

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board

Annual Report

2015-2016



Government
of South Australia



Natural Resources
SA Arid Lands

Annual Report of the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board 2015-16
September 2016

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Presented to Parliament by Hon Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, pursuant to section 43L of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

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**Government
of South Australia**

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30 September 2016

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Public Sector Act 2009*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board for the year ended 30 June 2016.

For further information on this matter please contact Denise McCourt on 86485 348 or denise.mccourt@sa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

Pauline J McKenzie

Pauline McKenzie
Chairperson
Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board



Government of
South Australia



Natural Resources
SA Arid Lands

A working partnership

First proclaimed in 1970, the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park forms part of the traditional country of the Adnyamathanha people, rich with cultural significance and evidence of their past occupation.

Adnyamathanha and the State Government share a vision for the Vulkathunha–Gammon Ranges National Park (V-GRNP). The Co-management model provides the framework for the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and the Adnyamathanha people to share responsibility for the Park. In 2005, the V-GRNP Co-management Board was established following Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation entering into a formal Co-management Agreement over the Park.

The V-GRNP Co-management Board has a challenging agenda - managing the cultural landscape, still known and understood by its Aboriginal traditional owners, in a way that also protects and conserves the Park's outstanding natural and cultural features. The Board seeks to:

Conserve its natural and cultural heritage, using both **traditional** and **scientific** knowledge to **better manage** the land

Respect the rights, interests and needs of the traditional owners and **create** social development and economic opportunities for Adnyamathanha families and communities

Provide **great experiences** for visitors

This report shows how the Board answered that challenge in 2015-16.

This is the eleventh Annual Report of the Board and covers the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. It is prepared to fulfil requirements of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, Regulation 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park) Regulations 2005* (the Regulations) and the *Public Sector Act 2009*.



Traditional stories connect to ancient landscapes

The Adnyamathanha people understand the creation of significant places through traditional stories.

Yudlalypila (Spirit Pair) tells the story of depositing copper throughout the region, the copper being symbolised as rotting emu meat and gives motivation for place names in the area.

Two cousins (Valnaapa) killed an emu at Varavaranha (Parabana), place meaning "forks". They cooked the emu in the ashes at Yaldyilinha, a spring on Wooltana. The two fellows carried the cooked emu along as far as Vipakanya (paper rock). From here they went to Vadaardlanha (Paralana Hot Springs). The two of them put a fire stick into the spring here, and made the water hot. The fire (ardla) was on a dead finish stick (Acacia tetragonophylla),(Vada) hence the name of the Spring.

Next they went to Nardlamathanha (Nudlamutana), where they looked at the meat and saw that it was going green, so they threw some away. They went towards Marninha Vari (Lynch watercourse) where they threw away more meat at Marninha Warru Niarri (Marninha Flat Bank), the flat bank to the north of the creek.

They went on through to Mudaawi (Big Moro), then on to Little Moro (Moro Mine) where they left the rotting hindquarter of the emu, which is why this place is called Warratyi Ngurtuka (emu's hindquarter). Close by here is a spring called Wattle Spring in English, however the spring is called Matyarrainha Awi (water becoming hard).

Next the Valnaapa went south to Yanggunha Vambata (Yangoona). One of them looked back from here over his left shoulder, which is why the hill and the spring at the bottom of it are called Yanggunha (left hand). When he looked back, he saw Wardnuwartanha (Nepouie Peak) meaning the one hill with the stony peak. Wardnuwartanha was drawn up and lifted right off the ground by a mirage. From here they went south to Wadna Yaldha (Mt Chambers). The crack in the middle of this hill was made by the blue wren (Yuduyudulya) which threw a boomerang through it, hence the name Wadna Yaldha (boomerang crack). They proceeded to Mt John Mudlhunha (kangaroo hipbone) and from there to Mt Roebuck Windhalpunha.

