GENERAL ISSUES

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Formalise use of school facilities by local communities [refer Status Report 3.3]	Identify school facilities used by community groups	LGA's, schools	Medium
	Determine the terms and conditions for access and whether a formal agreement exists	LGA's, schools	Low
	Negotiate an agreement to continue community use of school facilities	LGA's, school councils	Low
Improve the quality of play areas for all age groups [refer Status Report 3.3]	Establish a "play action group" in each community to address the play needs of children	LGA's	Medium
	Undertake a safety audit of all play areas	play action groups	Medium
	Assess quality of play areas in each community (including schools)	play action groups	Medium - low
	Identify play areas which duplicate, areas deficient in play opportunities and strategies to increase the quality of play for all ages	LGA's, play action groups	Medium - low
	Obtain funding	play action groups	Medium - low
Increase the range of recreation programs and activities available for young people [refer Status Report 3.3]	Invite young people, through secondary schools in each community, to identify how to improve the provision of unstructured recreation activities for young people, and prepare an action plan with costs	LGA's, LGA youth advisory gps, schools	High
	Investigate options for establishing low cost skate facilities in small communities	ORS, LGA's	High

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Priority
Improve the quality of information available to residents and visitors [refer Status Report 3.1.2 and 3.3]	Maintain an accurate directory of available grants	LGA(SA), ORS	Ongoing
	Make copies of directory available to clubs through local libraries and through the internet	LGA's	Ongoing
	Provide interpretive information at sites of environmental, historical, cultural or scenic interest	LGA's	Medium
	Provide maps and information on recreation, sport and open space assets	LGA's	- low Low
Improve access to water safety programs [refer Status Report 3.3]	Commission Surf Life Saving Australia (SA) to conduct beach safety audits and implement recommendations of audit	LGA's	Medium
	Review the State Water Safety Strategy and implement recommendations relating to improve water safety for people living in rural areas	ORS	Low
Establish the Eyre Peninsula as a bike friendly region [refer Status Report 3.1.3]	Prepare Brief for Eyre Peninsula Bike Plan, addressing bike touring, mountain bike riding, and local recreational and commuter bike riding	EPLGA	Low
	Obtain funding	EPLGA	Low

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1 PREAMBLE



This preamble introduces the Eyre Peninsula Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy, and outlines the background to its commissioning, its objectives, and summarises the methodology used.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Office for Recreation & Sport is updating the State Recreation and Sport Strategy (1994). Development of the Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy, in conjunction with Planning SA, is part of the updating process. The first stage of the strategy has been completed with the updating of the Port Lincoln Recreation and Sport Strategy, completed at the end of 1999. The second stage is proposed to deal with the needs of regional communities, and address the following issues:

- ◆ Connecting isolated communities to services and facilities
- ◆ Limited Council budgets due to low population base
- ◆ Diminishing numbers of young people
- ◆ Maintenance/rationalisation of infrastructure

The Eyre Peninsula covers a large proportion of South Australia and has a widely dispersed population. The major centres are Whyalla and Port Lincoln, located at the eastern and southern extremities of the region. These centres form part of this strategy only so far as identifying their role in the provision of services for the remainder of the region. There are plans for the development of an Upper Spencer Gulf Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy, which will include Whyalla. Wudinna and Ceduna are also important regional centres. Wudinna is geographically central, and Ceduna is the gateway to the Eyre Peninsula from the west.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy are:

Economic

- ◆ Develop opportunities for recreation, sport and open space to contribute to the economic development of the region.
- ◆ Identify marketing and promotion opportunities for specific key open space assets eg. National Parks, trails and coastal areas.

Asset Management

- ◆ Develop a strategy to improve the quality of recreation and sport infrastructure.
- ◆ Recommend an approach to developing/sustaining recreation and sport facilities which limits duplication and ensures effective provision.
- ◆ Identify current and potential regional level facilities.

Recreation and Sport Development

- ◆ Strategies to ensure clubs can respond to trends toward less structured activities and retain and attract players and volunteers (particularly young people).
- ◆ Strategies which provide access for talented sports people to coaching and higher level competition.
- ◆ Identify current recreation and sport initiatives/programs which have the potential to increase participation and/or improve service delivery in this region and recommend how best to achieve their implementation.

Coast and Beaches

- ◆ Identify key sites which require:
 - ▶ protection from a conservation viewpoint
 - ▶ improved access
 - ▶ promotion
 - ▶ visitor facilities
- ◆ Recommend management strategies where required.

Open Space

- ◆ Identify key open space areas which:
 - ▶ are of State or regional significance;
 - ▶ are of high conservation value;
 - ▶ require appropriate development direction (eg management or concept plans);
 - ▶ should be identified in the Planning Strategy;
 - ▶ require Plan Amendment Reports to formalise their designation as areas of open space (in terms of conservation, scenic or recreation value).
- ◆ Prioritise the areas identified above in terms of regional significance.

Youth

- ◆ Identify opportunities for recreation outside of organised sport and ways in which this can be delivered to meet the needs of young people.

Trails

- ◆ Identify opportunities for the development of regional level trail systems.

Implementation

- ◆ An effective and client specific implementation process.
- ◆ Identify a process to sustain the impetus created by this project (eg elicit a commitment from various agencies to implement relevant strategies, identify a 'driver' for the key projects).
- ◆ A planning process which elicits support for the plan, through negotiations with key

people and identification of specific (achievable) projects which generate enthusiasm.

- ◆ A concise planning document, with clear, realistic and achievable strategies.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

Preparation of the Strategy is to be undertaken in four phases.

In the *first phase* the study program was finalised to ensure the study brief and proposal met the Project Steering Committee's requirements.

In the *second phase* existing conditions in the region were reviewed and this a Status Report and Action Plan prepared which identify priority regional recreation, sport and open space projects.

The purpose of the *third phase* is to undertake work on each project identified in the Status Report, with the aim of complete or substantial implementation.

In the *final phase* a Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy will be developed. Draft recommendations will be presented to the Project Steering Committee for circulation and comment, prior to finalisation.

2 REGIONAL OVERVIEW

This Regional Overview is intended to give a general context within which the Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy has been prepared.

2.1 A SNAP SHOT OF THE EYRE PENINSULA

Eyre Peninsula is a large region with the following attributes:

- ◆ Eyre Peninsula has an area of approximately 55,000 km², which is roughly the size and shape of Tasmania
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula has a total population of more than 56,500 people, with the largest concentrations being in Port Lincoln and Whyalla.
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula has eleven local government authorities including the District Councils of Ceduna, Cleve, Elliston, Franklin Harbour, Kimba, Le Hunte, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Streaky Bay and Tumby Bay, in addition to the Cities of Port Lincoln and Whyalla plus the unincorporated West Coast.
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula has a strong primary industry base with the four major industries being agriculture (grain and wool), seafood (fishing and aquaculture), tertiary businesses and tourism. Collectively these sectors inject \$1.7 billion into the South Australian economy each year.
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula contains less than 2% of the state's population, yet produces 30-40% of South Australia's grain and 60% of the state's seafood harvest.
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula attracts more visitors than any other country tourist region in South Australia, with more than 300,000 visitors generating \$60 million per annum and employing over 1,500 people.
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula has a mild climate, extensive beaches, a wide range of sporting facilities, unique flora and fauna, excellent coastal recreation opportunities including fishing, boating, diving and surfing, spectacular coastal scenery combined with a natural and unspoilt environment.

2.2 KEY FEATURES OF THE REGION

A number of key elements within the region have an impact on the development of recreation, sport and open space opportunities.

2.2.1 Local Government and Regional Organisations

Within the Eyre Peninsula a number of government and regional organisations may have a significant impact on all or parts of a regional recreation, sport and open space strategy. The major organisations are summarised below.

1. Local Government Authorities

Eleven local government authorities are located on the Eyre Peninsula. In terms of this recreation, sport and open space strategy, it will focus on the area covered by nine local government authorities.

- District Council of Franklin Harbour, based around Cowell
- District Council of Cleve, based around Cleve
- District Council of Tumby Bay, based around Tumby Bay
- District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, based around Cummins
- District Council of Elliston, based around Elliston
- District Council of Streaky Bay, based around Streaky Bay
- District Council of Ceduna, based around Ceduna
- District Council of Le Hunte, based around Wudinna
- District Council of Kimba, based around Kimba.

In addition to these nine Councils the Eyre Peninsula also contains:

- The City of Whyalla
- The City of Port Lincoln
- Unincorporated areas to the west of Ceduna District Council area.

2. Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association comprises 12 member Councils, including the eleven Councils listed above, plus the City of Port Augusta.

The Association is a regional forum and lobby group for Local Government, focusing on community services or facilities, economic development, infrastructure and local governance. The Association is located in the same building as the Eyre Regional Development Board and a part-time Executive Officer assists in the running of the organisation.

3. Eyre Regional Development Board

Eyre Regional Development Board (ERDB) was established in 1993 as an autonomous body focusing upon the development of sustainable commercial activity and employment generation across the region. The ERDB is funded jointly by ten local government authorities (the Councils within the study area plus Port Lincoln) and a mixture of State and Federal grants. Essentially its brief is to encourage economic development and job creation.

4. Eyre Peninsula Regional Strategy

The Eyre Peninsula Regional Strategy was a joint Commonwealth and State Government response to three consecutive below average harvests and external economic pressure, which resulted in a region with a seriously depressed economy, a loss of confidence in farming and failing infrastructure. It is a suite of programs managed by Primary Industries and Resources (SA) aimed at natural resource management and rural adjustment issues. An outcome of the Regional Strategy was development of a model for sustainable development based around three elements of environment, economy and community.

A model for sustainable development of the Eyre Peninsula was based on two principles:

- ◆ Rural communities must first accept they need to change and be prepared to manage their future.
- ◆ To move beyond dependence on government assistance, rural communities need to accept a change of culture from reactive to proactive and from dependant to empowered.

Whilst the Regional Strategy concluded in December 2000, a model evolved which is community owned and focused on sustainable development of the region. It provides a structure for:

- ◆ a higher level of community ownership, self reliance and control,
- ◆ networking, strategic planning, negotiation and strategic activities for each element and for all elements collectively,
- ◆ development of an overall vision for the long term growth of the region which allows individual groups to align appropriate activities with the vision.

In terms of recreation, sport and open space all elements of environment, economy and community development are affected. For example,

Environment includes National Parks, Eyre Peninsula Tourism Association and Coast Care

Economy incorporates local government, tourism and natural resource management

Community development includes sport and recreation services.

5. *Eyre Peninsula Tourism Association*

Eyre Peninsula Tourism Association is responsible for marketing and promoting the region's attractions. The Association is co-located with the ERDB.

A major initiative of the Association will be the development of an Eyre Peninsula Development Strategy which has been funded by the Commonwealth Government for \$80,000.

2.2.2 Geographical Features

The Eyre Peninsula occupies in excess of 55,000 km² which is roughly the size of Tasmania. It is bounded by the Spencer Gulf in the east and stretches nearly 1,000 km in a westerly direction to the WA-SA border. To the north the Gawler Ranges makes up its northern boundary.

The topography is predominately gentle and undulating with most of the land mass less than 150m in height, with the largest hills occurring in the north in the Gawler Ranges.

The climate of the Peninsula ranges from Mediterranean style around the coastal regions to semi arid in the far north and west. Coastal temperatures range from a maximum of 25° to

29°C in the summer and up to 34° inland. In winter, the average maximum temperatures range from 15° to 18°C. The annual rainfall ranges from 490mm at Port Lincoln to 310mm at Ceduna.

From a recreation, sport and open space perspective, the key geographical feature is the extensive coastline which borders the region from Whyalla down to Port Lincoln and northwest to Ceduna and beyond. Inland the Peninsula contains a number of significant conservation and national parks offering unique flora and fauna.

2.2.3 Regional Population

The population of Eyre Peninsula by Local Government Authority in 1999 is summarised in Table 2.1. Key points to note from the table are:

- ◆ Total population of the Eyre Peninsula including the Cities of Whyalla and Port Lincoln in 1999 was 55, 998.
- ◆ The nine District Councils on the Eyre Peninsula had a combined population of 19,246 comprising 34% of the Peninsula's population. The size of each District Council varies from 1,200 to 3,900.
- ◆ Whyalla is the largest local government authority on the Peninsula with 42% of the region's population followed by Port Lincoln which has 23% of the population.
- ◆ The population of the nine District Councils has declined by 3% since 1992. Whilst Lower Eyre Peninsula and Tumby Bay experienced a slight increase in population the remaining seven District Councils all had a declining population.
- ◆ Since 1992, Port Lincoln has increased in population whereas Whyalla has declined.
- ◆ Overall, population growth has occurred in the southern part of the Eyre Peninsula whereas population decreases have occurred in the northern part of the Eyre Peninsula.

TABLE 2.1: REGIONAL POPULATION

Local Government	1999
Ceduna	3,556
Cleve	1,910
Elliston	1,241
Franklin Harbour	1,227
Kimba	1,238
Le Hunte	1,552
Lower Eyre Peninsula	3,863
Streaky Bay	1,934
Tumby Bay	2,725
Sub Total	19,246
Port Lincoln	13,102
Whyalla	23,650
Sub Total	36,752
TOTAL	55,998

2.2.4 Industry

The major industries on the Eyre Peninsula are:

- agriculture
- fishing and aquaculture
- retail trade
- manufacturing and processing
- tourism.

It is also believed that mining is positioned to be an increasingly important part of the regions economy over the next few years.

In terms of recreation, sport and open space the most important industry is tourism. Eyre Peninsula is one of South Australia's most visited country tourist regions and with potential for growth, particularly in nature based and eco tourism market segments. Clearly these segments relate very closely to the coastal environment and the recreation attractions in those areas, as well as the conservation and natural beauty offered by inland conservation areas and national parks.

Potential conflicts may exist between the demands created by recreational activities and economic demands of business. Care must be taken to ensure conflicts are minimised and public access and use of public open space is retained. Of particular concern is the rapidly expanding aquaculture industry which could restrict public use of coastal lands and waters.

2.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION, SPORT AND OPEN SPACE

Open Space is a general term referring to a wide variety of open areas (both land and water) that have a value for park, recreation or sporting purposes, conservation of natural resources, historic, aesthetic or scenic purposes. In simplistic terms, open spaces are areas in

which visitors and residents recreate and appreciate for their intrinsic or scenic beauty or conservation value.

Recreation and sport is an important contributor to the quality of life of individuals and the general community, providing benefits both to individuals and the general community. A Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy should aim to optimise these benefits through efficient and effective use of resources.

a. Personal Benefits

Individuals will benefit from participation in recreation and sport activities through:

- improved health and fitness
- reduction in stress levels
- improved self esteem
- development of social skills
- employment in the recreation and sport industry.

b. Community Benefits

The general community will benefit from recreation and sport facilities, programs and services in the following ways:

- reduced health care costs
- enhanced community identity
- increased community integration
- deterrent effect on delinquent behaviour
- improved social fabric and community development opportunities
- increased volunteer participation
- direct and indirect employment opportunities
- economic activity through recreation and sport tourism
- economic activity through revenue generated by retail sales and participation in recreation and sport activities
- economic activity generated by capital developments
- protection of the environment, particularly open space areas for recreation purposes.

Within the region, all the benefits outlined above will accrue from a well developed recreation delivery system. To maximise the impact on both individuals and the general community, resources should be focussed on delivering these benefits.

In terms of the Eyre Peninsula three major factors have a significant impact on recreation, sport and open space.

1. Eyre Peninsula has a small population distributed over a large area, except for the urban centres of Port Lincoln and Whyalla. Consequently, communities can expect to have problems maintaining and upgrading its recreation and sport infrastructure, particularly formal facilities in smaller towns.
2. Growth in the economy is necessary to ensure maintenance of sustainable communities. A major industry closely allied to recreation, sport and open space is tourism. These links can be enhanced to the mutual benefit of residents and visitors.

3. Eyre Peninsula has excellent open space attractions, especially the extensive coastline and its national parks.

Given these three factors a recreation, sport and open space strategy should focus on the following key elements.

- ◆ Rationalisation of recreation and sport facilities in all communities will be necessary to ensure cost effective and efficient facilities and to maintain a basic level of community infrastructure.
- ◆ Priority should be given to developing recreation and sport opportunities which enhance the tourist experience and hence are likely to lead to increased economic activity. Development of these opportunities will also improve the amenity and lifestyle of local residents.
- ◆ Eyre Peninsula must recognise the significance of the coast from an economic, tourism, and recreation and sport perspective and ensure these three perspectives are interwoven for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- ◆ Increase the number of visitors and tourists to the region through a major recreation and sport tourism initiative. Such development will require upgrading of facilities and amenities, enhancement of existing and development of new events and tournaments, and promoting the natural environment particularly locations for fishing, surfing, boating, diving and other outdoor recreation activities.

3 REGIONAL ISSUES

This Chapter reviews a series of issues which affect recreation and sport and open space across the region. Issues have been divided into three categories relating to open space, sport and general issues.

3.1 OPEN SPACE

In general terms issues relating to open space relate primarily to development of recreation and sport opportunities in the coast and development of opportunities to visit and use inland national parks and conservation areas.

3.1.1 Overview of Open Space

Eyre Peninsula has an extensive number of coastal sites suitable for recreation and sport activities. Most of the coast is reasonably accessible via the Lincoln Highway between Whyalla and Port Lincoln and the Flinders Highway which links Port Lincoln and Ceduna. Numerous permanent and holiday settlements are dotted along the coast.

Along the east coast of the Peninsula are areas suitable for swimming, boating, fishing and walking. Along the west coast numerous sites are suitable for the same types of activities as along the east coast, supplemented by surfing.

Three national parks are located on Eyre Peninsula. Lincoln National Park and Coffin Bay National Park both located at the southern tip of the Peninsula offer a range of coastal recreation opportunities. The third park is the Gawler Ranges National Park, a newly designated park to the north of the Peninsula. Nullarbor National Park is located on the Nullarbor Plain, and to the west of Ceduna.

Numerous conservation parks are located on the Eyre Peninsula. Coastal parks include:

Munyaroo	Whittelbee
Franklin Harbour	Sir Joseph Banks
Lake Newland	Point Labatt
Venus Bay	Nuyts Archipeligo
Laura Bay	

Other inland conservation parks include:

Whyalla	Lake Gilles	Sheoak Hill
Caraptee Hill	Rudall	Hincks
Bascombe Well	Barwell	Hambridge
Pinkawillinie	Corrobinnie	Cocata
Kulliparu	Kalpatanna Waterhole	Pureba
Yumbarra.		

Most conservation parks are suitable for outdoor recreation activities based around walking and possibly camping.

