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CAVE RANGE LAND SWAP

A significant cave system is being added to the World Heritage Naracoorte Caves National Park after a land swap between ForestrySA and the Department for Environment and Heritage.

The cave system is covered by native forest and has been managed by ForestrySA. The forest reserve contains a large cave with important fossil deposits from the Pleistocene period, similar to those found within the Naracoorte Caves National Park.

ForestrySA will swap the native forest area for cleared pasture lands in the Naracoorte Caves area adjoining other ForestrySA plantations.

The land swap arrangement will enable previously unused grazing land to be established with sustainable pine plantations.

Naracoorte Caves Manager Steve Bourne said that recent work by palaeontologists at Naracoorte Caves has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the effects of climate change on fauna.

“This site will further enhance Naracoorte Caves’ World Heritage status and provide further research opportunities”, said Steve.

“A cooperative project between ForestrySA and DEH is linking areas of remnant vegetation along the Caves Range and this swap is making critical linkages in the landscape, with excellent support from adjoining landholders.”

The native forest reserve will be resumed and re-dedicated under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, and the ex-conservation reserve will be dedicated under the Forestry Act 1950.

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