Continuing west the pair went through Wakarlaudnanha Inbiri (Waukawoodna Gap). From here the Valnaapa proceeded to Vindha Awi (Pinda Spring). Finally they went on to Yarnngarri Arraindanha Vambata (Mt Hack). They asked one another "where do we go from here", then they said lets make a fire of porcupine grass. They then made a big fire and the sparks rose up into the sky. These sparks made the gold which was said to have been at Vardnanha, (Pernana) meaning "goanna".

The goanna is said to obtain the gold colouring from actual gold said to be at Yanggavuthivuthi (Arcoona Saddle). The ash from the Valnaapa's fire made the lead to found at Urlurrunha Awi (Gumleaf Peak Spring).

The Valnaapa then said to each other "lets go up into the sky in the sparks of this fire, let's go and stay there". So they went up from this mountain, the name of which celebrate their ascension Yarnngarri (young man), Arraindinha (going up).

These two young men can now be seen as the two white spots in the southern sky, from here they observe everyone below to make sure they keep the law. It is they who made the marriage law.; one must marry someone of the opposite moiety to oneself. That is, an Arrarru must marry a Mathari and vice versa. The Valnaapa were the first Ararru and Mathari (Valnaapa were the first Ararru and Mathari. Valnaapa is the word used of any two people – other than husband and wife).

Reference: Dorothy Tunbridge Report



Strategic priorities and achievements for 2015-16

The Co-management framework meets a number of the State's Strategic Plan Targets, including:

Aboriginal wellbeing – Target 6

- Reconciliation, Cultural and Traditional Lands
 - Number of National Park Co-management Agreements (indicator 19)
 - Native title claims resolved (indicator 21)
- Governance and Leadership
 - Number of Aboriginal people on government boards and committees (indicator 17)

Aboriginal lands native title - Target 44

- Resolve 80% of native title claims by 2020.

Managing the Park for success

Co-management of the Park is a partnership where the Adnyamathanha people work together with DEWNR to share decision-making and responsibility for the management of the Park.

Promoting Co-management

The Board continues to maintain an active role in promoting the park and co-management (including at National forums). Adnyamathanha Board members also provide regular presentations and updates at ATLA and South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) Congress meetings.

State-wide Co-management Workshop

The second Workshop was held in February 2016 to bring together Co-management Boards and Advisory Committees across the State to share co-management experiences. There are now 12 co-management agreements, covering two-thirds of the protected area systems in South Australia.

The Workshop identified a number of key issues, challenges and opportunities that will be progressed by both DEWNR and the traditional owners.

Providing richer visitor experiences

The Board has endorsed an interpretation plan that provides a framework for improving interpretation and cultural information about the Park. Interpretation is designed to enrich visitor experiences, connect the audience to big-picture concepts and make emotional and intellectual connections to the park. There are a wealth of stories to tell in V-GRNP – stories about people and places, flora and fauna.

*Through interpretation, understanding;
through understanding, appreciation;
through appreciation, protection.* Freeman Tilden



Promoting Aboriginal culture through interpretation has been a high priority for the Board. Five sites have been dual named using both the Adnyamathanha and European name. This is a historical achievement for the Adnyamathanha community as the dual naming not only promotes Aboriginal culture, but highlights the partnership arrangement between the Adnyamathanha community and DEWNR.

The Board are developing a cultural plant walking trail at the Weetootla Gorge site. The walk will provide visitors with an understanding of the living culture of the Adnyamathanha people and their strong connection with the native plants animals of the Gammon Ranges.

Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage

Munyi Rock Art Site

Managing and protecting this site is a priority for the Board. New measures were introduced to protect the site from indiscriminate access and damage, while maintaining access for the Adnyamathanha people via a walking trail.

Aboriginal gravesites

Aboriginal gravesites are a very important part of the Park's cultural heritage. Protection of these sites has been a high priority for the Board and a range of protection works have been implemented.

Native species protected and habitat improved through pest management

The Board gave approval for continuation of conservation and a pest management program conducted through Bounceback on V-GRNP.

Observations over the last few years indicate widespread recovery of plants and animals across Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. This recovery is attributed to a combination of average to above average rainfall over the last six years and the effective control of foxes and goats through the Bounceback Program.



