

## 5. GOOSE ISLAND AQUATIC RESERVE

### Locality

Western side of Yorke Peninsula, Spencer Gulf, just north of Wardang Island and Port Victoria.

### Permitted Activities

Boating, diving and swimming are all allowed in the Goose Island Aquatic Reserve.

### Prohibited Activities

Any fishing and the collection or removal of any marine organism is prohibited in the Goose Island Aquatic Reserve.

### Primary Purpose

Goose Island Aquatic Reserve was established to provide a conservation area where teaching institutions may conduct classes and scientific research on marine biology and ecology and to protect the habitat of the seal colony situated on White Rocks. It also allows for scientific research, education and conservation.

### Major Habitat Types

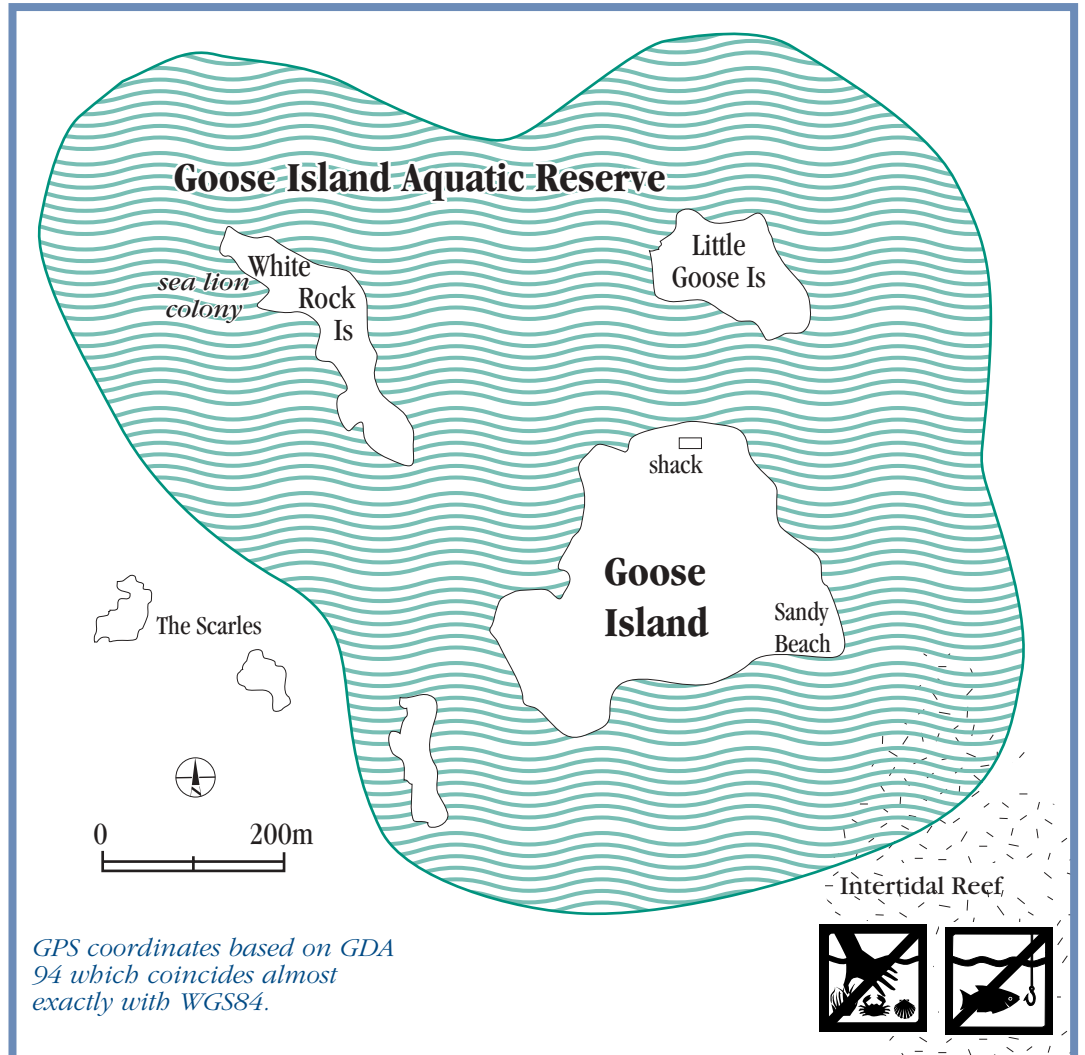
Goose Island Aquatic Reserve is characterised by a shallow rocky sea floor, sand flats and seagrass habitats.

### Outstanding physical, biological or other features

Goose Island Aquatic Reserve provides a habitat for Australian sea lions (*Neophoca cinerea*) and a nesting site for fairy penguins, crested terns and other sea birds.

### Additional Information

Goose Island and its surrounding smaller islands, White Rock and Little Goose are set aside as a conservation area and to protect the habitat of



the rare Australian sea lion colony situated on White Rock Island.

Goose Island encompasses a range of different marine habitats including dense seagrass meadows (*Posidonia* and *Amphibolis*) and the sub-tidal rocky reefs colonised by brown algae (*Ecklonia* and *Scaberia*).

Little Goose Island supports a large colony of crested terns. Nesting fairy penguins can be found in burrows beneath the granite boulders on all three islands.

Because these areas are so important, only certain low impact activities are allowed within the reserve.