3.1.2 Coastal Open Space

Development of recreation and sport opportunities in coastal open space areas must take account of the following:

1. *Great Australian Bight 1000 West Coast Strategy*

The West Coast Strategy is an initiative of Ceduna, Elliston and Streaky Bay District Councils in partnership with the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments. It is intended to focus on, and guide, coastal management planning in the 21st century.

Based on the principles of integrated local area planning, the strategy provides coastal managers, planners and decision makers, stakeholders and interested communities with an action oriented strategic framework. The Strategy will achieve a cooperative and integrated approach to coastal management with the central underlying focus being the achievement of ecologically sustainable development.

In terms of tourism and recreation the strategy has a goal of:

Increased sustainable coastal tourism and recreational use of land and sea while maintaining environmental values.

Specific objectives include:

- 1 To contribute to the economic diversification of the region through the establishment of a range of ecologically sustainable tourist and recreational areas and activities based on the regions diverse and natural and manmade attractions.
- 2 To identify, manage, preserve and enhance the specific features of the region.
- 3 To develop necessary and characteristic coastal infrastructure to minimise visitor induced degradation and act as a attractant to potential visitors.
- 4 To offer diverse recreational opportunities while minimising conflicts between uses.
- 5 To improve coastal access and increase transport linkages to cater for a range of visitor groups.
- 6 To ensure the regional road network adequately addressed the needs for coastal tourism recreation.
- 7 To increase public and visitor safety and minimise risk and liability.
- 8 To develop appropriate tools to ensure that regional coastal tourism values and recreational opportunities are promoted, developed and managed for environmental, social and economic benefit.
- 9 To plan for the creation of regional coastal trails.

The Strategy also makes the following points:

- ◆ The majority of coastal leisure activities undertaken by visitors/tourists and west coast residents are categorised as recreational and include fishing, swimming,

surfing, diving, four wheel driving, sailing and boating/ water sports.

- ◆ An estimated 65,000 people travel along the Flinders Highway and either through or around the west coast towns each year.
- ◆ It is estimated the number of visitors to Ceduna is 400,000 per year. (NB. Other studies have estimated that the number of visitors to Ceduna, excluding business travel, is between 240,000 and 360,000.)
- ◆ Most recreational users are responsible and want to ensure that the coastal resources they use remain unspoilt. The types of management issues that may arise from recreation and tourism activities include littering and disposal of unwanted fishing tackle, over fishing, damage from boat anchors, wildlife disturbance, trampling of fordone vegetation, off road vehicle damage and coastal disturbance resulting from ad hoc coastal camping.
- ◆ Sustainable expansion of the tourism and recreation industries on the west coast requires the development of well located quality tourism infrastructure and recreational facilities. Development should preferably be confined to the main tourism and recreational activity nodes and built on existing resources.
- ◆ Scuba diving is a growing sport nationally, and there may be potential along the west coast for recreational diving as a tour industry focusing on the many offshore shipwrecks. However, long term protection of shipwrecks must be considered through an appropriate heritage management plan.
- ◆ Significant scope exists for the development of a coastal linear trail for the entire length of the west coast region. If developed it could form a major park of a state coastal trail.

2. *Coastal Walk*

It has been suggested that a coastal trail be developed around Eyre Peninsula based on the expeditions conducted by Edward John Eyre in 1839 and 1840.

Currently a number of independent trails exist along the coast. An opportunity therefore exists to link these trails either with additional walking trails or as a drive/walk trail system. The routes used by Edward John Eyre need to be mapped and correlation with existing walking trails established. Once this has been completed the cost and benefits of installing appropriate infrastructure around the trail needs to be undertaken. The Bicentenary Anniversary of the Meeting of Flinders and Baudin in 1802 may offer funding opportunities for this project.

3. *Condition of the Coastline*

Anecdotal evidence indicates gradual degradation of the coastal environment from Whyalla through to Ceduna. Much of the deterioration is due to a lack of formal infrastructure resulting in indiscriminate use of sites along the coast. For example, lack of toilets, formal car parking areas and rubbish bins have resulted in damage to fragile dune environments. Whilst many visitors and residents respect the natural environment, the lack of a code of practice in these areas has often resulted in inappropriate behaviour causing destruction of the natural environment.

4. *Coastal Interpretive Centre*

A coastal interpretive centre is planned for Ceduna. The coastal centre will provide information on local Aboriginal heritage, the Nullarbor, whales, head of the Bight, the natural ecological assets of the region, the aquaculture industry and Maralinga. The project is being promoted by the Eyre Regional Development Board which has attracted grants of \$150,000 for the project.

5. *Visitor Amenities*

Most major settlements along the coast have adequate visitor amenities including boat ramps, toilets, car parks and picnic/barbecue facilities, although these types of amenities are usually unavailable at sites outside the major settlements. Many of these locations are often very popular, particularly at peak visitor times such as weekends and holidays. A lack of appropriate amenities contributes to degradation of the coastal environment. The major issues to be resolved are appropriate location of facilities, and the cost of developing and maintaining facilities.

6. *Inventory*

A comprehensive inventory of recreational coastal sites is not available on the Eyre Peninsula. Potential exists to prepare an inventory which details existing infrastructure such as car parks and toilets, as well as recreation activities which are available such as surfing, boating and sightseeing. To aid dissemination of information, the inventory may be mapped and include both onshore and offshore sites. Offshore sites should include activities such as dive sights and fishing spots.

The major benefit of preparing a comprehensive inventory is to provide base data for a long term plan to provide visitor infrastructure. An objective of providing this infrastructure will be to direct visitors away from fragile coastal environments to sites which can be managed to minimise environmental degradation and hence promote sustainable visitor use of the coast.

3.1.3 Trails

Throughout the Eyre Peninsula a series of trails exist. Most trails are primarily used for walking and include a mix of short and long trails. Potential exists to link many of these trails to create an extensive network on the Eyre Peninsula. These trails may then be extended to accommodate other uses.

1. *Coastal Walk*

As discussed above, an opportunity exists to develop a walk around the coast of the Eyre Peninsula, linking settlements and points of interest. It can be developed as a multipurpose trail including a mix of transport modes, such as drive and fish, or drive and dive trails. Based on the expedition of Edward John Eyre the coastal walk has the potential to be developed around a natural/historical theme.

2. *Investigator Trail*

The Investigator Trail extends for almost 90km from North Shields through Port Lincoln and Tulka into the Lincoln National Park. The Investigator Trail incorporates the Parnkalla Walk in Port Lincoln.

Potential exists to expand the Investigator Trail along the southern coast of the Eyre Peninsula to Coffin National Park where it can link with other existing trails, such as the Kallara Walking Trail.

3. *Granite Trail*

In the general vicinity of Wudinna and Minnipa are a number of large granite rock formations including Polda Rock, Little Mount Wudinna, Turtle Rock, Ucontitchie Hill, Pildappa Rock, Tcharkulda Hill and Yarwondutta Rock.

Collectively nine reserves are spread over the Wudinna/Minnipa area incorporating the granite rock outcrops. Given their location adjacent to the Eyre Highway, an opportunity exists to develop a significant drive and walk trail which provides scenic outlooks and interpretation of the rock formations and other flora and fauna. Of the nine reserves which can be linked with a network of trails, three already have significant infrastructure including trails and picnic facilities.

A recent report prepared for Le Hunte District Council recommended that an inventory of the unique granite rock formations be undertaken and that a feasibility study be completed to determine the tourism potential of linking the major granite outcrops. It appears that development of a network of trails linking these outcrops would have significant benefits in terms of recreation and open space development for both visitors and residents of the region.

4. *Aquatic Trails*

To complement the proposed Coastal Trail a series of aquatic trails can be established. These trails will allow residents and visitors to drive between coastal sites to participate in recreation activities. In other words, people will be able to undertake a surfing trail, fishing trail, diving trail or sailing trail along the Eyre Peninsula coast.

The concept involves linking a series of between five and ten sites suitable for a specific recreation activity, which can be visited over a series of days. Such a trail will require the development of appropriate infrastructure including interpretive signs, as well as maps indicating the location of the trail and recreational locations, as well as amenities such as car parks, boat ramps or launching facilities and toilets. These trails can be designed to accommodate all types of vehicles including all terrain vehicles and 4WD vehicles, as well as normal passenger cars and buses. Accommodating off road driving on beaches and other natural areas will need sensitive planning to ensure sustainability.

Support for the development of aquatic trails can be found in a series of tourism research reports which have identified the following key points:

- ◆ Visitors are attracted to the Eyre Peninsula by its natural beauty, excellent fishing and other marine based activities.
- ◆ The primary reasons why people visit the Eyre Peninsula are:
 - Leisure activities including beach/jetty fishing, relaxation, beach and other marine based recreational pursuits such as sailing, surfing, wind surfing and skin diving - 78%
 - Coastal sightseeing and other tourist drives - 45%
 - Sport and recreational pursuits - 6%

- ◆ 79% of visitors to the Eyre Peninsula travel by private motor car indicating a major opportunity for drive related trails.
- ◆ In a study in 1996 by Centre of Tourism and Hotel Management at Griffith University, a number of activity based market segments were identified for the Eyre Peninsula including:
 - coastal sightseeing
 - family touring
 - nature based
 - soft adventure.

All the points detailed above, indicate strong potential demand for development of drive trails based around the recreational resources of the coast.

5. *Rail Trail*

The disused Port Lincoln to Coffin Bay railway line presents an opportunity to develop a multi purpose linear trail based around walking, cycling and horse riding. Whilst the railway line is in private ownership it may be possible to negotiate public access to the site.

The rail trail presents the opportunity to provide a direct link between Coffin Bay National Park and Lincoln National Park through the Investigator Trail. Disused railway lines have been found to be excellent routes for cycle paths as they tend to be relatively flat. They also can be used for horses although the relatively flat terrain may be somewhat uninteresting.

Conversion of disused railway lines to multi purpose trails is a world wide trend. Extensive use of these rail lines have been made in Europe and America. Within Australia use of the railway lines has not been as significant. Within South Australia, the Riesling Trail follows a disused railway line through the Clare Valley.

The recently proclaimed Greenways Act may provide a suitable process and mechanism by which public rights over the railway line may be obtained through the Office of Recreation and Sport.

6. *Specific Trail Developments*

Short walking trails exist in most settlements through the Eyre Peninsula. For example at Cleve a walking trail links the town to Observation Hill and the Oyster Walk is located on the foreshore at Coffin Bay.

A series of short trails are proposed throughout the region including:

- ◆ At Arno Bay a boardwalk through the mangrove estuaries is proposed. Currently similar boardwalks are located at Cowell and Tumber Bay. These boardwalks are a significant part of nature based recreation and tourism infrastructure.
- ◆ Within the Elliston District Council a series of walking trails have been suggested based around the coast including:
 - Anxious Bay and Waterloo Bay
 - Venus Bay and South Headlands
 - Venus Bay to Port Kenny to Venus Bay Caravan Park.

- ◆ A series of coastal trails recommended in the GAB 1000 West Coast Strategy.

7. *Bike Paths*

Cycling opportunities exist on the Eyre Peninsula, although a formal bike plan has not been prepared. Given the relatively flat topography of the region, cycling in and around the Eyre Peninsula can be a rewarding recreational experience. A number of factors need to be taken into account when considering the Eyre Peninsula as a cycling destination.

- ◆ During the summer months the region may be subject to extreme heat and strong winds, consequently cyclists must be well prepared for these conditions.
- ◆ Whilst the roads are in good condition for cycling, care should be taken on the major roads due to the speed of cars. Similarly, care must be taken on dirt roads as the surfaces may be very rough and are often corrugated. On roads and tracks near the coast, sand drifts will often be encountered.
- ◆ Due to the size of the Eyre Peninsula large distances need to be travelled between points of interest.

Hence greater potential may exist for short cycle trips rather than long distance touring, although the latter will appeal to a relatively small but dedicated group of cyclists.

3.1.4 Inland Parks

Numerous conservation parks and local recreation reserves are scattered throughout the Eyre Peninsula. Many parks have significant environmental value and are used for a range of passive recreation activities including walking, bird watching and picnicking, by both residents and visitors.

Two specific issues relating to inland parks were raised during the consultation process.

1. *Granite Rock Park*

As outlined above, a series of granite rock reserves exist in the Wudinna/Minnipa area. In addition to developing trails linking these sites, the opportunity exists to establish one significant regional park. Further investigations are required to progress the concept including:

- ◆ clarification of and documentation of the concept.
- ◆ identification of advantages and disadvantages, potential stakeholders and funders.
- ◆ draft development plan including a staged development, the role of stakeholders and branding and marketing strategies.

2. *National Parks and Wildlife (SA)*

Although extensive areas of the Eyre Peninsula are classified as conservation parks, resources available to manage and maintain these parks are relatively scarce. It is understood that very few staff are employed by NPW (SA) in the parks. In addition limited infrastructure, such as car parks, toilets and interpretive signage, exists in the parks. Further investigations may be required to capitalise on the environmental and recreational benefits of these parks whilst ensuring their sustainable use.

3.2 SPORT

A survey of recreation and sport clubs and associations on the Eyre Peninsula sought information on the main issues or concerns likely to affect the viability of their organisation and/or activity or sport. It was found that the main issue was a lack of active members which was identified by 56% of respondents. When asked what actions are required to improve the viability of their organisation 18% of respondents nominated responses such as "improve the viability of the region", "retain young people" and "increase employment".

These results reflect the outcomes of consultations conducted on the Eyre Peninsula. It appears the main issue confronting sport relates to a declining and sparse population, which in turn has a direct impact on the viability of sports clubs and associations. A critical mass is required in terms of population and membership to ensure the long term viability of individual organisations.

Within the context of this major demographic issue, a number of specific issues have been identified which need to be addressed.

3.2.1 Nature of Competitions

A decline in population on the Eyre Peninsula has led to amalgamation of sporting clubs, obviously resulting in fewer clubs and larger distances required to be travelled to compete in competitions. Anecdotal evidence indicates that many people are choosing alternative recreation activities to organised sport, as a result of the distances travelled. This is borne out in the survey of clubs and associations in which 33% of respondents identified distance and time required to travel as a major issue or concern which will affect the viability of their organisation.

Issues or factors likely to affect sporting competitions are:

- ◆ Changes in the boundaries of sports competitions has evolved over the last two decades. Whilst most sports are able to conduct competitions on a relatively local basis, this is not the case with football, given its relatively high cost basis and the number of players per team. According to the SANFL a rationalisation of football leagues occurred in 1989 and "further restructure will be needed in the future with downsizing of leagues from 5 to 4". If traditional home and away competitions are to continue, all sporting associations may need to review their boundaries.
- ◆ To overcome the problems associated with distance and travelling it may be appropriate to review the nature of sports competitions. Traditionally, competitions are held on a home and away basis with finals. Alternative competition structures can be investigated, for example conducting lightening carnivals over one day or a weekend period or linking sports competitions with other festivals or celebrations, such as Tunarama and agricultural shows or field days.
- ◆ Sport offers numerous personal and community benefits. In rural communities, sport often provides a community with an identity and frequently is a focus of community life. In most parts of the Eyre Peninsula, football and netball competitions are directly linked. In these cases a days sporting activity is often regarded as a family activity. In reviewing the nature of competitions it is imperative that these links and community benefits are enhanced rather than diminished.

3.2.2 Facilities

The survey of clubs and associations on the Eyre Peninsula resulted in the following responses regarding facilities:

- ◆ The second most frequently nominated issue or concern which is likely to affect the viability of an organisation was the cost of maintaining facilities (nominated by 53% of respondents). In addition 15% of respondents nominated inadequate facilities.
- ◆ 18% of respondents identified the need for Councils, their State association or State Government to improve the facilities they use as one way to improve the viability of their organisation.
- ◆ 52% of respondents considered they had adequate facilities to meet their long term needs.

Based on these responses and consultations conducted on the Eyre Peninsula it would appear that a significant concern of clubs is refurbishing or maintaining existing facilities and the development of new facilities, particularly given the declining population and hence membership base of many clubs and associations.

Three factors need to be addressed when considering the provision of sports facilities on the Eyre Peninsula.

- ◆ To ensure adequate resources are available to maintain facilities of reasonable quality in each township a review of the location, management, maintenance and use of facilities may be required. In the survey of clubs and associations it was found that 59% of respondents already share their facilities with another organisation. Respondents identified a number of benefits of sharing including ability to share maintenance costs with other organisations therefore reducing the cost to each group, and increasing social interaction between club members. Respondents also identified some problems with sharing, including adequately catering for the needs of sponsors, problems of relocating clubs to new facilities and the need to obtain approval from the majority of club members.

In addressing the issue of facility provision, a basic core level of facilities should be provided in each township. This basic level of provision may be agreed upon across the Eyre Peninsula. Within individual townships opportunities must be explored to share facilities and develop joint management structures which can accommodate the needs of all clubs. Finally, it is important to ensure maximum use of all public and/or community resources, for example by developing joint school and community facilities such as the proposal to develop a sports hall in Kimba.

- ◆ Water is a major issue for sports groups particularly those using turf, such as ovals, golf courses and bowling clubs. All avenues of "cheap" water must be explored including use of bore water, treating saline bore water to neutralise the impact on turf, recycling water particularly storm water, and using treated effluent.
- ◆ The cost of maintaining facilities is clearly one of the biggest problems confronting sports clubs. Most clubs on the Eyre Peninsula are required to be self sufficient. Only a small number of Councils provide a small subsidy towards the cost of maintaining facilities. Most clubs receive no subsidy for maintenance.

3.2.3 Sports Development

22% of respondents to the survey of clubs and associations identified the need for improved services from State associations including "more programs", "better promotion of the sport" and "listening to suggestions from the region" as ways of improving the viability of their organisation. The questionnaire also sought information on a range of programs and services. It was found that grants were regarded as the highest priority. This was followed by coaching accreditation courses and information/referral services. Of much lower priority were business/management advice, sports advisory services and club administrator courses.

In general terms, the viability of a sport or sporting organisation reflects the effectiveness of its management. Two elements of management must be addressed; administration and development of players, coaches and officials.

Four elements of management needs to be considered.

