



**Government  
of South Australia**

**NGAUT NGAUT CONSERVATION PARK  
CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD  
2019-20 Annual Report**

Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board

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To:  
The Hon David Speirs MP  
Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report will be 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 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 Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-Management Board (the Board) by:

Isobelle Campbell  
Chairperson

Date: 04/09/2020

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isobelle Campbell', written in a cursive style.

## From the Chairperson



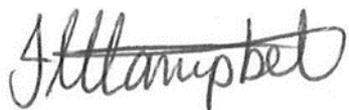
Co-management of the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park involves a partnership between the Government of South Australia and the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated, sharing the responsibility and decision-making for the strategic management of the park.

Ngaut Ngaut is an important part of our heritage and culture. It is a place intimately tied to our Nganguraku Dreaming, a place where the 'old people' lived and a place that preserves our culture and the environment. It is also a place that demonstrates our ongoing connection to our country and provides us with a sense of belonging. Importantly, our community values Ngaut Ngaut as a place where we can teach our children and the broader community about Nganguraku culture.

The Board has progressed a number of initiatives in the management of Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park including:

- Progress on the recommendation to finalise the transition of the Park to Aboriginal Owned Co-management. This final step will secure the ongoing growth of the cultural tourism business that will further contribute to regional economic growth and employment opportunity and continued protection of the site.
- In addition the partnership opportunity for a tri partite agreement was discussed and tabled with the Mid Murray Council with very positive feedback.
- Commenced discussions with key stakeholders for pathways to further develop and grow the cultural tourism experiences at the Park.
- Replacement of Interpretation signage across the Park.
- Repairs to the main gallery shelter and boardwalk were undertaken, due to a localised storm causing tree limbs to fall and cause significant damage.
- Engaged an arborist to assess the health of trees located in close proximity of the boardwalk.

The Board has been pleased to work with our partners in managing the park for the MACAI community and the rest of South Australia by protecting and conserving the outstanding natural and cultural features, protecting the natural landscape, providing cultural and economic opportunities and providing great facilities and infrastructure for tourism experiences

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isobelle Campbell', written in a cursive style.

**Isobelle Campbell**

**Chairperson**

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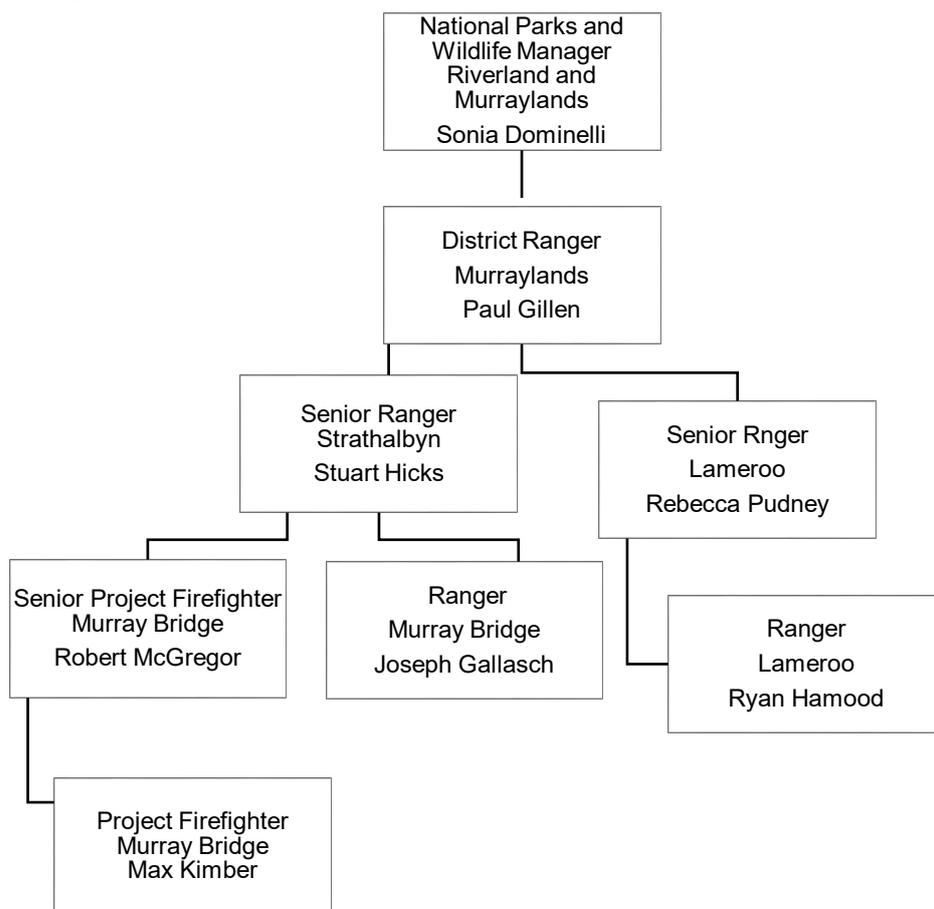
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## Overview: about the agency

