



**Government
of South Australia**

LAKE GAIRDNER NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD **2019-20 Annual Report**

LAKE GAIRDNER NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

86 Tasman Terrace, Port Lincoln SA 5606

PO Box 22, Port Lincoln SA 5606

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Contact phone number: +61 8 8688 3111

Contact email: ollanta.lipcer@sa.gov.au

ISSN: 2203-8078

Date presented to Minister: 30 September 2020

To:

The Hon David Speirs

Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *Public Sector Act 2009*, *the Public Sector Regulations 2010*, *the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, *Section 43L of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board by:

Jonathan Clark
Chairperson

Date 28.8.2020

Signature



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Clark', is written over a horizontal line.

From the Chairperson

I am pleased to present the 2019-20 annual report on behalf of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board. The Board is an important partnership between the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and the traditional custodians, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal people, through the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC).

The 2019-20 year has seen the commencement of the Gawler Ranges National Park's visitor interpretation plan, which the Board have advised on and provided significant input for. The plan is underway, with signage that will engage visitors in stories from the traditional custodians, stories from the time the Park was a working station and information on the unique flora and fauna of the area. Along with an installation of artwork produced by Sarah Butcher, a Working on Country Ranger for the Gawler Ranges, this signage will contribute to an enhanced experience for visitors to the park. This visitor interpretation plan - which, in the future will include installations at Lake Gairdner National Park, provides an important platform for Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families to share their stories, knowledge and culture.

The Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan was adopted by the Minister in September 2019 and is available at:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/park-management/state-wide-park-strategies/park-management-plans>

The amalgamation of the Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner National Parks is progressing through positive partnerships and the development of a strong Co-management agreement. The Board continues to work with GRAC and DEW towards establishing an amalgamated board to oversee the strategic management of this country.

More information is contained within the annual report and I encourage people to learn more about this stunning landscape by reading the management plan.

The Board looks forward to continuing to manage this important park, along with neighbours, community and other key stakeholders in future years.

Jonathan Clark

Chairperson

Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board

Contents

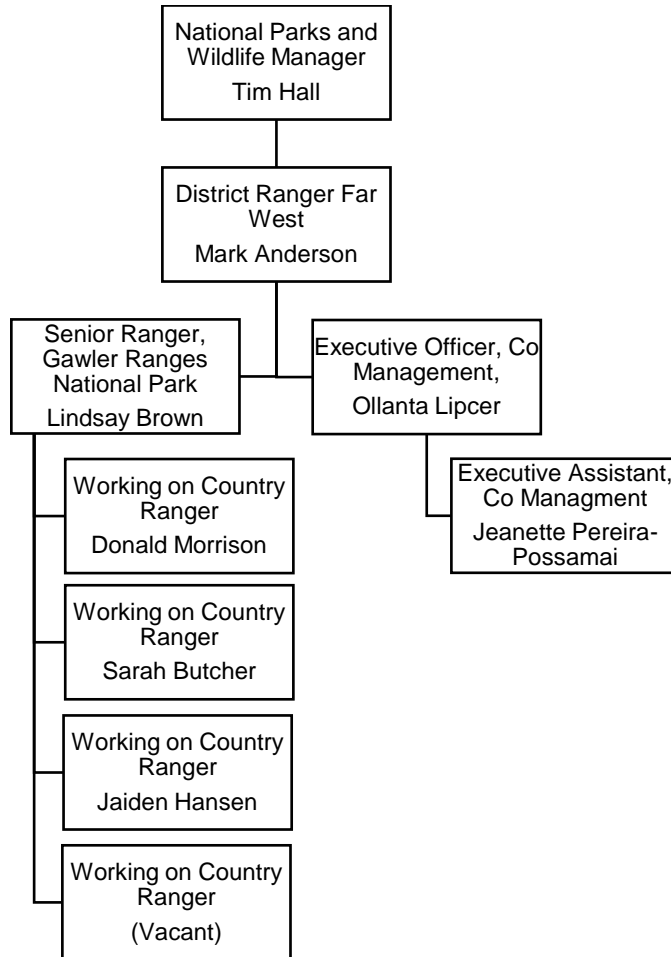
Overview: about the agency	5
Our strategic focus	5
Our organisational structure.....	6
Changes to the agency	6
Our Minister.....	7
An Overview of Board Membership	7
Legislation administered by the agency.....	8
Other related agencies (within the Minister’s area/s of responsibility).....	8
The agency’s performance.....	9
Performance at a glance	9
Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives	9
Agency specific objectives and performance	12
Corporate performance summary	12
Employment opportunity programs	13
Agency performance management and development systems.....	13
Work health, safety and return to work programs.....	13
Executive employment in the agency	14
Financial performance.....	16
Financial performance at a glance	16
Consultants disclosure	16
Contractors disclosure	17
Other financial information	18
Other information	18
Risk management	19
Risk and audit at a glance.....	19
Fraud detected in the agency.....	19
Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud	19
Public interest disclosure	19
Reporting required under any other act or regulation	20
Reporting required under the <i>Carers’ Recognition Act 2005</i>	23
Public complaints	24
Number of public complaints reported	24
Service Improvements resulting from complaints or consumer suggestions over 2019-20 (current year)	26
Appendix: Audited financial statements 2019-20	27

Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose	Jointly manage the Lake Gairdner National Park in partnership with the Minister for Environment and Water and the Gawler Ranges people through the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation
Our Vision	We are working together to improve natural and cultural landscapes for all stakeholders. We respect the rights, interests and needs of the traditional owners and create social development and economic opportunities for Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families and communities, while sharing the responsibility for the effective management of the Lake Gairdner National Park
Our Values	Respect the laws, customs and cultural identity of the Gawler Ranges People while providing positive experiences for visitors. Position Lake Gairdner National Park as an iconic, internationally recognised tourism destination by effectively and efficiently managing the environmental value of the park within a good governance framework.
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	<p>The Co-management Board is responsible for managing the Lake Gairdner National Park and also has an advisory role in relation to Lake Gilles Conservation Park and the Gawler Ranges National Park</p> <p>The Co-management Board’s role includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and managing cultural heritage and other cultural issues. • Interpreting and promoting Aboriginal culture within the park. • Managing the exercise of traditional rights and access to the park for traditional custodians. • Managing the taking of plants and animals by the traditional custodians. • Increasing cultural awareness for all park visitors. • Managing access to the park for the general public. • Establishing training and employment opportunities for traditional owners on park.

Our organisational structure



Changes to the agency

During 2019-20 there were the following changes to the agency’s structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

- The Amalgamation of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board with The Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee is advancing, awaiting legal arrangements to progress towards a Co-management board over both parks.

Our Minister



The Hon David Speirs MP is the Minister for Environment and Water

The Minister oversees the portfolios of:

- Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
- Water and the River Murray
- Climate Change

An Overview of Board Membership

The Board consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with Regulation 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Lake Gairdner National Park) Regulations 2013*



As at 30 June 2020 the Board membership was as follows:

Chairperson

Mr Jonathan Clark

Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act

nominated by the Department (DEW)

Deputy Chairperson

Ms Cheryl Rothwell

nominated by Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC)

Members

Mr Brandon McNamara (GRAC)

Ms Dawn Taylor (GRAC)

Mrs Helen Smith (GRAC)

Ms Maria Toscano (Minister)

Ms Mary-Anne Healy (DEW)

Mr Peter Copley (DEW)

Deputy Members

Mrs Elizabeth Pool (GRAC)

Mr Brandon Mundy (GRAC)

Ms Tracey Reid (GRAC)

Ms Janelle Saunders (GRAC, deputy to Ms Rothwell)

Ms Yvette Colton (Minister)

Ms Elizabeth (Liz) McTaggart (DEW)

Mr Anthony Freebairn (DEW)

Mr Tim Hall (DEW, deputy to Mr Clark)

Legislation administered by the agency

The Board is responsible for complying with the following legislation which are administered by DEW:

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016

National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016

Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

Department for Environment and Water

The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

Not Applicable.

Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency's contribution
<p>Better Services</p> <p>In accordance with the Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan and the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i></p>	<p>When managing reserves, DEW is required under section 37 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> to have regard to, and undertake actions that are consistent with the following objectives as stated in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and management of wildlife. • Preservation of features of geological, natural or scenic interest. • Destruction of dangerous weeds and eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants. • Control of vermin and exotic animals. • Control and eradication of disease of animals and vegetation. • Prevention and suppression of bushfires and other hazards. • Encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance. • Generally, the promotion of the public interest.