- ◆ Introducing juniors into a sport is the life blood of the sport. Consequently, there is demand for talent identification or junior development programs. A survey of parent sporting associations found both cricket and football have offered these types of programs on the Eyre Peninsula in rural locations (i.e. in addition to programs in Whyalla and Port Lincoln).
- ◆ The Eyre Peninsula Regional Strategy (1995) recommended the establishment of a campus of the Institute of Sport in Port Lincoln. This concept of a regional Sports Academy or Institute of Sport has been suggested in a number of reports, however it is not supported by the Office for Recreation and Sport and its sports development arm SASI. Potential may exist to develop a regional sports program catering for talented junior and senior players, funded using local sponsorship from the private sector and local government. Both Whyalla and Port Lincoln have high quality facilities which can form the basis for such a program with outreach into the rural communities of the Eyre Peninsula. Alternatively, a regional program could be established in a central location, such as Wudinna.
- ◆ Whilst club administration courses was not considered as an important program or service by respondents to the survey of clubs and associations, the lack of volunteers and administrators was considered to be a major issue or concern of 40% of respondents of the survey. Both cricket and football have conducted club administrator courses on the Eyre Peninsula. Two strategies have been identified in the consultations conducted on the Eyre Peninsula, which may improve club administration including:
 - ▶ identify case studies of clubs recognised as having high quality club administration and introduce a mentor service whereby poorly administered clubs may seek the advice of experienced administrators.
 - ▶ conduct the Volunteer and Club Management Program offered by the Office for Recreation and Sport.
- ◆ Accreditation of coaches and officials is an ongoing problem for many clubs and associations. The lack of volunteers to take these positions is a problem, compounded by a lack of skills. Four sports, cricket, football, little athletics and netball have conducted coaching and/or umpiring accreditation programs on a relatively regular basis throughout the Eyre Peninsula.

3.2.4 Sports Tourism

Sports Tourism is defined as a sports related trip of over 40 km, involving a stay of at least one night away from home, to participate in sporting competitions, training or be a spectator at a sporting event. The definition can be widened to include organised tours of sporting amenities and sites and to include adventure tourism activity and tourist packages focusing on sports related activities, such as golf and fishing tours, cycle touring and bushwalking.

1 *National Sports Tourism Strategy*

The Commonwealth Government is in the process of developing a National Sports Tourism Strategy. The following excerpts from a Discussion Paper highlight some pertinent issues relating to sports tourism.

- ◆ Sports event comprise the largest proportion of all special events held in Australia. They are popular with domestic and international audiences which guarantees they will continue to be a major component of tourism.
- ◆ Promotion of sports events can create an image of the host region as an exciting place, where there will be people of common interests. In this way sports events can change perceptions and create new images for regions that have not previously been considered holiday destinations.
- ◆ The major issue is to develop strategies to improve the performance of sports events as tourism products in order to maximise the return from dollars invested. Options include:
 - ▶ improving the yield from existing events
 - ▶ staging more events
 - ▶ targeting and supporting events that offer the biggest potential returns in terms of tourism.
 - ▶ spreading the benefits of new and existing events to more regions.
 - ▶ better coordination of sporting events with other tourism related activities to maximise visitor stay and yield.
- ◆ Sport tourism contributes significantly to the economic growth of regional areas. Currently there are many impediments to its development. Appropriately scaled and planned events can revitalise, redevelop and re-image communities and destinations. The main impediments are:
 - ▶ Need for greater awareness of events tourism, to educate Council about the size of the industry and the need to develop links between sport and tourism to maximise the economic benefit of every event.
 - ▶ Need to adopt a regional focus on facility development, to avoid duplication of assets and resultant reduction of viability of businesses. All levels of government should combine to support sports centres for each accessible district that include a number of sports and are cost effective.
 - ▶ Lack of knowledge and expertise in event management, whilst many local and regional organisations have the technical expertise in the sporting area , they do not have the capacity to run a large event.

- ▶ Need accessible training and assistance in bidding, marketing and financial management, and in assessing the economic returns of tourism.

2 *Economic Benefits*

The economic impact of sports tourism on the Eyre Peninsula can be gauged from a recent assessment of the Adelaide to Port Lincoln Yacht Race. It was found that:

- ▶ Approximately 1,000 people travelled to Port Lincoln for the race.
- ▶ Average length of stay was a few days.
- ▶ Total expenditure by visitors was almost \$750,000.

A report "The Economic Impact of Recreation and Sport at the Local Government Level" prepared for the Office for Recreation and Sport in June 1998 discusses the impact of events on local communities. The study reviewed a series of sporting events for their economic implications on local communities. It found that:

- ◆ In Bunbury WA a regional sports games in 1985 resulted in visitors spending \$390,000 in the local community.
- ◆ Regional games conducted in Hamilton Victoria in 1990 resulted in visitors spending \$300,000 in the local community.
- ◆ Studies on Masters Games around Australia has found that average daily expenditure by visitors was between \$60 and \$147 per day.

This suggests that an event with 100 visitors staying overnight will generate expenditure in the order of \$6,000 to \$15,000 per day. Events which attract visitors for longer periods can expect greater expenditure. These figures demonstrate that even relatively small events will generate significant economic benefits to the local community.

The Economic Impact Study has some "general messages" relating to events:

- ◆ Small events will boost the local economy if visitors come from outside the region, especially from outside the State.
- ◆ Careful planning is essential to ensure that adequate accommodation and facilities will be available when required.
- ◆ Planning is essential so that potential visitors have time to make suitable arrangements to enable them to participate (which may include having to give long notice if they wish to have holidays from work).
- ◆ Be wary of big attraction events which may require a large proportion of the proceeds to go to the outside organisers and hence the local community loses.
- ◆ Events which attract supporters will add to the visitor numbers. Masters events are particularly advantageous and quite often can be planned to run over a longer period, especially for events which are attracted to retired persons.

- ◆ Consider also junior events where parents can be attracted to come along and also enter regional team competitions where additional supporters will be attracted (but unless the competition runs over two or more days the distance needs to be sufficient to entice them to stay overnight).

3 *Eyre Peninsula*

The survey of clubs and associations on the Eyre Peninsula found that 26% of respondents have conducted, or plan to conduct, a major event or activity attract people living outside the Eyre Peninsula in the year 2000 or 2001. Whilst 16 events were nominated by clubs many were events involving local communities. Of these events, six were annual events and five were once only events. It was found that the number of people attending these events were generally less than 300. From the responses it appears that very few events attract people from outside the Eyre Peninsula. However, the influx of Eyre Peninsula residents into small local communities for a day or a weekend will have a significant impact on that local community.

4 *Implications for Eyre Peninsula*

The Eyre Peninsula is a major tourist destination for South Australian residents and interstate visitors. It currently has wide range of tourist infrastructure including accommodation, hospitality as well as other natural features. The opportunity to develop the sports tourism industry will complement other tourist initiatives in the region. Clubs and associations may require substantial assistance to capitalise on their economic potential to the benefit of the local community and the local club.

3.2.5 Funding

The survey of clubs and associations found that the single action which will improve the viability of the organisation is to improve the level of funding from State or Local Government through grants or use of Council plant and equipment. Similarly when asked to rank the importance of programs and services, facility development grants and equipment grants rated much higher than all other types of programs and services. Program grants was the third most important program or service.

Based on these responses it would appear that many clubs and associations based on the Eyre Peninsula require some form of financial assistance to ensure the ongoing viability of their operation.

3.3 GENERAL ISSUES

Most issues relating to recreation have been addressed in the consideration of open space and sport in the previous sections. General issues which may encompass recreation, sport and open space are considered below.

1 *School Facilities*

Schools are an important community focus in most small townships. They often have recreation and sport facilities which can be used by the general community. Facilities which have the potential to be used by both the school and general public includes sports halls, swimming pools, playgrounds and playing fields.

Agreements must be negotiated which address management, including hours of use, maintenance responsibilities and operational funding. Where community funds (including Local Government) are used to develop or maintain the facility, community access rights must be protected through a formal Agreement.

2 Play areas

Play is a natural part of a child's development, and adequate facilities should be provided to cater for their needs. Generally, the development of playgrounds using manufactured equipment is very costly. Different types of equipment should be provided for each age group; pre schoolers, primary age children and teenagers.

Although use of the natural environment should be incorporated into play areas, many focus on formal play equipment. Adequate, quality play opportunities in small communities can be more effectively provided if schools and community cooperate, and develop joint use facilities.

3 Young People

Young people tend to be a difficult age group to cater for, particularly in terms of recreation and entertainment. Given the declining number of young people on the Eyre Peninsula, junior sporting and recreation opportunities provided through clubs are diminishing.

Young people, have similar recreation and sporting preferences to adults, in that, whilst they participate more frequently in active pursuits, they want "convenience" and "access". Consequently, facilities such as skate parks and activities such as surfing are very popular. The challenge facing Eyre Peninsula communities is to provide these types of recreation opportunities in a cost effective manner.

4 Information

Providing information to residents and visitors is a key element to providing effective recreation and sport opportunities. Three types of information have been identified as being deficient:

- ◆ information on grants and subsidies available to clubs and associations,
- ◆ interpretation of natural assets,
- ◆ information on available recreation and sport opportunities, including maps.

5 Role of Whyalla and Port Lincoln

Both Whyalla and Port Lincoln are important centres on the Eyre Peninsula. In terms of recreation and sport they have most types of urban style facilities, such as sports halls and swimming pools. Whyalla also serves as a regional shopping centre, and Port Lincoln also has a large retail shopping area. However, most rural communities on the Eyre Peninsula do not relate to either city, for recreation and sport. There is an expectation that recreation and sport will be provided locally.

6 *Water Safety*

An increase in use of the coast for recreational activities is likely to result in more drownings and near drownings. Data from the National Water Safety Strategy indicates that rural populations have a relatively high drowning rate. The State Government has commissioned a State Water Safety Strategy, and Surf Life Saving Association (SA) has conducted beach safety audits. Implications and recommendations from these two reports need to be addressed and implemented in association with any increase in coastal recreation.

4 MINI PROJECTS

Based on information gathered during the preparation of this Status Report, a number of "mini projects" have been identified. These mini projects need to be given a priority and a small number selected for further investigation.

Open Space

- 1 Develop a strategy to increase access to Conservation Parks for appropriate recreation activities
- 2 Investigate feasibility of Granite Park and Granite Trails in Wudinna/Minnipa area, including
 - ◆ clarification of and documentation of the concept.
 - ◆ identification of advantages and disadvantages, potential stakeholders and funders.
 - ◆ draft development plan including a staged development, the role of stakeholders and branding and marketing strategies.
- 3 Establish a comprehensive inventory of coastal recreation resources, including mapping the findings
- 4 Explore opportunities to fund and develop a Coastal Strategy for the Eyre Peninsula
- 5 Develop management plans at selected coastal sites to improve the recreation experience of visitors, whilst ensuring sustainable use
- 6 Investigate provision of boat ramps in isolated locations, such as Farm Beach
- 7 Investigate the feasibility of recycling water and use of storm water to maintain the Elliston wetlands and investigate its tourism potential
- 8 Establish a plan to improve access to and amenities at Lake Newland

Sport

- 9 Review boundaries of sports, particularly football and netball.
- 10 Review alternative structure for sports competitions, such as lightning carnivals and linking with other festivals, events and celebrations such as Agricultural Shows and Field Days
- 11 Establish a range of sports development programs in rural communities, including club administrators courses, coaching and umpire accreditation and junior development
- 12 Provide support to clubs and associations wishing to conduct sports events and tournaments
- 13 Investigate sports club administrator mentor scheme

- 14 Establish a directory of available grants and subsidies available for the development and maintenance of recreation and sport facilities, programs and services and open space
- 15 Investigate feasibility of establishing a Regional Sports Academy, including location, access by rural areas, programs, sports, funding etc.
- 16 Investigate alternative sources of water to maintain turf sports facilities, including examples of successful schemes implemented elsewhere in SA
- 17 Establish practical strategies for sharing recreation and sport facilities, including management structures, maintenance responsibilities, capital funding etc. Include case studies of successful examples

Recreation

- 18 Investigate the feasibility of establishing the "Eyre Trail" around the Eyre Peninsula
- 19 Investigate the establishment of a series of "drive and" trails, for activities such as surfing, sailing, fishing and diving
- 20 Develop a Project Brief and seek funding for an Eyre Peninsula Bike Plan, including cycling on country roads as well as individual settlements
- 21 Investigate the feasibility of extending the Investigator Trail, including use of the Port Lincoln to Coffin Bay disused rail line, and applicability of the Greenways Act
- 22 Design and develop play areas in small communities, such as North Shields
- 23 Investigate options for providing skate facilities in small communities

General

- 24 Prepare criteria for provision of specific types of recreation and sport facilities, such as catchment population, age profile etc
- 25 Identify the basic minimum level of recreation and sport provision in settlements of various size
- 26 Prepare a strategy and action plan to develop a joint school community sports hall at Kimba and Cowell. Identify what actions are required to move the projects forward, addressing funding, design, management, use and maintenance.
- 27 Develop common information bays at each major settlement

RECREATION AND SPORT FACILITY
STANDARDS

DISCUSSION PAPER

PREPARED
BY
PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES

May 2002

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Consultations conducted on the Eyre Peninsula as part of preparation of a Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy, identified refurbishing or maintaining existing facilities and development of new facilities as a significant concern of clubs particularly given the declining population and hence membership base of many clubs and associations.

In terms of facility provision, to ensure reasonable access to a range of recreation and sport opportunities, a basic core level of facilities should be provided in each township. A model of facility provision has been developed in response to the current concerns of clubs. The hierarchy of facilities proposed is a suggested framework, which provides local communities with a benchmark as to what is a reasonable level of facilities in different size communities.

1.2 POPULATION

The nine District Councils on the Eyre Peninsula had a combined population of 19,246 comprising 34% of the Peninsula's population. The size of each District Council varies from 1,200 to 3,900.

Whyalla is the largest local government authority on the Peninsula with 42% of the region's population followed by Port Lincoln which has 23% of the population.

The population of the nine District Councils has declined by 3% since 1992. Whilst Lower Eyre Peninsula and Tumby Bay experienced a slight increase in population the remaining seven District Councils all had a declining population.

Overall, population growth has occurred in the southern part of the Eyre Peninsula whereas population decreases have occurred in the northern part of the Eyre Peninsula.

TABLE 1.1: REGIONAL POPULATION

Local Government	1999
Ceduna	3,556
Cleve	1,910
Elliston	1,241
Franklin Harbour	1,227
Kimba	1,238
Le Hunte	1,552
Lower Eyre Peninsula	3,863
Streaky Bay	1,934
Tumby Bay	2,725
Sub Total	19,246
Port Lincoln	13,102
Whyalla	23,650
Sub Total	36,752
TOTAL	55,998

When developing standards of provision for recreation and sport facilities, three factors must be considered:

- ◆ The large geographic area of the Eyre Peninsula.
- ◆ Location of Whyalla and Port Lincoln, the largest population centres at the extremities of the region.
- ◆ Number of relatively small settlements with Ceduna the largest centre with approximately 3,000 people. Only Tumbly Bay (1,100) and Streaky Bay (1,100) have a population in excess of 1,000, while five other towns have a permanent population greater than 500 (Kimba, Wudinna, Streaky Bay, Cummins, Cleve and Cowell).

The effect of so few larger population centres is that bigger, more specialised facilities, catering for a regional population, are not financially viable in most parts of the peninsula. Thus access to regional facilities to most residents of the region is limited.

It should be noted that Whyalla, as part of the Eyre Peninsula region, provides regional facilities. However, Eyre Peninsula residents do not regard Whyalla as part of their region and do not use its recreation and sport facilities. Similarly, Port Lincoln's regional facilities are not considered as servicing the Eyre Peninsula, except for the area immediately to the north.

1.3 HIERARCHY OF FACILITIES

There is no standard hierarchy of recreation and sport facilities in country areas. Within metropolitan areas three categories of open space are generally used; State, Regional and Local which incorporates district and neighbourhood, with each level requiring less land and servicing small catchment area. This classification is inadequate for classifying recreation and sport facilities in country areas, primarily because:

- ◆ A large population base does not exist.
- ◆ Settlements are discrete, with their own facilities.
- ◆ Small settlements and rural areas surround larger settlements.
- ◆ Recreation and sport activities tends to be undertaken within a relatively small community of interest.

Given the unique factors which affect facility provision on the Eyre Peninsula a three tier hierarchy is proposed:

Regional

Facilities which are capable of hosting a major recreation or sporting event or tournament, such as a Country Championships.

District

Facilities which provide recreation and sporting opportunities for residents throughout the Council area. Many of these facilities cater for regional or sub regional finals matches and may be used for tournaments, events and competitions which attract visitors from outside the local area. Most of this category of facility are located in larger towns, rather than smaller communities, and include swimming pools, indoor recreation centres, football ovals

and single purpose club facilities such as bowling green.

Local

Facilities which provides recreation and sporting opportunities for residents in the immediate local area. This will normally include hard court area, hall and a local park with limited play equipment.

1.4 INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

A listing of recreation and sport facilities on the Eyre Peninsula is included in Appendix A. Facilities are listed under eight categories of: sports ovals, tennis/netball/ basketball courts, indoor sports courts, swimming pools, bowling greens, golf courses, specialist single purpose facilities and passive recreation areas. Each facility has then be categorised as local, district or regional.

Sports Ovals

One regional sports oval exists on the Eyre Peninsula at Wudinna which has a turf wicket and has hosted international cricket matches and SANFL games.

The main criteria for determining a district standard oval is whether a football club uses the facility. The number of football teams has declined in recent years, due to amalgamations, with many clubs servicing a large catchment area, covering a large part of many District Council areas.

Local sports ovals tend to cater for junior sport or cricket, including secondary school ovals used by sports clubs, but does not include primary school facilities. One of the features that distinguish them from district ovals is the lack of watering system.

Tennis/netball/basketball Courts

Most hard courts are used for at least two sports, usually tennis and netball or netball and basketball. No regional tennis centres exist on the Eyre Peninsula. A number of complexes have more than six courts, but their location prohibits their consideration as a regional facility (eg. Streaky Bay).

All other hard courts are classified as local facilities, and almost every township in the region has at least one tennis/netball court.

Indoor Sports Courts

The distribution of district standard indoor sports centres is adequate, with most centres located at the local secondary school. The only regional facility is the Ceduna Basketball Stadium, which is the only double court centre.

Swimming Pools

Ten swimming pools are located throughout the region, catering for an expanded local populations. Most are sited on Education Department land, with community access. The Eyre Peninsula has no 50 metre swimming pools.

Bowling Greens

Bowling greens are similar to tennis courts, as most larger settlements have at least one bowling green. However, none can be classified as a regional facility, although many clubs host their own tournaments and carnivals which attract players from a wide catchment area.

Golf Courses

Golf courses with sand scrapes are widely distributed throughout the region and are classified as local facilities.

Specialist Single Purpose Facilities

A number of specialist facilities are located in the region, including equestrian, motor sports and a variety of other activities such as shooting.

Parks

Eyre Peninsula contains a large number of National Parks and Wildlife Service parks which are classified as regional facilities, including National Parks, Conservation Parks and one Recreation Park.

The region has an extensive number of boating, sailing, surfing and swimming spots dotted around the coast. The number of locations are too numerous to catalogue, and vary from locations of State significant to areas primarily used by the local community.

Local parks also exist in most settlements, and playgrounds are established at each primary school.

