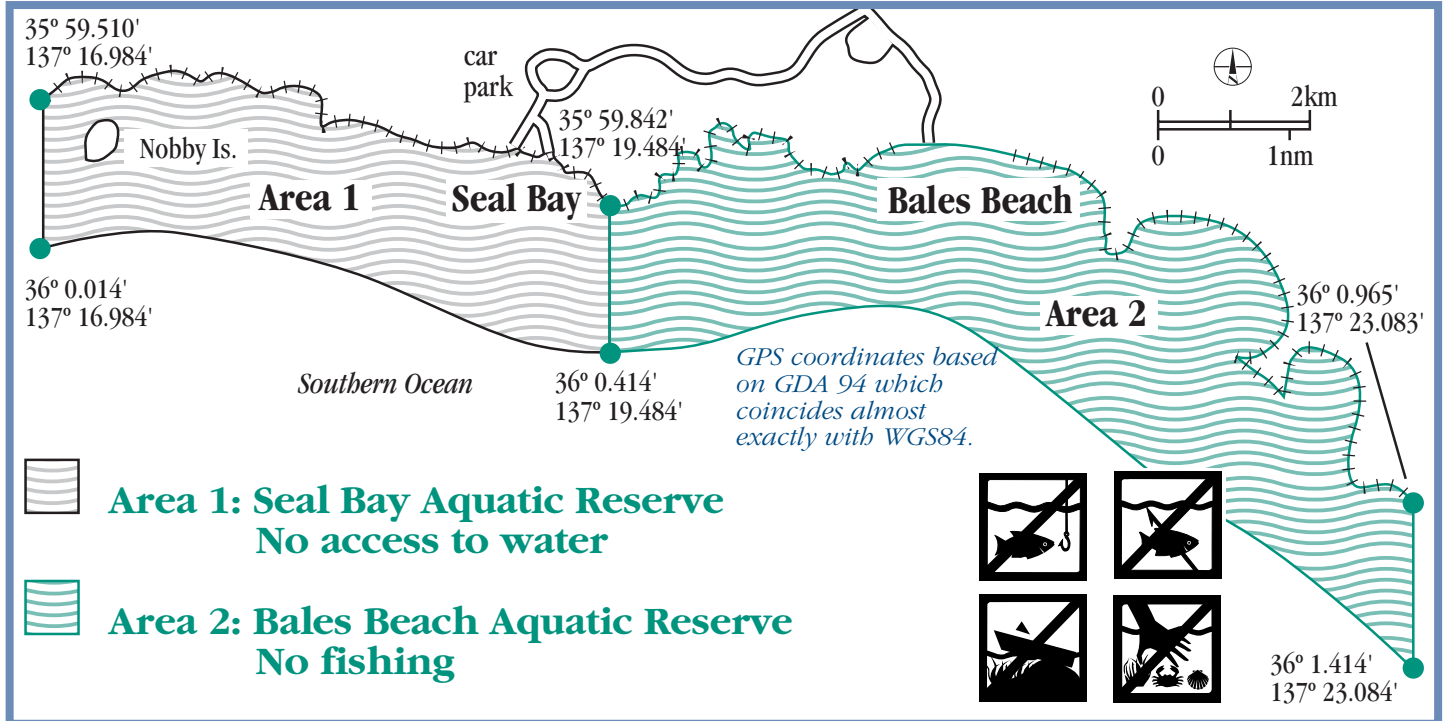




## 13. SEAL BAY - BALES BEACH AQUATIC RESERVE



### Locality

South coast of Kangaroo Island.

### Permitted Activities

Seal Bay – Bales Beach Aquatic Reserve is zoned into two areas – Area 1, Seal Bay and Area 2 Bales Beach. Public access is permitted only at Bales Beach.

### Prohibited Activities

Public access to waters adjacent to Seal Bay is not permitted, as is fishing and the collection or removal of any marine organism.

### Primary Purpose

Seal Bay – Bales Beach Aquatic Reserve was established for the protection of a major breeding colony of the Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*). Seal Bay – Bales Beach Aquatic Reserve constitutes an extension of the terrestrial Seal Bay Conservation Park (see <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/sealbay/index.html>).

### Major Habitat Types

Seal Bay – Bales Beach Aquatic Reserve contains a sandy beach, exposed rocky cliffs and foredune (which is the preferred breeding habitat for sealions), offshore reefs and a high wave energy coastline.

### Outstanding physical, biological or other features

The Seal Bay breeding colony forms more than 10% of the total known population of the Australian sea lion and Seal Bay is one of the largest breeding areas for Australian sea lions in Australia.

### Known endangered or rare species

The Australian sea lion is protected under the *Fisheries Act 1982* and is listed as 'rare' under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

### Additional Information

Seal Bay and Bales Beach have been set aside as an aquatic reserve to protect a major breeding colony of the Australian sea lion.

The reserve includes sandy beaches and foredunes, on which sea lions can be seen basking in the sun or swimming in the surf. To the west of Seal Bay, rocky coves under sheer cliffs up to 100 metres high provide sea lions with a habitat suitable for breeding and nursing pups.

The exposed southern coastline of Kangaroo Island is subject to high wave energy. Offshore reefs support a wide variety of fish and plant life.