

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



**Government
of South Australia**

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2014-15

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ISSN: xxxx
IBSN: xxxx

September 2015

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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(d) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Ward
CHAIRPERSON
NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on the following:

- a) Preparation of Management Plans;
- b) Implementation of the Management Plans;
- c) Amendment of the Management Plans from time to time;
- d) Training and employment opportunities for Far West Coast People;
- e) Protection and management of Aboriginal Heritage and other cultural issues;
- f) Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal Heritage and culture;
- g) Exercise of Traditional rights by Far West Coast People;
- h) Taking of plants and animals by the Far West Coast People;
- i) Increased cultural awareness for all visitors to the Other Parks;
- j) Access for the general public;
- k) Opportunities for integration of park management with Natural Resource Management Planning; and
- l) Any other matter referred to it by the Director or the Minister.

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is new and began operations in February 2015. Their main strategic priority has been to establish and plan strategic governance arrangements, as well as beginning the Park Management Planning process and estab

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is new and began operations in February 2015. Their main strategic priority has been to establish Board meeting arrangements, put into place governance plans and to begin the Park Management Planning process.

The establishment and activities of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee strives towards the following State Strategic Plan Targets:

- Target 6: Improve the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal South Australians
- Target 28: Increase the number of Aboriginal South Australians participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs
- Target 44: Resolve 80% of Native Title Claims by 2020
- Target 51: Halve the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal unemployment rates by 2018.
- Target 72: Increase participation in nature conservation activities by 25% by 2015

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee works closely with the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board, in particular around the Board priority (as captured in Schedule Five of the AW NRM Board and DEWNR SLA):

- *People: Support Co-Management, Marine Park and Protected Area frameworks in the effective delivery of good governance, compliance and visitor management in partnership with the community.*

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Far West Coast Planning and Design Workshop, 24 February, Ceduna

Members and Deputies of the Far West Coast co-management bodies - Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee and Yumbarra Co-management Board, met with NRAW representatives to discuss the potential methods that could be used to create the Park Management Plans. Board members decided to use a process called Healthy Country Planning which incorporates both landscape and cultural planning into one process.

Far West Coast Co-management Induction Day, 25 February, Ceduna

Members of the Far West Coast co-management bodies - Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee and Yumbarra Co-management Board, held a joint meeting with representatives from the DEWNR Policy and Planning Unit. Discussions included aspirations for co-management; co-management models, planning and regulation; characteristics of good boards and committees; cultural awareness training; roles and responsibilities of departmental support staff; and, financial arrangements.

Meeting 1, 31 March, Ceduna

Members of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee held their first meeting with a full attendance. Issues discussed included: business arising from Induction Day; future meeting formats; how to keep Deputies involved and informed; an introduction to 'Delegations'; Scientific Research Permits (current and upcoming approvals); Healthy Country Planning update; Far West Coast Parks on ground works update; budget report; and, developing a communication strategy.

AWNRM and Joint Co-management Chairs meeting, 22 April, Ceduna

Representatives from Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee attended a meeting with the AWNRM Board and representatives from other co-management bodies in the AWNRM region (Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee, Mamungari Co-management Board and Tallaringa Advisory Committee). Attendees discussed: the potential benefits of working together collaboratively; using Healthy Country Planning as the base landscape planning tool will allow local plans to be rolled up into the updated AWNRM plan in 2018; developing agreements to work together between the AWNRM Board and the co-management bodies.

South Australian Nature Based Tourism Workshop, 5 May, Adelaide

A representative from Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee joined representatives from around the state to participate in the Adelaide workshop seeking ideas for South Australian nature based tourism.

Healthy Country Planning, Far West Coast Working Group Meeting 1, 7 May, Ceduna

Main members of the Far West Coast co-management bodies - Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee and Yumbarra Co-management Board, held their first joint Healthy Country Planning Working Group meeting. Plans were drafted for the first on-country workshops where Board members, deputies, relevant traditional owners, elders and youth will come together to begin the detailed planning. The planning process, participant lists, locations and logistics were discussed.

DEWNR Executive AWNRM Regional Visit, 2-4 June, Yumbarra Conservation Park, Nullarbor Wilderness Area

Two representatives from Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee met with the DEWNR Executive during their tour of the AWNRM region. The meeting occurred on country at Gilgerabbie Hut in the Nullarbor Wilderness Area.

Scientific Permit Support, 23-26 April Nullarbor Regional Reserve, 30 June – 2 July Nullarbor Wilderness Area

Board representatives have accompanied scientists on two of scientific permit activities (Victorian Caving Society and South Australian Caving Society) to provide a two way flow of information between scientists working in Nullarbor Parks and the traditional owners.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is established under section National parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

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.

ROLE OF THE NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is responsible for providing the duties of an Advisory Committee over the Nullarbor Wilderness Area and the Nullarbor Regional Reserve.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Act describes the functions of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee.

The functions of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee are provide advice to the Minister regarding:

- a) Preparation of Management Plans;
- b) Implementation of the Management Plans;
- c) Amendment of the Management Plans from time to time;
- d) Training and employment opportunities for Far West Coast People;
- e) Protection and management of Aboriginal Heritage and other cultural issues;
- f) Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal Heritage and culture;
- g) Exercise of Traditional rights by Far West Coast People;
- h) Taking of plants and animals by the Far West Coast People;
- i) Increased cultural awareness for all visitors to the Other Parks;
- j) Access for the general public;
- k) Opportunities for integration of park management with Natural Resource Management Planning; and

- l) Any other matter referred to it by the Director or the Minister.

MEMBERSHIP

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee consists of 8 members. Members are appointed in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

As at 30 June 2015 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee membership was as follows:

Chairperson

Dr Matthew Ward Nominated by DEWNR

Deputy Chairperson

Mr Clem Lawrie Nominated by FWCAC

Members

Mr Benny Reynolds Nominated by FWCAC

Ms Kaylene Kerdel Nominated by FWCAC

Mrs Dorcas Miller Nominated by FWCAC

Mr Mark Anderson Nominated by DEWNR

Ms Justine Graham Nominated by DEWNR

Ms Sophie Keen Nominated by DEWNR

Deputy Members

Mr Bruce Macpherson Deputy to Matthew Ward

Mr James Peel Deputy to Clem Lawrie

Mr Trevor Scott Deputy to Benny Reynolds

April Lawrie-Smith Deputy to Kaylene Kerdel

Millicent Taylor Deputy to Dorcas Miller

Robbie Sleep Deputy to Mark Anderson

Ollanta Lipcer Deputy to Justine Graham

Liz McTaggart Deputy to Sophie Keen

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Section 19 (e) of the Act provides for the establishment of advisory committees to advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the Act. This provision was not required in this reporting period.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

A total of one general Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

No special Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Mr Matthew Ward	March 31	
Mr Clem Lawrie	March 31	
Mr Benny Reynolds	Apology	
Ms Kaylene Kerdel	March 31	
Mrs Dorcas Miller	March 31	
Mr Mark Anderson	March 31	
Ms Justine Graham	March 31	
Ms Sophie Keen	March 31	

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Minister / Governor (approving authority):

- Chair: \$0
- Member: \$103

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee was made up of 8 males and 8 females.

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

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management

- Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Government Buildings Energy Strategy
- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

CONSULTANTS

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2014-15 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

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

In fulfilling its functions, the Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee would like to thank the Minister and staff the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and the AW NRM Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.