



DEW F0001778601

Date: 16 JUL 2018

Office of the Group
Executive Director, People
and Performance

81-95 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001
Australia

Ph: 08 8204 9473

www.environment.sa.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION

I refer to your application pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) received by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 14 June 2017, seeking access to documents:

"Any reports or documentation referring to the establishment of the Marree Man or Stuart's Giant, situated at Finniss Springs 60 km west of the township of Marree, on or around June 1998.

Any reports, documentation or investigations relating to who may have created the original Marree Man or Stuart's Giant".

DETERMINATION

Searches of the Department's records have found nineteen (19) documents held by this agency within scope of your request.

As a DEW Accredited FOI Officer, I have determined to grant you full access to six (6) documents, partial access to twelve (12) documents and refuse access to one (1) document. Section 20 of the Act provides that an agency may refuse access to a document if it is an exempt document under the Act.

The documents, or parts of the document to which I am refusing access and the reasons for the refusal are summarised in the attached document schedule and explained in more detail below.

Documents number 8, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 18

Sections of these documents have been marked as out of scope of your request as they contain information that does not relate to your request.

Documents number 1, 2, 6, 14, 15, 18 and 19

Schedule 1, Clause 6 of the Act states that:

6—Documents affecting personal affairs

- 6(1) *A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).*

The full release of these documents would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning personal affairs, thus those parts are exempt pursuant to Clause 6(1) of the FOI Act.

Document 12

Schedule 1, Clause 7 of the Act states that:

7— Documents affecting business affairs

- (1) *A document is an exempt document—*

...

- (c) *if it contains matter—*

- (i) *consisting of information (other than trade secrets or information referred to in paragraph (b)) concerning the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of any agency or any other person; and*
- (ii) *the disclosure of which—*
 - (A) *could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on those affairs or to prejudice the future supply of such information to the Government or to an agency; and*
 - (B) *would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.*

Document 10

Schedule 1, Clause 9 of the Act states that:

9 — Internal working documents

- (1) *A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—*

- (a) *that relates to—*

- (i) *any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or*
- (ii) *any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making functions of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and*

- (b) *the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.*

Clauses 7(1)(c) and 9(1)(a)(i) of Schedule 1 of the Act require me to weigh up the public interest when determining to allow access to the above information.

Factors I have considered in favour of the public interest from any such release are:

- It would support the object of the Act which promotes public access to documents.

- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest the public has in the operations of Government.

Factors I have considered contrary to the public interest for any such release are:

- Disclosure of commercial negotiations with Government would likely have an adverse effect on the Agency's future business opportunities and impact existing relationships with the general public.
- Disclosure of documents containing information indicating an opinion or advice that has been obtained in the course of the decision making process would likely compromise future agency deliberations and communications.
- The document is a working document that contains opinions and recommendations that have not been endorsed by a committee or executive group.
- Information discussed is preliminary in nature and its release would hinder the decision making process of the agency and Minister.
- The information within the document does not fairly disclose the reasons for making recommendations and may prejudice the integrity of future decision-making processes.

In making my determination, I have considered the public interest factors in favour of disclosure, particularly the objects of the Act which promote full disclosure of documents.

Based on the above considerations, I determine parts of document 12 are considered exempt, pursuant to clause 7(1)(c) of the Act, as disclosure would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Based on the above considerations, I determine parts of document 10 are considered exempt, pursuant to clause 9(1)(a)(i) of the Act, as disclosure would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Documents number 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18

Schedule 1, Clause 10 states:

10 — Documents subject to legal professional privilege

- (1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter that would be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.*

Clause 10 operates to exempt communications and advice between an agency and their legal advisers, where that communication and advice, or extract of that communication or advice, would be subject to legal professional privilege.

The full disclosure of documents 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 would divulge information subject to legal professional privilege. This information is subject to legal professional privilege and is therefore determined exempt from release under clause 10(1) of Schedule 1 of the Act.

Document number 17

Section 20(1)(b) of the Act states that if the documents are otherwise available for inspection (e.g. via internet sites, annual reports, newspapers, online publications etc.), access to the document can be refused.