Feral goat and kangaroo impacts on native vegetation

On-going goat control reduces browsing pressure to promote vegetation recovery and improve habitat for Andu (Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby) and other fauna. Long-lived perennial species such as Minara (Bullock Bush), Iga (Native Orange), Vara (Dead Finish) and Malka (Mulga) are now showing strong signs of recovery in some parts of V-GRNP.

Assessment of goat damage on palatable plant species in three different areas of the Park in autumn 2016 has shown good recovery in areas like Bolla Bollana where goats are being kept at low enough numbers to minimise impact on recovering vegetation. However the surveys showed considerable on-going damage by goats to plants like Malka, Iga and Vara at some other sites, for example, on some of the hills west of Italowie Gorge.

These surveys also assessed grassland condition at low hill and plain sites in 3 areas in V-GRNP. Kangaroo sign (scat) was generally high at all sites and rabbit sign recorded at most sites. While kangaroo and rabbit grazing are having some impact, the grasslands in the Park were generally found to be in good condition. However, several sites on the Mitchell grass plains east of Italowie Gorge recorded higher grazing intensity with very high numbers of roo scats.

It is planned to repeat these surveys every few years to provide feedback to pest management programs.

Fox control area increases

In the last three years, aerial fox baiting has been extended to Yankaninna and Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area, greatly increasing the area previously covered on V-GRNP and Arkaroola Sanctuary, and so increasing protection for native fauna in the area, including Andu. Observation records continue to indicate that Andu are doing well and spreading to new areas in V-GRNP.

Off-park activities, such as aerial fox baiting, have been funded for the last three years by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, through the SA Arid Lands NRM Board project: 'Connecting Community to Ranges Riches'. This project runs until June 2017.

Remote camera surveys planned

The Bounceback Program plans to conduct remote camera surveys in V-GRNP for the first time in Spring 2016. This monitoring will provide a better understanding of the presence of feral cats and foxes across different habitats in the Park and also provide information on the distribution of native fauna including Echidna, Emu and some reptile species.

Species of conservation significance

A wide range of species including many with National and State conservation significance benefit from on-going feral animal management. These include

- Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby
- Balcanoona Wattle
- Slender Bell-fruit
- Short-tailed Grasswren
- Carpet Python

There is also anecdotal evidence that populations of regionally rare animals such as Echidna and Sand Goanna are increasing.

The role of the Conservation and Wildlife Management Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia in goat control programs over the past two decades has been formally recognised by the Board. This work continues with two scheduled programs per year, during which the park is closed to the public.





'Big picture' results through partnerships

The Park is part of a broader natural and cultural landscape. The Board supported:

- on-going feral animal control and monitoring, through the regional *Bounceback* program
- Bounceback is a major conservation initiative which aims to protect and restore the semi-arid environments of the Flinders, Gawler and Olary Ranges of South Australia.

Fire Management Plan – Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

Fire management plans are developed to reduce and manage impacts from bushfires on life, property, cultural heritage and environmental values within the planning area by identifying appropriate strategies for their protection. Reserves included in the Northern Flinders Ranges Fire Management Plan include Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park, Ediacara Conservation Park and Bunkers Conservation Reserve.

Throughout the planning process, advice was sought and provided by the Board and ATLA. This information has shaped the final plan. Adnyamathanha language is used throughout to describe places, plants and animals. Strategies for the protection of significant cultural values and Adnyamathanha aspirations for the cultural use of fire are included in the plan.

The plan includes the burning of native vegetation for the purpose of creating long-term habitat for the Short-tailed Grasswren, and to reduce the encroachment of Vinba (Northern Cypress Pine) on the Spinifex Hummock Grasslands used by this species of Grasswren. DEWNR must meet the provisions of the Native Vegetation Regulations 2003 (SA) under the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA) if intending to modify native vegetation on reserves. The Native Vegetation Council approved the Northern Flinders Ranges Fire Management Plan on 30 December 2015.

In June 2016, the Board considered and adopted the Northern Flinders Ranges Fire Management Plan.

