

National Parks and Wildlife South Australia  
Outback Region

**DESERT PARKS BULLETIN**

NO. 343

5<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Flooding of the Eyre and Warburton Creeks has altered through access to Birdsville and Clifton Hills. QAA Line to Birdsville is open by the Eyre Creek flood by-pass, and the Warburton Crossing to Clifton Hills is closed.**

If you decide to travel in the Outback Region, you should ensure your vehicles are properly prepared and equipped for outback travel and any emergencies or delays. The use of trailers in the Simpson Desert is strongly discouraged. Serious damage can be caused to vehicles and the environment, and difficulties are likely to result. Night time temperatures can be below 0°C so please ensure appropriate clothing and bedding. Take extra water, food and fuel supplies. Ensure good communications equipment, either HF Radio or Satellite Phone. Ensure you notify a responsible person, such as a family member, of your plans prior to travelling into remote areas, and seek local advice.

If you attempt driving in sandy conditions and get bogged, do not attempt to get the vehicle out without ensuring 4WD and hubs are engaged, tyre pressures are decreased and sand is removed from the path of the tyres. If you become stuck, do not leave your vehicles to walk for assistance as this can have fatal consequences.

[Check road and weather bulletins and local conditions before travelling into the Outback Region.](#) Speed limits of 40km per hour apply within all Parks. For up to date public road information outside of National Parks, please call the **Transport SA Road Condition Hotline** on **1300 361 033** or visit the Transport SA web site on [http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/quicklinks/northern\\_roads/northern.asp](http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/quicklinks/northern_roads/northern.asp).

**Be aware that entry to Desert Parks requires a day/overnight permit or a Desert Parks Pass that must be displayed on the vehicle windscreen.**

**LAKE EYRE NATIONAL PARK**

Water is continuing to enter Lake Eyre. Unless further rains fall in the catchment, Lake Eyre will not fill. It is likely that evaporation rates and soakage is greater than the current inflow into Lake Eyre, so the water level may have already reached its peak level. Water is approximately 100 metres from Halligan Bay. The water should still be visible for a number of months. To get the best perspective of Lake Eyre, it is best seen from the air. Local charters are available at William Creek and Marree.

**General Conditions**

For further information regarding the National Parks and Wildlife South Australia visit our web site [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au). For information regarding air tours phone the Wadlata Outback Centre on 1800 633 060. Check local conditions before traveling into the Outback area.

If you decide to travel in the following areas you should ensure your vehicles are properly prepared and equipped for outback travel and any emergencies. Take extra water, food and fuel supplies. Ensure good communications equipment. Notify a responsible person of your plans prior to travelling. **No fires at Lake Eyre.**

**Halligan Bay Track – Open to 4WD with caution.** This track is a declared Public Access Route. It is a bush track, not a road. The track is deteriorating due to increased traffic, so be aware of corrugations and bulldust holes. Please drive to track conditions. Driving on the Lake surface is an offence and dangerous. 4WD only along this track. **Trailers and caravans are not recommended.**

**Level Post Bay Track – Open to 4WD with caution.** This track is a declared Public Access Route. It is a bush track, not a road. The track is deteriorating due to increased traffic, so be aware of corrugations and bulldust holes. Please drive to track conditions. Driving on the Lake surface is an offence and dangerous. 4WD only along this track. **Trailers and caravans are not recommended.** No camping at Level Post Bay – camping at Muloorina campground.

**Marree's Outback Roadhouse – Agents for the Desert Parks Pass & Lake Eyre Permits. Post Office & Commonwealth Bank Agency, diesel & unleaded fuel, gas bottle refills, licensed restaurant and take away service available. Ph (61 8) 8675 8360**

**INNAMINCKA REGIONAL RESERVE**

**General Vehicle Access.**

**Visitor sites at Innamincka and Coongie Lakes will be redeveloped in the coming months. Please be cautious of heavy machinery, and sorry for any inconveniences as we improve visitor facilities.**

Note: Be aware that entry to Innamincka Regional Reserve requires a day/camping permit or a Desert Parks Pass that must be displayed on the vehicle windscreen. Desert Parks passes/permits are available from the Innamincka Trading Post.

Coongie Track – Open.

Walkers Crossing Track – Open.

