

Saturday, 8 March, 2014

## International Bird Sanctuary for SA

Migratory shorebirds that call the Dry Creek saltfields home during their annual visit to Australia will get extra protection under a re-elected Labor Government.

Labor will invest \$1.7 million to create an International Bird Sanctuary over the former saltfields, and extending for 60 kilometres along the Gulf St Vincent coast from the Barker Inlet in the south to Port Parham in the north.

Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter said the sanctuary will create an extensive area of protected habitat close to Adelaide that will deliver major conservation and economic benefits.

“The sanctuary’s focus on protecting significant migratory shorebirds will put South Australia at the forefront of international shorebird conservation efforts,” he said.

“The International Bird Sanctuary will also create a green corridor along the Gulf St Vincent coast, which will help to improve the local environment through better air and water quality.

“And it has great potential to generate more tourism for the State, with the sanctuary delivering an ideal experience for bird enthusiasts from around Australia and the world.”

Mr Hunter said the saltfields support an annual average population of 25,000 waterbirds, including 15,000 shorebirds.

“More than 50 different species of waterbirds and shorebirds have been identified using the former saltfields, with 29 of these species protected under the Commonwealth’s *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*,” he said.

“The area also supports 17 species of birds that are listed as rare, and two species that are listed as vulnerable under South Australia’s *National Parks and Wildlife Act*, the Banded Stilt and the Eastern Curlew.

“A number of the species are also subject to Australia’s international bird migration agreements with countries such as Japan, China, and Korea, so creating this sanctuary will help Australia meet its international obligations.”



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# Let's keep building South Australia



Minister Hunter says the saltfields region has diverse and relatively pristine saltmarsh and wetland habitat that's declining elsewhere in South Australia.

"The saltfields support Australia's largest population of beaded glasswort – listed as nationally threatened," he said.

"Now is the time to act to create the International Bird Sanctuary to ensure a significant environmental and conservation asset is secured for the long-term for the South Australian community."

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Bird Sanctuary	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Operating	340	358	526	450



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