



**Government
of South Australia**

Witjira National Park Co-management Board

2016-17 Annual Report

Delay in meeting the 30 September 2017 statutory deadline to Minister

Whilst the main body of the attached Annual Report was completed prior to 30 September 2017, delays in the approval process meant that the appropriate staff were not able to review and approve the report in sufficient time to enable the Minister to table the Annual Report within the statutory timeframe.



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE

02 Nov 2017

**Government
of South Australia**

Witjira National Park Co-management Board **2016-17 Annual Report**

Witjira National Park Co-management Board

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Date presented to Minister: 3 October 2017

To:
The Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

This annual report is presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and meets 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 Witjira National Park Co-management Board by:

Grant Pelton

Chairperson



15 September 2017

Signature

Date

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Section A: Reporting required under the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*

Agency purpose or role

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) works in partnership with a number of boards and committees to help protect and strengthen the State's heritage and natural resources.

The State Government and the traditional owners, the Lower Southern Arrente and Wangkangurru people, share a vision of the Witjira National Park (the Park). The co-management model provides the framework for the Lower Southern Arrente and Wangkangurru people and the Witjira National Park Co-management Board (the Board) on behalf of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to share responsibility for the management of the Witjira National Park.

Objectives

The Board seeks to manage the cultural landscape, still known and understood by its Aboriginal traditional owners, in a way that also protects and conserves the Park's outstanding natural and cultural features.

- **Conserve** its natural and cultural heritage, using both **traditional** and **scientific** knowledge to **better manage** the land.
- **Respect** the rights, interests and needs of the traditional owners and **create** social development and economic opportunities for Lower Southern Arrente and Wangkangurru families and communities.
- Provide **great experiences** for visitors and position Witjira National Park as an iconic, internationally recognised tourism destination.

Key strategies and their relationship to SA Government objectives

Key strategy	SA Government objective
Provide training and advice for Aboriginal staff for fitness and wellbeing.	South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) SASP Target 6: Aboriginal wellbeing: Improve the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal South Australians.
Include Aboriginal Rangers in decision making process for the Management of the Parks	SASP Target 28: Aboriginal leadership – Increase the number of Aboriginal South Australians participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs.

<p>When managing reserves, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) 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>SASP Target 69: Lose no species- Lose native species as a result of human impacts.</p> <p>SASP Target 72: Nature conservation – Increase participation in nature conservation activities by 25% by 2015.</p>
<p>Progressing the reconciliation agenda by working respectfully and constructively with Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>The Reconciliation Action Plan will continue to help us build our ability to partner with Aboriginal people through increasing our capacity to be culturally respectful, improve employment and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and embed Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives into our policies and procedures.</p>	<p>DEWNR Corporate Plan 2016-19: Goal 3 – Connecting people to nature, parks and places.</p>
<p>Promote nature-based tourism opportunities on parks.</p>	<p>DEWNR Corporate Plan 2016-19: Goal 3: Connecting people to nature, parks and places.</p>

Agency programs and initiatives and their effectiveness and efficiency

Program name	Indicators of performance/effectiveness/efficiency	Comments
Functions and powers of the Board are set out in the Co-management Agreement, the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Regulations.	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.
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 Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) to discuss co-management issues and general park operations	Joint meetings have been held between Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.
The Board will prepare and deliver to the Minister an annual report in accordance with the requirements of the NPWA and Regulations	Annual Submission of the Annual Report to the Minister.	

Legislation administered by the agency

The Board is responsible for complying with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016* and *National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016* which are administered by DEWNR.

Organisation of the agency

In accordance with section 9(2) of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016*, the Board consists of seven members appointed by the Minister.

The Board membership and remuneration is reported in the South Australian Government Board and Committee Information Annual Report.

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

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Employment opportunity programs

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 2016-17.

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

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency
The Board undertake a performance review, including evaluation of its effectiveness and governance responsibilities.	The Board members undertook governance training.
The Board maintain a register of attendance at meetings	Board members attendance are recorded in the Minutes.
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.

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs of the agency and their effectiveness

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs	Effectiveness
This Board abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEWNR to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Board in this reporting period.	0

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Whistle-blowers' disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistle-blowers' Protection Act 1993* 0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES Level 1	0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

For further information, the [Office for the Public Sector](#) has a [data dashboard](#) for further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Consultants

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken and the total cost of the work undertaken.

Consultants	Purpose	Value
All consultancies below \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Consultancies above \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Total all consultancies		\$0

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

See also <https://www.tenders.sa.gov.au/tenders/index.do> for a list of all external consultancies, including nature of work and value. See also the Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance <http://treasury.sa.gov.au/> for total value of consultancy contracts across the SA Public Sector.

Financial performance of the agency

The Board is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. DEWNR administers the budget for the Witjira National Park on behalf of the Board and provides a financial report to members at each meeting. Expenditure has been maintained within the budget allocation. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within existing DEWNR 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 financial information

Nil to report.

Other information requested by the Minister(s) or other significant issues affecting the agency or reporting pertaining to independent functions

Nil to report.

Section B: Reporting required under any other act or regulation

National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016 **Section 23**

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 following:

- (a) information relating to traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act;
- (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);
- (c) information relating to the operation and works programs undertaken by or on behalf of the board;
- (d) information relating to park infrastructure;
- (e) any other information required by the Minister.

The Traditional Use Zone is established under the Witjira National Park Management Plan.

A log book station has been placed at Dalhousie, Oodnadatta and Finke to record the traditional hunting activities that have occurred in the Park. The Board will further discuss and develop additional procedures and consult with community members over the next twelve months.

Aboriginal resource-use practices will be permitted in the Conservation Zone and Dalhousie Mound Springs Zone; they will not be permitted in the Public Access Zone given the presence of visitors in this area.

The Board is provided with a park works report that includes the works program and park infrastructure at each meeting.

Section C: Reporting of public complaints as requested by the Ombudsman

Summary of complaints by subject

Public complaints received by the Witjira National Park Co-management Board	
Category of complaints by subject	Number of instances
All complaints	No specific complaints have been received by the Board.

Data is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Complaint outcomes

Nature of complaint or suggestion	Services improved or changes as a result of complaints or consumer suggestions
All complaints	No complaints have been received or acted upon.

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2016-17

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

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