

1.4 Site Location & History

Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve is located on the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia. Stretching from Horseshoe Bay in Port Elliot to the edge of Middleton, Ratalang provides an important visual and natural buffer between the two townships.

Ratalang encompasses the long, sandy Basham Beach, the coastal dunes and heathland stretching back to the railway line and the rocky coastland, headland and bays around to Commodore Point.

Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve was formerly known as Basham Beach Regional Park. The name change was endorsed by Council in April 2017.

The land now contained in Ratalang was acquired by the State Government in 1976. Ratalang came under the care and control of Council in 1981 and is subject to a 99 year lease.

Further details about the Ngarrindjeri and European cultural heritage of the site are contained in section 3.2 of this report.

1.5 Background & Existing Conditions

Ratalang can be divided into a series of distinct localities or character types which, when combined, provide a unique and highly valued coastal reserve which caters to a diverse range of interests and activities.

The diagram shown on this page identifies 8 key zones adapted from the 1995 Master Plan.

Zone 1: Horseshoe Bay

Includes high quality family beach, formal grassed recreation reserve and revegetated foredunes.

Zone 2: Port Elliot Caravan Park

Includes caravan and camping sites, cabins, office and kiosk buildings, car parking, public conveniences, shelters and recreation facilities.

Zone 3: Commodore Point

An elevated calcrete/granite headland with high quality coastal views to Horseshoe Bay, Freeman’s Knob and Pullen Island. Includes informal walking trails and heathland revegetation.

Zone 4: Crockery Bay

Small sheltered bay surrounded by rocky headlands. Includes Crockery Creek outlet, shelter with indigenous interpretive mural and informal path connections to Caravan Park and other park zones.

Zone 5: Pink Granite Cliffs and Fisherman’s Bay (Sandy Bay)

Entry focus area with mature revegetation, indigenous interpretive shelter, native food garden, toilet facilities and outdoor classroom. A well used walking track leads to Fisherman’s Bay, a sheltered sandy bay good for families, snorkeling and fishing. Natural walking trails lead to an elevated exposed calcrete/ pink granite headland with high quality coastal views, extensive heathland revegetation, interpretive signage and historic quarry site.

Zone 6: Main Park Entry

Main Park entry zone including entry road, main carpark, Port Elliot Caravan Park overflow carpark, coastal heathland and open native grass meadows.

Zone 7: Basham Beach and Dunes

Long sandy beach backed by coastal dunes with significant revegetation. Common activities include walking, whale watching and fishing.

Zone 8: Basham Beach Hinterland

Coastal plain with significant areas of heathland and grassland revegetation. Includes historic ruins and farm buildings, wetland, interpretive signage, cycle and walking paths. Some areas still used for livestock agistment.



KEY			
1	Horseshoe Bay and Commodore Reserve	5	Pink Granite Cliffs
2	Port Elliot Caravan Park	6	Fisherman’s Bay and Main Park Entry
3	Commodore Point	7	Basham Beach and Dunes
4	Crockery Bay	8	Basham Beach Hinterland

Figure 2: Site Zoning