Ecological monitoring supported

Volunteers from the Scientific Expedition Group continued ecological monitoring work in the Arcoona Creek catchment area, which includes:

- Continuous rainfall records at high and low altitudes from five sites
- Stream flow recording in Arcoona Creek
- Photographic botanical monitoring
- Aquatic biology and water quality
- Human impact monitoring
- Stream flow recording
- Feral animal counts
- Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby monitoring.

The Board acknowledges the value of this work for developing Park management strategies.



Local species revegetation project

The Board supported the Yura Language Group (Adnyamathanha Group) in a project aiming to revegetate areas within the Park with local species significant to the Adnyamathanha people. Park accommodation and infrastructure was offered to assist the group.

Improved research management

The Board has delegated its authority for approving research to the Scientific Permits Officer of DEWNR. The Board reviews reports on research projects annually and a new protocol has been implemented to safeguard cultural sites from research-related disturbance.

Working with neighbours and the Adnyamathanha Community

The Board is committed to working with neighbouring landholders to achieve shared management objectives. A promotional newsletter distributed through the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA), helps keep the local community informed. Board meetings are generally open to the public and community members are encouraged to, and regularly attend and participate in Board activities.

Employing Adnyamathanha people

Staff employed by DEWNR to manage the Park are local Adnyamathanha people, which is a historical achievement for co-management in South Australia. The staff work closely with the Board and provide advice on operational issues, including cultural site protection and visitor management.

Supporting the local community

The Board continued its involvement with the Grindell's Hut Artist in Residence Program. This Program is an initiative of the Northern Arts, Country Arts SA and Fountain Gallery, Pt Augusta and is aimed at supporting local art. The program was established in consultation with ATLA to ensure Adnyamathanha association with the land was accurately reflected. In recognition of the community benefit of the program the Board waived the accommodation fees for Grindell's Hut. An Adnyamathanha Board member was also invited to participate on the selection panel.

Nantawarrina Track Realignment

The Board have been working closely with the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area to realign two sections of the road to ensure public and community safety.

The entry into the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area is via the main public road from Nepabunna to Balcanooka.

The realignment of the road was developed in partnership with the Board and Nantawarrina and will improve road access for the community.

Partnering with Work Camp

The Board supported the mobile Work Camp during the reporting period. Workcamp are a partnership between DEWNR and the Department of Correctional Services whereby low security prisoners from Port Augusta Gaol undertake park management activities. Work undertaken on the Park included campground maintenance and extensive works for Idninha Ruins.



Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park

The volunteer group was first established in 2000, but due to decline in numbers, the group lapsed for a number of years.

In March 2015, a public meeting was held to encourage new membership, resulting in the Friends Group being reformed.

The Board and the Friends Group will work closely to consider a suitable works program that can be implemented over the next few years. The Board recognise the valuable work of the 100 Friends Groups across the State that provide a range of volunteer works to support the park operations, which is greatly appreciated by both the Board and DEWNR.

Members

Under Regulation 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park) Regulations 2005*, the Board consists of eight members appointed by the Minister, of whom:

- (a) four must be Adnyamathanha people appointed on the nomination of ATLA; and
- (b) three must be officers of the Department, of whom –
 - (i) one must be the person for the time being holding the office of Regional Conservator for the region in which the park is located (or the person for the time being performing the functions of the Regional Conservator for that region); and
 - (ii) one must be a person with qualifications or experience in the field of ecology or a related field; and
- (c) one must be a person nominated by the Minister who has qualifications or experience that may, in the opinion of the Minister, be of benefit to the Board.

The full membership of the Co-management Board is as follows.

