

Desert Parks Bulletin

No. 669 – 7 January 2021

Due to public safety, Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert Conservation Park and Regional Reserve, are closed between 1 December 2020 and 15 March 2021.

K1 Warburton, Walkers Crossing and Halligan Bay Point Public Access Routes are closed between 3 December 2020 and 15 March 2021.

ALERT: COVID-19 travel and border restrictions

A Cross Border Travel Registration is required for all travellers wishing to enter South Australia
<https://www.police.sa.gov.au/online-services/cross-border-travel-application>.

People traveling from Hi Community-Transmission Zones and Prohibited Locations have further restrictions on travel. Check SA COVID-19 restrictions at <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions> before you travel.

Visitors are reminded that social distancing rules apply in SA, and park visitors must consider these restrictions when making bookings. Please check the [State Coordinator's directions](#) on social distancing and relevant [limits on gatherings](#).

It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

Please respect other campers and park visitors by keeping a safe distance and practicing good hygiene.

For more about visiting parks during COVID-19 go to www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/covid-19-faqs

More information about COVID-19: www.sa.gov.au/COVID-19

South Australian COVID-19 Information line: 1800 253 787

You can also download the official government "Coronavirus Australia" app in the Apple App Store or Google Play, or join the WhatsApp channel on iOS or Android.

Campsites and accommodation within South Australia's national parks are open. Bookings for these and for entry are now available [online](#) and through our [booking agents](#).

Safety in the Outback

Outback daytime temperatures can reach high 40°Cs. If you are travelling in the Outback, you should bring appropriate clothing, ensure your vehicles are properly prepared and equipped for outback travel and any emergencies or delays. Take extra water, food and fuel supplies. Ensure good communications equipment, either HF Radio or Satellite Phone and an EPIRB or PLB. 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.

Speed limits

Check road and weather bulletins and local conditions before travelling into the Outback. 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.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads>

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park

ALERT: It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

Halligan Bay Point Public Access Route – **Closed from 3 December 2020, re-opening 16 March 2021.**

Level Post Bay Public Access Route – **closed due to public safety.**

Tallaringa Conservation Park

Online park bookings or a Desert Parks Pass is required, as well as a tourist access permit to access this area from the Department of Defence. Details can be found at <http://www.defence.gov.au/woomera/permit-tourist.htm>

Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park

ALERT: It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

ALERT: Innamincka Regional Reserve has had two large flood events so far this year resulting in significant damage to tracks and campgrounds. Where tracks are open please observe caution at washouts, creek crossings and where water is ponded on the track. Please remain on tracks at all times.

Please note that chainsaws and fire wood collection is prohibited in Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park, with no wood fires permitted at Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park. Bring firewood with you and take your waste material home or deposit it at the Innamincka township refuse site.

Coongie Track to Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park – Open to 4WD

15 Mile Track – **Closed past Policemans Camp turn off due to rain**

Merninie Loop – **Open to 4WD**

Cullyamurra Waterhole – **Open to 4WD**

Burke's Grave **Open to 4WD**

Queerbidie **Open to 4WD**

Policemans – **Open to 4WD**

Kings Marker – **Closed due to rain**

Ski Beach Campground – **Closed due to rain**

Wills Grave – **Closed due to rain**

Minke Waterhole Campground – **Closed due to rain**

Old Strzelecki Track (on Innamincka Regional Reserve only) – **Open to 4WD**

Bore Track North – **Closed due to rain**

Bore Track South – **Closed until further notice**

Extreme caution at ponded water, washouts and corrugations.

Walker Crossing Public Access Route – **Closed from 3 December 2020, re-opening 16 March 2021.**

Witjira National Park

ALERT: It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

Pedirka Public Access Route – **Open to 4WD – Drive to track conditions**

Witjira National Park – Open to 4WD – Extreme caution at ponded water, washouts and corrugations. The tracks were recently graded however some visitors have driven directly after rain and have chopped up the tracks. Please drive slowly over these rutted sections.

Rubbish tips are located 3 kilometres east and west of the Dalhousie campground or at Birdsville for disposal of rubbish.

Check local conditions before travelling into this area. See the National Parks website at www.parks.sa.gov.au for more information.

Wood fires are not permitted in Witjira, with the exception that wood fires are still permitted at Mt Dare. This does not apply to the Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert reserves in South Australia and wood can be carried through Witjira to be used in the Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert reserves.

The Dalhousie airstrip is closed to public use.

Binns track is closed indefinitely between Mt Dare and Old Andado. The track has deteriorated due to extreme dry weather and high volume of traffic over the past two years leading to deep and dangerous rutting. Travellers wishing to access the Binns track from Mt Dare to Old Andado will need to detour via New Crown station.

Annual Grading: The 4WD tracks at Witjira and the PARs of the Oodnadatta Track are graded annually by an earth moving contractor in May and June of each year.

Pink Roadhouse (Ph: (61 8) 8670 7822) – Agent for the Desert Parks Pass. Provides diesel and unleaded fuel, accommodation, food and groceries, meals, minor repairs, tyres, travel supplies, and alcohol.

Mt Dare Hotel (Ph: (61 8) 8670 7835) – Agent for the Desert Parks Pass. Provides diesel and unleaded fuel, accommodation, meals, hot showers, minor repairs, camping, travel supplies, alcohol, and phone cards available for travellers. Satellite phones are available to hire from Mt Dare Hotel for trips across the Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert

Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert - Closed from 1 December 2020, re-opening 16 March 2021.

Warburton Crossing Public Access Route – Closed from 3 December 2020, re-opening 16 March 2021.

Colson Track – Northern Territory section closed until further notice.

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 Desert Parks on (61 8) 8648 5328 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.

Fight the Bite - a health warning from SA Health

Mosquitoes can be active around waterbodies in northern South Australia.

Mosquitoes are not only a nuisance but some can spread serious disease such as Ross River virus (RRv) and Barmah Forest virus (BFv) when they bite (symptoms of RRv and BFv can include joint pains, rash, fever, fatigue or muscle pain).

There is NO CURE and NO VACCINE to protect against these mosquito borne diseases. The only known and effective way to reduce risk of mosquito borne disease is to prevent mosquito bites.

If you are a visitor, or if you live in northern South Australia, it is important that you protect yourself, your family and friends against mosquito borne disease by Fighting the Bite. Key strategies include:

- **Covering up** – wear long, light coloured, loose fitting clothing (mosquitoes can bite through tight clothes like jeans)
- **Apply personal insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin** (avoid using on babies and toddlers and ALWAYS read and follow instructions on the label first).
- **Ensure insect screens cover openings** in holiday houses, boats, caravans or tents.
- Cover sleeping areas or beds with **mosquito nets** if necessary.

For additional strategies and information about how to **Fight the Bite** and protect against mosquito borne disease visit www.health.sa.gov.au

On-line park entry and camping bookings

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ALERT: Limited mobile reception exists across the Outback. Please book prior to leaving where possible.

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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 travelling into remote outback areas. Privacy, Disclaimer, Copyright