2 FACILITY MODEL

2.1 OVERVIEW

A model for the provision of recreation and sport facilities must take account of the following issues:

- ◆ Council's cannot provide facilities in each settlement.
- ◆ Different standard of recreation and sport facilities will be available for various size settlements.
- ◆ Many facilities are developed in a staged program, particularly large projects.
- ◆ Local Government has an obligation to equitably distribute resources throughout the Council area, and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure in all communities.
- ◆ The viability of some facilities, over the longer term, is questionable due to the declining and ageing population in some rural areas.
- ◆ Some communities require additional assistance to maintain their basic recreation and sport (and other community) infrastructure.
- ◆ Most sporting facilities will be promoted and funded by clubs and associations. However, recreation parks do not have the same level of local support, as no specific group will raise funds to develop the facilities.

2.2 GROUPING OF SETTLEMENTS

In determining an appropriate standard of recreation and sport facility for individual settlements on the Eyre Peninsula, the role of each settlement in terms of recreation and sport is a prime consideration.

Major Regional Centres

Both Whyalla and Port Lincoln have recreation and sport facilities which are only available in these cities and are unlikely to be provided in smaller settlements on the Eyre Peninsula, such as:

- Indoor swimming pool
- Synthetic hockey pitch
- Sports hall with three courts
- Golf course with greens

Regional Centres

Both Ceduna and Wudinna are regarded by the Eyre Peninsula community to be regional centres, from a recreation and sport perspective. Wudinna is considered as being geographically central to the Eyre Peninsula. Ceduna is considered to be a self contained region on the far west coast, with a larger population than other settlements.

Eastern Eyre is considered by the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association to be a



distinct region within the Eyre Peninsula. However, agreement has not been reached on the location of a centre within Eastern Eyre.

District Centres

The settlements of Tumby Bay, Kimba, Streaky Bay, Elliston, Cummins, Cleve and Cowell generally serve the surrounding district.

Local Centre

The remaining settlements on the Eyre Peninsula have a relatively small permanent population, which in some instances increases substantially during holiday periods. Consequently, most recreation and sport facilities will serve the local community and

2.3 BASIC FACILITY PROVISION

Table 2.1 summarises the basic standard of recreation and sport facilities which should be available to residents on the Eyre Peninsula. These standards are not intended to be mandatory, rather they should be regarded as benchmarks against which current provision can be assessed.

TABLE 2.1: BASIC STANDARD OF PROVISION

Settlement	Facility	Description
Local Centre	Hard court	Two multi purpose courts, suitable for all court sports
	Hall	At least 200 m ² with toilets and basic kitchen, suitable for passive recreation activities
	Park	Small park, at least 4,000 m ² , with limited play equipment and an area suitable for informal ball games
Local Centre - Coastal	Hard court	Two multi purpose courts, suitable for all court sports
	Hall	At least 200m ² with toilets and basic kitchen, suitable for passive recreation activities
	Park	Small park, at least 4000m ² , with limited play equipment and an area suitable for informal ball games
	Boat ramp	Single ramp

Settlement	Facility	Description
District Centre	Playing field	Full size, irrigated football oval, with concrete cricket wicket suitable for competition matches
	Hard court	At least four floodlit courts, marked for both tennis and netball
	Sports hall	At least 33m x 17m, suitable for netball and other court sports
	Swimming pool	Outdoor, 25m unheated pool
	Bowling green	At least one green
	Golf course	At least 9 hole course with scrapes
	Specialist areas	All weather boat ramp in coastal locations, and other facilities dependent upon local interests
	Parks	Small park, at least 4000m ² , with play equipment suitable pre school children, primary school children and teenagers
Regional Centres	Playing field	Full size, irrigated football oval, with concrete cricket wicket suitable for exhibition matches
	Hard court	At least six floodlit courts, with at least four marked for either tennis or netball
	Sports hall	At least 35m x 20m, suitable for netball and other court sports
	Swimming pool	Outdoor, 25m unheated pool
	Bowling green	At least one green
	Golf course	At least 9 hole course with scrapes
	Specialist areas	All weather boat ramp in coastal locations, and other facilities dependent upon local interests
	Parks	Small park, at least 4000m ² , with play equipment suitable pre school children, primary school children and teenagers. [Note: Given the population of Ceduna it may have more than one fully developed park with play equipment]

3 FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Whilst determining the basic level of recreation and sport facilities appropriate for a settlement is important, equally important is to ensure facilities are efficiently and effectively developed. A series of principles are proposed which will guide the future development of recreation and sport facilities on the Eyre Peninsula.

Facilities should:

1. Cater for people regardless of age, sex, culture, ability or income.
2. Be flexible to accommodate changing trends in leisure participation and activities over time.
3. Enable the use of modern management practices, including use of volunteers and minimal paid staff.
4. Be shared by more than one group, and be suitable for multi-use, that is used for a number of activities.
5. Maximise public resources by locating facilities available public or community land, such as schools, and establish joint funding, maintenance and use agreements.
6. Be operated in an environmentally sustainable way, for example by use of renewal energy sources such as solar heating swimming pools and recycling storm water for irrigating ovals.
7. Be used to their maximum capacity by adding features which increase their potential use such as floodlighting and multi line marking on hard courts.
8. Be financially viable, that is operated, maintained and upgraded using the resources of the local community, including voluntary labour.

APPENDIX: INVENTORY OF RECREATION AND SPORT FACILITIES

SPORTS OVALS

Regional	District	Local
Wudinna	Kimba Kyancutta Ceduna (3) Poochera Streaky Bay Lock Elliston North Shields Cummins Port Neill Tumby Bay Cleve Cowell	Cowell Buckleboo Kimba Nunjirkompita Ceduna (2) Penong Piednippie Streaky Bay Murdinga Karkoo Pt Kenny Elliston Cummins Mt Hope Lipson Cockaleecheie Yallunda Flat Wharminda Tumby Bay (2) Cleve Waddikee Minnipa Yaninee Warrambooboo Smoky Bay Wangary Edillilie Arno Bay Dark Peak Kapinnie Ungarra Wirrulla Rudall

TENNIS/BASKETBALL/NETBALL COURTS

Regional/District	Local	Local
None	Piednippie (3) Haslam (2) Cunjena (2) Calca (2) Poochera (4) Streaky Bay (9,2) Wirrulla (3) Murdinga (4) Pt Kenny (2) Lock (6) Elliston (4) Wangary (4) North Shields (4) Edillilie (4) Kapinnie (2) Cleve (8,2) Arno Bay (6) Dark Peak Rudall Coffin Bay (3) Louth (3) Tutamulla (3) Wannulla (4)	Buckleboo (6) Waddikee (6) Kimba (6) Minnipa (5) Yaninee (3) Kyancutta (3) Warrambo (5) Wudinna (6) DC Ceduna (6 x 1-4) Smoky Bay (6) Ceduna (4,3,3,2,6,4) Cummins (6) Ungarra (4) Cockaleechee (2) Yallunda Flat (2) Wharminda (4) Port Neill (2,4) Tumby Bay (5,2) Cowell (6,1) Mangalo (3)

INDOOR SPORTS CENTRES

Regional/District	Local	Local
Ceduna (2 courts)	Streaky Bay Cummins Cowell (Table Tennis) Wudinna Ceduna Area School	Ceduna (2xsquash crts) Tumby Bay (2xsquash) Cleve Arno Bay (2xsquash)

BOWLING GREENS

Regional/District	Local	Local
None	Poochera (1) Streaky Bay (2) Wirrulla (1) Lock (2) Coffin Bay (1) Cummins (3) Cleve (2) Arno Bay (1) Cowell (2)	Kimba (1) Minnipa (2) Wudinna (1) Ceduna (2) Ungarra (1) Port Neill (1) Tumby Bay (2) Tumby Bay (Croquet)

SWIMMING POOLS

Regional	District	Local
None	Kimba Lock Cummins Minnipa Ceduna Wudinna	Streaky Bay Cleve Dark Peak Cowell Coffin Bay

GOLF COURSES

Regional/District	Local	Local
None	Streaky Bay (9) Wirrulla (9) Pt Kenny (9) Lock (18) Elliston (9) Coffin Bay (9) Cummins (18) Cleve (18) Dark Peak (9) Ceduna (18)	Moongi (9) Waddikee (9) Kimba (18) Minnipa (18) Kyancutta (18) Smoky Bay (9) Port Neill (9) Tumby Bay (18) Cowell (18) Louth Bay (9)

SPECIALIST FACILITIES*Equestrian Sports*

Kimba Racecourse (Harness and Gallopers)
Ceduna Racecourse
Streaky Bay Racecourse
Lock Racecourse
Tumby Bay Racecourse
Mortlock Park Pony and Showjumping Club (Tumby Bay)
Cleve Showgrounds Dressage area
Elliston Equestrian Area

Motor Sports

Kimba Go-Kart track
Arno Bay Stock Car Circuit
Elliston Dirt Circuit Sporting Car Club
Stirling Raceway (Tumby Bay DC)
Denial Bay Motocross track
Cummins Motorcycle Track
Louth Bay Motorcycle Club
Ceduna Motorcycle and Dirt Circuit Track

Miscellaneous

Wudinna Pistol Club
Yanabee Pistol Club
Cleve Pistol Club
Karkoo Pistol Club
Tumby Bay Pistol Club Range
Ceduna Pistol Range

Ceduna Rifle Range
Pt Kenny Rifle Range
Cummins Rifle Range
Tumby Bay Rifle Range
Cowell Rifle Range

Tumby Bay BMX track

Ungarra Gun Club Range
Cummins Gun Club
Louth Bay Gun Club

Coffin Bay Yacht Club
Tumby Bay Yacht Club
Ceduna Sailing Club

May 2002

PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES
BY
PREPARED

DISCUSSION PAPER
STRUCTURE OF SPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

A survey of recreation and sport clubs and associations on the Eyre Peninsula sought information on the main issues or concerns likely to affect the viability of their organisation and/or activity or sport. It was found that the main issue was a lack of active members which was identified by 56% of respondents. When asked what actions are required to improve the viability of their organisation 18% of respondents nominated responses such as "improve the viability of the region", "retain young people" and "increase employment".

It appears the main issue affecting sport on the Eyre Peninsula is a declining and sparse population, which in turn has a direct impact on the viability of sports clubs and associations. A declining population has led to amalgamation of sporting clubs, obviously resulting in fewer clubs and larger distances required to be travelled to compete in competitions.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that many people are choosing alternative recreation activities to organised sport, as a result of the distances travelled. This is borne out in the survey of clubs and associations in which 33% of respondents identified distance and time required to travel as a major issue or concern.

Issues or factors likely to affect sporting competitions are:

- ◆ Sports competitions boundaries have changed over time. Whilst many sports conduct competitions on a relatively local basis, this is not the case with football, given its relatively high cost basis and the number of players per team. If traditional home and away competitions are to continue, all sporting associations may need to review their boundaries.
- ◆ To overcome the problems associated with distance and travelling it may be appropriate to review the nature of sports competitions. Traditionally, competitions are held on a home and away basis with finals. Alternative competition structures should be investigated, for example lightening carnivals over one day or a weekend period or linking sports competitions with other festivals or celebrations, such as Tunarama and agricultural shows or field days.
- ◆ Sport offers numerous personal and community benefits. In rural communities, sport often provides a community with an identity and frequently is a focus of community life. Throughout the Eyre Peninsula, football and netball competitions are directly linked, and are regarded as a family activity. In reviewing the nature of competitions it is imperative that these links and community benefits are enhanced rather than diminished.

1.2 SCOPE

The purpose of this Discussion Paper is to review the boundaries of sports competitions, particularly football and netball, and consider alternative structures to traditional home and away competitions, and the potential impact on local communities.

The Discussion Paper will be presented to a Forum of stakeholders, and an Action Plan formulated to address sports competition boundaries in the long term.

2. EXISTING COMPETITION STRUCTURES

2.1 FOOTBALL

The governing body of country football is the SA Country and Metropolitan Football Council (SAC&MFC) which designates the Eyre Peninsula as the Western Zone. The SAC&MFC recognises that the structure of football in country SA must be reviewed. Consequently, it prepared a Discussion Paper - "Structure of Australian Football in SA" (July 2001). Competition boundaries are a sensitive issue, the Discussion Paper specifically states:

"(neither) the SANFL, nor the SAC&MFC will determine the future and structure of any League or Club. The SANFL and SAC&MFC will provide its assistance for Leagues and Clubs but those people responsible for the running of the Leagues and Clubs in a particular area must instigate any changes."

The Discussion paper notes that the Western Zone "has undergone much change and amalgamation of Leagues in the past ten years. In the short term the structure seems to be sound but with the population continuing to reduce there may be a need for further change in the next few years."

Football has five football leagues in the Western Zone:

Eastern Eyre Football League

Cleve FC
Cowell FC
Kimba Districts FC
Ports FC (Port Neill/ Arno Bay)
Rudall FC

Great Flinders Football League

Cummins/Kappinie FC
Eyre United FC (Lipson/Ungarra)
Lock FC
Ramblers FC (Cummins)
Tumby Bay FC
United Yeelanna FC (Murdinga/Yeelanna)

Mid West League

Central Eyre FC (Kyancutta)
Elliston FC
Western Districts FC (Poochera)
Wudinna United FC
West Coast Hawks FC (Streaky Bay)
Wirrulla FC

Far West Football League

Blues FC (Ceduna and Smoky Bay)
Koonibba FC
Thevenard FC
Western United FC (Penong)

Port Lincoln Football League

Boston FC
Lincoln Sth FC
Mallee Park FC
Marble Range FC
Tasman FC
Wayback FC

In addition to the league structure, an inter league competition is conducted in May each year. The Eyre Peninsula has a significant annual competition, the Mortlock Shield which is played in June.

Problems with the league structure include:

- ◆ The number of teams in each league is relatively small, particularly the Far West and Eastern Eyre which has an odd number of teams.
- ◆ Whilst the competitions in the rural areas of the Eyre Peninsula have associated netball competitions, the Port Lincoln FL does not.
- ◆ Ceduna, Purnong and Koonibba are located on the extremity of the region and long travel distances will be involved when playing teams east of Ceduna.
- ◆ Some clubs struggle to field two senior and junior teams.

2.2 NETBALL

Netball competitions are played at two distinct levels. The highest level competition is played on an inter town basis, using almost the same club and association structure as football. In addition, some towns have their own internal netball competition which is primarily a social competition. Port Lincoln is the exception, which does not have netball teams/clubs associated with its football.

Most, if not all township based competitions are not affiliated with SA Netball Association, and in some instances are mixed gender competitions.

Some of the issues which affect netball competitions are:

- ◆ Most club amalgamations have occurred because football had problems fielding teams. The result is that many women have not been able to play in a netball competition. For example Kimba Districts was formed as a result of the amalgamation of three clubs, consequently the number of netball teams was reduced from 12 to 4. To alleviate the problem Kimba fields "gold" and a "black" junior teams, with one set of teams playing the club with a bye.
- ◆ In some instances, amalgamation of football clubs has not been well received by the netball community. Ongoing difficulties have occurred at some clubs which have difficulty fielding teams despite the amalgamation. For a variety of reasons, some players have dropped out of the game and do not play for the amalgamated club.
- ◆ As a general rule, larger towns have adequate players to fill their netball teams. However clubs based in smaller settlements often have problems fielding teams.

- ◆ If teams in the Port Lincoln FL are to compete against teams in other football leagues, they will have to align with a netball club if football - netball link is to be maintained.
- ◆ The Far West has six netball clubs and only four football clubs. Programming netball and football together is very difficult. Whilst football and netball matches are scheduled together, additional games have to be scheduled for netball. Some netball games are played on Friday nights, although Ceduna is the only location with suitable lighting. The result is families are split on Saturdays with some playing netball at Penong whilst football is at Smoky Bay (ie 120 kms apart). The net effect is fewer volunteers available for football match days, and lower football gate revenue.

2.3 CRICKET

Cricket is organised into eight associations: Cleve and Districts, Great Flinders (based around Cummins), Kimba, Le Hunte (including Wudinna, Minnipa and Elliston), Streaky Bay (including Smoky Bay and Wirrulla), Far West (including Penong, Ceduna and Smoky Bay), Tumby Bay and Pt Lincoln.

Whilst Tumby Bay, Streaky Bay and Kimba have four clubs in each competition, the other associations have five six or seven clubs. Most of the competitions are for adults although an Under 16 competition is conducted in Tumby Bay, Ceduna, Port Lincoln, and Cleve.

2.4 LAWN BOWLS

Lawn bowls has a mix of both pennant (home and away) competitions and open days/tournaments conducted by each club.

Pennant competitions are conducted by three associations:

<i>Upper Eyre</i>	<i>County Jervois</i>	<i>Southern Eyre</i>
Ceduna	Kimba	Tumby Bay
Streaky Bay	Cowell	Ungarra
Wirrulla	Cleve	Cummins
Poochera	Lock	Coffin Bay
Minnipa	Arno Bay	Lincoln
Wudinna	Port Neill	Kerton

Most clubs conduct two or three tournaments or open days each year. Usually they are held on a Sunday, whereas pennant competitions are conducted in a Saturday.

Factors and issues which affect lawn bowls competitions are:

- ◆ Clubs vary in size consequently they field differing numbers of teams. Each association has various divisions in which clubs enter teams. For example in the Upper Eyre Association, two clubs have tree teams each, one club has two teams and three clubs have one team, with the latter having trouble fielding teams.
- ◆ Most clubs have difficulty fielding teams. To assist, a rule has been introduced allowing females to substitute for males in lower divisions.

- ◆ Travel to Ceduna is perceived to be a problem for some clubs.
- ◆ Separate male and female pennant competitions are conducted.

2.5 TENNIS

Most tennis competitions are conducted on an inter club basis. The most common model is for competitions to be based around a larger town, with smaller clubs in surrounding settlements competing in the competition. This structure exists at:

Cummins
Cleve
Kimba
Cowell
Wudinna
Ceduna

Other competitions are based around the following districts:

Ungarra, Port Neill and Tumby Bay
Streaky Bay, Wirrulla and Poochera
Elliston and Lock
Port Lincoln, North Shields

Factors or issues affecting tennis competitions are:

- ◆ Most pennant competitions are played on Saturday. Juniors play in the morning and seniors play in the afternoon. The main exception is Great Flinders tennis Association based in Cummins which plays under floodlights on Friday nights.
- ◆ Port Lincoln Tennis Association competes in a local district competition and also has an internal competition. The internal competition for adults is struggling for players, whereas the junior competition is thriving.
- ◆ Most tennis courts are marked for tennis and netball, and in some instance basketball.
- ◆ Few tennis courts have floodlights suitable for night competition. Improved lighting may be required to enable night tennis to be played at more locations.
- ◆ Night tennis will minimise disruptions to competitions due to extremely hot summers days (in excess of 40 degrees).