### Our strategic focus

<b>Our Purpose</b>	The Minister for Environment and Water are party to a Co-management Agreement with the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI), pursuant to the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> for the management of Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.
<b>Our Vision</b>	<p>MACAI and the State Government share a vision for the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park. The Co-management model provides the framework for the Mannum Aboriginal Community and the Department for Environment and Water to share responsibility and decision making for Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.</p> <p>The shared vision for Ngaut Ngaut is the final transition of the Park to Aboriginal Owned Co-management. This final step will secure the ongoing growth of the cultural tourism business that will further contribute to regional economic growth and employment opportunity and continued protection of the site.</p>
<b>Our Values</b>	Managing 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.
<b>Our functions, objectives and deliverables</b>	<p>The Co-management Agreement provides for the establishment of a Co-management Board to manage the Park.</p> <p>The Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board was established by the <i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> (replacing <i>Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Regulations 2014</i>).</p> <p>The Board is responsible for providing the duties of a co-management board over Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park.</p> <p>The Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board provides expert advice to the Minister for Environment and Water on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and management of cultural heritage and other cultural issues.</li> <li>• Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal culture within the Park.</li> <li>• Exercise of traditional rights and access to the Park for traditional custodians.</li> <li>• Taking of plants and animals by the traditional custodians.</li> <li>• Increased cultural awareness for all park visitors.</li> <li>• Access to the Park for the general public.</li> <li>• Training and employment opportunities for traditional owners.</li> </ul>

## Our organisational structure



## Changes to the agency

During 2019-20 there were the following changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

- New Position – District Ranger Murraylands - was a newly created role that provides leadership and support across the Murraylands Region. Mr Paul Gillen was successful in the recruitment process and commenced on 12 August 2019.
- New Position – Ranger OPS 2 - Murray Bridge - the newly created Ranger position was created from the Government's commitment to create 20 new park ranger positions across the State. Mr Joseph Gallasch was successful in the recruitment process and commenced on 5 August 2019.
- New Position – Ranger OPS 2 - Lameroo - the newly created Ranger position was created from the Government's commitment to create 20 new park ranger positions across the State. Mr Ryan Hamood was successful in the recruitment process and commenced on 22 July 2019.

## Our Minister



**The Hon David Speirs MP is the Minister for Environment and Water**

The Minister oversees the portfolios of:

- Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
- Water and the River Murray
- Climate Change



### Our Executive team

**Chairperson: Ms Isobelle Campbell** is a MACAI representative and has been elected by the broader community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



**Deputy Chairperson: Mr Paul Gillen** is a DEW representative and has a strong background in park management and Natural Resource Management with his role as District Ranger, Murraylands.



**Member: Ms Cynthia Hutchinson** is a MACAI representative and has been elected by the broader community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



**Member: Ms Ivy Campbell** is a MACAI representative and has been elected by the broader community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



**Member: Mr Jem Tesoriero**, is a DEW representative and has expertise in Aboriginal engagement and capacity building.



**Member: Mr Jason Irving** is a Ministerial representative and has significant leadership expertise with national parks in his role as DEW's Manager, National Parks and Protected Area Program.

### **Legislation administered by the agency**

The Board is responsible for complying with the following legislation which are administered by DEW:

*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.*

*National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016.*

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

### **Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)**

Department for Environment and Water

## The agency's performance

### Performance at a glance

Not applicable

### Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency's contribution
<p>Interpreting and celebrating Nganguraku culture by: providing high quality cultural tours that help manage the park and sustain the passion and commitment of the Nganguraku people for their Country.</p> <p><i>In accordance with the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Management Plan</i></p>	<p>Creating eco-tourism opportunities, additional park rangers and creating jobs to un-lock economic activity in the region.</p> <p>This is achieved through the participation into the design and delivery of the cultural material taught in classrooms and the tours conducted on site at Ngaut Ngaut.</p>
<p>Looking after the park and its cultural sites by: Protecting the natural values of the park as a central element of Nganguraku culture.</p> <p><i>In accordance with the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Management Plan</i></p>	<p>More park rangers. With emphasis on cultural and scientific local expertise leading to employment and economic growth in the region.</p>
<p>Effectively managing the Business of the Board and it's Governance</p>	<p>Effective and efficient government Ongoing capacity building and training of board members.</p>
<p>Tourism development: by updating facilities and infrastructure, and by improving and increasing business capacity.</p>	<p>Creating eco-tourism opportunities, leading to jobs growth in our regional communities. This will be achieved through scoping and planning business development with support of stakeholders or future partners including through the RDA, SATC and Local Government. A central element of this is the review and establishment of reliable visitor facilities and infrastructure to support the business opportunity.</p>

<p>DEW 2019-20 Corporate Plan - Action Plan: Goal 1 – <b>South Australians conserve and enjoy our nature, parks and places</b></p> <p><i>Our system of parks is world-class. People value our natural environment and cultural assets, and enjoy the health and social benefits of parks. Sustainable, nature-based tourism creates jobs and strengthens the economy.</i></p>	<p>In the context of Ngaut Ngaut the following key points are addressed by the Board in the overall management approach to the Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage national parks to conserve the environment, drive nature-based tourism, improve the state's economy and create jobs.</li> <li>• Implement key parks projects including a park volunteer ranger program and visitor infrastructure renewal in parks.</li> <li>• Identify ecological sensitive and commercially sustainable opportunities in our parks, gardens and places, including a release of 'New Business Opportunities' in 2019-20.</li> <li>• Manage the impact of introduced pest and abundance native species.</li> <li>• Support First People's connection to Country, including through Co-management opportunities.</li> <li>• Work with our partners to manage the impact of natural hazards, specifically bushfire and flood, on our land, biodiversity, economy and communities.</li> </ul>
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### Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Performance of the Co-management agreement</p>	<p>Not assessed in this reporting period.</p> <p>In February 2017 a report under clause 23.3 of the Co-management agreement was prepared detailing the Board's successful performance since establishment in 2014.</p> <p>The report outlined recommendations for the Minister that are still active – namely to finalise the transition to Aboriginal Owned Co-management.</p>	<p>The 2017 report detailed the Board's successful performance since establishment in 2014. It also recommends the final steps to transition to Aboriginal owned co-management. This final step will secure the ongoing growth of the cultural tourism business that will further contribute to regional economic growth and employment.</p> <p>DEW have made progress toward this commitment through documentation and investigation of site specific property and access issues including the specific legal and parliamentary processes required to be followed to achieve the transition.</p>

<p>Park Management Implementation</p>	<p>Key management tasks implemented successfully to secure the protection of the site including; Aboriginal sites, features, objects and structures of Aboriginal spiritual or cultural significance within the park.</p>	<p>Park Management is a key agenda item at each Board meeting - increased protection and management of the cultural features of the park is critical to success.</p> <p>A central element of the site is access to the cultural features using boardwalks. The infrastructure and asset management and risk related to the aged infrastructure along cliff site is under current review. The review will consider the feasibility and extent of refurbishment of the facilities to support reliable visitor access and contemporary infrastructure to support the potential for expansion of the business opportunity.</p>
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**Corporate performance summary**

Not applicable.

**Employment opportunity programs**

Program name	Performance
<p>The Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEW. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2019-20.</p> <p>Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Board from existing DEW resources.</p>	

**Agency performance management and development systems**

Performance management and development system	Performance
<p>Government employees supporting the Board's operations undertake a performance review and development program with their managers.</p>	<p>Two sessions are held on an annual basis. This is considered to be effective.</p>

The Board performance report under Clause 23.3 of the Co-management agreement.	<p>After two years of operation of the board, a report was submitted (Feb 2017) on the activities and progress of the board as required under the CMA. The report recommended to the Minister to continue to progress the commitment to the shared vision of an Aboriginal owned, co-managed park. Progress on this recommendation is currently active and ongoing.</p> <p>Positive feedback and public support was received by MACAI that compliments the successful delivery of cultural tourism experiences and demonstrates broad community support for the continued management of the park via co- management.</p>
The Board maintain a register of attendance at meetings	Board members attendance are recorded in the Minutes.

### Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
The Board abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEW to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	<p>Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEW Annual Report 2019-20.</p> <p>The Board addresses any site specific concerns at each of its quarterly meetings and documents outcomes in the minutes.</p>
Risk assessment of site stability and rock fall.	An effective program is in place following a geomorphic analysis of the risk profile of the cliff face. The risk assessment process now requires to implement periodic site monitoring and effective implementation of safe work practices during site tours.
Covid -19 pandemic control measures	<p>MACAI have in place a compliant Covid-19 plan and members have completed Covid- Marshal training as required.</p> <p>Board meetings or site workshops were suspended and modified to comply with social distancing measures.</p> <p>One teleconference was held to finalise this annual report.</p>

Workplace injury claims	2019-20	2018 -19	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	0	0	0

Fatalities	0	0	0
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	0	0	0

*\*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)*

<b>Work health and safety regulations</b>	2019-20	2018-19	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents ( <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i> )	0	0	0
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices ( <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i> )	0	0	0

<b>Return to work costs**</b>	2019-20	2018 -19	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	0	0	0
Income support payments – gross (\$)	0	0	0

*\*\*before third party recovery*

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

### **Executive employment in the agency**

<b>Executive classification</b>	<b>Number of executives</b>
SAES Level 1	Nil

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

## Financial performance

### Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. The information is unaudited.

<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>2019-20 Budget \$000s</b>	<b>2019-20 Actual \$000s</b>	<b>Variation \$000s</b>	<b>2018-19 Actual \$000s</b>
Total Income	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>2019-20 Budget \$000s</b>	<b>2019-20 Actual \$000s</b>	<b>Variation \$000s</b>	<b>2018-19 Actual \$000s</b>
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

#### Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

<b>Consultancies</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	-	0

**Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
-	-	0
	Total	\$ 0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

**Contractors disclosure**

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

**Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000**

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
FK Jones	Boardwalk handrail contractor and supplies	\$6,000
Solar Water Pumps Australia and Stamtech Electrical Services	Solar panel, toilets and pump.	\$9,500
R Bailey Tree Trimming	Tree removal	\$1,620
Arborman Tree Solutions	Arborist report	\$1,266
	Total	\$18,386

**Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
FK Jones	Pergola/amphitheatre	\$11,000
	Total	\$ 11,000

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

### **Other financial information**

The Board is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own.

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within existing DEW 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 information**

Nil to report.

## Risk management

### Risk and audit at a glance

Nil to report

### Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
-	0

*NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.*

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

### Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

**Reporting required under any other act or regulation**

<b>Act or Regulation</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) Regulations 2016 Section 23.</p> <p>a) information relating to traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act</p>	<p>No traditional hunting activities were undertaken on the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park (NNCP) during the reporting period.</p>

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 above information relating to hunting.

<b>Act or Regulation</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) Regulations 2016 Section 23.</p> <p>a) 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).</p>	<p>No traditional hunting activities were undertaken on the NNCP during the reporting period.</p> <p>No species taken.</p>

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 above information relating to hunting.

<b>Act or Regulation</b>	<b>Requirement</b>
<p><i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016 Section 23</i></p> <p>c) Information relating to the operation and works programs undertaken by or on behalf of the board.</p>	<p>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 (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016, the Native Title Act 1993, the River Murray Act 2003 and the Public Sector Act 2009 and the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Management Plan 2017.</p>

Act or Regulation	Requirement
	<p>Board meetings enable DEW officers to collaborate on operational and management activities undertaken in the park. Key programs undertaken in the past year include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire management and risk mitigation</li> <li>• Interpretive sign development and erection.</li> </ul>

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p><i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> Section 23</p> <p>a) information relating to park infrastructure;</p>	<p>Park infrastructure that is not part of the cultural tourism operation is managed through DEW'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 DEW management report. The Board is actively working to consolidate the asset management of all park infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardwalk maintenance cycle introduced to address safety requirements</li> <li>• Boardwalk handrail upgraded</li> <li>• Road maintenance grading</li> </ul>

### Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Nil to report

## Public complaints

### Number of public complaints reported

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2019-20
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	0
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	0
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	0
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	0
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not	0

<b>Complaint categories</b>	<b>Sub-categories</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Number of Complaints 2019-20</b>
		met	
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		<b>Total</b>	0

<b>Additional Metrics</b>		<b>Total</b>
Number of positive feedback comments		>2300 A guest comment book is maintained on site for this purpose.
Number of negative feedback comments		0
Total number of feedback comments		2300
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes		0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

<b>Service Improvements resulting from complaints or consumer suggestions over 2019-20</b>
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Not applicable
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## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2019-20**

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

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