

# Willunga Basin Trail Plan

February 2016

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**WILLUNGA BASIN TRAIL PLAN** outlines a proposed walking Trail around and through the Willunga Basin. It also identifies the actions and timeline for the group (in partnership with others) to establish the Trail, prepare it for public use and establish processes and partnerships for managing and maintaining the Trail in the future.

## Executive Summary

The Willunga Basin Trail will be a sustainable and world-class walking trail that will showcase the Willunga Basin, a unique natural basin formation of spectacular coastline with a rim of rolling hills providing stunning views of a plain traversed by creeks .

Members of the Friends of Willunga Basin have been exploring and mapping the area for several years and have identified a 110 Km trail, divided into 11 half day walks in and across the Basin. The proposed Trail will as much as possible, use publicly owned land including quiet roadways, unmade road reserves and existing or to- be- created pathways in areas such as the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park and the Onkaparinga River National Park.

It is envisaged that the Trail will be of regional significance attracting international, interstate and local tourists, generating significant economic benefits to SA, and will make a significant contribution to the lifestyle, health and social well being of Australians.

The Trail is expected to result in increased opportunities for local residents and visitors to be involved in and enjoy walking as a healthy activity. More people will have an awareness of the unique landscape, which will contribute to its preservation including the natural flora and fauna.

The Trail has the potential to raise awareness of important Aboriginal sites such as the Tjirbruki Dreaming Track<sup>1</sup>, the Aldinga Washpool and Ochre Cove. Involving Indigenous people in identifying such places will ensure the sites are protected and accurate information is provided in signs and publications.

We plan to manage the design and development of the Trail in the first 6 months of 2016. We then plan to construct the Trail, negotiate long term plans for the management of the Trail and develop loops and connections to other trails in 3 stages, namely:

- Stage 1 McLaren Vale to Willunga along the foothills (2016-2017)
- Stage 2 Willunga to McLaren Vale along the southern hills and coast (2017-2018)
- Stage 3 Onkaparinga National Park, Kangarilla & Kuitpo loop (2018 – 2019)

We will also seek support and funding from the Onkaparinga Council, The South Australian Government, the Australian Government, businesses, community groups and individuals.

*Chris Davies*

**Chairperson  
Willunga Basin Trail**

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<sup>1</sup> Spelling of Tjirbruki instead of Tjilbruke is confirmed in Norman Tindale, “The Wanderings of Tjirbruki: the Tale of the Kurna people of Adelaide”, 1987 SA Museum.

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## 1. Background

Since 2009, the Friends of Willunga Basin have been exploring the idea of establishing a walking trail, which would define the Willunga Basin in geographic and geological terms and by doing so, contribute to the long term preservation of this unique environment of ocean, rolling hills, agricultural landscape and historic towns.

In November 2012, 'The Willunga Basin Hiking Trail; a proposal for a trail to encircle Willunga Basin' was submitted to Onkaparinga Council by the Friends of Willunga Basin.<sup>2</sup> They proposed a trail that, at least initially, would use publicly owned land wherever possible. They proposed that an engineered walking /bike trail was not needed and in fact, their preference was for a simple track through bushland and along the beach on parts of the coastal section.

In the past four years a dedicated group of people have been checking out possible routes for the Trail with weekly walks and discussions. From the data they have collected and their experiences of trekking around and across the Basin they have identified a Trail consisting of 11 sections each suitable for a half-day walk.

There has been a great deal of work undertaken by the subcommittee of the Friends of Willunga Basin who have now decided that the time is right to establish their group as a separate identity. They have recently set up as an incorporated body called the Willunga Basin Trail Incorporated as a community-based, non-profit organisation dedicated to the establishment and maintenance of a walking trail around the rich and unique landscape of the Willunga Basin.

