

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
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01 Nov 2016

**NGAUT NGAUT CONSERVATION PARK
CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD**

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016



**Government
of South Australia**

Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board
Annual Report 2015-16

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ISSN - 2205-6645
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September 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	4
PLANS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
HIGHLIGHTS, OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES.....	6
THE YEAR IN REVIEW.....	6
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...	6
ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE.....	7
OBJECT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT	7
ROLE OF THE NGAUT NGAUT CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD	7
FUNCTIONS OF THE NGAUT NGAUT CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD	7
MEMBERS.....	8
MEETINGS:.....	9
REGULATIONS	9
MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	10
EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS.....	10
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS.....	11
FRAUD.....	11
CONSULTANTS	11
OVERSEAS TRAVEL.....	11
ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	11
URBAN DESIGN CHARTER	11
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS.....	11
WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993.....	12
REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS	13
RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	13
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	13



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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 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

Paul Gillen
DEPUTY CHAIR
NGAUT NGAUT CONSERVATION PARK 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 (the Board) was established following MACAI and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) entering into a formal Co-management Agreement over the park.

The Board provides expert advice to the Minister on all aspects concerning the protection and management of the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.

The Board set the following strategic priority for 2015-16:

- Development of a new management plan for Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- Protection management of cultural sites and engage specialists to advise and oversee any major conservation works that may be required.

This is the second Annual Report for the Board covering the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. It is prepared to fulfil requirements of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), 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 2015-16

The Co-management framework meets a number of targets under *South Australia's Strategic Plan*, including:

Tourism – Target – 4

- Increase visitor expenditure in South Australia's total tourism industry to \$8 billion and on Kangaroo Island to \$180 million by 2020

Aboriginal wellbeing – Target 6

- Reconciliation, Cultural and Traditional Lands
 - Number of National Park Co-management Agreements (indicator 19)
- 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

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 (the Management Plan) will be the over-arching strategic document and will guide future management activities. It will set a vision for the NNCP 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, and a key priority has been to engage with MACAI and the broader community. The Management Plan is planned to be completed during 2016.

Fire Management Plan – Ngaut Ngaut Co-management Plan

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

Providing Richer Visitor Experience

The Board recognises and supports the ongoing opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreational activities.

The Board is investigating to trial new tourism opportunities including bush tucker and night tours, and there are also plans for the development of a building in the park that provides protection

and interpretation of Nganguraku culture, tour booking and the sales of souvenirs and refreshments.

Park Management

The Board delegated routine and day-to-day responsibilities for park management to DEWNR staff to manage in accordance with government policy and procedures. This ensured the effective and timely management of the NNCP and allowed 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 MACAI works 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 targets set out in South Australia's Strategic Plan.

Role, Legislation and Structure

The Board was 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 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.

Role of the Ngaut Ngaut Co-Management Board

The Board provides advice to the Minister on all aspects concerning the protection and management of the NNCP 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 Regulations 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)(1) and subject to subregulation (2), the Board consists of six members appointed by the Minister, of whom:

- a) three must be Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI) members 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 to the Board.

The Regulations also state that at least one member of the Board must be a woman and one a man, and that 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 at 30 June 2016 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): Nomination by MACAI

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

Ms Sonia Dominelli (5)(c): Officer of the Department nominated by the Minister

Mr Jem Tesoriero (5)(b): Officer of the Department

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 Deputy to Mr Gillen

Ms Denise Fowles Deputy to Ms Dominelli

Mr Phillip McNamara Deputy to Mr Tesoriero

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

Meetings

The Board held six meetings during the 2015-16 financial year.

- 10 August 2015, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
- 26 October 2015, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
- 14 December 2015, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
- 8 February 2016, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
- 11 April 2016, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park
- 27 June 2016, Caretakers Residence, Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	10 August 2015	26 October 2015	14 December 2015	8 February 2016	11 April 2016	27 June 2016
Ms Isobelle Campbell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ms Cynthia Hutchinson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ms Ivy Campbell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ms Sonia Dominelli	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Mr Paul Gillen	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mr Jem Tesoriero	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

Regulations

The following information addresses the annual reporting requirements of s43L of the Act or purposes of s43L of the Act and regulation 16 of the Regulations.

