

Birdwatching in the Alice Springs Waste Stabilisation Ponds

The Ilparpa Ponds are open to the public on a conditional access basis.

The Ilparpa Swamp and adjacent Alice Springs waste stabilisation ponds is a permanent site which is home to a variety of birds and is an important staging point for migratory birds on their way across Australia and overseas. The Ilparpa Ponds are a protected area, and cover about 130 hectares of land. The bird life at the waste water treatment ponds is spectacular, with many rare species gathering around this body of water. Purpose built bird nesting islands, as well as bird screen and interpretive signs have also been constructed at this site.

Over 140 species of birds have been sighted at the waste water treatment ponds, particularly waterbirds, migratory waders (mostly October to April), resident waders, raptors, as well as passerines.

SITE ACCESS INFORMATION

Due to the number of requests for access by visitors and residents who are interested in seeing the unique bird life at the waste water treatment ponds, Power and Water has released some simple guidelines for access to this area.

- Conditional access to the Waste Water Treatment Ponds for daylight hours only will be granted to members of the public upon successful completion of an online safety induction and indemnity form (refer to map)
- Once the induction has been completed, ALL birdwatchers will be required to contact Tourism Central Australia to arrange a guided tour where access to the site will be with one of the accredited persons through Tourism Central Australia
- Contact Tourism Central Australia by visiting the Alice Springs Visitor information Centre on the cnr Todd Mall & Parsons St or their website www.discovercentralaustralia.com.au

You can also contact them by calling 8952 5800 or 1800 645 199 or via: info@discoverca.com.au.

- The Alice Springs Waste Water Treatment Ponds are located within the locked Waste Water Treatment Facility on Commonage Road, approximately 5km from the CBD.
- Single person access is not permitted. A minimum of two fully inducted visitors are required to be in close contact throughout their visit.
- Access to the Waste Water Treatment Facility is via a pedestrian gate only which will remain locked at all times.
- Fully inducted bird watchers will be required to log in and out with Wilson Security on 1300 945 766
- Birdwatchers are to remain within the designated areas and are not to be closer than one meter from the top of pond banks.
- Food, alcohol and drugs are strictly prohibited on site.

- All persons accessing the waste stabilisation ponds are required to wear Hi-Visibility clothing (vest or similar), enclosed shoes and carry completed induction certificates and photo identification should they be approached by pond security or Power and Water staff.
- Any persons failing to comply with the site specific requirements will be escorted off site and have their access revoked.

LOCATION

The ponds are just south of Heavitree Gap. Drive south from town along the Stuart Highway, and turn west onto Commonage Road (which leads to the Waste Management Facility).

Just before the Waste Management Facility gates, turn left along the eastern edge of the ponds. Park near the Birder Access Gate (see parking icon on map).

BIRDWATCHER SITE GUIDE

Throughout

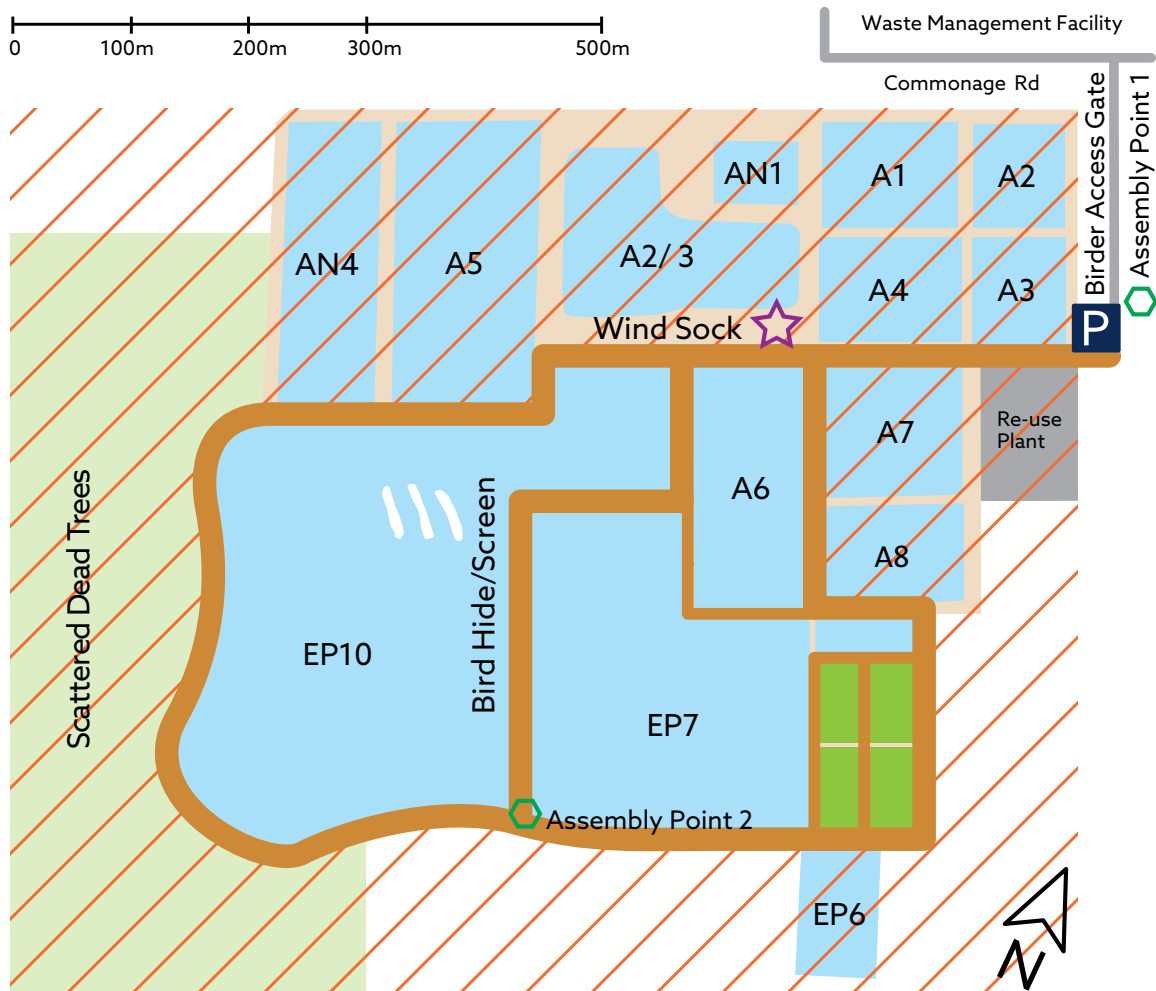
Paths between the ponds have many Australian Pipit and occasional flocks of Orange Chat or Yellow-rumped Thornbill. Little Corella (plus a couple of long-billed) come to drink in the mornings. Crows (Little or Torresian) are common – although it is difficult trying to work out which ones they are.

Up above

Scan the skies for birds like White-backed Swallow, Martins and raptors.

East of entrance

Check the paddock just east of the birder access gate for Masked Lapwing and flocks of Wood Duck. The trees and fences provide perches for Tree and Fairy Martins. Also look out for Rainbow Bee-eater, Black-faced Woodswallow and Honeyeater sp. in the trees.



- Pond area
- ▨ Restricted area
- Walking path
- ⬡ Assembly Points
- Algae sludge drying beds
- Car parking
- ☆ Wind Sock

** Power and Water reserves the right to close the ponds or limit access at any time. Power and Water will notify the public of such closures via its website and social media channels.