## 2. Proposed Trail

### 2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Trail is to provide walking access to the bounds of the Willunga Basin. A Trail along the hills between Kangarilla and Sellicks, by the coast to Maslin Beach and along the slopes south of the Onkaparinga River gives a circuit of 110 km, which can be walked in either direction. The Trail will link the townships of McLaren Vale, McLaren Flat, Willunga and Kangarilla with the coastal suburbs of Sellicks, Aldinga Beach Pt Willunga, Maslin Beach and parts of Seaford and Moana.

It has been divided into 11 (half day) walks, which can be accessed by car. There are also additional loops to maximise views, interesting land and seascapes and cultural sites forming a trail that has been described as a 'charm bracelet'.

### 2.2 Trail Details

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<sup>2</sup> The Willunga Basin Hiking Trail proposal may be seen on the Friends of Willunga Basin website [www.fowb.net](http://www.fowb.net)

### Proposed Willunga Basin Trail Overview

24/2/2016 RW



- implementation stage 1
- implementation stage 2
- implementation stage 3
- 5 ● individual map sections

**Disclaimer**

This map is not for public use. It is an overview of a proposed trail and includes tracks that are not currently accessible by the public. Willunga Basin Trail Inc. does not accept any responsibility for personal injury and/or damage to property arising from use of this map.

The Friends of the Willunga Basin Action Group have undertaken the mapping of the Trail with support from published maps such as:

- Whitaker, Michael, 2011, '12 walks in the Onkaparinga River National & Recreation Parks'
- Whitaker, Michael, 2013, '12 More Walks in the Onkaparinga River National & Recreation Parks'
- Geological Studies of the Fleurieu Peninsula
- Heysen Trail, Southern Guide, 2004, Cape Jervis to Spalding, Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Government of South Australia
- Nature maps, Government of SA, cadastral layer showing property boundaries and land use/ownership.
- Maps showing the Trail networks in:
  - Kuitpo Forest
  - Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park
  - Onkaparinga River National Park

The proposed Trail overlaps or adjoins other trails and it is envisaged that there are shared sections with existing trails such as:

- Heysen Trail
- Kidman Horse Trail
- Tom Roberts Horse Trail
- Coast to Vines Rail Trail
- Sundews Track and Baker Gully Track in Onkaparinga River National Park
- Wine Dam Track in Hardy's Scrub, part of Onkaparinga River National Park
- Wattle Track, Kangaroo Track, and Boomerang Fire Track in Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park
- Onkaparinga Council Coast Park Trail (Port Noarlunga South to Moana, Maslin Beach to Aldinga and Sellicks beach)
- Maslins to Port Willunga geological trail, Geological Society of Australia, SA Division.

It is expected that there will also be sections that are shared or that link with several proposed trails such as:

- Pedlar Creek Trail (T011 in Onkaparinga Recreational Trails)
- Willunga Creek Trail (T013 in Onkaparinga Council Recreational Trails).

### 2.3 Outcomes

The establishment of the proposed Trail is expected to result in increased:

- opportunities for local residents and visitors to be involved in and enjoy walking as a healthy activity
- awareness of the unique geological landscape of hills and coast which will contribute to the preservation of the natural flora and fauna
- awareness sites of importance to the local Indigenous people (eg the Tjirbruki Dreaming Track, the Aldinga Washpool and Ochre Cove) by involving Indigenous people in identifying such sites, ensuring sites are protected from walkers and providing information for signs and publications

- awareness of the Basin as a productive food and wine centre close to the Adelaide metropolitan area
- tourism to this unique and beautiful environment and an increased tourist industry in the area.

It is envisaged that the establishment of the Willunga Basin Trail will support the 4 goals of the Onkaparinga Community Plan 2035, namely:

- liveable and connected city
- vibrant and resilient communities
- prosperous economy
- sustainable environments.

It specifically addresses objective 2.1.3 of the Community Plan, which is to: 'promote the use of trails and paths along the coast and in parks and reserves for activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding'.