15 Mile Track and Access to Cooper Creek – Open.

Cullyamurra Track – Open.

Bore Track – Open. Contact Bollards Lagoon (61 8 8091 3873) prior to crossing private land.

**The Innamincka Trading Post** (Ph: (61 8) 8675 9900). Agent for the Desert Parks Pass and camping permits. Provide a comprehensive range of supplies and services for visitors in the Innamincka area.  
**Innamincka Hotel** (Ph: (61 8) 8675 9901). Provide meals, drinks and accommodation.

## ***WITJIRA NATIONAL PARK and the SIMPSON DESERT RESERVES***

Check local conditions before travelling into this area. See the National Parks and Wildlife South Australia web site on [www.parks.sa.gov.au](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au) for more information.

**Witjira National Park – Open to 4WD with caution.**

There is minor erosion along some sections of roads so use caution along these sections – grading will occur soon so please be cautious of a grader along roads. Visitors should purchase permits or Desert Parks Passes before travelling to Witjira.

**Spring Creek Delta is permanently closed**, so use the by-pass road east of Dalhousie Springs.

Check local conditions before travelling. Please call the **Desert Parks** hotline on **1800 816 078** for further information. A public phone (card only) is available at Dalhousie Springs. (Note: Phone cards **not** available at Dalhousie). Camping is restricted to Dalhousie Springs, 3 O'clock Creek and Purni Bore while within Witjira National Park. **Trailers are not recommended east of Dalhousie Springs.**

**The Pink Roadhouse Oodnadatta – Desert Parks Pass Agents, phone cards, diesel and unleaded fuel, food and travel supplies, fine food, refreshments, tyre and minor repairs and welding**  
Ph: 1800 802 074 Email: [pinkroadhouse@bigpond.com](mailto:pinkroadhouse@bigpond.com)

**Simpson Desert – Open to 4WD only. No access/exit via Warburton Crossing.**

**Please check with local authorities or call the Desert Parks Pass Hotline on 1800 816 078.**

Access/exit via the QAA line is open by a sign-posted detour at Eyre Creek. The first few sand dunes west of the K1/Rig Road intersection along the Rig Road are difficult to traverse and may cause problems for drivers. Sand dunes are constantly being reshaped by dry conditions and prevailing winds. The eastern side of sand dunes are becoming quite steep so extra care must be taken when crossing dunes.

**The use of trailers in the Simpson Desert is strongly discouraged.** Serious damage can be caused to vehicles and the environment, and difficulties are likely to result.

Visitors are advised to drive in a convoy, carry a HF radio or sat phone and limit the total load of their vehicles. However, do take extra reserves of fuel, food and water. Check local conditions before travelling in the area. Satellite phones are available to hire for Simpson Desert trips from Mt Dare Hotel and the Wirrari Tourism Centre in Birdsville. See contact details below.

**Warburton Crossing – Closed due to flooding until further notice.**

**Mt Dare Hotel – Desert Parks Pass Agents - Diesel and unleaded fuel, accommodation, meals, hot showers, fuel, minor repairs, camping, travel supplies and phone cards available for travellers. Satellite phones are available to hire from Mt Dare Hotel for trips across the Simpson Desert. Contact Mt Dare on (61 8) 8670 7835**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Hire of Communications Equipment**

Satellite phones can be hired from Birdsville & Mt Dare. For further information call:

**Wirrari Centre - Birdsville (61 7) 4656 3300    Mt Dare Hotel                    (61 8) 8670 7835**

### **CONDITION UPDATES**

As conditions change a further update bulletin will be issued. For further information on SA Desert Parks and Far Northern South Australian road and track access, please call the **Desert Parks** toll free hotline on **1800 816 078** or the **Transport SA Outback Roads** hotline on **1300 361 033**.

Alternatively contact local Police where applicable for condition updates. For travel communications, contact the **Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc** on **(61 8) 8287 6222**.

Tony Magor  
District Ranger  
DESERT PARKS  
[desertparks@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:desertparks@saugov.sa.gov.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Heritage



*While every attempt has been made to provide up to date information in this bulletin, all travellers are responsible for ensuring that they obtain accurate and detailed information and are properly equipped and prepared for all emergencies prior to traveling into remote outback areas.*

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