I hereby determine to refuse access to document 17 under Section 20(1)(b) the Act and direct you to the summary in the attached document schedule for the relevant internet site details.

In making my determination, I have considered the objects of the Act which promote openness and accountability of government agencies.

In accordance with [PC045 – Disclosure logs for Non-personal information](#) once a determination has been provided, the agency is required to make available on our website information and documents that have been disclosed. Information will be publicized online at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log>.

FEES AND CHARGES

I can confirm the Department has received your payment of \$189.20 to complete the processing of your application.

YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your rights to internal review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation, by completing the attached Application for Review of Determination. If you decide to apply to exercise your rights to review, the completed form must be returned within 30 days to:

Chief Executive
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

If you have any queries in relation to the FOI process please contact a Freedom of Information Officer on telephone (08) 8463 6625 or email DEW.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Wiebke Billows

**ACCREDITED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

Freedom of information application: F0001778601 - Richard Smith

"Any reports or documentation referring to the establishment of the Marree Man or Stuart's Giant, situated at Finnis Springs 60 km west of the township of Marree, on or around June 1998. Any reports, documentation or investigations relating to who may have created the original Marree Man or Stuart's Giant Timeframe 1/6/1998 to 31/12/2002"

No	Date	Author	Document Description	Determination	Clause	Reason
1	15/07/1998	DEHAA (P Dougherty)	Facsimile	Partial Release	6 (1)	Documents affecting personal affairs
2	16/07/1998	DEHAA (J Chappel)	Email	Partial Release	6 (1)	Documents affecting personal affairs
3	16/07/1998	The Advertiser	Advertiser article	Full Release		
4	16/07/1998	The Advertiser	Advertiser article	Full Release		
5	17/07/1998	DEHAA (A Karzek)	Facsimile/Emails	Full Release		
6	20/07/1998	DEHAA (R Barratt)	Briefing minute	Partial Release	6 (1)	Documents affecting personal affairs
7	21/07/1998	DEHAA (J Scanlon)	Briefing minute	Full Release		
8	21/07/1998	DEHAA (J Scanlon)	Email	Partial Release	Out of scope	Information not relating to Marree Man
9	22/07/1998	DEHAA (L Metcalf)	Cover note	Full Release		
10	23/07/1998	DEHAA (C Harris)	Briefing minute	Partial Release	Out of scope 9 (1) 10 (1)	Information not relating to Marree Man Internal working documents Documents subject to legal professional privilege
11	23/07/1998	DEHAA (P Croft)	Email	Partial Release	Out of scope	Information not relating to Marree Man
12	24/07/1998	DEHAA (C Harris)	Briefing minute	Partial Release	Out of scope 10 (1)	Information not relating to Marree Man Documents subject to legal professional privilege
13	27/07/1998	DENR (A Holmes)	Email	Full Release		
14	28/07/1998	DENR (A Holmes)	Email	Partial Release	6 (1) 10 (1)	Documents affecting personal affairs Documents subject to legal professional privilege
15	28/07/1998	DENR (A Holmes)	Email	Partial Release	6 (1)	Documents affecting personal affairs
16	29/07/1998	DEHAA (B Arnold)	Facsimile	Partial Release	Out of scope 10 (1)	Information not relating to Marree Man Documents subject to legal professional privilege att 1 same as doc 12. not provided again
17	29/07/1998	Hansard	Extract of Parliamentary Questions regarding Marree Man and Briefing	Refuse access	20 (1)(b)	publicly available (http://hansardpublic.parliament.sa.gov.au/_layouts/15/Hansard/DownloadHansardFile.aspx?t=historicalpdf&d=HANSARD-4-1731)
18	12/08/1998	DEHAA (I Holland)	Correspondence	Partial Release	Out of scope 6 (1) 10 (1)	Information not relating to Marree Man Documents affecting personal affairs Documents subject to legal professional privilege
19	10/09/1998	DEHAA (J Chappel)	Briefing minute	Partial Release	6 (1)	Documents affecting personal affairs