2.6 GOLF

Pennant golf is played in both the lower and north east areas of Eyre Peninsula. Other competitions are conducted as either intra club competitions, open events or tournaments. The two major golf tournaments are the Eyre Peninsula Open and the Port Lincoln Open which are both held at Port Lincoln Golf Club.

Most golf clubs throughout the Eyre Peninsula their own championship or open event, to

which players from other clubs are invited to participate. As all golf courses are sand scrapes, except the Port Lincoln Golf Club, most competitions are held in winter or spring.

2.7 BASKETBALL

Whilst basketball is played throughout the Eyre Peninsula, only two competitions are affiliated with the Country Basketball Association; Cowell and Streaky Bay. Consequently, accurate information on non affiliated competitions is not available. It is believed that non affiliated competitions are conducted in Tumby Bay, Wudinna, Cleve, Port Lincoln and Ceduna. These competitions are "social" competitions, and usually held in the football "off" season.

Both the Cowell and Streaky Bay competitions are conducted during the summer months, on outdoor courts, although training at Streaky Bay is held indoors at the High School sports hall. A summer basketball competition at Ceduna is conducted in an indoor two court sports hall.

A regional basketball competition is not conducted in the Eyre Peninsula. In the past an inter town competition was conducted, but this has not been held for a number of years.

3. FACTORS AFFECTING COMPETITION STRUCTURES

3.1 EXTERNAL FACTORS

External factors which will affect the structure of sports competitions, but sport has no control over include:

- ◆ An aging and declining population. The net result will be fewer people in the sports playing ages, hence fewer players.
- ◆ A number of trends in sports participation have become evident in recent years including:
 - ▶ Decrease in the number of people willing to make a commitment to participate in sports teams.
 - ▶ Expectation that competitions will be conducted at convenient times, which often means a change from Saturday to mid week evenings.
 - ▶ Shift in participation from organised sports competitions to informal, casually based social competitions.
 - ▶ Increasing interest in mixed gender sports competitions.
 - ▶ Declining interest in participating in weekly sports competitions which occur over a half or full day. The preference is to turn up, participate for up to an hour and leave.
- ◆ Distances between towns on the Eyre Peninsula are large. Consequently, long travel times are incurred when playing regular sports competitions. In practice the time taken to travel is part of the total sports experience, resulting in higher costs to participate and longer time commitments. Cost and time are two factors which have a direct impact on participation levels.
- ◆ A wider range of leisure activities compete for an individual's time and discretionary income. As more activities are available, the greater likelihood that traditional sports will suffer from declining participation.

3.2 CLUB FACTORS

Club or sport factors which will affect the structure of sports competitions, and sport has some control over, include:

- ◆ Many clubs have a long, and proud tradition. Whilst tradition can be a powerful motivating factor, it can also be an anchor which impedes progress into the future. Clubs have the right and a responsibility to ensure the history and tradition of its past members and their exploits are not lost. However, factors such as inter club rivalry, personality clashes and ongoing feuds should not determine how a club responds to changing external factors.

- ◆ Clubs and associations have long term loyalties to supporters, players, sponsors, and other clubs within its association. As with tradition, these loyalties must be viewed in a futuristic way, to assess their relative importance. New loyalties can be established in a relatively short term. Where conflicts exist between old and new loyalties, the benefits of both should be assessed.
- ◆ Most traditional sports (golf, tennis, netball, lawn bowls) have relatively few players in each team. However, football in particular and to a lesser extent, cricket, require a reasonable number of players. Obviously, with fewer people to choose from, difficulties will be experienced by some clubs in fielding teams. Solutions include reducing the number of players per team, modifying rules for age based competitions and introducing mixed gender competitions, particularly in non contact sports.
- ◆ Whilst there is no optimum number of clubs in a sports competition, a competition with four or five teams can be repetitive as teams will play each other four or five times in a season. A competition with two full rounds and finals is a preferred structure for most sports. Thus either competitions must amend their boundaries or consider alternative structures to allow matches against a larger number of teams.
- ◆ Sport in country regions is an important social cement. Many families participate in sporting activities as a group. Throughout the Eyre Peninsula netball and football have been linked. To enhance the social cohesion element of sport, it may be possible to link other sports and/or introduce mixed age/gender competitions.

4. COMPETITION OPTIONS

4.1 OVERVIEW

Country sports competitions are based around three types of structures:

1. *Interclub competitions*

Most sports clubs participate in inter club competitions, involving either a round robin and finals format over a season or a specific event or tournament. Some individual sports such as golf, bowls and tennis have both pennant team competitions and individual based tournaments.

2. *Intra club competitions*

Many sports clubs conduct regular intra club competitions, either in lieu of, or in addition to, inter club competitions. Obviously, intra club competitions tend to be restricted to individual sports.

3. *Inter region competitions*

An integral part of country sport are representative competitions. These may be based on smaller leagues or zones, or be amalgamated into a larger region (such as the Eyre Peninsula). Interregional competitions can be a mix of home and away fixtures, tournaments at a central venue (such as Country Week in Adelaide), or tournaments conducted in regional locations.

A healthy sports environment will provide an appropriate mix of competitions for all ability levels. It should provide a "career" path for better players, whilst providing adequate opportunities for the social players. Possible competition structures to address issues raised in this Discussion Paper are summarised below. Given the importance of the football/netball nexus, this has been addressed in more detail than other sports.

4.2 RESTRUCTURE BOUNDARIES

Football, netball, lawn bowls and cricket have "inter town" style competitions. Football has five leagues, netball has four inter town leagues (as the Port Lincoln Football League does not have an associated netball competition) and a competition within Port Lincoln, lawn bowls has three leagues and cricket has eight associations.

Ceduna presents a problem for all inter town competitions due to its distance from other urban settlements. Lawn Bowls includes Ceduna in its Upper Eyre competition, which expands from Ceduna to Streaky Bay to Wudinna. Football and netball on the other hand have a four team competition based around Ceduna, and including a club at Purnong.

The Discussion Paper prepared by the SAC&MFC has outlined a league structure with three competitions:

- ◆ *Central Eyre* a nine club competition, encompassing Cowell, Kimba, Poochera, Elliston, and Port Neill/Arno Bay.

- ◆ *Western Eyre* a six club competition, encompassing Streaky Bay, Smoky Bay, Ceduna and Penong.
- ◆ *Lower Eyre* a twelve club competition, encompassing Port Lincoln, Tumby Bay, Lipson/Ungarra, Lock and Cummins.

If the number of leagues is reduced, the main issues to resolve are:

1. How far west should the "Ceduna" competition expand? Clubs which are on the limit of "reasonable" travel time are Wudinna and Elliston.
2. How far south should the Eastern Eyre competition reach? Should clubs based in Cummins and Tumby Bay play in a Port Lincoln or Upper/Eastern Eyre competition.
3. Will the Port Lincoln competition align with a netball competition, or should netball teams play in the Port Lincoln Netball Association competition?

It is apparent that in the future, the number of leagues will probably have to be reduced, to at least four and possibly three (as suggested by the SAC&MFC). Many of the issues and considerations which affect football and netball also apply to cricket and bowls. To some extent cricket has the greatest flexibility as it has the most number of clubs, and can reduce the number of associations to four or five without substantially increasing travel distances. Lawn bowls, with three leagues does not have much opportunity to "rationalise" its league structure without large increases in travel for some clubs.

4.3 DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE

Within Australia the most common league structure involves all teams playing each other two to four times each season with a finals series at the end of the minor round. Another option, based on the USA system, is to have a divisional structure. Each team in a division plays each other on a home and away basis, and plays teams from other divisions on a rotation basis each year.

For example on the Eyre Peninsula the existing five leagues could be retained with each team playing other teams in the league twice on a home and away basis. Given the location of Ceduna, teams in the Far West may play each other three times. This will result in each team playing between eight and ten games. To bring the season to an 18 round competition, teams will be rostered to play teams in adjoining leagues, such as:

Far West

Each team plays each other three times (9 games), plus each team in the Mid West, alternating each year on a home and away basis (6 games), plus 3 teams from other leagues on the Eyre Peninsula.

Mid West

Each team plays each other twice (10 games), plus each team in the Far West, alternating each year on a home and away basis (4 games), plus 4 teams from other leagues on the Eyre Peninsula.

Eastern Eyre

Each team plays each other twice (8 games), plus three teams in Port Lincoln and three teams in Great Flinders, alternating each year on a home and away basis (6 games), plus 4 teams from other leagues on the Eyre Peninsula.

Great Flinders

Each team plays each other twice (10 games), plus three teams in Eastern Eyre and three teams in Port Lincoln, alternating each year on a home and away basis (6 games), plus 2 teams from other leagues on the Eyre Peninsula.

Port Lincoln

Each team plays each other twice (10 games), plus three teams in Eastern Eyre and three teams in Great Flinders, alternating each year on a home and away basis (6 games), plus 2 teams from other leagues on the Eyre Peninsula.

Finals

At the end of the minor round the top two teams in each League will play off for the right to play in the Eyre Peninsula Major Round. The five league premiers will then play a normal five team finals format. Obviously, other finals formats can be devised, to suit the needs of each league or the Eyre Peninsula zone, for example an 10 team finals format can be devised.

Under this system, clubs will be rostered to play all other teams on the Eyre Peninsula over a number of years. Clubs in Port Lincoln may need to align with a netball club, or alternative fixtures arranged with other netball clubs to cover the "bye" when they play a Port Lincoln team.

4.4 ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURES

A league structure, based on home and away fixtures, is the preferred arrangement for most sports. However, other competition formats can be adopted either as:

1. an adjunct to a shortened league format, for example, a four or five club league competition could be conducted with a short two or three round season, complemented by other competition formats, or
2. as the main inter club competition, thus a regular intra club competition can be supplemented with other competition formats.

Alternative competition formats include:

- ◆ *Tournaments and events* conducted by a club or association. Often these are conducted over one day or a weekend/long weekend, and may be annual events.
- ◆ *Lightening carnivals* are usually conducted in a round robin format. Rules are often modified, such as reducing the number of players or the time to play the game, to enable two or three games to be played each day. Carnivals can be played over a weekend or a longer period, such as Country Week.

- ◆ *Knock out competition.* This may involve all teams in the Eyre Peninsula and based on a random draw, teams will progress through various rounds to the Final.
- ◆ *Linking sports.* In the same way football and netball are associated, other sports may be linked to encourage families to participate. For example cricket, tennis and bowls could conduct linked competitions.
- ◆ *Rotating sports festivals.* With the increasing importance of sports tourism as an booster to local economies, a series of sports festivals could be conducted. Conducted at one town, the festival will involve a range of sports over a short period (say a weekend). In addition to clubs and teams on the Eyre Peninsula invitations can be extended to clubs elsewhere in the State.
- ◆ *Linking with Festivals.* Usually sports competitions are conducted as a stand alone activity. However, it may be prudent to link one off events, tournaments, carnivals and sports festivals with existing non sporting festivals such as the Tunarama Festival or Oyster Festival, or in association with activities such as Filed Days or Annual Shows.

If sports introduce a mix of league and other competition formats, it is important that events are planned not just for the forthcoming season, but over a three to five year period. Clubs and individual players must be able to clearly establish their time commitments and the benefits from participation.

5. WHERE TO FROM HERE?

This Discussion Paper highlights the needs for action to ensure sport on the Eyre Peninsula remains viable in the long term and presents a number of options. It is the responsibility of stakeholders (organisations involved in sport at the local, regional and State level) to address the long term structure of sport on the Eyre Peninsula, and adopt an agreed Action Plan.

To move forward into the future, and ensure the ongoing viability of sport the following specific issues must be addressed. Recommendations on how to address each issue are proposed.

1. Football/Netball Competitions

Of all sports played on the Eyre Peninsula, the football/netball combination is the most important. It has a unique role in country life from a social, financial and sports perspective. However, the long term future of the football/netball combination is not assured. Unless changes are made to competition boundaries, senior football in some parts of the Eyre Peninsula could disappear.

2. Other Sports

Whilst other sports do not occupy the same role in community life, they are important elements of a community's social infrastructure. Along with football and netball they face similar problems, such as increasing maintenance costs, travel costs, fewer players and volunteers. As a result, the nature of competitions may need to be reviewed, and changes implemented in the short, medium or long term.

In determining the most appropriate long term structure for individual sports on the Eyre Peninsula the following factors must be considered:

◆ Role of State Associations

Traditionally State Associations have not become involved in addressing the structure of sport in country regions. It has usually been left to local clubs and associations to make local decisions. One of the by products of this "hands off" approach is the lack of change, or change only occurring in response to a crisis. State Associations have a role to play as a facilitator, to assist local communities to effect change in the best long term interests of the sport and the local community.

An independent third party is often required to provide a broad perspective on local problems. The South Australian National Football League (SANFL) and South Australian Netball Association (SANA) in particular and other sports in general, have a leadership responsibility to ensure the longevity of their sports. A broad, strategic perspective is required to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of all people on the Eyre Peninsula not just a small number of powerful clubs or individuals.

◆ Affiliation with State Associations

Not all sports competitions, clubs and associations are affiliated with the appropriate State Association. Reasons vary, but basically revolve around the issue of value for money. Many State Associations provide little or no services to country sports clubs, but expect country clubs and players to pay significant affiliation fees.

Affiliation has many benefits, but these benefits must outweigh the costs. State Associations must have a positive strategy of providing outreach services to country areas. Programs which are required include coaching accreditation, umpire accreditation and training, and talent identification and development. Whilst some State Associations do this well, others fail. A review of sport and sporting structures must address the relationship between local clubs, regional associations and State Associations.

◆ Schools in Sport

The link between school sport and club sport is almost non-existent on the Eyre Peninsula. Most sport is played on a club basis. However, schools have an important role in sports development. Schools provide the opportunity to participate in representative sports competitions and hence involvement in talent identification programs, they offer a wider range of sports than are available through clubs and often provide the first introduction of children into sport.

It is therefore important to determine the role of sport in schools on the Eyre Peninsula, and the best way for school sport to complement club based sport, and vice versa.

◆ Even Competition

Given differences in population size across the Eyre Peninsula, it is essential that sports competitions give all clubs a chance to be successful. An uneven competition in which one or two clubs dominate is not a healthy competition.

Recommendations

To effect long term change, all stakeholders must be involved in decision making. Decisions must be “owned” by all parties and implemented by each sporting community. The following recommendations provide the first steps to effecting change:

1. Representatives of football and netball, at both the State and Regional level, adopt a partnership approach to solving the problems facing both sports.
2. Football and netball work together on an equal basis, rather than the current situation where football makes decisions and expects netball to “fall into line”.
3. SANFL and SANA take a leadership role in addressing the structure of football/netball on the Eyre Peninsula. Both associations can provide a role model for local clubs by working together to address the long term viability of both sports across all rural areas.
4. SANFL and SANA prepare, adopt and implement a joint business plan for football/netball on the Eyre Peninsula, with significant involvement of all clubs.
5. ORS provide financial incentives to State Sporting Associations to prepare business plans for each country region including the Eyre Peninsula.
6. Each sport with clubs or associations based on the Eyre Peninsula, prepare a business plan outlining a strategy to ensure its long term viability.

7. ORS allocate a significant proportion of its funding to State Sporting Associations to the delivery of sports development programs, such as coaching and umpire accreditation courses, in country areas.
8. Sporting clubs and associations establish or reinforce links with schools and investigate the potential to provide specialist skills coaching and introduce students to the benefits of playing sport with the club.
9. Sport SA and its member sports associations explore practical strategies for delivering sports development programs to the Eyre Peninsula.
10. Local government lobby ORS and Sport SA to address and support initiatives which improve sports development on the Eyre Peninsula.

EYRE TRAIL
PRELIMINARY BUSINESS PLAN

PREPARED
BY
PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES

May 2002

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1. CONCEPT

1.1 BACKGROUND

During the community consultation conducted as part of the Eyre Peninsula Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy, the concept of extending existing walking trails around the entire coastline of the Eyre Peninsula was suggested. The idea was to develop a walking trail which followed, as closely as possible, the original route taken by Edward John Eyre when he explored the Peninsula.

A walking trail of this length would rival the Heysen Trail, and was proposed to be a major walking trail of international standard. However, developing a long distance trail of this nature has a number of inherent problems, including:

- ◆ Long distances between settlements, resulting in limited access to amenities such as rest areas and food and beverage outlets.
- ◆ Capital cost of developing trails, including signage, and the ongoing cost of maintenance.
- ◆ Limited demand for long distance, out and back, trails as opposed to shorter (up to half a day) looped trails.
- ◆ Relatively flat topography, which is ideal for walking, but is not necessarily scenic or appealing.
- ◆ Reluctance of the State Government, through the Office for Recreation and Sport, to fund or take responsibility for another long distance trail.

Consequently, the Eyre Trail concept has been modified to encompass a broader range of recreation activities, and to incorporate travel by motor vehicle between points of interest.

1.2 DESCRIPTION

Target Group

The Eyre Trail will target the leisure needs of residents and visitors who;

- ◆ Want experiential activities and are “doers” rather than “watchers”.
- ◆ Are interested in touring around the Eyre Peninsula, rather than remaining in one location.
- ◆ Are interested in specific recreational activities, such as fishing, boating or diving.
- ◆ Have the time to spend two or more consecutive days on the Eyre Peninsula.

Product

The essence of the Eyre Trail is:

- ◆ A route around the Eyre Peninsula linking sites offering the same activities, such as

fishing, diving, and surfing.

- ◆ Common branding of sites to identify locations and routes as part of the Eyre Trail.
- ◆ Consistent promotional strategy across all sites which are linked by the Eyre Trail, including:
 - ▶ Eyre Trail logo
 - ▶ maps and brochures
 - ▶ information on amenities, such as boat ramps, toilets, shops and accommodation
 - ▶ hints and tips on using sites, such as best weather conditions for using site, where to park and best type of bait.
- ◆ Initially base the Eyre Trail on a small number of recreational activities, and expand the range of activities as the concept demonstrates its effectiveness as a marketing tool.

Routes

The Eyre Trail will primarily follow the Eyre Peninsula coastline, and where practical will intersect with the actual route followed by Edward John Eyre. It will link a series of the “best” sites on the Eyre Peninsula, for a particular recreation activity.

2. FEATURES OF THE EYRE TRAIL

2.1 COORDINATION

The Eyre Trail is primarily a branding or marketing exercise designed to encourage increased recreational use of the Eyre Peninsula for outdoor, coastal based recreation and sport activities. It will be based around existing road infrastructure and natural assets. Rather than being “managed”, success of the Eyre Trail will depend upon how well “coordination” occurs across the region.

Each local community linked by the Eyre Trail will have responsibility for developing and maintaining individual sites, either through the District Council or another group, such as a Progress Association. At a regional level, coordination will be required to ensure that the Eyre Trail is promoted and information is accessible to potential visitors.