## 2.4 User Groups

As the Trail will be established in an area that ranges from urban to peri-urban and rural environments it will cater for both urban and rural walkers. Urban walkers will be catered for with trails within suburban reserves, linear parks and along transport corridors. The majority of these types of walkers use trails for fitness and social reasons. Walkers in rural areas often seek variety of trail experiences including more challenging trails that visit interesting natural features. As fitness and expertise increase, these walkers often seek experiences in more remote and difficult terrain.<sup>3</sup>

It is envisaged that the proposed Trail will cater for a range of users including:

- **local people of all ages** as a healthy and social activity and as a way of finding out more about their own environment and communities
- **intra state, interstate and international tourists** especially in the developing eco and cultural tourism sector
- **local and visiting school and tertiary students** with a focus on geography, geology, environment, history, cultural studies, Aboriginal studies as well as outdoor education.

The Trail will be designed for moderately experienced bush walkers to complete the walk over 5 days. The sections vary in terms of difficulty from flat walks along the beach to hilly sections through bush or gravel roadways. It is envisaged that the level of difficulty will be clearly identified for each section in any publication guide and on the signs defining each section. It is envisaged that the walks are will be classified as Class 2, 3 & 4 Australian Standard AS2156.1 (see attachment B).

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<sup>3</sup> Sustainable Recreational Trail Guidelines, SA Trails

Although the Trail will be primarily designed for walkers there are a few sections that use existing multi-use tracks, providing accessibility for those people with mobility impairments, cyclists and young children in pushers eg along the cycle track between Seaford and McLaren Vale and coastal bike way between Aldinga and Port Willunga.

Locals from the southern Adelaide suburbs will be able to use the Trail for day or half day walks. This gives the opportunity for easily accessed moderately long walks in a variety of scenery including bush, forest, rural countryside, cliff and beach.

Although walkers will be encouraged to carry their own food and drink supplies on each walk there are many cafes, restaurants and wineries, which will be identified in the Trail publications. There are many forms of accommodation in the area, which will cater for walkers who want to undertake the walk over several days. The local tourism and hospitality providers will be encouraged to advertise through the Trail publications and it is envisaged that pick up and drop off services might be set up for walkers and /or their gear.

## **2.5 Accessibility**

The proposed Willunga Basin Trail is ideally located to link communities to a variety of high quality experiences and interesting natural and rural landscapes. In addition, the Trail has the potential to improve mobility and connectivity within and between urban and rural areas. The Trail can enhance lifestyles through the promotion of physical activity, reducing the reliance on motorised vehicles, opening up access to areas not easily accessed by motorised vehicles and therefore improving health and fitness.

The Willunga Basin is located close to the Adelaide metropolitan area and the proposed Trail will weave through the coastal southern suburbs and will provide links to the adjoining rural areas. A link is planned from the Trail to the Seaford railway station making it possible for walkers to arrive from Adelaide by train. It will only take about 40 minutes to drive the 30 km from the Adelaide CBD to the Trail along the Southern Expressway.

The Willunga Basin is already a major tourist destination with its wineries, beaches, historic country towns and ports as well as being the gateway to the Fleurieu Peninsula. It is therefore well served by a range of accommodation, cafes, tour operators and emergency services.

## **2.6 Sustainability**

The conservation and enhancement of natural areas, protection of biodiversity and raising environmental awareness underpins the development of the Willunga Basin Trail as an environmentally sustainable trail. Wherever possible the Trail will not require clearing of the vegetation or extensive paving.

