A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
Why the Adelaide Hills Face Zone should be a Biosphere Reserve:

After FORTY years of protection from subdivision and intensive landuse the Hills Face Zone has evolved into a significant natural and cultural landscape. The nomination of the Hills Face Zone as a BIOSPHERE RESERVE is a vision for its future.

View of Stonyfell Quarry in 1973

30 years later – Stonyfell Quarry in 2003
Location of the Hills Face Zone
Why a Biosphere Reserve?
It achieves the outcomes people want for the Hills Face Zone.

‘A Biosphere Reserve is where significant ecological systems are conserved and protected in areas where people live, work and play’.

Walking the Yurrebilla Trail – a 2-day international-standard walking trail across the Hills Face Zone which will be opened in 2003.

‘The aim of a Biosphere Reserve is to achieve the ecologically sustainable use and development of a region’s natural and cultural resources’.
Biosphere Reserve Criterion 1

The nominated landscape should:

- be of significance for the conservation of biological diversity.
Criterion 1 and the Hills Face Zone

HFZ Environment and Biodiversity

More that 700 plant species, or 75% of the total number of native plants in the Adelaide region are in the Hills Face Zone:

- 6 are nationally significant
- 75 are significant at the state level
- 289 have regional conservation status

The region has significant representative areas of three vegetation communities that are poorly conserved elsewhere in South Australia:

- *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* Open Forest (Adelaide Hills candlebark)

- *Banksia marginata* Low Woodland (silver banksia)

- *Eucalyptus microcarpa* Woodland (grey box)
Biosphere Reserve Criterion 2:

The landscape nominated should:

- encompass a mosaic of ecological systems representative of major biogeographic regions, including a spectrum of human interventions.
Criterion 2 and the Hills Face Zone

HFZ Environment and Biodiversity

Adelaide Metropolitan Area

Native Vegetation Map

(Source: Urban Forest and Biodiversity Project, S.A. Department for Environment and Heritage, Map. 2001)
Criterion 2 and the Hills Face Zone

Water Resources

Land clearance in the Hills Face Zone has impacted on water resources and water quality.

Most of the major Water Catchment Management Board areas are within the Hills Face Zone.

A Biosphere Reserve will complement the work of the Water Catchment Management Boards.

Sturt River, Sturt Gorge (HFZCHP 2003)
Biosphere Reserve Criterion 3:

The landscape nominated should:

- provide an opportunity to explore and demonstrate approaches to sustainable development on a regional scale.
Sustainability must be an essential component of the future management of the Hills Face Zone.

Approximately 75% of the Hills Face Zone is privately owned. Sustainable options must become available to these landowners.

The Biosphere Reserve model provides a method of achieving sustainable outcomes on both privately owned land and public land.
Biosphere Reserve Criterion 4: The landscape nominated should:

• be of an appropriate size to serve the three functions of biosphere reserves:
  - Core area(s)
  - Buffer zone(s)
  - Transition area(s)

This schema can be adapted to various ecological, socio-cultural and legal contexts.
Biosphere Reserve Criterion 4 and the Hills Face Zone:

Core Areas and buffer zones = Parks and open space (tan).

Transition zones = Agriculture, horticulture, quarrying, housing (green).

HFZ total area – approx. 33,250 hect.
HFZ = 23% Metropolitan area
Land Tenure of remnant vegetation –
  52% privately owned
  48% state or local government
  (incl. 42% - NPWSA)
(Source: SA Urban Forest Biodiversity Program, unpublished information sheet)
Why the Adelaide Hills Face Zone should be a Biosphere Reserve:

**Public Perception**

- The Hills Face Zone is now a public icon. People are passionate about protecting it.

- Most people recognise that a holistic and sustainable approach is needed to care for HFZ land and water resources.

- The public values the aesthetic amenity that the Hills Face Zone contributes to the city of Adelaide.

- The HFZ is within the Metropolitan area and people are increasingly using the Hills Face Zone for recreation, eco-tourism and tourism.
Why the Adelaide Hills Face Zone should be a Biosphere Reserve:

**Model of planning best practice**

- The Hills Face Zone is an outcome of the 1962 Metropolitan Development Plan and a vision of the then State Planner, Stuart Hart.
- The HFZ has provided a model of planning adopted by cities throughout the world.
- The HFZ provides Adelaide with an internationally recognised identity.
- The HFZ provides *open space, eco-tourism, recreation and tourism opportunities* within the Adelaide Metropolitan Area.
Biosphere Reserves

- are “special places for people and nature”.

- are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

- are nominated by national governments.

- remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the countries in which they are situated.
The World network of Biosphere Reserves

• 410 Biosphere reserves in 94 countries form a worldwide network, known as the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

• This network constitutes a tool for the conservation of biological diversity and for sustainable development.
The Biosphere Reserve Model

Functions

• **Conservation** – contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.

• **Development** – foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable.

• **Logistic support:** support for demonstration projects, environmental education and training, research and monitoring of local, regional, national and global issues of conservation and sustainable development.
Statement from the Saville Strategy, U.N. Man and Biosphere meeting, 1995

‘Biosphere Reserves are poised to take on a new role. Not only will they be a means for the people who live and work within and around them to attain a balanced relationship with the natural world, they will also contribute to the needs of society as a whole by showing a way to a more sustainable future. This is at the heart of our vision for Biosphere Reserves in the 21st century.’
Prepared for the Hills Face Network
August 2003

Waterfall, Waterfall Gully, 2003

View over Montacute, 2003