



An artist's impression of Discovery Parks' plans for its Goolwa site. Picture: Supplied

Park yourself for new discovery at Goolwa

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WORK starts today on a \$22m upgrade of Discovery Parks' Goolwa site, which will double the park's capacity and add a raft of new attractions.

There will be an extra 60 cabins and 100 new sites for caravans and campers, on top of the existing 14 cabins and 130 sites.

An outdoor cinema will be added, along with a water park, indoor/outdoor pools, and a nature playground.

Discovery Parks chief operations officer Matt Lang said the company aimed to complete the upgrade's first stage - the campsites, attrac-

tions and about 30 cabins - in time for the summer holidays.

Remaining cabins would be built within two years.

The project will also boost local employment, creating about 60 direct and indirect jobs during construction and for another 65 people once completed.

"Patio sites" will be included in the camping area expansion, with fire pits and barbecues.

It is part of a \$40m investment plan on the Fleurieu Peninsula, which also includes an upgrade to the McCracken Country Club at Victor Harbor. The business recently acquired the two

sites, along with the Hahndorf Resort and Adelaide Hills Convention Centre.

The McCracken project is still going through the development approval process with Victor Harbor Council.

That project includes a splash park, flying fox, playground, jumping pillow and minigolf.

There will be 60 revamped two-bedroom units, 100 powered caravan sites and a camp kitchen, with future plans for a restaurant and alfresco bar.

Mr Lang said the investments would capitalise on increased interest in regional tourism brought by the pandemic.

"We've certainly seen that bookings across SA are really strong," Mr Lang said.

"This reconnection with nature and connection with each other that people are finding now, we think that's going to continue."

It also coincides with a major upgrade of the Goolwa wharf precinct.

The company's Victor Harbor and Hahndorf parks will have a focus on events, as people get back together with their colleagues and restrictions on the number of people at weddings have eased.

Alexandrina Council Mayor Keith Parkes said the Goolwa development would

be a major drawcard for families.

"This will further accommodate visitors and customers for our existing businesses ensuring creation of more local ongoing jobs," Mr Parkes said.

He said it would also tap into the visiting friends and family market.

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