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Desert Parks District

North Region
9 Mackay Street
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

PO Box 78
phone (086) 485300
fax (086) 485301

FRANK O'NEILL PIVA NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

See P11 Adventure

TO: Ross Allen, A/Regional Manager, North

FROM: Pearce Dougherty, A/Manager Parks & Wildlife, North

SUBJECT: Maree/Finnis Springs Landscape Figure

DATE: 15 July, 1990

NO. PAGES (Including cover sheet): 3

Ross,

Attached is the mystery fax which has been circulating around Maree about his figure for the last few weeks. It was sent to us by [redacted] They do not know who sent it to them as there were no distinguishing marks or address on the original fax.

As you can see from the text there appears to be an American origin, with references to "Your State, South Australia" and the word "Railroad", but who knows these could be designed as Red Herrings to lead would be investigators astray, and provide even more mystery.

As I indicated the figure is on the Finnis Springs Aboriginal Lands Trust area, (see the attached map blow up) adjoining the southern section of Lake Eyre National park.

Call me again if I can be of further help.

Regards


Pearce

The information contained in this facsimile message may be confidential information and may also be the subject of legal professional privilege or public interest immunity. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this document is unauthorized.

If you have received this document in error, please telephone (086) 486 300.

WORLD ALIENATION FOR MARREE

On a plateau 36 miles west-north-west of Marree there is a giant drawing of an aborigine more than two miles long. This makes it five times larger than the largest drawing at Nazca in Peru, 24 times larger than the largest English chalk hill carving, and 50 times larger than any other portrayal of the human form. It appears to be the world's largest work of art.

From altitude, the drawing currently looks like the first photograph below. It is best viewed at low sun angles - in the morning or late afternoon.

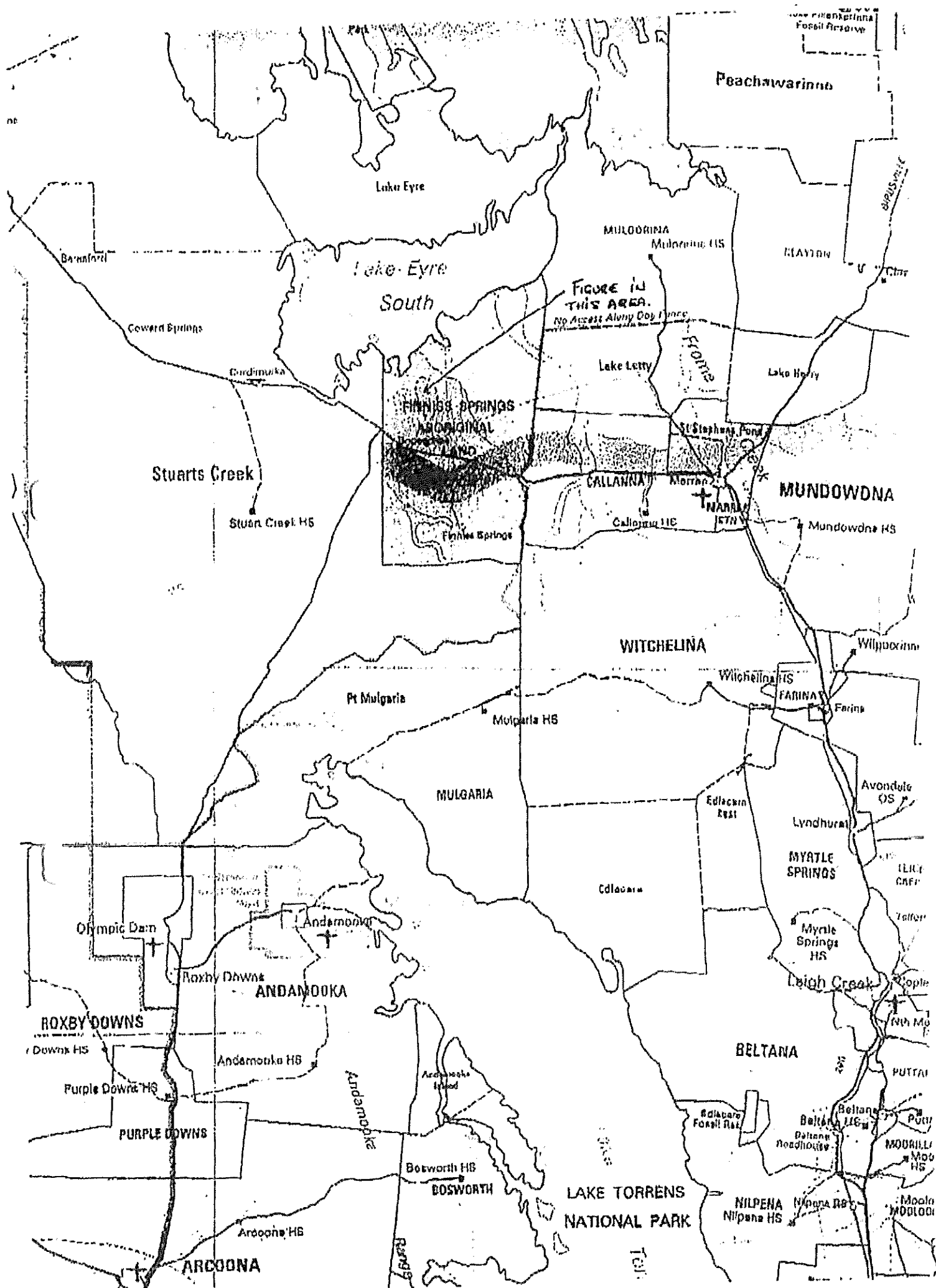
In addition, the plateau is underlain by white chalk. And when the figure is cut 6" to this chalk it will look like the second photograph at all times of day.

