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Monday, 10 July 2006

## **SCEALE BAY GETS CONSERVATION PARK PROTECTION**

The Sceale Bay Conservation Reserve, south of Streaky Bay, has been upgraded to a conservation park in a move that will see this valuable section of coastline better protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Gail Gago says the change of status will give Sceale Bay an increased level of environmental protection.

“The Sceale Bay Conservation Park is a well-developed system of sand dunes, which are important to sustaining local plant and animal life. The park also contains Seagull Lake, an important type of wetland, which is a unique feature of western Eyre Peninsula, being fed from a nearby marine spring,” Minister Gago said.

“The 531 hectare section of coastal dunes and wetlands includes some 77 species of native flora, 38 native fauna species and the spectacular Seagull Lake, which is home to 30 local and migratory birds, and a nationally significant site for the Ruddy Turnstone.

“Of the 30 birds found at Seagull Lake, 19 of are subject to international protection agreements between Australia, Japan and China, including the Sanderling, a migratory wader.

“The area is also home to some birds of high conservation significance, including the rare Rock Parrot and vulnerable Fairy Tern.

“About 1000 individual plants of the nationally vulnerable Bead Samphire have been counted on the southern shore of Seagull Lake, with the equally threatened West Coast Mintbush also found on nearby outcrops.

“The state government is committed to protecting our natural environment and we have made a commitment to protecting our vulnerable habitats and fostering biodiversity in the South Australian Strategic Plan,” Minister Gago said.

“We have worked hard to achieve that vision over the past four years, and are continuing to do so by upgrading areas like Sceale Bay to conservation park status.

“In our first term of government, we established 11 new national parks and four new wilderness protection areas. Overall, we increased the level of protection for more than 1 million hectares during that period.

“The state government recognises the important roles our native vegetation and protected parks play in establishing healthy ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and retaining our environmental heritage for generations to come.

“Establishing conservation parks like Sceale Bay is another important step in that process,” Minister Gago said.