Rather than establishing a new organisation, coordination of the Eyre Trail should occur through an existing group. Given the regional nature of the Eyre Trail, the most appropriate body is the Eyre Peninsula Tourism Development Board. Alternatively, the Eyre Regional Development Board or the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association could assume responsibility for Eyre Trail. Whichever organisation has responsibility for the Eyre Trail, a Working Party may need to be established to coordinate activities locally.

A Working Party will preferably comprise representatives of major stakeholders in the Eyre Trail, including local government, tourist operators, recreation and sporting groups and environmental groups.

The Working Party’s primary responsibilities will be to:

- ◆ Prepare a marketing plan
- ◆ Promote the Eyre Trail to potential visitors.
- ◆ Coordinate marketing activities conducted across the Eyre Peninsula and on site.
- ◆ Collect and coordinate information on individual sites and specific trail components.
- ◆ Select individual sites for inclusion on the Eyre Trail.
- ◆ Obtain funds to promote the Eyre Trail and produce maps and brochures.

2.2 PROMOTION

A comprehensive promotion plan will be required to maximise the effectiveness and impact of the Eyre Trail. Promotional tools which should be considered include:

Logo

A distinctive logo is required to enable easy identification of the Eyre Trail. The logo can be used on all literature and signs. A slogan or theme can be used in association with the logo to accentuate the benefits of the Trail. One suggestion for a slogan is “Eyre of Excitement”.

Maps and brochures

A series of maps will be required:

- ◆ An overall map of the Eyre Trail showing all recreational sites.

- ◆ Individual maps for each recreational activity showing the Eyre Trail and details of access to, and amenities and features of, each site.

Brochures, pamphlets and other forms of literature must be produced and made readily available to visitors. This material must provide adequate detailed information to allow visitors to participate in their chosen activity, at the nominated site, without seeking additional assistance and guidance.

Web site

Given the increasing importance of the Internet, information on the Eyre Trail should be included on a web site. All information available in the form of maps and brochures can be included and down loaded as required.

Signage

Consistent signage with the logo, should be adopted throughout the Eyre Trail. Signs are required to:

- ◆ Signpost the Eyre Trail, and provide directions off the main routes.
- ◆ Identify sites for specific activities.

Information

An important element of the Eyre Trail will be to provide information in a "user friendly" way to make it as easy as possible for users to participate and enjoy the benefits of the Eyre Peninsula. Information must be available on:

- ◆ Amenities, such as boat ramps, toilets, car parks, shops and accommodation.
- ◆ Hints and tips on using sites, such as best weather conditions for using site, where to park and best type of bait.
- ◆ How to get there, particularly when the site is "off the beaten track".

2.3 DEVELOPMENT

One of the factors which will contribute to the success of the Eyre Trail is the condition of facilities at each site and the standard of maintenance.

In selecting appropriate sites for inclusion on the Eyre Trail the following factors must be considered:

- ◆ Ease of access to the site.
- ◆ Reputation or attributes of the site in relation the specific recreation activity.
- ◆ Availability and quality of facilities and amenities at the site.
- ◆ Level of maintenance of facilities and site.

Hence, each site selected for inclusion on the Eyre Trail should meet minimum standards. To ensure these standards are met, a Management Plan can be prepared and include:

Plan of the site

Existing facilities and amenities

Program to upgrade existing, or develop new facilities and amenities, including cost

and priority
Maintenance program and budget

It will be the responsibility of the organisation which has ownership or care and control of the site, to prepare the Management Plan and obtain the necessary resources to upgrade and/or maintain the site.

3. SPECIFIC TRAILS

3.1 SELECTING SITES

In determining the route of the Eyre Trail it is important that the best sites are selected. The Eyre Peninsula must be regarded as a single entity, not a collection of local government areas or communities. Consequently, it will be wrong to "balance up" the list of sites by including one from every Council area. Instead, choose sites for their attraction as a recreational site.

Listed below are some suggestions for sites to be included in the Eyre Trail. Information has been gleaned from tourist literature, and not from site visits or from discussions with local experts. Before selecting sites for inclusion in the Eyre Trail all potential sites must be fully evaluated and a small number of high quality sites identified.

3.2 WALKING

The Eyre Drive and Walk Trail leaves the Lincoln Highway south of Cowell and heads towards Cleve:

1. Yeldunknie Weir (5 km east of Cleve on Cleve - Cowell Road)

From Cleve travel south via Verran to

2. Wharminda Soaks and the adjoining Hincks Conservation Park

Then travel south to rejoin the Lincoln Highway until North Shields

3. Investigator Trail starts at North Shields and links into Lincoln National Park

Follow the Flinders Highway to

4. Coffin Bay National Park

Rejoin the Flinders Highway and travel north to

5. Walkers Rocks (11 km north of Elliston)

Potential exists to link walking trails in Lincoln National Park and Coffin Bay National Park along the disused railway line between Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay. The line is privately owned, although access may be negotiated possibly using the Greenways Act as a basis.

3.3 FISHING

Eyre Peninsula has a very large number of fishing sites. Reducing the number down to a manageable number for inclusion as part of the Eyre Trail is difficult. Three different "Drive and" trails can be promoted based upon different styles of fishing. All fishing trails will be linked by the Lincoln or Flinders Highways.

Eyre Drive and Jetty Fish Trail

Arno Bay
Tumby Bay
Louth Bay
Port Lincoln
Coffin Bay
Elliston
Streaky Bay
Smoky Bay
Ceduna

Eyre Drive and Boat Fish Trail

Franklin Harbour
Arno Bay
Port Neill
Boston Bay
Coffin Bay
Waterloo Bay
Anxious Bay
Streaky Bay
Sceales Bay
Ceduna

Eyre Drive and Beach Fish Trail

Sleaford Bay
Fishery Bay
Sheringa Beach
Lock's Well
Anxious Bay
Mount Carmel Beach
Point Brown

Given the large number of good fishing spots on the Eyre Peninsula, it may be necessary to identify specific locations within a site. For example the boat fishing trail will need to include the actual location of the boat ramp and also directions on where to fish, beach fishing may need to identify specific beaches or parts of a large beach area.

A variation to separating the trail into three distinct fishing trails is to divide the Eyre Trail into smaller trails based on small geographic areas.

3.4 DIVING

The major diving locations have been identified as:

Port Neill
Port Lincoln
Coffin Bay
Waterloo Bay
Venus Bay

However, it is understood that the west coast has some of the best diving locations in SA, if not Australia. These locations should be identified and Eyre Drive and Dive Trail concentrated in this area.

3.5 OTHER ACTIVITIES

Initially the Eyre Trail should focus on the Drive and Walk, Drive and Fish, and Drive and Dive trails. Once the concept proves to be successful, it can be expended to include a range of other recreational activities such as:

- Cycling
- Surfing
- Sailboarding

4. WHERE TO FROM HERE

To turn the Eyre Trail from a good idea into reality will require action. The lack of response from most Councils during the preparation of this Preliminary Business Plan suggests a key stakeholder will be required to champion the Eyre Trail concept. In other words a driving force is needed to convert the Eyre Trail into a useful marketing tool .

Once a Champion has been identified, the following actions will be required:

1. Determine which organisation will take responsibility for developing the Eyre Trail concept.
2. Establish a Working Party comprising stakeholders to coordinate the Eyre Trail on a day to day basis.
3. Decide which sites to include in the Eyre Trail, and collect detailed information on each site.
4. Prepare a Marketing Plan for the Eyre Trail.
5. Obtain funding to implement the Eyre Trail.
6. Prepare Eyre Trail information packages in accordance with the Marketing Plan.

EYRE GRANITE PARKWAY
PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY

PREPARED
BY
PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES

May 2002

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1. CONCEPT

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The area to the north of the Eyre Highway, between Koongawa and Minnipa, contains a large number of granite rock formations. Given their location adjacent to the Eyre Highway, an opportunity exists to link these formations by establishing the Eyre Granite Parkway.

The term "Eyre Granite Parkway" is a working name only. In the longer term a more exciting name, such as "Valley of the Granite Giants" (or Goliaths) can be used to fit into a marketing program.

The Eyre Granite Parkway will incorporate self directed drive and walk/mountain bike trails, providing scenic outlooks and interpretation of the rock formations and native flora and fauna. Given the large number of visitors who travel along the Eyre Highway, the Eyre Granite Parkway will provide a valuable tourism product in an area generally devoid of major tourist attractions.

1.2 VISION AND GOALS

The Vision of the Eyre Granite Parkway is:

An eco tourism attraction of international significance, developed and marketed to cater for residents and tourists to the region.

Goals of the Eyre Granite Parkway are to:

1. Provide a focus for tourism in North Central Eyre Peninsula.
2. Increase the number of tourists to the Wudinna - Minnipa area.
3. Ensure the natural attractions of the Parkway are used in an ecologically sustainable way and manage visitor use to ensure environmental damage to the natural attractions does not occur.
4. Educate the local community and visitors on the environmental values of the Parkway.
5. Link granite rock outcrops in the area between Koongawa and Minnipa, and between the Eyre Highway and Gawler Ranges National Park.

1.3 PRODUCTS

Eyre Granite Parkway comprises a series of twelve granite rock outcrops and formations. The main rock outcrops, with visitor facilities are:

- Corrobinnie Hill
- Ucontitchie Hill
- Mount Wudinna
- Polda Rock
- Tcharkulda Rock
- Yarwondutta Rock
- Pildappa Rock

Rocks which are less significant in terms of their geology and amenities are:

- Waddikee Rock
- Turtle Rock
- Pygery Rock
- Little Mount Wudinna
- Poondana Rock

Activities associated with the Eyre Granite Parkway will involve drive touring, in which visitors drive to each granite rock outcrop and participate in specific activities at each site. Depending upon the nature of each site the following activities can be undertaken:

- ◆ Walking and cycling
- ◆ Interpretation of the site
- ◆ Sightseeing and picnicking
- ◆ Natural recreation activities such as photography and bird watching.

Corrobinnie Hill

Corrobinnie Hill is a large granite outcrop on the outskirts of the Pinkawillinie Conservation Park, providing picturesque views of the Park and the Gawler Ranges in the distance. The Hill, located approximately 20 kilometres west of Wudinna, is only accessible by 4WD and is a popular picnic destination. No facilities are available and access is free. It is under the care and control of NPW(SA).

Ucontitchie Hill

Ucontitchie Hill is a large granite outcrop of international significance. The Hill has many geological features of interest. A trail can be followed which passes the different formations and points of interest. Located approximately 34 km south west of Wudinna. No facilities are available and access is free. However, access is through private property, although it is managed by Council.

Mount Wudinna

Mount Wudinna is one of Australia's largest granite monoliths, providing views of the surrounding landscape from a height of 261 metres. Located 10 kilometres off the Eyre Highway from Wudinna. Facilities include an Interpretive Trail providing a pleasant, picturesque walk and information about the rock, its history, formation and local flora, several picnic sites with barbecue facilities, toilets and a recently constructed unique shelter

also with barbecue facilities, and a parking areas suitable for buses and caravans. Camping is not permitted. The public areas are on a Council reserve, and the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ is in private ownership.

Polda Rock

Polda Rock is a recreation reserve just 7 kilometres east of Wudinna. Facilities include shelter, barbecue and toilet facilities and a trail follows the circumference of the Rock. Camping is not permitted, and access is free. The Rock itself has heritage significance, from its use as a water supply for the township of Wudinna in the early settlement days. It no longer serves this function, however its potential to once again supply water to the town for use on parks and gardens is being investigated. It is under the care and control of Council.

Tcharkulda Rock

Tcharkulda Rock is located just 4 kilometres east of Minnipa. The granite outcrop is covered with giant boulders and rock formations. Facilities include wood BBQ, picnic and recreation area. It is under care and control of Council.

Yarwondutta Rock

Yarwondutta is located 4 km north of Minnipa, is an interesting water catchment and reservoir area. It has been listed for entry on the Register of National Estate. No facilities are available. Located on an agricultural reserve administered by PIRSA.

Pildappa Rock

Pildappa Rock is an isolated granite dome located 15 kilometres from Minnipa, off Eyre Highway. It has wave formations that rival the famous 'Wave Rock' in Western Australia. Views from the Rock include the Gawler Ranges and the Blue Sturts. Facilities include a shelter, two picnic areas, two toilets and two barbecues. A walking/drive trail circumnavigates the rock, and camping is permitted. It is under the care and control of Council.

Waddikee Rock

Located directly adjacent Eyre Highway at Koongawa, Waddikee Rock is a small exposed granite dome that provides an excellent view of the surrounding landscape. A monument to John Darke, an early explorer who was speared by native whilst travelling through the area, is located at the base of the rock. A picnic shelter and table is available.

Turtle Rock

Turtle Rock is a granite outcrop that looks something like a turtle. Its on private land and cannot be climbed, however there is a photograph opportunity off the Mt Wudinna Access Road. It can also be seen quite clearly from the top of Mt Wudinna. No facilities are available.

Pygery Rock

No facilities are available. It is a water reserve under private management.

Little Mount Wudinna

Located in same reserve as Polda Rock, under care and control of Council. No facilities are available

Poondana Rock

Poondana Rock is located close to the Gawler Ranges National Park. It was formerly in private ownership, but has been transferred to NPW(SA). No facilities are available.

2. MARKET ASSESSMENT

2.1 VISITORS

The Eyre Granite Parkway has the potential to attract a significant number of visitors, based on:

- ◆ 920 vehicles travel the Eyre Highway, in the vicinity of Eyre Granite Parkway, every 24 hours, or 336,000 vehicles per annum.
- ◆ An estimated 65,000 people travel along the Flinders Highway each year, which is approximately 80 km or less than an hours drive, from the Eyre Granite Parkway.
- ◆ Ceduna has an estimated 400,000 visitors each year, and when business travel is excluded the estimated number is between 240,000 and 360,000.
- ◆ 879 coaches travelled west to east through Ceduna in 1999.
- ◆ 80% of visitors to the Eyre Peninsula travel to the region by motor vehicle.
- ◆ 61% of all traffic through Ceduna in 1999 was made up of cars, caravans/trailers, campervans and 4WD vehicles.
- ◆ 4% of recent visitors from the Adelaide metropolitan area to the Eyre Peninsula had stopped at Wudinna, 3% had stopped at Minnipa and 3% had stopped at the Gawler Ranges (1993).
- ◆ Visitors to the Eyre Peninsula spend approximately 1.2 million nights in the region and spend about \$100 million.
- ◆ 72% of visitors come from South Australia, 25% from interstate and 3% from overseas.
- ◆ Primary reasons people visit the Eyre Peninsula include:

Coastal sightseeing and other tourist drives	45%
Nature site visits, including national/conservation parks	16%
Unique rock formations	2%
Mining and geological site visits	2%

This data indicates that a substantial number of visitors pass by or near the Eyre Granite Parkway.

2.2 ESTIMATED VISITOR LEVELS

Without additional market research it is not possible to accurately predict visitor levels to the Eyre Granite Parkway. At best, a guesstimate based on current visitation levels and a comparison with other similar natural attractions can be made.

Projections based on current visitation levels

Relevant data to assist with projections are:

- ◆ Approximately 3,000 vehicles visit Mount Wudinna each year.
- ◆ Between 3% and 4% of visitors from Adelaide to the Eyre Peninsula have visited or stopped at Wudinna, Minnipa or the Gawler Ranges. Total visits to the Eyre Peninsula is approximately 455,000.
- ◆ 2% of visitors to the Eyre Peninsula do so primarily to visit unique rock formations and 16% primarily visit natural sites.

This data suggests potential visits to the Eyre Granite Parkway is between 9,100 and 72,800.

Comparative assessment

Non data is available on visits to the Gawler Ranges National Park, however visitor levels to the following are available:

Katarapko National Park	26,500
Mount Remarkable National Park	46,600
Gammon Ranges National Park	18,000

Other relevant sites with visitor numbers are:

Arid Lands Botanical Gardens	32,500
Wadlata Interpretive Centre	26,400
Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park	18,300

Based on these visitation levels the Gawler Ranges National Park may attract up to 20,000 visits per annum. Most visitors will travel through the Eyre Granite Parkway to reach the National Park.

Summary

Based on these guesstimates, it is possible that a fully developed, well marketed Eyre Granite Parkway, and linking with the Gawler Ranges National Park could attract up to 20,000 visits per annum. It is likely that this visitation level will not be achieved in the short term. In the early years, visitation levels in the order of 5,000 could be expected. Once an integrated marketing program has been implemented, visits could double. Visitation levels above 10,000 are unlikely to be achieved unless a high quality natural attraction is established, with reasonable quality visitor amenities including interpretive programs.

2.3 MARKETING STRATEGY

The marketing challenge is to entice a substantial percentage of visitors to visit the Eyre Granite Parkway and stay in the immediate vicinity for at least one night. The effect will be a substantial boost to the local economy. A marketing strategy for the Eyre Granite Parkway should be developed around:

- ◆ Targeting the highway traveller and the nature based visitor markets, particularly

South Australians.

- ◆ Improve the quality of visitor amenities at each of the major granite rock outcrops, by providing trails, interpretive information, signage, toilets, picnic/BBQ facilities and car parking.
- ◆ Link sites in the Eyre Granite Park thematically, using maps and suggested touring routes and activities.
- ◆ Provide value added services such as guided tours, merchandise and memorabilia.
- ◆ Maintain free entry to all sites and consider a nominal charge for some facilities such as electric/gas BBQ's and maps/interpretive material.
- ◆ Establish a comprehensive promotional campaign (refer to "30 Steps Towards Building a Stronger and More Vibrant Minnipa", Vance Thomas and Associates for examples of suitable promotional activities).

3. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

3.1 INFRASTRUCTURE

An important task is to upgrade the quality of amenities at each site in the Eyre Granite Parkway, particularly the major sites. Each site should have interpretive signs and trails and car parks, whereas amenities such as picnic/BBQ facilities and toilets which are relatively costly can be provided in strategic sites. Works and a priority required to be undertaken at each site are listed below. Estimated costs have to be determined.

Corrobinnie Hill	Walking trails	High
	Picnic tables and benches	Medium
	Interpretive signs	High
Ucontitchie Hill	Picnic tables and benches	High
	Interpretive signs	Low
Polda Rock	Interpretive signs	High
Tcharkulda Rock	Walking trails	Medium
	Picnic tables and benches	High
	Toilets	High
	Interpretive signs	Medium
	BBQ	High
Yarwondutta Rock	Walking trails	Low
	Interpretive signs	High
Pildappa Rock	No works required	
Mount Wudinna	No works required	
Waddikee Rock	No works required	
Turtle Rock	No works required	
Pygery Rock	No works required	
Little Mount Wudinna	No works required	
Poondana Rock	No works required	

3.2 SITE PLANS

Individual site plans have to be prepared, which identifies the location and design of all infrastructure. Development guidelines can be produced which ensures that all developments are constructed in a consistent design theme.