Lying beneath air routes from Asia, the figure could provide your state of southern Australia with the type of major tourist attraction it is apparently seeking, and would give a huge tourist boost to Marree if publicised in the media.

Aborigines from the local reservations could also benefit greatly as guides, artists etc.

The exact location is 7 miles north-east of Hopedale on the Alice Springs railroad, as shown on the map.

(Viewing the photos from 2" is something like a viewing altitude of about 43,000 feet, although clarity is greatly reduced in the faxed copies).



This page is intentionally blank

Chappel, John

To: Karzek, Ania

Subject: Finnis Springs "drawing"

Officers from the Department traveled from Adelaide to Marree this morning (Thursday 16 July 1998) and met at the Marree Police Station at approximately 1300 hours. The officers concerned are ; Rick Barratt from the Pastoral Secretariat of the Heritage & Biodiversity Division, an expert in rangeland native vegetation and soils ; Andy Robb and Heidi Crow from the Division of State Aboriginal Affairs, experts in Aboriginal Heritage Sites. An inspection of the site is planned for this afternoon, provided access is not restricted due to rain which has been forecast in the Marree area today. The Department's plane is currently out of commission due to repairs and is therefore not available to assist in the investigation. In any case unfavorable flying conditions would have ruled out the use of the plane until at least tomorrow. No alternative arrangements for a plane are being contemplated at this stage. The officers have been instructed to conduct the investigation by way of a team approach and will be working closely with [REDACTED], the police officer stationed at Marree. The team has also been instructed not to speak directly to the media, who if press for comment, are to be directed to the Minister's Office.. Discussion with Rick Barratt by telephone at 1350 hours reported that light rain was falling at the time and interest from the media and public appeared to be waning. A preliminary report is expected from the investigation team on Friday morning.

John Chappel

This page is intentionally blank

The Marree Man makes his mark

Trawler crewman vanishes in bight

By ANTHONY KEANE

AN AIR search was planned for first light this morning for a man believed to have fallen overboard from a deep-sea trawler in the Great Australian Bight.

The 25-year-old from Victoria was reported missing in choppy seas by the skipper of the trawler about 3.30pm yesterday.

The trawler, the Comet, remained in the area to search and was due to be joined by another fishing vessel at 2am.

The Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Canberra was last night planning the air search and organising suitable aircraft.

Search and rescue officer Mr Paul Threlfall said there was "always hope" of finding the man.

"They (the trawler's crew) were fairly confident of the time he went missing so they have pinned down the position," he said.

"We're working out a search plan for the aircraft for a search at first light."

A large swell and winds gusting to 22 knots - making it difficult to spot a person in the darkness - prevented the search from starting.

The man's relatives have been told of his disappearance.



GRAND SCALE: This picture of the Marree Man was sent to "The Advertiser" anonymously and is reproduced without enhancement.

Whoever did it, it's great for tourism

By BRONWYN HURRELL and ANNA COCK

THE mystery appearance of the "Marree Man" has led to a surprise boost in South Australia's international tourism profile.

Not since the 1971 Nullarbor Nymph has the State been gripped by such a mystery.

In the tradition of the famous hoax - where a naked young woman flitted across a lonely highway and put the tiny border town of Eucla on the map - another strange phenomenon has brought global attention to the Outback.

Meticulously etched into the earth between the Oodnadatta Track and Lake Eyre South, 60km outside the quiet Outback town of Marree, the 4km-long image has everyone scratching their heads in amazement.

Tracks near the drawing are a clue that it was created by a truck or tractor using a ripper to plough through the earth - but who did it is the mystery.

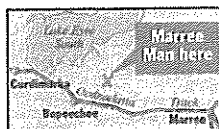
The Marree Man has become the talk of the Outback and, by yesterday, interested media from as far afield as Japan had choked the phone lines to the town.

Outback manager for the SA Tourism Commission, Mr Andrew Beare, said the Marree Man was "terrific" for tourism. "We love it, we think it's great - if

whoever did it comes in and owns up to it, we'd shout them a slab," he said.

The drawing was first spotted by freelance pilot Mr Trec Smith on a routine charter flight from Coober Pedy to Marree on June 26. Thinking it was a tourist attraction that everyone except him knew about, Mr Smith was puzzled.

"When I went to Marree and told them, nobody was very interested," he said.



But that all changed when an anonymous fax arrived at Marree businesses last Thursday describing the drawing.

"I said, 'that's it, that's what I saw,'" Mr Smith said.

The mystery deepened when a preservative bottle containing a note with the words "Stuart's Giant", an American flag and a reference to the US cult Branch Davidian - linked with the 1993 Waco, Texas, inferno - was found near the site.

Police have confiscated the bottle containing the note and will not comment

on its relevance. Marree locals have emerged as suspects but have denied they invented it as a tourism stunt.

Local character Mr Ray Goss - one of the busiest residents on the Marree media circuit - has denied responsibility.

"My truck is too small. It would take weeks to do," he said.

Senior Constable Paul Liersch, of Marree police, said everyone was a suspect.

The chairman of the Aboriginal Land Trust, Mr Garnett Wilson, said it was too early to tell if any sacred sites had been disturbed, but an Aboriginal Affairs officer from Port Augusta was on his way to investigate. It appeared a bush artist had got to work, he said, adding he suspected pranksters.

Surveyor Mr Mike Burdett, of Adelaide firm Alexander Symonds, said the drawing was the work of professionals.

"If somebody came to us and asked us to do this, it would be quite an exercise," he said.

"Those who created the mystery would have had to start with artwork, transfer it into a digital format, then rely on Global Positioning System technology to plot the complex figure."

"The perimeter of that would be about 15km or so," Mr Burdett said, adding the task would have taken several days to complete.

ALL NEW MODEL
SIRION
TEST DRIVE AVAILABLE TODAY

\$11490
DRIVE AWAY
NO MORE TO PAY

5 Door hatch, Twin Cam multivalve, power windows, central locking, electric mirrors, dual airbags, AM/FM cassette stereo, fully imported Japanese quality.

