

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

15 Oct 2015

NGAUT NGAUT CONSERVATION PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



**Government
of South Australia**

Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board
Annual Report 2014-15

For further information please contact:

Executive Officer
Ngaut Ngaut Co-management Board
C/- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Telephone: 08 85952106
E-mail: delia.onofrei@sa.gov.au
Website: www.environment.sa.gov.au
ISSN - 2205-6645
ABN: 36 702 093 234

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Berri Office – Vaughan Terrace

28 Vaughan Terrace
Berri SA 5343

PO Box 231
Berri SA 5343

Tel 08 8595 2106
Fax 08 85952232

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/sa-murraydarlingbasin

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 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board for the year ended 30 June 2015.

For further information on this matter please contact Ms Delia Onofrei, Executive Officer Ngaut Ngaut Co-management Board, on telephone (08) 85952106 or via email, delia.onofrei@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Isabelle Campbell
CHAIR
NGAUT NGAUT CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

Plans And Objectives

The Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park (NNCP) was proclaimed in 1976 to conserve and protect Aboriginal heritage and has great cultural significance for the descendants of the Nganguraaku and Ngaiwang people (members of the Ngarrindjeri nation).

Ngaut Ngaut co-managers agree that the vision for the park is to protect sites and objects of value to Aboriginal people and their culture while playing a role, through tourism and school visits, in raising awareness of Indigenous culture and heritage in the wider community.

The Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI) and the state government share a vision for the NNCP. The Co-management model provides the framework for MACAI and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to share responsibility for the park. In December 2014 the NNCP Co-management Board was established following MACAI and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation entering into a formal Co-management Agreement over the park.

The NNCP Co-management Board provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on all the aspects concerning the protection and management of the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.

The NNCP Co-management Board set the following strategic priority for 2014-15:

- taken the initial steps to review the park management plan.

This is the first Annual Report of the Board and covers the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. 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 (Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park) Regulations 2014* (the Regulations) and the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

Highlights, Operations And Initiatives

The Year In Review

Strategic priorities and achievements for 2014-15

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)

Boards and committees – Target 30

- Increase the number of women on all State Government boards and committees to 50% on average by 2014, and maintain thereafter by ensuring that 50% of women are appointed, on average, each quarter

Chairs of boards and committees – Target 31

- Increase the number of women chairing State Government boards and committees to 50% by 2014

Aboriginal lands native title - Target 44

- Resolve 80% of native title claims by 2020.

Management Plan – Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park

The co-management agreement provides for the existing management plan (2008) to be reviewed and a new draft plan to be prepared in partnership with the Board.

The NNCP Management Plan will be the over-arching strategic document for the park that will guide future management activities. It will set a vision for the park and MACAI that will have a strong influence in managing cultural and natural heritage values over the park.

The Board has a key role in developing the Management Plan for the park, and engaging with MACAI and the broader community has been a key priority for the Board. The Management Plan is programmed to be completed in 2016-17.

Fire Management Plan – Ngaut Ngaut Co-management Plan

Ngaut Ngaut currently does not have a fire management plan, however, minor fire management works are undertaken to protect culturally significant sites within the reserves such as slashing around the bases of scar trees.

Providing Richer Visitor Experience

The Board recognise and support ongoing opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreational activities.

There are plans to establish a cultural interpretive centre and display area at some future date that will expand the cultural experience for visitors.

Park Management

The Board delegated some routine and day-to-day responsibilities for park management to DEWNR staff to manage in accordance with government policy and procedures. This will ensure the effective and timely management of the NNCP and will allow the Board to focus on park management at a more strategic level.

Improved Research Management

The Board has delegated its authority for approving research to the Scientific Permits Officer of DEWNR. The Board will review reports on research projects annually/on a case-by-case basis and ensure measures to safeguard cultural sites from research-related disturbance.

Working with Neighbours

The Board is committed to working with neighbouring landholders to achieve shared management objectives.

Managing the Park For Success

Co-management of the park is a partnership where the MACAI works 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.

Promoting Women on All State Government Boards and committees

The current composition of the Board positively contributes to the SASP targets.

Role, Legislation And Structure

The NNCP Co-management Board is established under the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park) Regulations 2014*.

Object Of The *National Parks And Wildlife Act 1972*

The object of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* 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.

Role Of The Ngaut Ngaut Co-Management Board

The Ngaut Ngaut Co-management Board provides advice to the Minister on all the aspects concerning the protection and management of the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park in accordance with the Act.

Functions Of The Ngaut Ngaut Co-Management Board

The functions and powers of the Board are set out in Regulation 9 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park) Regulations 2014* as follows:

- (1) The functions of the Board are –
 - a) To carry out the functions assigned to the Board by or under the Act; 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.