<p>DEW 2019-20 Action Plan: Goal 1 – South Australians conserve and enjoy our nature, parks and places</p> <p><i>Our system of parks is world-class. People value our natural environment and cultural assets, and enjoy the health and social benefits of parks. Sustainable, nature-based tourism creates jobs and strengthens the economy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage national parks to conserve the environment, drive nature-based tourism, improve the state’s economy and create jobs. • Implement key parks projects including a park volunteer ranger program and visitor infrastructure renewal in parks. • Identify ecological sensitive and commercially sustainable opportunities in our parks, gardens and places, including a release of ‘New Business Opportunities’ in 2019-20. • Manage the impact of introduced pest and abundance native species. • Support First People’s connection to Country, including through Co-management opportunities. • Work with our partners to manage the impact of natural hazards, specifically bushfire and flood, on our land, biodiversity, economy and communities.
<p>DEW 2019-20 Action Plan: Goal 3 – Communities are active in the sustainable management of our environment</p> <p><i>Our statutory Boards and Councils lead and collaborate to ensure improved outcomes for South Australia’s environment, heritage and sustainability. This is underpinned by evidence that ensures sound policy and informed decision-making.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with landholders to protect and restore native vegetation through heritage agreements and delivering on-ground work through biodiversity offsets.

DEW 2019-20 Action Plan: Goal 4 –
Landscapes and natural resources are managed and sustained

An integrated whole-of-landscape approach to natural resources management has empowered, resilient regional communities working collaboratively to help ensure the sustainable management and productive use of the state's natural resources.

- Improve pest plant and animal control and support streamlined compliance targeting issues of greater risk.

Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Functions and powers of the Board are as set out in the Co-management Agreement, the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act</i> and the <i>Regulations</i> .	Regular perusal of the NPWA, ILUA and CMA Advise the Minister on matters relating to the Management of the Park by providing an Annual Report	Protection of the environmental and cultural assets within the National Park whilst providing safe and controlled visitor access
In exercising its functions and powers, the Board must have regard to the objects of Co-management as specified in the NPWA and clause 8 of the Co-management Agreement, and must not act inconsistently with the Management Plan for the Park.	Regular contact between the Board and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) to discuss Co-management issues and general park operations. The Board is responsible for complying with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> , <i>National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016</i> and <i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> , which are administered by DEW.	This has provided a valuable tool and sense of participation in the management of the Park by the Traditional Owners; which in turn leads to greater community knowledge of cultural practices.
Working on country program (WOC)	Supporting the employment of 4 Aboriginal Rangers by the WOC program	Provision of cultural land management practices and interaction with visitors on Traditional lands

Corporate performance summary

Not applicable

Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
Working on Country Program	Employment for 4 Aboriginal staff as National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers.
	The Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEW. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2019-20. Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Board from existing DEW resources.

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
The Board undertake a performance review, including evaluation of its effectiveness and governance responsibilities	Regular governance training is undertaken by the Board members.
The Board maintain a register of attendance at meetings	Board member's attendance are recorded in the Minutes of each meeting
Government employees supporting the Board's operations undertake a performance review and development program with their managers	Two sessions are held on an annual basis. This is considered to be effective.

Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
This Board abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEW to meet whole of government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEW Annual Report 2019-20

Workplace injury claims	2019-20	2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	0	0	0
Fatalities	0	0	0
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	0	0	0

*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

Work health and safety regulations	2019-20	2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i>)	0	0	0
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices (<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i>)	0	0	0

Return to work costs**	2019-20	2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	0	0	0
Income support payments – gross (\$)	0	0	0

**before third party recovery

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES Level 1	Nil

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Financial performance

Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. The information is unaudited. Full audited financial statements for 2019-20 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2019-20 Budget \$000s	2019-20 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	Past year 2018-19 Actual \$000s
Total Income	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	0	0	0	0
Net Result	0	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Result	0	0	0	0

Statement of Financial Position	2019-20 Budget \$000s	2019-20 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2018-19 Actual \$000s
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0
Total assets	0	0	0	0
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	0	0	0	0
Net assets	0	0	0	0
Equity	0	0	0	0

Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All consultancies below \$10,000 each – combined	-	0

Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
-	-	0
	Total	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All contractors below \$10,000 each – combined	-	0

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
-	-	0
	Total	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

Other financial information

The Board is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. DEW administers the budget for Lake Gairdner National Park on behalf of the Board and provides a budget report to members at each meeting. Expenditure has been maintained within the budget allocation. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2019-20.