3 YEAR/100,000KM WARRANTY
 17 Main North Road, Medindie
8269 7199
 A.H. Mark 8289 6200, Kevin 8289 3845

Stillwell
DAIHATSU

Tomorrow in The Advertiser

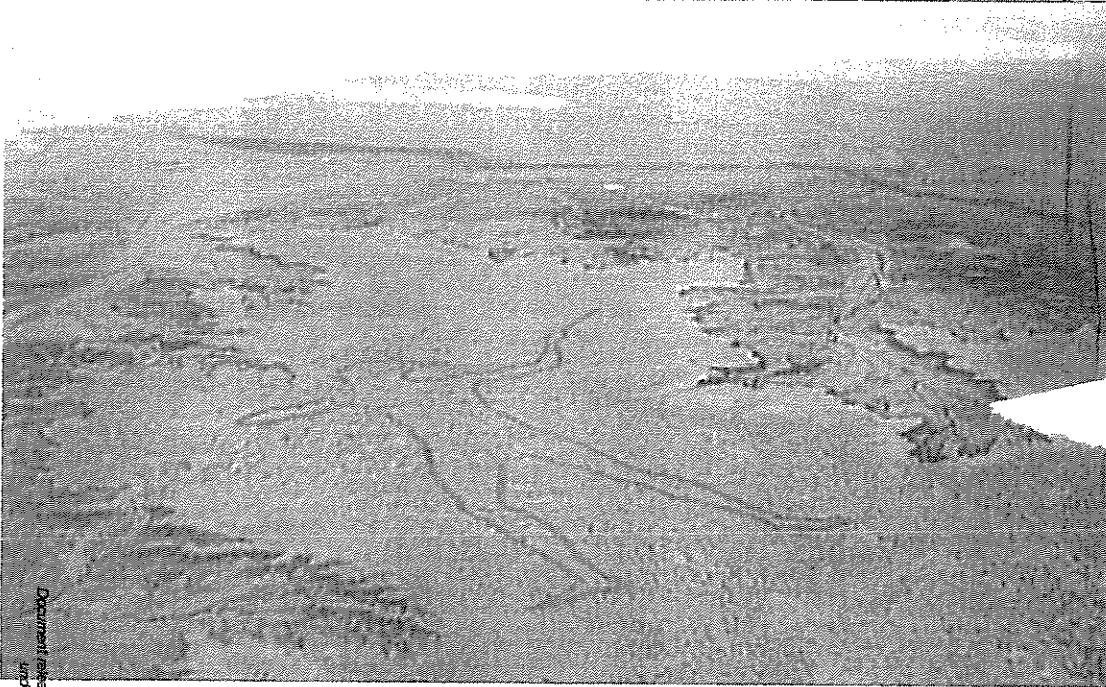
All Round 16 teams

In your Footy liftout

This page is intentionally blank

Mystery drawing of giant Aborigine near Marree

Riddle in the sand



SAIT WORK: The 4km-long outline of a man carved into the Outback sand in the State's north

Picture courtesy of Seven Nightly News

RONWYN HURRELL
The giant drawing of an Aborigine has mysteriously appeared on a desert plateau outside Marree in the State's north.

The 4km-long image - visible from the air - was brought to the attention of local business operators through an anonymous fax labelling it was "the world's largest work of art".

About 60km outside Marree on the Oodnadatta track, the drawing is of an Aborigine holding a club. Track marks prove the

outline was made by ploughing through the earth - but how the detailed artwork was created without anyone noticing remains a mystery.

Senior Constable Paul Liersch, of Marree, said police were investigating the drawing, which has become the talk of the small Outback town.

"I've viewed it from about 4500ft and it's very impressive and detailed," he said.

"It's a traditional, classic Aboriginal pose - a male holding back a club ready to strike."

"It has eyes, ears, beard, genitals, toes."

Senior Constable Liersch said it was estimated the drawing had been there from four to eight weeks.

"It's been made by some type of implement, perhaps a plough or ripper, scarifying the earth to a depth of 20 to 30cm in the outline of an Aboriginal male," he said.

"It's an area significant to local Aborigines and they're bewildered."

Senior Constable Liersch said he could assure X-Files devotees the drawing was not a strange phenomenon because police had found four-wheel drive and truck tracks, as well as used toilet paper.

