

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
LAID ON THE TABLE**

28 Oct 2015

# **Gawler Ranges National Park**

## **Advisory Committee**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee  
Annual Report 2014-15

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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 the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 19(L) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Clark'.

Mr Jonathan Clark  
**CHAIR**  
Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee

## **PLANS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee (the Committee) provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on the following:

1. Training and employment opportunities for Traditional Owners
2. Protection and management of cultural heritage and other cultural issues
3. Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal culture within the Park
4. Exercise of Traditional Rights and access to the Park for Traditional Owners
5. Taking of plants and animals by the Traditional Owners
6. Increased cultural awareness for all Park visitors
7. Access to the Park for the general public.

The Advisory Committee set the following priorities for 2014-15:

1. Progressing of the new Management Plan and Interpretation Plan
2. Amalgamation of both the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board (the Board) and the Advisory Committee into one
3. Development and implementation of a Cultural Heritage Plan
4. New brochures for Gawler Ranges National Park

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

### **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

Three Committee meetings were held in the 2014-15 financial year.

#### **9-10 September 2014 – Port Lincoln**

Tuesday 9 September - Annual Report for Lake Gairdner National Park & Gawler Ranges National Park for 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 was endorsed by the Board and the Committee.

Majority of discussions during this meeting focused on preparation of the draft Gawler Ranges management plan. Ms Prue Adamson from the Protected Area section, Policy and Planning, DEWNR led discussions and reviewed the plan with the Board and the Committee.

Wednesday 10 September – Meeting on this day primarily around reviewing and preparing the Lake Gairdner management plan, with discussions particularly around the Traditional Use Zones, Land Tenure/Swap, Land Boundaries within the Lake Gairdner National Park; and public designated access areas.

Dr Annie Lane (Chair) spoke about having some information in the Lake Gairdner management plan regarding permits – namely that the Board will create its own policy and permits; and this will be supported by arrangements with the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation.

Dry Lakes Racing Association formal written request for approval of race dates for the following year. Board discussed implications and procedures for proposed race the following year from 23 to 27 March 2015 and consultation with the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation.

Nomination of Mrs Elizabeth Pool as deputy member for Mr Allan Wilson, following Mr Andrew Wilson's resignation.

Dr Annie Lane (Chair) informed the Board and the Committee of the Minister's decision to disband some boards and committees; and her response to the Minister on behalf of the Lake Gairdner Co-Management Board and the Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee.

Dr Annie Lane (Chair) informed the Board and the Committee of the upcoming staff forum/meeting in the Gawler Ranges and called for some representatives to present to staff regarding co-management.

Dr Annie Lane resigned from DEWNR during the period prior to the following meeting and ceased to be the Chairperson of the Board and the Committee.

### **10-11 December 2014 – Port Lincoln**

Wednesday 10 December – The Board and the Committee received clarification that it had to elect an Acting Chair at each meeting until a Chair is formally appointed by the Minister. Mr Mick Starkey acted as Interim Board/Advisory Committee Chair.

Mr David Grosse sought feedback from the Board and the Committee regarding the Gawler Ranges brochures that he has worked on for the past few months.

Members put forward some suggestions to progress cultural training for the Committee members and agreed to make cross cultural training a standard agenda item with a theme to be agreed upon at each previous meeting.

Dry Lake Races Association draft Memorandum of Understanding followed up by Mr David Grosse.

Ms Maria Toscano led discussions around forward planning. The Board and the Committee has been focusing on the management plans as a priority however noted that the cultural awareness and cultural heritage plans were also important to provide direction. The Board and the Committee agreed to continue to work on these over the next few years.

Thursday 11 December – Mr Jason Irving was in attendance and spoke about the change from an Advisory Committee to a Board; and the process of amalgamation of the Board and the Committee into one. He reviewed the processes and consultation that needed to occur in the review of the co-management agreements and re-negotiated them to reflect the amalgamation of the Board and the Committee.

Discussions around the process for the Resignation of the Chair, subsequent appointment of an Interim Chair and appointment of a new Chair (following Dr Lane's resignation). The Board and the Committee supported the move towards chairing duties being alternated between a DEWNR elected Chair and a Traditional Custodian, until a formal Chair is appointed by the Minister. The Board and the Committee recommended and supported the appointment of the Regional Manager as Chair to keep up the practical operation and delegated functions of the Board.

The Board and the Committee discussed delegations, process of providing recommendations to the Minister and about co-management in general.

More strategic planning discussions on the Lake Gairdner management plan led by Ms Prue Adamson. Particular attention and workings on the traditional use zones, access points and buffer zone.

The Board and the Committee during this meeting introduced some board communication tools with reference to examples from the Vulkathunha and Witjira National Parks. A newsletter as a means to reflect the activities of the Board and the Committee was put forward as a suggestion.

The Board and the Committee discussed the Dry Lake Races Association hire agreement and permit applications.

The Board and the Committee discussed the Lake Gairdner National Park permit application process.

Mr Mick Starkey gave an overview of the co-management workshop held in Adelaide during November.

The Board and the Committee drew up a meeting schedule for 2015 and set the dates for meetings in the following year.

### **10-11 February 2015 – Port Lincoln**

Tuesday 10 February – The Board and the Committee continued discussions regarding amalgamation of the Advisory Committee and the Board into one.

The approval of the Gawler Ranges Brochures for publishing and distribution was obtained.