Chairperson

Ms Pauline McKenzie (5)(a): nominated by ATLA (Chairperson)

Deputy Chairperson

Mr Stuart Paul (5)(b): officer of the Department (Regional Director, South Australian Arid Lands Region)

Members

Mr Michael Anderson (5)(a): nominated by ATLA

Mr Kelvin Johnson (5)(a): nominated by ATLA

Ms Janet Coulthard (5)(a): nominated by ATLA

Mr Trevor Naismith (5)(b)(i): Regional Director Northern and Yorke Region, DEWNR

Mrs Lisien Loan (5)(b)(ii): qualifications or experience in the field of ecology or a related field (Manager Land, Marine and Biodiversity Services)

Mrs Maria Toscano (5)(c): qualifications or experience that may, in the opinion of the Minister, be of benefit to the Board (General Manager, Strategy & Governance, Communities and Social Inclusion)



Deputy Members

Ms Deidre Coulthard	Deputy to Ms McKenzie
Mr Tony Magor (Manager Parks & Co-management, DEWNR)	Deputy to Mr Paul
Mr Vincent Coulthard	Deputy to Mr M Anderson
Mr Mick Coulthard	Deputy to Mr K Johnson
Ms Yvonne Brady	Deputy to Ms Coulthard
Mr Darren Crawford (Fire Management Officer, DEWNR)	Deputy to Mr Naismith
Ms Patricia Mooney (Business Manager SA Arid Lands)	Deputy to Mrs Loan
Mrs Janice Goodwins (Manager Projects, DEWNR)	Deputy to Mrs Toscano

The appointments are for a two-year period from 7 November 2015 to 6 November 2017.

Meetings

The Board held three meetings.

- 23 October 2015: Hawker, South Australia
- 12 February 2016: Governance Training held at Wilpena Resort, Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
- 3 June 2016: Hawker, South Australia

Attendance at Meetings

Member	23 October 2015	12 February 2016	3 June 2016
Ms Pauline McKenzie	Y	Y	Y
Mr Stuart Paul	Y	Y	Y
Mr Cliff Coulthard	Y*	-	-
Mr Michael Anderson	-	Y	Y
Mr Reece Coulthard	Y*	-	-
Mr Kelvin Johnson	-	Y	Y
Mrs Maria Toscano	Y	N	Y
Ms Janet Coulthard	Y	N	Y
Mr Trevor Naismith	N**	N	Y
Ms Trish Mooney	Y*	-	-
Mrs Lisien Loan	-	N	Y

*Denotes Member term expired on 6 November 2015.

**Denotes Deputy Member attended.



The Co-management Board

The functions and powers of the Board are set out in Regulation 10 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park) Regulations 2005* as follows:

- (1) The functions of the Board are-
 - a) to carry out the functions assigned to the Board by or under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*; and
 - b) to carry out the functions assigned to the Board by the co-management agreement; and
 - c) to carry out other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister.
- (2) The Board has the power to do anything necessary, expedient or incidental to the performance of its functions.
- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), the Board may enter into any form of contract, agreement or arrangement.
- (4) The Board must perform its functions, or exercise a power, in a manner that is consistent with the co-management agreement.

Regulation 12 (1) of the Regulations states that six members (of whom at least three must be Adnyamathanha people and at least three must be members appointed under regulation 5(1)(b) or (c)) constitute a quorum of the Board. This requirement was met at each Board meeting.

Regulations

The following information addresses annual reporting requirements established under Regulation 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park) Regulations 2005*.

(a) Information relating to traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

A voluntary log book system records use of the Cultural Use Zone in the Park for traditional hunting activities.

The Board believes that the log book may be being underutilised and will continue liaising with community members to ensure that information about traditional hunting in the park is accurately recorded.

(b) Information relating to the effect of traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* on native plants and protected animals, or the eggs of protected animals (and in particular those species that are scheduled as rare, endangered or vulnerable under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*).

The density of kangaroos in the Cultural Use Zone of the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park was not assessed this year. Walking kangaroo surveys to assess roo density maybe conducted every 3 years, if there are sufficient resources.

(c) Information relating to the operations and work programs undertaken by or on behalf of the Board.

The Board continued to implement its work program based on the obligations under the Co-Management Agreement, Indigenous Land Use Agreement, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *National Parks and Wildlife (Vulkathunha-GRNP) Regulations 2005*, Management Plan and *Public Sector Act 2009*. The work program also addresses the strategic priorities that have been identified by the Board.



DEWNR officers report on operational and management activities undertaken in the Park to the Board at each meeting. The report addresses visitor management, biodiversity programs, cultural management matters, asset maintenance, projects, planning, training and development, work health and safety, and funding applications.

