

News Release **Minister Ian Hunter**

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

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New park protects mallee species

Vulnerable South Australian native birds including the malleefowl and the regent parrot will benefit from the creation of a new conservation park in the Murray Mallee.

Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter says the new **Etrick Conservation Park**, which covers about 484ha of land north-east of Murray Bridge, would be an important refuge for local flora and fauna species.

“Most of the park is open mallee, which is made up of several species of eucalypt, but it is also home to one of the few remaining examples of tussock grassland in this part of the Murray-Darling Basin,” he says.

“This area is listed as critically endangered, so it’s vital we do everything we can to protect it.”

Etrick Conservation Park is also home to 10 rare bird species, including shy heathwren, hooded robin, white-winged chough, Jacky Winter, restless flycatcher and painted buttonquail.

Minister Hunter says the creation of Etrick Conservation Park brings to almost one fifth of the State the amount of land now protected under the parks system.

“Since the Labor Government came to power in 2002, about 197,000ha of land has been added to the parks system, and more than 2.2 million ha has been given higher protection,” he says.