4. MANAGEMENT

4.1 SITE MANAGEMENT

Of the seven main granite rock outcrops, five are under the care and control of Council and the other two are managed by the State Government through NPW(SA) and PIRSA. Two of the lesser granite rock outcrops are under the care and control of Council, two are either leased or owned by private interests, and the fifth site is unallocated crown land.

Given the range of interests involved in managing the sites, it is reasonable to expect each agency to continue managing its site(s). The main opportunities to enhance management is through coordinated management of the Council sites. As there are numerous Council sites, it is unreasonable to expect each site to be managed by a separate group. Council can continue direct management of these sites, or establish a management body to assist with management responsibilities. The most common types of management bodies are committees of management or incorporated associations.

There is merit in establishing a management body to coordinate development and maintenance of Council controlled sites. The Terms of Reference (ie. aims, objectives and responsibilities), plus the composition has to be determined. A key issue to be resolved is capital and operational funding.

4.2 MARKETING

Whilst maintenance of each site will be undertaken independently, by each agency responsible for each site, a coordinated marketing program will be required. Options for coordinating marketing include:

- ◆ Council, directly through its staff.
- ◆ Council indirectly through an appointed/elected Marketing Authority, including all stakeholders.
- ◆ Eyre Regional Development Board (including the Eyre Peninsula Regional Tourism Development Board).
- ◆ Independent Marketing Authority, comprising representative of stakeholders.

Factors which will determine the most appropriate structure include:

- ◆ Regional importance of the Granite Parkway compared with other tourism products.
- ◆ Level of support for the concept, both locally and regionally.
- ◆ Financial commitment of stakeholders to the Granite Parkway concept.
- ◆ Economic and social benefits which will accrue to the local communities compared with the Eyre Peninsula.
- ◆ Relationship with other tourism products on the Eyre Peninsula.
- ◆ Degree of control to be exercised by Council and other organisations responsible for site management.
- ◆ Experience, availability and interest of personnel.

In assessing the relative merits of each option and the factors to be considered, the most appropriate option may be a local group, including representation from all major stakeholders. Whether this body is independent of Council should be decided by the stakeholders. The SA Tourism Commission has recently reviewed the role of its regional Tourism Development Boards. Its new role is totally focussed on marketing and promotion

of the region and its tourism products. Consequently, a good working relationship must be established with the Eyre Peninsula Regional Tourism Development Board.

5. FINANCE

5.1 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Capital works may be required at six sites, and involve the construction of walking trails and toilets, and installation of picnic tables and benches and interpretive signs. Total cost of these works can only be determined when detailed site plans are prepared. Toilets are the most costly item, and walking trails can be relatively expensive, depending upon the level of construction. A "ball park" estimate of the total cost of works is in the order of \$60,000 to \$100,000. However, the cost

Funding can be obtained from a variety of sources, including:

South Australian Tourism Commission

Funds for the development of tourism infrastructure are available from two sources. The first is the Minor Infrastructure Fund which provides funds on a \$ for \$ basis to a maximum of \$50,000. The second is through major projects funded directly by Treasury as part of the normal budgetary process.

Given the lack of major tourism products in the Upper Eyre Peninsula, a submission to SATC for the development of the Granite Parkway may be well received.

Office for Recreation and Sport

Two grants are available for recreation and sport projects; Community Recreation and Sport Facility Grants and Active Club - Minor Capital Works Grants. The walking trails will probably be eligible for funding and toilets and interpretive signage may be eligible. Most grants are under \$100,000 and a matching contribution is usually required.

District Council of Le Hunte

Council may provide funds during its normal budget process for the development of each site under its care and control.

5.2 MARKETING

The nature of the Granite Parkway is such that it is unlikely to generate revenue in its own right. Limited funds may be raised from pay as you go BBQ's and free entry to each site is expected to be maintained. Consequently, a marketing budget must be raised from alternative sources including:

- ◆ Federal, State and Local Government grants
- ◆ Royalties from sale of merchandise, souvenirs and maps
- ◆ Levies on local tourist businesses

To maximise marketing initiative, given the likely budget constraints, it will be necessary to maintain links with other Regional and State tourism marketing programs.

5.3 ECONOMIC BENEFITS

As noted above, the Eyre Granite Parkway is not expected to generate a financial return in its own right. Rather, it will generate economic benefits to support services such as accommodation, food and beverage, and travel costs (ie sale of oil and petrol).

One of the primary aims of the Granite Parkway must be to entice travellers to make an overnight stop in the area, or extend their stay in the area by an extra night. Whilst some economic benefits will be derived from visitors stopping for less than a day, it is likely to be substantially less than an overnight stay.

Based on existing data, visitors to the Eyre Peninsula spend approximately \$100 per day. It is not known what proportion is spent on the overnight stay component and how much is spent on a day visit. In estimating the economic impact on the Eyre Granite Parkway, it is necessary to acknowledge the limited accommodation available. Consequently, while occupancy rates will increase with more visitors staying overnight, it is expected that a significant proportion of visitors will visit the Parkway, and possibly stop at Wudinna or Minnipa, but not stay overnight.

To estimate possible economic benefit to the area, from increased visitation due to the Eyre Granite Parkway, a series of assumptions have been made:

- ◆ Average expenditure per person is \$100 per day.
- ◆ Day visitors will spend 20% of their daily expenditure during the day (ie not on accommodation, breakfast and evening meals).
- ◆ 10% of visitors will stay overnight in the Wudinna/Minnipa area.

Under these assumptions, every 1,000 visitors to the Eyre Granite Parkway will generate \$28,000 in the local economy, that is:

5,000 visitors will generate \$140,000
10,000 visitors will generate \$280,000

Increasing the proportion of visitors who stay overnight to 20% will increase total expenditure by 29% to \$36,000 for every 1000 visitors, that is:

5,000 visitors will generate \$180,000
10,000 visitors will generate \$360,000

Over a number of years the economic benefit of establishing and promoting the Eyre Granite Parkway could be substantial.

6. SWOT ANALYSIS

6.1 STRENGTHS

- ◆ Significant eco-tourism product.
- ◆ Accessible to a large number of travellers along the Eyre Highway and Flinders Highway.
- ◆ Enthusiastic and committed local community.
- ◆ All major sites under care and control of public authorities.
- ◆ Most sites relatively close to townships.
- ◆ Variety of routes can be suggested for various length visits.
- ◆ Some marketing already undertaken and promotional/information brochures produced.

6.2 WEAKNESSES

- ◆ Granite outcrops not well known.
- ◆ Area not regarded as a tourist destination.
- ◆ Sites spread over reasonably large area.
- ◆ Limited interpretation of sites.

6.3 OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS

- ◆ Link thematically with Gawler Ranges National Park.
- ◆ SA Tourism Commission wish to establish significant tourism products on the Eyre Peninsula.
- ◆ Establish a network of eco tourism products and attractions on the Eyre Peninsula.

6.4 THREATS

- ◆ Competition from other locations tourist destinations and routes, especially the Flinders Highway.

6.5 BENEFITS

- ◆ Increase economic activity in the local community.
- ◆ Increase employment prospects for local residents.
- ◆ Enhance community identity as the home of an internationally recognised natural attraction.
- ◆ Increase awareness of environmental and cultural values through interpretation of the natural and cultural history.
- ◆ Preservation of the natural environment as a result of proactively managing the resource.

6.6 CONSTRAINTS

- ◆ Capital development funds.
- ◆ Marketing budget.
- ◆ Distance from major population centres.

7. WHERE TO FROM HERE?

To some extent the Eyre Granite Parkway already exists, however further works and a coherent marketing program are required to capitalise on its tourist and economic potential. Actions to convert the Eyre Granite Parkway into reality are summarised below.

Management and Coordination

1. A single organisation must take overall responsibility for the Eyre Granite Parkway. It is not effective use of resources for the Minnipa and Wudinna communities to separately develop and promote the Parkway. Le Hunte District Council has a role to establish a group with representation from all stakeholders to coordinate the Parkway.
2. Once established, Parkway Management must have the support of major stakeholders, responsibility for establishing works priorities, seeking sponsorship and grants and marketing.
3. Obtain initial seed funding to assist with routine administration costs.

Marketing

1. Contact Eyre Peninsula Regional Tourism Development Board to assess interest in Eyre Granite Parkway and level of support which may be expected from the Board.
2. Market research data is required to establish current visitor levels to the Eyre Granite Parkway. Traffic counters or similar devices can be used to estimate vehicle traffic, and self completion questionnaires can be left at each Granite Parkway site and local accommodation establishments seeking information on:
 - ▶ place of residence and journey origin and destination
 - ▶ expenditure in Minnipa/Wudinna area
 - ▶ place of overnight stay
 - ▶ satisfaction with Granite Parkway experience
 - ▶ activities undertaken at each site
3. Prepare a detailed marketing program including a name for the Eyre Granite Parkway and an estimate of the cost of implementing the marketing program. A marketing program will include:
 - ▶ maps and brochures
 - ▶ interpretive material
 - ▶ advertising, public relations
 - ▶ events and special promotions
 - ▶ common signage and a Parkway logo
 - ▶ linked promotions with other natural attractions such as Gawler Ranges National Parks
 - ▶ information on activities which can be undertaken at each site
4. Identify programs and services which can be offered to increase revenue, such as guided and self guided tours, entertainment programs for children, and sale of merchandise and memorabilia (including maps and interpretive material). Investigate feasibility of providing these programs and services, and commercial

partners interested in conducting these concessions.

5. Seek grants and sponsorship to implement the marketing program.

Development

1. Prepare a master plan for each Granite Parkway site.
2. Identify all works required to be completed at each Parkway site, and prepare a development program including works to be undertaken, cost and priority.
3. Seek grants and sponsorship to implement the development program.

TALIA CAVES
MANAGEMENT PLAN

PREPARED
BY
PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES

May 2002

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1 INTRODUCTION

The name "Talia" was derived from an aboriginal word meaning near water.

1.1 PLANNING PROCESS

Talia Caves is visited by an increasing number of people, on day trips for fishing, sightseeing, surfing and short term camping. Damage to the coastal natural resources of the area is common to the region and arises from uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, pedestrian traffic, campfire wood collection, campsites and the impact of toilet use throughout the dunes and remnant vegetation habitats.

Past grazing impact from livestock and rabbits severely damaged the coastal vegetation contributing to the landward mobilisation of sand dunes as the sand became exposed to the strong westerly winds prevalent along the western coastline of Eyre Peninsula. Adoption of improved management practices, to better guide, control and contain visitor impacts will help reduce damage allowing endemic coastal vegetation a chance to rehabilitate and restore the biodiversity of this unique area.

Various management activities have been undertaken including fencing to exclude stock from the coastal reserve supported by the Coast Protection Board, and later tourism and road grants to improve access from the highway to the coast. In 1997 Talia was identified by members of the Elliston Coastal Management Group as an area in need of improved coastal access management, leading to the development of a Coastcare project in 1999 to better manage camping and access at the Woolshed site. The Coast Protection Board funded the construction of a raised wooden walkway to the base of the cliffs at Woolshed Cave. In more recent years the Great Australia Bight 1000 Strategy has recognised Talia Caves as an area requiring ongoing management assistance.

This Management Plan aims to provide an initial overview of natural resource management issues and range of actions to implement to protect and repair local natural resources and accommodate coastal tourism pressure. It has been prepared using information provided by the District Council of Elliston and Coastcare, supplemented by information from other sources on geology, flora and fauna.

1.2 PARK CLASSIFICATION

The land is Crown Land, a gazetted coastal reserve, under the care and control of Local Government.

2 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

2.1 DESCRIPTION

Talia Caves is located approximately 40 km north of Elliston, on the west coast of Eyre Peninsula (refer to Appendix for location map and site plan). Talia Caves is a small part of the coast line stretching from an undeveloped camping area near Woolshed Cave approximately 2 km south to a monument. It is an area of natural scenic beauty with limestone caves, granite rock face and formations and sand dunes.

From Woolshed Cave to the monument, a graded road provides access along the cliff top, with sand dunes to the land side of the road.

Two rock formations of note are Woolshed Cave, a large cave in the limestone cliff face, and The Tub, a large basin in the limestone rocks which has been eroded away. A wooden walkway has recently been constructed to provide access from the cliff top to Woolshed Cave.

The site is Crown Land under the care and control of the District Council of Elliston.

2.2 SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

The most significant features of the area are the extensive and pristine coastal and cliff top sand dunes, limestone cliffs and the weathered formations particularly:

- ◆ Woolshed Cave
- ◆ The Tub,

and the scenic views from the cliff top along the coast.

A monument at the eastern end of Talia Caves commemorates a local woman who died when part of the cliff she was standing on broke away.

The area is becoming increasingly popular as a tourist site. A road count in 1999 found that 54 vehicles traveled on the Talia Caves Road each day, or 19,700 vehicles annually. Recreation activities undertaken at Talia Caves include:

- ◆ sightseeing, where visitors tend to drive to the cliffs' edge to gain access to vantage points to view the coast from the comfort of their car;
- ◆ bush camping, where visitors tend to drive along any tracks they find seeking out the ideal place to camp, the new formal campsite at Woolshed Cave when completed will attract use.
- ◆ fishing,
- ◆ surfing.

2.3 LINKAGES

Locally, Talia Caves is central to Mount Camel Beach to the north and Talia surf beach and Mount Newland Conservation Park to the south. No roads have been established providing

access either north or south from Talia Caves, thus access is by walking or 4WD vehicle.

Within the District Council of Elliston, Talia Caves is one of a number of strategically located sites where camping areas are proposed (refer to Appendix for plan of proposed camping area). These camping areas will complement other sites along the west coast at Sheringa Beach and Walkers Rocks, providing access to the coast for recreation and tourist activities.

It is proposed to link all coast camping grounds through GAB 1000 and the Streaky Bay and Ceduna District Councils, to form an Eyre Peninsula Trek, a walking/camping trail along the coastline of the Great Australian Bight.

In the long term a scenic loop road may be established from the Flinders Highway to Talia Caves, to Mount Camel Beach, to the Flinders Highway.

2.4 MANAGEMENT OBLIGATIONS

Talia Caves is subject to a Native Title application from the Wirrangu people, who also acknowledge that the Nauo and Barngarla people have interests in the site. Given the site is subject to a Native Title claim, an obligation exists to consult with the Wirrangu people on the future development and management of the site.

Development of the camping area at Talia Caves complies with the Elliston Development Plan (1993).

Council by laws prohibit camping unless in a commercial premises such as a caravan park or a recognised camping ground. A coastal camping ground Park Ranger has been employed by Council to maintain the camping grounds and enforce council bylaws in relation to camping and the use of the camping grounds. Once additional facilities are developed at Talia Caves, a permit to camp will be required.

2.5 MANAGEMENT HISTORY

Talia Caves is an underdeveloped site, in relation to facilities and services for visitors. Work to date has been done in conjunction with Coast Care and the Great Australian Bight 1000 Project. Consequently, little or no on site management has occurred, except for works undertaken to enhance the site and protect the environment.

Prior to Council assuming care and control of the site, it was unallocated Crown Land.

3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 NATIVE ANIMALS

Information on native birds and animals in the Talia Caves site are not available. However, information from the Biodiversity Survey and Monitoring branch in the Department of Environment and Heritage has advised that surveys have been undertaken in the general area of Talia Caves. Within a radius of 20 km, 22 native vertebrates have been identified.

3.1.1 Objective

To protect native birds and animals habitat.

3.1.2 Strategies

- ◆ Identify all native birds and wildlife habitats.
- ◆ Restrict vehicles to designated roads and car parking areas.
- ◆ Restrict camping to designated camping areas.
- ◆ Restrict pedestrian traffic to designated and tracks.
- ◆ Prepare, and advise visitors of, a Code of Practice or guidelines for using Talia Caves.
- ◆ Provide interpretive information on native wildlife.

3.2 NATIVE PLANTS

Endemic coastal vegetation grows along the cliff top areas. Information from the Biodiversity Survey and Monitoring branch in the Department of Environment and Heritage has advised that surveys have been undertaken in the general area of Talia Caves. Within a radius of 5 km, 83 species of native vegetation have been identified.

Given the harsh conditions along the coast, native vegetation needs to be protected from vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

3.2.1 Objective

To protect native vegetation along the cliff top area.

3.2.2 Strategies

- ◆ Restrict vehicles to designated roads and car parking areas.
- ◆ Restrict camping to designated camping areas.

- ◆ Restrict pedestrian traffic to designated and tracks.
- ◆ Revegetate the area by direct repeated seeding with endemic coastal vegetation.
- ◆ Undertake rabbit control as required prior to revegetation.
- ◆ Prepare, and advise visitors of, a Code of Practice or guidelines for using Talia Caves.
- ◆ Provide interpretive information on endemic coastal vegetation.
- ◆ Provide timber for fires to prevent damage to trees and shrubs.

3.3 LANDFORMS

The limestone cliffs and sand dunes along the Talia Caves coast are important geological features, which must be protected. Two significant geological features of the limestone cliffs are Woolshed Cave and The Tub. A wooden access walkway has been constructed to allow visitors to reach Woolshed Cave, reducing damage to the site.

Talia Caves are wave-cut features developed at the contact of coarsely bedded aeolianite and probable Precambrian Pandurra Formation. The aeolianite containing the caves extends to the north as a flat platform, dropping abruptly to the sea in a talus slope or cliff. Immediately to the south of the caves, sand dunes have encroached onto the platform. The dunes are vegetated and largely immobilised, but further south they merge into a system of mobile sand dunes of spectacular form. Talia Caves are located at the transition in the landscape from limestone cliffs to a sandy beach (from Geological Society of Australia (SA) File # E.23 - Talia Caves, Chris Giles 1980)

3.3.1 Objective

To protect geological features of the area, particularly the limestone cliff formations and the fragile soil system.

3.3.2 Strategies

- ◆ Restrict vehicles to designated roads and car parking areas.
- ◆ Restrict camping to designated camping areas.
- ◆ Restrict pedestrian traffic to designated and tracks.
- ◆ Prepare, and advise visitors of, a Code of Practice or guidelines for using Talia Caves.
- ◆ Provide interpretive information on the limestone cliffs and soil system.

3.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE

Aboriginal burial sites are located in the sand dunes approximately 1 km to 1.5 km north of the monument and 200 to 300 metres east of the access track. Details of the actual location can be obtained from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, and consultation should be undertaken with the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council. A buffer zone around the site is required to protect the sites.