(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 were 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 were 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, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, the *National Parks and Wildlife (NNCP) Regulations 2014*, the *Native Title Act 1993*, the *River Murray Act 2003* and

the *Public Sector Act 2009*. In future, the work program will address the strategic priorities identified by the Board.

Board meetings enable DEWNR officers to report on operational and management activities undertaken in the park.

(d) information relating to park infrastructure.

Park infrastructure that is not part of the cultural tourism operation 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. The Board is working to consolidate the asset management of all park infrastructure.

(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 2015-16.

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 DEWNR 2015-16 Annual Report contains the following information:

- 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 2015-16.

Consultants

DEWNR engaged the following consultants for the 2015/16 reporting period.

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Number	Total \$
Tonkin Consulting	Landslide risk assessment	1	\$6710.00

Overseas Travel

It is declared that no member of the Board has travelled overseas on Board business during the 2015-2016 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 2015-16 which 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 Freedom of Information statement.

Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993

Reporting requirements under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Board to report on the number of occasions in which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2014-2015 reporting period.

Regional Impact Assessment Statements

The Board did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2015-16 reporting period.

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 as the custodians of the Nganguraku region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Nganguraku and Ngaiwang 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.

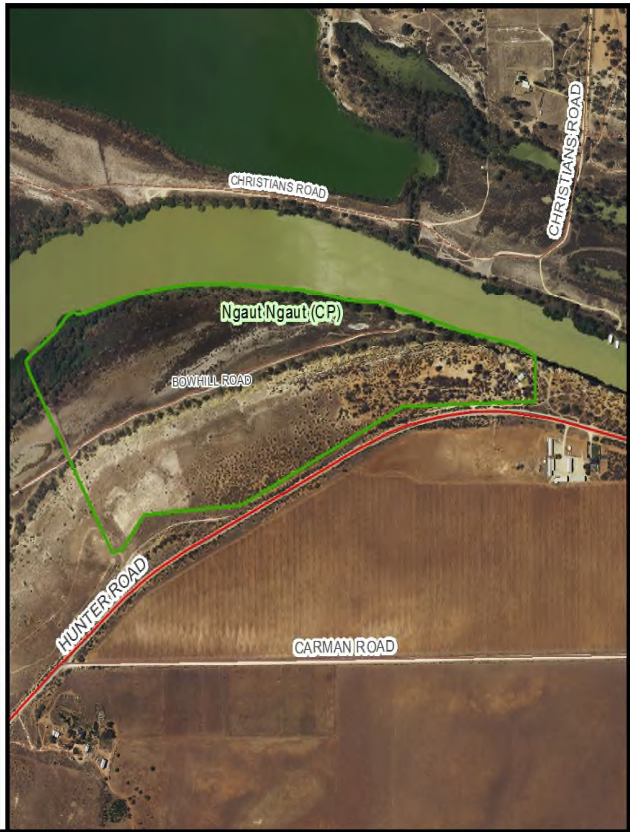
The Board records its appreciation for the assistance provided by DEWNR staff, including: the Group Executive Director, Parks and Regions, Mr John Schutz; Ms Rhona Parker-Benton, Regional Director, Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin; Mr Jason Irving, Manager, Protected Areas; Barry Hayden, Coordinator Protected Area Management; Patrick Hartland, District Officer; Mr Adrian Marshall, Coordinator, Co-management and Native Title and Executive Officer, Ms Delia Onofrei.

The Board acknowledges key stakeholders including MACAI members, Ms Anita Hunter (Chairperson of MACAI) and staff from Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin in 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.



Nildottie & Ngaut Ngaut (CP)



Produced by SAHCS Regional GIS Information Officer
 Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Data source: CEHWR
 Compiled: 4 March 2015
 Projection: South East Coastal Coordinate
 Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1984

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