It is envisaged that wherever possible, the Trail will use unmade road reserves, which are linear corridors that are not, developed or formed and therefore do not have a defined carriageway or verge. Unmade road reserves have other values such as biodiversity and remnant vegetation protection, watercourses, cultural (Indigenous and European) or use for services such as power lines, cables, farmer access and buffer zones between differing land uses. Because of the increasing pressure from peri-urban and rural development, the value of unmade roads in the Willunga Basin has been enhanced. A marked trail can offer unmade road reserves a level of management that they may not have previously experienced, including defined trail 'edges', directing users along a designated pathway and sustainable management treatments for watercourses. Entry and exit systems for proposed users, revegetation programs and maintenance schedules provide management structures aiding risk mitigation processes for Councils and adjacent landowners.<sup>4</sup>

The Trail also aims to be economically and socially sustainable. There are expected to be economic benefits that the Trail will bring to the local communities in the region through increased visits and tourism. The development of the Trail will also take into account the sensitivities and desires of the local communities to ensure the safety of local residents and adjoining property owners.

### **3. Community consultation approach**

The Trail has initially been developed by the Friends of Willunga Basin, a not for profit group dedicated to preserving the environment, agricultural land use, biodiversity, beauty and significant heritage values of the Willunga Basin region. This community-based organisation has members living and or working from all areas of the Basin (coastal, hills and agricultural plain) and from the historic townships. It also has a history of community consultations relating to specific issues such as the Sellicks/Myponga Wind Farm.

As a consequence of the relationship with the Friends of Willunga Basin the group establishing the Trail is very aware of the need to engage with the local community and interested stakeholders. An Action Group has been offering local people the chance to join the group on exploratory walks around the Basin. This has built up a network of supporters who will be invited to continue their involvement as the Trail is established.

The Action Group has started the consultation and communication process with:

- relevant politicians and government officers so they are kept informed as decisions are made and support can be provided
- local community members and organisations so that they are kept up to date with the progress of the Trail and encouraged to support its establishment
- stakeholders so they can engage with the development of the Trail.

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<sup>4</sup> Sustainable Recreational Trail Guidelines, SA Trails

It is also envisaged that partnerships will be negotiated with stakeholders and organisations that have an interest in any area or aspect of the Trail eg The Friends of the Onkaparinga National Park, the McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association, Friends of Aldinga Scrub, and Trees for Life.

## **4. Partnerships and/or support**

### **4.1 SA Government**

The Willunga Basin Trail group recognises the importance of keeping relevant Ministers and local Members of Parliament informed of the progress of the Trail including:

- SA Minister for Agriculture, Forests, Tourism and Recreation and Sport
- SA Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation.

They also intend to communicate with all relevant South Australian Government agencies including:

- Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (Office of Recreation and Sport)
- Department of Primary Industries & Regions (Forestry, Regions SA
- Tourism
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (National Parks, managing natural resources)
- Department of State Development (Aboriginal Affairs)
- South Australian Tourism Commission.

### **4.2 Onkaparinga Council**

Since 2012, when the proposal was made to the Onkaparinga Council, David Gill and Geoff Hayter from The Friends of Willunga Basin have had several discussions with Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg and a previous CEO Jeff Tait, who have shown their interest and support to the idea of the Trail.

The Chief Committee Officer of the Onkaparinga Council has said by letter to the Friends of Willunga Basin, “any road closure within the areas identified in your plan” will be considered as though it had the protection of being within the Council’s, Recreational Trails Network Strategy and Action Plan.

Members of the Action Group have also had discussions with Onkaparinga Council staff especially with Andrew Queisser, Asset Planner in charge of trails. In April 2015 an altered and updated route was submitted to Andrew Queisser in the form of 11 maps. There has also been communication with David Haslam and with Jenny Tardrew of the property section. Recent discussions with a landowner about the possibility of the Trail crossing his land had a positive outcome.

### **4.3 Other Trail Groups**

There has already been much discussion with Walking SA, a not for profit peak body that leads, promotes and supports all forms of walking for recreation, transport, health, well being, organised events, adventure, environmental appreciation and fun experiences. They offer expertise, guidance and advocacy for the development and maintenance of safe and supportive walking environments

throughout SA. John Eaton has already provided advice regarding unmade road reserves.