A marble monument is located on the top of the cliffs at the eastern end of Talia Caves to honour the memory of Sister Millard who lost her life on 24 June 1928. Whilst photographing the area, the cliff crumbled and she fell into a blowhole fissure and drowned.

3.4.1 Objective

To protect sites of Aboriginal and European cultural significance.

3.4.2 Strategies

- ◆ Establish a buffer zone around sites of Aboriginal significance and prohibit access into this area.
- ◆ Consult with the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council on appropriate measures to protect sites of Aboriginal significance.
- ◆ Prepare, and advise visitors of, a Code of Practice or guidelines for using Talia Caves.

3.5 RECREATION AND TOURISM

The site provides visitors with the following opportunities:

- ◆ Bush camping
- ◆ Sightseeing along a magnificent and spectacular coastline
- ◆ Walking
- ◆ Fishing from the rocks and ledges along the bottom of the cliff face
- ◆ Photography

Surfing and beach fishing is available at Talia Beach, to the south of the Talia Caves site.

Potential hazards to visitors are the ruggedness of the cliffs and coast itself. A wooden walkway has been constructed to the base of the cliffs at Woolshed Cave, no other formal access path exists. It is not proposed to add any additional structures on this stretch of coastline.

Signs warn visitors about the dangers of the cliffs.

Unrestricted coastal access has, in the past, had a significant impact on native flora and fauna. Where access has been restricted, the area is regenerating.

3.5.1 Objective

To ensure visitor use of Talia Caves is safe.

3.5.2 Strategies

- ◆ Erect signs to advise of hazards.
- ◆ Direct visitors to safe locations to participate in recreation activities.
- ◆ Prepare, and advise visitors of, a Code of Practice or guidelines for using Talia Caves.

3.6 VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

Visitor behaviour at Talia Caves has resulted in degradation of the pristine nature of the site. Behaviours which has resulted in problems include uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, pedestrian traffic, campfire wood collection, campsites and the impact of toilet use throughout the dunes and remnant vegetation habitats.

Talia Caves and coastal areas along the Eyre Peninsula are generally promoted as being 'unspoiled and pristine' with an expectation that visitors will leave the area as they find it. Monitoring or controlling visitor behaviour is difficult given its location and distance from services. Consequently, other strategies have to be used to ensure use of the area is sustainable, such as establishing a formal camping area, and constructing elevated board walks over fragile areas.

3.6.1 Objective

To ensure visitor use of Talia Caves is sustainable.

3.6.2 Strategies

- ◆ Establish physical barriers to restrict vehicle access to designated roads and parking areas.
- ◆ Direct visitors to specific locations to participate in recreation activities.
- ◆ Provide amenities such as toilets and fire wood, to discourage inappropriate behaviour.
- ◆ Provide information to visitors on where to recreate.

3.7 SITE SPECIFIC FACTORS

No external factors have been identified which will put the site as risk or impact on the immediate area.

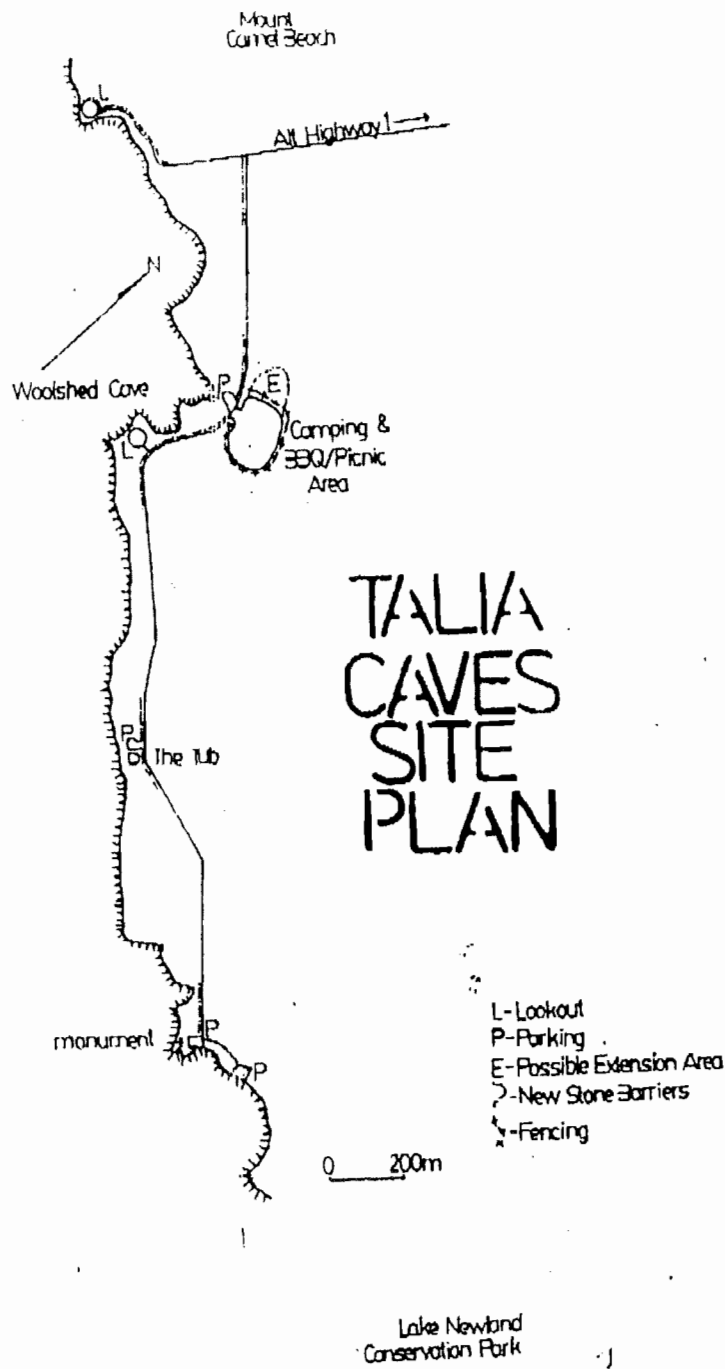
4 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Action	Priority
Consult with the Wirrangu people on the development and management of Talia Caves.	Very High
Consult with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council to identify the location of sites of Aboriginal significance.	Very High
Prepare accurate costing of each management actions proposed	Very High
Install vehicle barrier along the western edge of the access road, using large limestone rocks.	Very High
Create vehicle parking bays at recognised access points creating a spur track from the graded road to a contained parking bay with vehicles contained with barriers at Woolshed Cave, viewing point on cliff facing north, The Tub, the monument and a site approximately 200 m east of the monument.	Very High
Liaise with National Parks and Wildlife staff on the draft Lake Newland Conservation Park Management Plan and review vehicle access through Talia Caves if vehicle access in the Park is changed.	Very High
Provide fire wood for campers in Talia Caves.	Very High
Install a dry toilet system with a closed Poly tank under a dry pedestal. It will have to be monitored and pumped out at regular periods and as required during times of high use.	High
Rabbit control works in and around the campsite and selected sites throughout the project area, prior to revegetation.	High
An extensive revegetation program in the camping area, consisting of repeated direct seeding of endemic coastal vegetation followed by selective shade plants for the campsite to help develop an attractive and functional sheltered campsite.	High
Establish a formal camping areas near Woolshed Cave, with a suitable toilet facility, a sun shelter and public BBQ system, an information bay, and steel ranger.	High to Medium
Develop Code of Practice guidelines for coastal visitors to Talia Caves and install as a sign at the entry to Talia Caves area, where vehicles slow down for the stock grid and make a sharp turn.	Medium
Involve students from both Elliston Area School and Port Kenny School in an environmental management and monitoring program at Talia Caves. Funding will be required to cover bus travel costs and fund minor monitoring equipment .	Medium
Improve interpretive signage at Woolshed cave, The Tub and The Monument.	Medium
Create an information trail using signs placed throughout the area describing natural resource features of geology, vegetation, fauna, marine life and discuss Aboriginal and European connections, so visitors can better understand what they are seeing and how to see it.	Medium to low
Employ a local coastal ranger to help protect the coastline undertaking a range of site management tasks and maintaining a presence on site at high use times throughout holidays to assist visitors adhere to guidelines.	Low
Improve access to The Tub, such as a safety barrier at the bottom.	Low

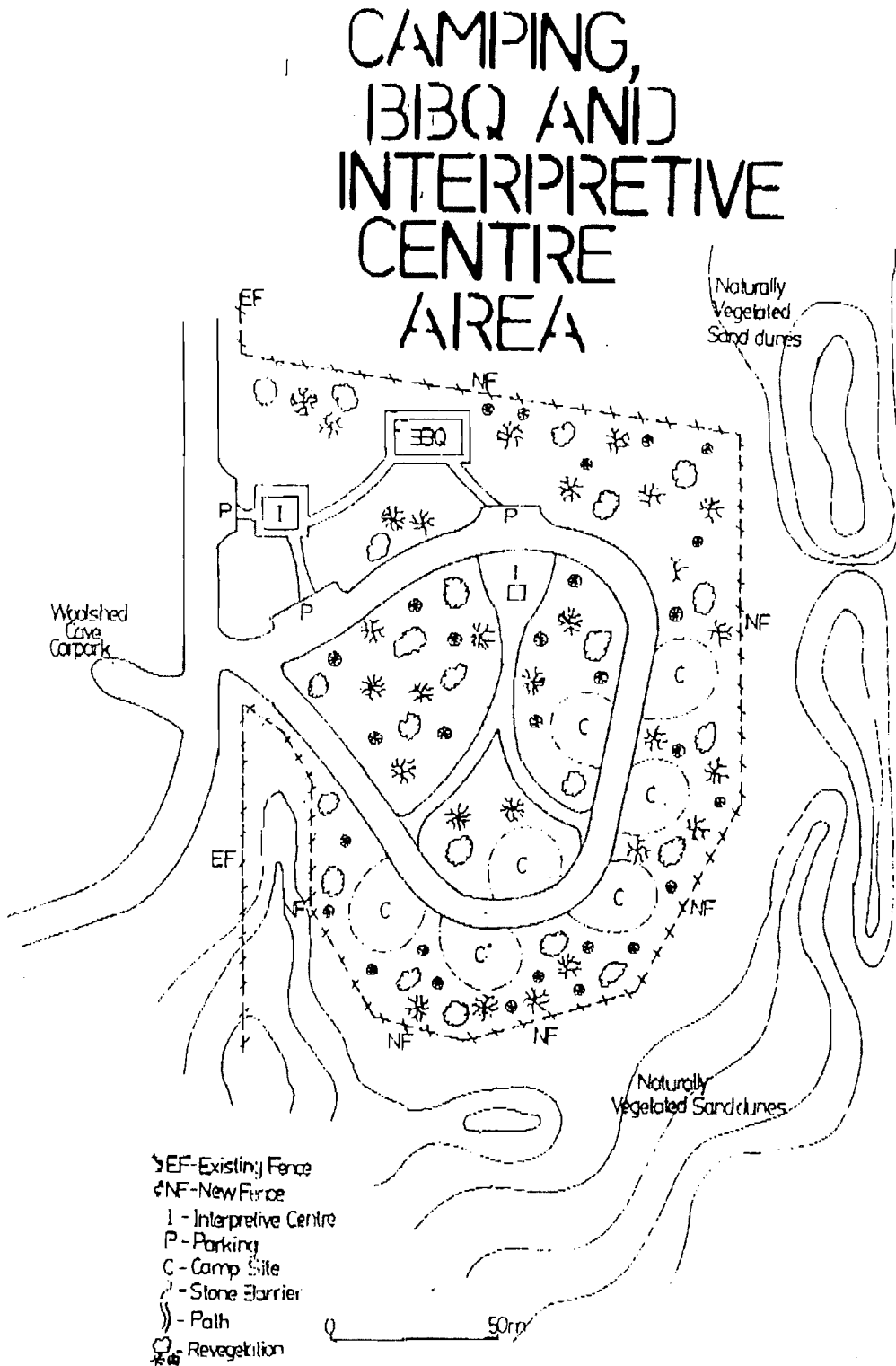
APPENDIX A: LOCATION PLAN



APPENDIX B: SITE PLAN



APPENDIX C: CAMPING GROUND



A GUIDE TO PREPARING
MANAGEMENT PLANS

PREPARED
BY
PHILLIP GRAY AND ASSOCIATES

May 2002

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, Planning SA and local governments on the Eyre Peninsula commissioned the preparation of the Eyre Peninsula Regional Recreation, Sport and Open Space Strategy.

An initiative of the Strategy was to prepare a management plan for Talia Caves, and based on the process and experience gained during the preparation of the management plan, prepare a "Guide to Preparing Management Plans".

This Guide is intended for use by local communities, including Local Government and committees of management. It is designed to assist local communities prepare management plans for open space areas, particularly coastal sites, without engaging professional assistance. In other words this Guide is a "do it yourself" approach to management planning.

Department of State Aboriginal Affairs

Details of sites of Aboriginal significance included on Aboriginal Site Register

Biodiversity Survey and Monitoring (Department of Environment and Heritage)

Details of native vegetation and wildlife recorded at the site or in the general vicinity

PIRSA (Mines and Energy)

Information on the geology of the site

Geological Society of SA

Information on the geology of the site

Community Organisations

Local knowledge and information on the history of the site, use of the site, environmental or conservation considerations including geology, flora, fauna and climatic conditions.

2.3 ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS

Once data is collected it should be recorded in the management plan.

Information which can be regarded as anecdotal, hearsay or an individuals' assertion, must be verified before inclusion in the management plan.

Current and potential implications of all data must be assessed, particularly in terms of:

- ◆ legislative and regulatory requirements
- ◆ environmental sustainability,
- ◆ enjoyment and ease of access by visitors,
- ◆ cultural sensitivities, and
- ◆ risk management.

Management actions should directly relate to addressing current and potential implications.

2.4 CONSULTATION

Prior to finalisation of the management plan, it is necessary to ensure all agencies and organisations responsible for implementation of the management plan and all stakeholders have been consulted.

Consultation techniques include:

- ◆ Direct mail the draft management plan to identified individuals and organisations seeking comment
- ◆ Public forum to discuss the management plan

2 PROCEDURE

2.1 PROJECT TEAM

1. Clarify responsibilities for approval of part or all of management plan:
 - ▶ Local Government
 - ▶ State Government Department
 - ▶ Aboriginal community
 - ▶ Community organisations
 - ▶ Private landholders
2. Identify all potential stakeholders, that is individuals or groups who may be affected by development or use of the site.
 - ▶ Land owners
 - ▶ Adjacent landowners
 - ▶ User groups
 - ▶ Environmental/conservation agencies and groups
 - ▶ Aboriginal community
 - ▶
3. Establish a Project Team comprising key stakeholders to prepare the management plan. Ideally it will be a small group (5 to 7) comprised of people who are willing to collect information and work collaboratively. One member of the Project Team should be nominated as the Project Manager. This person will be responsible for pulling together the work of individual members and keeping the management plan on track.
4. Assign tasks to each member of the Project Team, with a completion date.

2.2 DATA COLLECTION

Data has to be collected to address the issues outlined in the following section (Format).
Sources of information include:

Land owner

Details of land ownership/tenure, land title details, existing site plan

Local Government

Council by laws and regulations, Development Plan restrictions, planning and strategy documents which affect the site, local contacts for additional information

National Native Title Tribunal

Details of Native Title claims

- ◆ Public notices in local media advising of the management plan and notifying interested parties where copies of the draft management plan can be obtained and how to make comment.
- ◆ Direct mail to potential interested parties advising of the management plan, where copies draft management plan can be obtained and how to make comment.
- ◆ Press releases advising of the management plan, where copies draft management plan can be obtained and how to make comment.
- ◆ Displays of the management plan in public buildings such as libraries and Council offices.
- ◆ Notices on site advising of the management plan, where copies draft management plan can be obtained and how to make comment.

2.5 IMPLEMENTATION

The value of a management plan is directly related to the degree to which it is implemented. Consequently, it may be appropriate to identify specific actions (works, approvals, consultation etc), cost implications (capital and maintenance), priority or completion date, responsibility for implementation, and a monitoring process.

3 FORMAT

Each management plan is different, reflecting the unique features of each site. However, the following model provides a consistent basis for collecting information and can be used as a Table of Contents.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Process

Reason for plan, consultation undertaken, process or methodology used to prepare the plan

1.2 Park Classification

Type of park, and any formal classification under planning schemes or Acts of Parliament

2. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

2.1 Description

Location, site boundaries, size, ownership, tenure/care and control/ management responsibilities, history of tenure/ownership and use.

A location map showing the site in relation to the surrounding area and a site plan showing site boundaries and significant features should be included.

2.2 Significant Features

Summary of the parks significant features, including topography, flora, fauna, geography, geology, historical/cultural, and recreation/tourism use.

2.3 Linkages

Discussion of links with adjacent or surrounding features such as scenic drives and points of interest.

2.4 Management Obligations

Details of legislation, Council by laws, Planning Schemes and other statutory documents which affect development, use and maintenance.

Determine whether the site is subject to a Native Title claim, and if so details of claimants.

2.5 Management History

Details of current and past management responsibilities

3. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 Native Animals

Identify native animals including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates which are found in the park.

Detail objectives and strategies to protect and conserve these animals.

3.2 Native Plants

Identify native plants which are found in the park.

Detail objectives and strategies to protect and conserve these plants.

3.3 Landforms

Identify landforms within the site, such as dunes, cliffs, wetlands and swamps and water courses. Landforms which are being, or have the potential to be, degraded through unsustainable visitor activity are to be identified.

Detail objectives and strategies to protect and conserve all landforms.

3.4 Cultural Heritage

Describe the cultural and heritage significance of the site to Aboriginal and European people, including the locations of specific heritage sites.

Detail objectives and strategies to protect and conserve the cultural heritage of the site.

3.5 Recreation and Tourism

Describe recreation and tourism activities undertaken at or from the site, such as camping/caravanning, sightseeing, walking, fishing, swimming, surfing and boating. Identify potential hazards to visitors, such as unsafe swimming beaches, sand bars, cliff tops and rocks.

Detail objectives and strategies to ensure safe and sustainable use of the site by visitors.

3.6 Visitor Behaviour

Describe existing or potential visitor behaviour which may detract from the intrinsic value of the site and lead to its degradation, unless management action is taken. Identify particular behaviours which may need to be managed, such as bush camping, car parking, camp fires, toilets, waste removal and vandalism.

Detail objectives and strategies to reduce or eliminate the impact of these behaviours.

3.7 Site Specific Factors

Describe any site specific issues or factors which may affect the ecological sustainability of the site, such as fire management.

Detail objectives and strategies to protect and conserve the site against these factors.

4. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Identify specific actions (works, approvals, consultation etc) to achieve the objectives outlined above, cost implications (capital and maintenance), priority or completion date, responsibility for implementation, and a monitoring process.