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within existing DEW resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with a recommendation by the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in line with the Cabinet-approved Remuneration Framework.

Other information

Nil to report

Risk management

Risk and audit at a glance

Nil to report.

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
Nil	0

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) <i>Regulations</i> 2016 Section 23</p> <p>a) information relating to traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act</p>	<p>The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families are entitled to undertake cultural activities throughout the park. A Traditional Use Zone has been designated as a focus area for these activities.</p> <p>Although traditional hunting is permitted on the Park, no hunting activities have occurred in the reporting period.</p>

For the purposes of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), the annual report of the Board must include the above information relating to hunting

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) <i>Regulations</i> 2016 Section 23</p> <p>b) information relating to the effect of traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act on native plants and protected animals or the eggs of protected animals (in particular endangered species, vulnerable species and rare species)</p>	<p>Nil effect to report as no traditional hunting activities have occurred in the reporting period</p>

For the purposes of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), the annual report of the Board must include the above information relating to hunting.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) <i>Regulations 2016</i> Section 23</p> <p>c) information relating to the operation and works programs undertaken by or on behalf of the board.</p>	<p>The Board has achieved a number of changes in the strategic management of the Park including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Progressing the Visitor Interpretation plan, offering visitors an opportunity to learn more about Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families' culture, history, and the natural values of the Park. In the absence of a Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee, the Board has provided advice, and work has commenced on agreed priority sites identified within the Gawler Ranges National Park, with future plans for Lake Gairdner National Park. - The Board is working towards a Co-Management agreement to amalgamate and form one co-management board over the Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner National Parks. - A governance schedule has been incorporated into every board meeting to ensure governance requirements for board members are met - Dry Lakes Racers Association (DLRA) Land Speed Week 30th anniversary event scheduled for March 2020 was cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. This event provides a tourism opportunity for South Australia. International competitors and visitors attend this event. The Board continues to negotiate towards a three-year agreement between GRAC, DLRA and DEW for a multiyear agreement with Dry Lake racing to provide certainty for the running of the event. -Utilizing the new commercial filming and photography guidelines developed by the Board, the Board endorsed two filming permits for 2019-20, out of session. The Board also considered and gave input on six new exploration license applications for Lake Gairdner National Park, out of session.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
	<p>-Lake Gairdner National Park board members met with Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park members, Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI); and MACAI Members to the Board to discuss and compare challenges and achievements across Co-management</p> <p>-At the September 2019 meeting, the Board received a presentation from Ms Ariane Gienger, University of Adelaide thesis student, who presented on a Co-management Research Project. The Board supported the project and noted that it would be beneficial for other Co-management boards to be involved in the research of Co-management around the State.</p> <p>-The Board is provided with a park works report that includes the works program and park budget at each meeting. Board meetings enable DEW officers to collaborate on operational and management activities in the park.</p>

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) <i>Regulations 2016</i> Section 23</p> <p>d) Information relating to park infrastructure</p>	<p>A volunteer was engaged to provide input into the information and development of signage throughout the Park based on the Visitor Information Plan.</p>

For the purposes of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), the annual report of the Board must include the above information relating to operations and works programs and park infrastructure.

Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Nil to report

Public complaints

Number of public complaints reported

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2019-20
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	0
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	0
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	0
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2019-20
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	0
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	0
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		Total	0

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	0
Number of negative feedback comments	0
Total number of feedback comments	0
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Service Improvements resulting from complaints or consumer suggestions over 2019-20 (current year)

Not applicable

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2019-20

Financial services are provided to the Board by DEW. Finances are audited annually as part of DEW's financial statements.

Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the [DEW](#) website.