Over the past two years consultation and communication has occurred with the Friends of Onkaparinga Park (2013 Chris Davies and David Gill) who are very supportive and it is envisaged that there will be a close connection with the Friends of Onkaparinga National Park through Michael Whitaker who is a member of the Action Group. This partnership will be very important when designing and constructing the section of the trail through the Onkaparinga National Park.

#### **4.4 Other Local Community Groups**

Over the past two years consultation and communication has occurred with:

- Trees for Life at McLaren Vale (2014 Chris Davies and Zara Lupton)
- Wine Coast Ward Community Forum (2015 David Gill)
- Friends of Aldinga Scrub (2014 Chris Davies and Zara Lupton) and through Giles Walkley who is a member of the Willunga Basin Trail Action Group.

The staff members at the Willunga Environment Centre have also provided support. Action Group meetings have been held at the Centre and it is envisaged that this relationship will continue with the Centre becoming a place where the Willunga Basin Trail is promoted.

#### **4.5 Indigenous People**

The Willunga Basin Trail members acknowledge that there are several sites on the Trail that are significant to the Kurna people. They have been shown these sites by local Kurna people and have discussed the significance of the site. They intend to approach local Aboriginal people in a more formal way to discuss the sites and reach an agreement about the information on any signs or documentation of the culturally significant sites and any protection required.

## 5. Overview of project to establish the Trail

### 5.1 Project Management

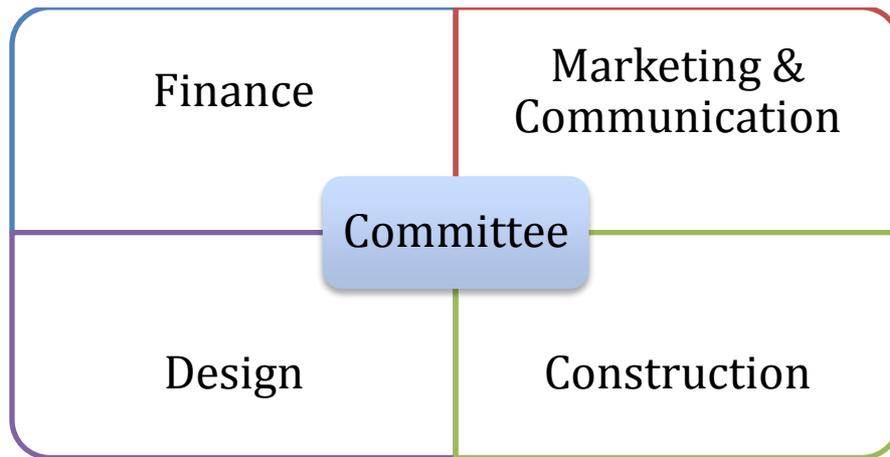
It is envisaged that the project will be managed by the Willunga Basin Trail Inc an incorporated body with the following aims.

*The Association exists to create a sustainable and world-class walking trail over varied terrain that showcases the Willunga Basin.*

1. *The Association seeks to do this by defining suitable routes that as much as possible, use publicly owned land including: quiet roadways, unmade road reserves and existing or to be created pathways in areas such as the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park and the Onkaparinga River National Park.*
2. *The Association will expand and promote walking opportunities in and around the Willunga Basin, for locals and visitors., which will open up areas that are easily accessed by walkers and where they can appreciate the Basin as a whole.*
3. *The Association aims to engender an appreciation of and promote the preservation of the unique qualities of the Willunga Basin including:*
  - a. *the natural environment of coast, rolling hills, plains and bushland.*
  - b. *the rural landscape of European settlement, agriculture and townships.*
  - c. *the sites of significance for the Kurna People*
4. *The Association will seek support and funding from the Onkaparinga Council, The South Australian Government, the Australian Government, businesses, community groups and individuals.*

According to the Willunga Basin Trail Inc rules, Willunga Basin Trail will be managed and controlled by a Committee, which will be comprised of a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and at least 3 committee members. This committee will hold an annual general meeting each year and may call a special general meeting at the request of members.