Due to the cultural significance of the Munyi site, the Board has taken an active interest in its protection. It is patrolled twice a week by the Senior Ranger V-GRNP and regular reports are provided to the Board. Inconspicuous vehicle track closure work has also been undertaken in the Munyi area as directed by the Board.

(d) Information relating to park infrastructure.

Park infrastructure is managed through DEWNR's asset management program to ensure appropriate maintenance of infrastructure/assets on reserves. The Board is provided with an overview at each meeting as part of the DEWNR management report.

During the reporting period there were a number of infrastructure improvements. Maintenance work was undertaken Idninha Ruins and shearers quarters.

(e) Any other information required by the Minister.

No additional information was required by the Minister during this reporting period.

Reconciliation Statement

The Board would like to acknowledge that the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Adnyamathanha people.

In fulfilling its functions, the Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

Human Resource Matters

Staffing

The Board has no staff of its own. Mrs Denise McCourt, from DEWNR's South Australian Arid Lands Region provides executive support to the Board.

In accordance with the Co-Management Agreement, the Board is kept informed of DEWNR staff development and training. Staff working in the Park have undertaken a number of training programs including warden, fire, procurement and conflict training.

Disability Action Plans

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Board to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2015-16 financial year.

Equal Opportunity Programs

The Board has no staff of its own and is serviced by staff of DEWNR. Members are aware of and abide by the equal opportunity policies and programs of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter may be viewed in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.



Gender Reporting

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period there were four male and four female members. Deputy member gender is aligned with each member's gender.

Work Health and Safety

There were no incidents reported by the Board during the reporting period. As a user of DEWNR facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of and abides by DEWNR's OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16. During the reporting period DEWNR Staff operating in the Park undertook First Aid, manual handling, safety awareness and 4WD vehicle training.

Use of Consultants

The Board did not engage any consultants in the reporting period.

Public Complaints

Nil

Financial Performance

DEWNR administers the budget for the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park on behalf of the Board and provides a financial report to members at each meeting. Expenditure has been maintained with the budget allocation.

Finance

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within the existing resources of DEWNR. Members are paid sitting fees in accordance with the recommendation from the Chief Executive, DPC which states;

- Chair: \$221.00 per 4 hour session
- Members: \$177.00 per 4 hour session.

Government employees are not entitled to sitting fees.

Account Payment Performance

DEWNR provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Board. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Contractual Arrangements

The Board did not enter any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

Other Reporting Items

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

The Board uses the facilities and services of DEWNR staff. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.



Overseas Travel

It is declared that no member of the Board has travelled overseas on the business of the Board during the reporting period.

Fraud

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Regional Impact Assessment Statement

The Board undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2015-16.

Freedom of Information

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DEWNR Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter is available on the DEWNR internet site. Please visit www.environment.sa.gov.au to view the FOI Statement.

Urban Design Charter

No events occurred in 2015-16 that required the Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

Greening of Government (GoGo) Framework

The Board uses the facilities and services of DEWNR Staff. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Acknowledgment

The Board appreciates the support and encouragement it received over the past year from the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Hon Ian Hunter MLC.

The Board records its appreciation for the assistance provided by senior DEWNR staff, including: the Chief Executive, Ms Sandy Pitcher; Group Executive Director Parks and Regions, Mr John Schutz; Regional Director South Australian Arid Lands Region, Mr Stuart Paul; Manager Parks and Co-management, Tony Magor and Senior Executive Officer Co-management, Mrs Denise McCourt.

The Board acknowledges key stakeholders including the Adnyamathanha community, ATLA members, Mr Michael Anderson (Chairperson of ATLA), South Australian Arid Lands Region staff of DEWNR - particularly Alan Harbour, Ranger-in-Charge and Senior Cultural Ranger Arthur Coulthard - and the Native Title Holders.

The Board is working collaboratively and advancing partnership arrangements between DEWNR and Adnyamathanha to achieve shared objectives for future conservation management in Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.



Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park - Location

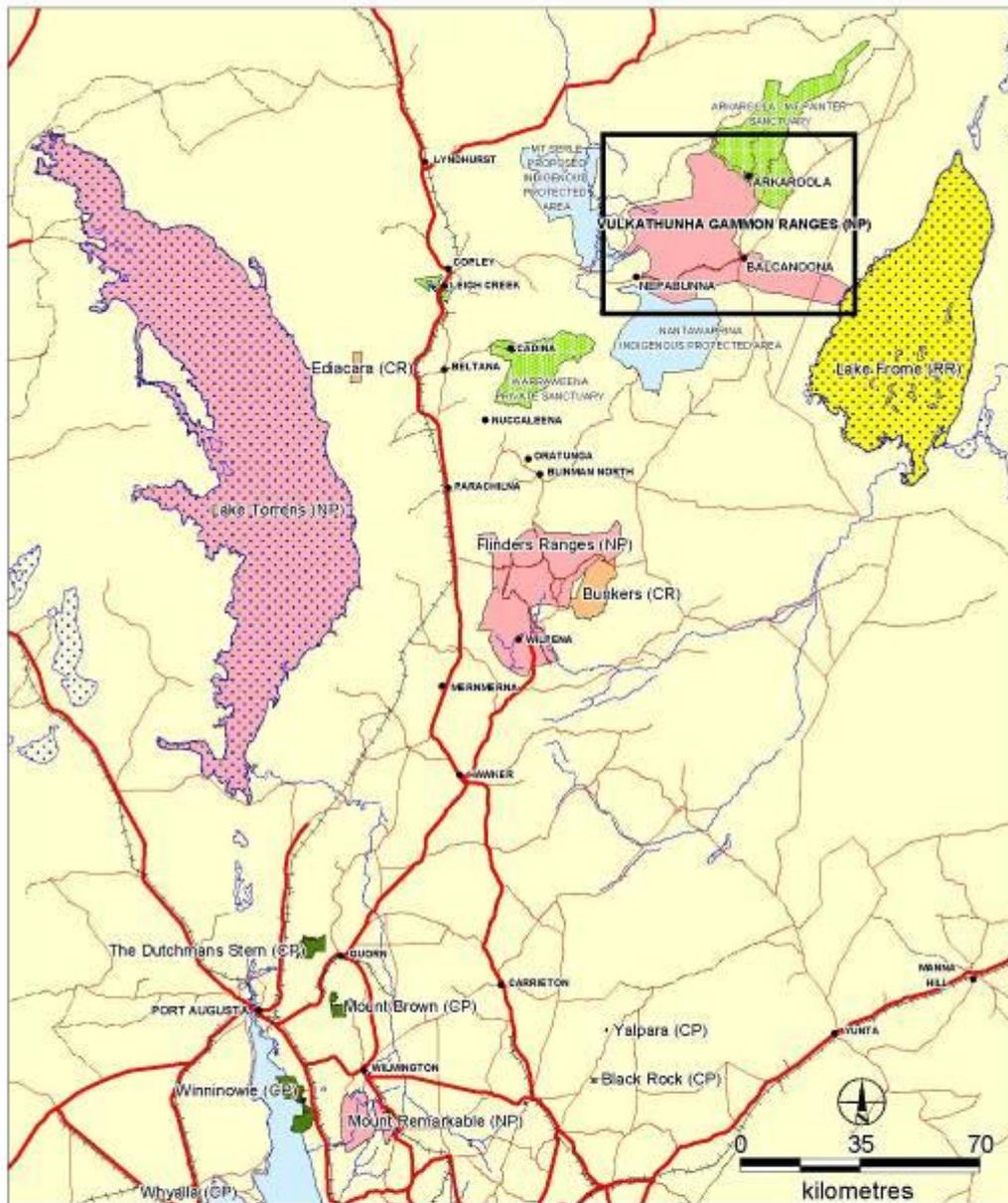


Figure 1
Vulkathunha - Gammon Ranges National Park
Location

Map created using PAMS
Projection: MGA Zone 54 (GDA 94)
Date: 2005



Government of South Australia



Natural Resources SA Arid Lands