Wednesday 11 February – There were further strategic planning discussions and workings on the Lake Gairdner Management plan.

Discussions about the draft interpretation plan. Mr David Grosse, Mr Luke Golding, Ms Di Delaine and Mr Murray Greenaway attended a field trip to the Lake Gairdner and Gawler Ranges National Parks for an initial interpretation discussion outside of the Board meeting.

No traditional hunting activities were carried out in the Park during the reporting period.

## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)**

The Committee is established under section 19E of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act).

### **OBJECT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1972**

The object of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act) is to provide for the establishment and management of reserves for public benefit and enjoyment; to provide for the conservation of wildlife in a natural environment; and for other purposes.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE GAWLER RANGES NATIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Act describes the functions of the Committee.

The functions of the Committee are:

- a) set out in the Co-Management Agreement, the NPW Act and the Regulations.
- b) to consult with the Minister with a view to developing a new Management Plan, or an amendment to the existing Management Plan for the Park, incorporating a Cultural Heritage Plan and Traditional Use Zone, to a level where it is suitable for release for public comment.
- c) upon the new or amended Management Plan being satisfactorily prepared and adopted by the Minister, to take the necessary steps to establish a Board for the Park. This will include the negotiation of an ongoing co-management agreement for the Park consistent with clause 14 of the current co-management agreement, and the passing of appropriate regulations pursuant to s43G of the NPW Act.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with section 19F of the Act.

As at 30 June 2015 the Committee membership was as follows:

**Chairperson**  
Position Vacant

**Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act**  
(5)(1)(b): officer of the Department

**Deputy Chairperson**  
Mr Mick Starkey

(5)(1)(a): nominated by Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC)



## Members

Mr Allan Wilson	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Mr Howard Richards	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Mrs Helen Smith	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Ms Mia Toscano	(5)(1)(c): nominated by the Minister
Ms Sophie Keen	(5)(1)(b):nominated by the Department (Team Leader, Aboriginal Partnerships, DEWNR)
Mr Peter Copley	(5)(1)(b): nominated by the Department (Senior Ecologist, Threatened Species, DEWNR)

## Deputy Members

Mr Tim Hall	(Manager Public Lands, DEWNR) Deputy to vacant position
Mr Bob Starkey	Deputy to Mr Starkey
Position Vacant	Deputy to Mr Wilson
Mr Leslie Taylor	Deputy to Mr Richards
Mrs Janice Wingfield	Deputy to Mrs Smith
Ms Yvette Colton	(Senior Policy Officer, River Murray Operations and Trade Policy, Water and Climate Change Branch, DEWNR) Deputy to Ms Toscano
Ms Elizabeth McTaggart	(Senior Community Engagement and Sustainable Landscapes Officer, West Eyre Peninsula, DEWNR) Deputy to Ms Keen
Mr Anthony Freebairn	(Manager Sustainable Landscapes, SA Arid Lands, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Copley

During the reporting period the former Presiding Member, Dr Annie Lane and Deputy Member, Mr Andrew Wilson resigned. The Committee wish to thank Dr Lane for Chairing the Committee during her appointment. The Board also wish to thank Dr Lane and Mr Wilson for their valued contribution to the Committee.

## MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of three general Committee meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year. No special Committee meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	9/10 September 2014		10/11 December 2014		10/11 February 2015		Comments
	9 Sept	10 Sept	10 Dec	11 Dec	10 Feb	11 Feb	
Dr Annie Lane	Y	Y					Resigned after September 2014
Mr Mick Starkey	Y	Y	Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair	
Mr Allan Wilson	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	
Mr Howard Richards	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	
Mrs Helen Smith	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Ms Mia Toscano	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Ms Sophie Keen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Mr Peter Copley	N	N	N	N	N	N	Absent on extended leave

Attendance by appointed deputies at meetings:

Member	9/10 September 2014 *		10/11 December 2014 *		10/11 February 2015 *		Comments
	9 Sept	10 Sept	10 Dec	11 Dec	10 Feb	11 Feb	
Mr Tim Hall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Mr Bob Starkey	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Mr Andrew Wilson							Resigned
Mr Leslie Taylor	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Mrs Janice Wingfield	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Ms Yvette Colton	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Mrs Elizabeth McTaggart	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Mr Anthony Freebairn	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	

\*Deputies not required at this meeting

## GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Committee by providing an Executive Officer and Executive Assistant for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

## MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Committee members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Minister:

- Chair: \$0
- Member: \$103 each per four hour session

## EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Committee has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Committee from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Committee is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Committee (including Delegates) is made up of eight males and seven females.

### **The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2014-15:**

- Superannuation contribution by the Committee
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Workforce Diversity
- Voluntary Flexible Working Arrangements

- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Accredited Training Packages
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance
- *Carers Recognition Act 1993*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

## **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

## **FRAUD**

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Committee by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

## **CONSULTANTS**

The Committee did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

## **OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

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

## **ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

The Committee does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

## **URBAN DESIGN CHARTER**

No events occurred in 2014-15 that required the Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS**

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Committee 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 <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au> to view the FOI statement.

## **WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993**

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Committee 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 2014-15 financial year.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS**

The Committee did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2014-15 financial year.

## **RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

The Committee would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Gawler Ranges and Barngala people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Committee also acknowledges the Gawler Ranges and Barngala people as the custodians of the region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Gawler Ranges and Barngala people today.

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Committee would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) and South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.