To ensure the activities of the group are managed and coordinated, it is envisaged that the Committee will have several small working groups to focus on finance, marketing and communication, design and construction. These groups (of 1-3 people) will form when needed, will each be led by a member of the Committee, provide leadership for the relevant actions, be responsible for organising working bees of members who have nominated their interest and will report regularly to the Committee.



## 5.2 Responsibilities

Body	Responsibilities
<b>Committee (including the chairperson, secretary and treasurer)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairing and records of meetings</li> <li>Membership</li> <li>Research &amp; advice</li> <li>Finances</li> <li>Partnerships</li> <li>Manage the implementation of the Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Finance Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage finances</li> <li>Prepare costings</li> <li>Prepare budgets</li> <li>Manage membership fee collection</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing &amp; Communication Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member recruitment and communication</li> <li>Partnership negotiation and communication</li> <li>Stakeholders consultation</li> <li>Images and identity</li> <li>Design and compose signs</li> <li>Marketing and promotion of the Trail</li> </ul>
<b>Design Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess routes and record sites that require clearing, warnings, stiles or re-vegetation</li> <li>Design the Trail taking into account contours, erosion, environmental or cultural significance, safety</li> <li>Identify location of markers and information signage</li> <li>Consider location of toilets, car parking, shelters</li> <li>Construct accurate maps</li> <li>Consider management &amp; maintenance issues</li> </ul>
<b>Construction Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll out construction</li> <li>Clear vegetation</li> <li>Secure markers</li> <li>Construct signs</li> <li>Build stiles</li> <li>Consider management &amp; Maintenance issues</li> </ul>

### 5.3 Proposed Timeline

Elements	2016				2017				2018				2019	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
1. Planning														
2. Feasibility														
3. Design														
4. Rollout														
4.1 Construction														
4.2 Management														
4.3 Extensions														
			<p>Stage 1 McLaren Vale to Willunga along foothills – sections 6, 11, 10</p>				<p>Stage 2 Willunga to McLaren Vale along the southern hills and coast – sections 1, 2, 3, 4 &amp; 5</p>				<p>Stage 3 Onkaparinga National Park, Kangarilla &amp; Kuitpo loop – sections 7, 8 &amp; 9</p>			

Element	Objectives:
1. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish Willunga Basin Trail as an incorporated body</li> <li>- prepare a project plan</li> <li>- identify appropriate funding sources</li> <li>- seek funding for establishing the organisation</li> <li>- develop a Stakeholder Communication Plan and implement actions to planning</li> <li>- establish and start a community consultation plan</li> <li>- engage with the local community</li> <li>- design a brand for letterhead, logo, signs, website.</li> </ul>
2. Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- confirm the Trail and details</li> <li>- prepare the Trail concept design</li> <li>- expand the membership of the Willunga Basin Trail organisation</li> <li>- identify community stakeholders and implement the relevant actions of the Stakeholder Communication Plan</li> <li>- develop a Business Plan including costing and funding proposals</li> <li>- formalise partnerships</li> <li>- negotiate formal agreement with landowners where the Trail crosses their land</li> <li>- seek approval for all Local and SA Government requirements.</li> </ul>

3. Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- work in collaboration with partners to develop sites and sections</li> <li>- implement the relevant Stakeholder Communication Plan actions</li> <li>- design the concept Trail</li> <li>- prepare and publish a range of maps.</li> </ul>
4. Rollout	The 11 Sections will be rolled out over 3 stages over the next 3 years.
4.1 Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- implement the relevant actions of the Stakeholder Communication Plan</li> <li>- develop specific sites and sections in collaboration with partners</li> <li>- undertake construction.</li> </ul>
4.2 Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify how the Trail will be managed and maintained</li> <li>- seek support from partners to ensure ongoing maintenance</li> <li>- prepare a Trail Management Plan</li> <li>- establish partnership agreements for management and maintenance</li> <li>- develop trail maintenance and risk assessment schedules</li> <li>- identify education and interpretation opportunities</li> <li>- develop process for monitoring and evaluation of Trail</li> <li>- develop a Marketing Plan and prepare promotional materials.</li> </ul>
4.3 Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify possible extensions</li> <li>- work in collaboration with relevant partners to establish links</li> <li>- prioritise extensions and check feasibility</li> <li>- design extensions</li> <li>- produce maps for any extensions and loops.</li> </ul>