Members

Under Regulation 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park) Regulations 2014*, the Board consists of six members appointed by the Minister, of whom:

- (a) three must be Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI) people appointed on the nomination of MACAI; and
- (b) two must be officers of the Department, nominated by the Director; 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; and
- (d) at least one member of the Board must be a woman and one a man.
- (e) The Minister may appoint a person to be a deputy member and that person may act as a member of the Board, in the absence of the member.

The full membership of the Co-management Board is as at 30 June 2015 was as follows.

Chairperson

Ms Isobelle Campbell (5)(a): Nomination by MACAI

Deputy Chairperson

Mr Paul Gillen (5)(b): officer of the Department (District Manager, Natural Resources SAMDB Region, DEWNR)

Members

Ms Cynthia Hutchinson (5)(a): nominated by MACAI

Ms Ivy Campbell (5)(a): nominated by MACAI

Ms Sonia Dominelli (5)(c): officer of the Department nominated by the Minister (Manager, Resilient Nature and Lands Program, DEWNR)

Mr Jem Tesoriero (5)(b): officer of the Department (Team Leader, NRM Communities, Natural Resources SAMDB Region, DEWNR)

Deputy Members

Ms Anita Hunter Deputy to Ms Isobelle Campbell

Ms Lynne Rigney Deputy to Ms Hutchinson

Mr Sam Stewart Deputy to Ms Ivy Campbell

Ms Sarah Lance (District Manager, Rangers to River NR SAMDB, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Gillen.

Ms Denise Fowles (Manager, Landscape Service, NR SAMDB, DEWNR) Deputy to Ms Dominelli.

Mr Phillip McNamara (Senior Project officer, NR SAMDB, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Tesoriero.

The appointments are for a four-year period from 8 November 2014 to 7 December 2018.

Meetings:

The Board held three meetings during the 2014-15 financial year.

- 29 January 2015, Swan Reach Hotel, Swan Reach
- 21 April 2015, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
- 15 June 2015, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	29 January 2015	21 April 2015	15 June 2015
Ms Isobelle Campbell	Y	Y	Y
Ms Cynthia Hutchinson	Y	Y	Y
Ms Ivy Campbell	Y	Y	Y
Ms Sonia Dominelli	Y	Y	Y
Mr Paul Gillen	Y	Y	Y
Mr Jem Tesoriero	Y	Y	Y

REGULATIONS

The following information addresses annual reporting requirements established under Regulation 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park) Regulations 2014*.

(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.

No traditional hunting activities undertaken on the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park during the reporting period.

(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*).

No traditional hunting activities undertaken on the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park during the reporting period.

(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, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *National Parks and Wildlife (NNCP) Regulations 2014*, *Native Title Act 1993*, *River Murray Act 2003* and the *Public Sector Act 2009*. The work program will in future address 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.

(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.

(e) Any other information required by the Minister.

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

Management Of Human Resources

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 per 4 hour session
- Member: \$177 per 4 hour session.

Government employees are not entitled to sitting fees.

Employee Numbers, Gender And Status

The Board 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 NNCP Co-management Board from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Board was made up of two males and four females.

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15:

- Superannuation contribution by the Board
- 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
- Public Complaints
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Energy Efficiency Action Plan Report
- Greening of Government Operations Framework

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

THE BOARD 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 Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

Consultants

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

Overseas Travel

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

Asbestos Management In Government Buildings

The Board 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 Board 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 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 <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 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 2014-15 financial year.

Regional Impact Assessment Statements

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

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the descendants of the Nganguraku and Ngaiwang (members of the Ngarrindjeri nation) people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country.

The Board also acknowledges the descendants of the Nganguraku and Ngaiwang people (members of the Ngarrindjeri nation) as the custodians of the Nganguraku region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Nganguraku and Ngaiwang (members of the Ngarrindjeri nation) people today.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

The Board records its appreciation for the assistance provided by DEWNR staff, including: the Group Executive Director Partnership and Stewardship, Mr John Schutz; Regional Manager Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Region, Mr Hugo Hopton; Manager Protected Areas, Mr Jason Irving; Manager, Resilient, Nature and Lands Program, Sonia Dominelli and Executive Officer, Ms Delia Onofrei.

The Board acknowledges key stakeholders including MACAI members, Ms Anita Hunter (Chairperson of MACAI) and Natural Resources SA MDB region staff of DEWNR.

The Board is working collaboratively and advancing partnership arrangements between DEWNR and MACAI to achieve shared objectives for future conservation management in Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.