## Attachment A References

Recreational Trails Network Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2012, Onkaparinga Council

Geological Studies of the Fleurieu Peninsula

Heysen Trail, Southern Guide, 2004, Cape Jervois to Spalding, Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Government of South Australia

Maps showing the Trail networks in:

- Kuitpo Forest
- Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park
- Onkaparinga River National Park

Nature maps, Government of SA, cadastral layer showing property boundaries and land use/ownership.

Onkaparinga Community Plan 2035, City of Onkaparinga

'Overview of Existing Walking Trail Classification System', 2007, Dept of Sustainability and Environment [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

Sustainable Recreational Trail Guidelines, SA Trails

Whitaker, Michael, 2011, 12 walks in the Onkaparinga River National & Recreation Parks

Whitaker, Michael, 2013, 12 More Walks in the Onkaparinga River National & Recreation Parks

Willunga Basin Trail Action Plan 2016-2019

## Attachment B Walking Trail Classification System

### Australian Standards

<b>Class 2</b>	Description	Opportunities: Trails are easy to walk. Offered to a large number of visitors. High-level facilities and interpretation. Moderate to plentiful opportunities to learn about the natural environment (by the use of interpretive signs or brochures) Regular encounters with other visitors.
	Track Conditions	In general, modified hardened surface. Width: 0.9m or more Good maintenance, minimum intrusions
	Gradient	In general no steeper than 1:10. Keep the use of steps to a minimum.
	Signage	Signs for management and interpretation often used. Intersections should have arrow type track markers
	Infrastructure	Facilities may include lookout platforms, seats and barrier rails. No camping permitted along the track in general.
	Terrain	No need of previous experience is required for the user. Personal Safety: exercise normal care
	Weather	N/A
<b>Class 3</b>	Description	Opportunities: Slightly modified natural environments. Require a moderate level of fitness. Provision of facilities and interpretation not common. Opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment (limited use of interpretive signs or brochures) Sporadic encounters with other visitors.
	Track Conditions	In general, modified surface and some sections hardened. Width: variable and less than 1.2m Minimum intrusions and obstacles.
	Gradient	Short sections may exceed 1:10, but in general no steeper than 1:10. Steps may be commonly used.
	Signage	Signs for management and interpretation with limited use. Signs and trackers for direction may be used.
	Infrastructure	Facilities not provided in most of the cases. Only for safety and environmental considerations. No camping permitted along the track in general.
	Terrain	No need of bushwalking experience necessary. Minimum level of specialised skills. Common natural hazards include steep slopes, unsuitable surfaces and minor water crossings.
	Weather	Navigation and safety may be affected by storms.

<b>Class 4</b>	Description	Opportunities: Relatively undisturbed natural environments. Require a moderate level of fitness. Minimal facilities. Opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment without provision of signage. Opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.
	Track Conditions	In general, distinct but without major modifications. Width: variable Encounters with fallen debris and obstacles likely.
	Gradient	Only limited by environmental and maintenance considerations.
	Signage	Minimal signage for management and directional purposes only.
	Infrastructure	Facilities not provided in most of the cases. Only for safety and environmental considerations.
	Terrain	Moderate level of specialised skills eg. navigation, emergency first aid. Users need to be self-reliant.
	Weather	Storms and severe weather may affect navigation and safety.

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<sup>5</sup> p 8 'Overview of Existing Walking Trail Classification System', 2007, Dept of Sustainability and Environment [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)