However, the mystery deepened when local people found an empty bottle at the site, stuck upright with an American flag flying from it.

The anonymous fax claims the drawing is twice the size of the largest drawing in Peru, 24 times larger than the largest English chalk hill carving and 50 times larger than any other portrayal of the human form.

"It appears to be the world's largest work of art," it reads.

"Lying beneath air routes from Asia, the figure could provide your State of Southern Australia with the

type of major tourist attraction it is apparently seeking and would give a huge tourist boost to Marree if publicised in the media," the fax says.

A spokeswoman for the State Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mrs Kotz, said: "It is believed the area where the carving was done did not contain Aboriginal sites which could have been damaged."

A police investigation was under way and it was inappropriate to comment further, the spokeswoman said.

This page is intentionally blank

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Chief Executive

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: Pastoral Management
ATTENTION: John Chappel
FAX NUMBER 8204 8859
FROM Ania Karzek
No. of Pages 6
DATE 17/ 7/ 1998

URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

Hi John,

I'm not sure which ones you've got, so have them all.

Ania

The information contained in this facsimile may be confidential and may also be the subject of privilege or public interest immunity. If you are not the intended recipient any use, disclosure or reproduction of this document is unauthorised. If you have received the document in error please telephone: (08) 8204 9320, 8204 9323, or 8204 9322.



Postal Address
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Chesser House Level 9
91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide South Australia

Telephone (08) 8204 9320
Facsimile (08) 8204 9321
DX 138 Adelaide

Document 35 17/07/98 13:42

FAXED
07/7/98
11.2 am

MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

TO: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

RE: 'MARREE MAN'

The following information has now become available:

Rick Barratt (Heritage and Biodiversity officer) is on his way back to Adelaide, having collected all the information required in relation to vegetation. The matter is now in the hands of local police and DOSAA officers to work through with the media. It is now raining quite heavily in Marree. Rick suspects that there could be some restrictions placed on road access, but this would need to be confirmed with the police. (The closing of roads by police is normal procedure when roads become impassable due to rain.)

A written report with photographs on the vegetation clearance will be available on Monday.

DOSAA officers are currently still in Marree, endeavouring to make contact with the Native Title holders.

There is little public presence in town, however approximately 4-5 media crews are still in Marree. Police and the DOSAA officers are negotiating with the media on 'where to from here'.

The main environmental risk if any vehicles go out to the site (especially when the roads are wet) would be damage to the track going up the escarpment.



John Scanlon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Date: 17/7/98

FAXED

17/7/98

11:20am

MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

TO: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

RE: 'MARREE MAN'

I have just had advice from John Chappel that there are still media teams in Marree and are becoming increasingly determined to visit the site (including A Current Affair).

The inspection team has found no evidence of recent visitation to the site.

Media Interviews indicate that some local residents were aware of and visited the site before the recent publicity.

I will provide further updates as information becomes available.


John Scanlon

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Date: 17/7/98

FAXED
17/7/98
1:40pm

MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

TO: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

RE: 'MARREE MAN'

Further to your enquiry via Glenn Jarvis, I advise as follows:

The two DOSAA officers (Andy Robb and Heidi Crow) are currently in Marree and are continuing to meet with Aboriginal community representatives. The roads in and out of Marree are currently closed due to the rain. It is expected that the DOSAA officers will return shortly following the opening of the roads. The Heritage and Biodiversity officer (Rick Barratt) left Marree this morning, returning to Adelaide to prepare a report (to be ready by Monday).

Rick has gathered the necessary data and photographs to prepare an environmental report. Given the current weather, there is little more that can be done (or is necessary) at this time from an environmental perspective.

The Department has officers (approximately 10 staff) based at Hawker. These officers have been put on stand-by and can be in Marree within two hours should this be necessary.

Preliminary advice on reinstating the land is that there is no simple method of 'deleting' the picture. Because of the nature of the cultivation, the most effective method of regeneration will be through the re-sprouting or root stock or recruitment of seed stock from adjacent shrubs (control of grazing impact will be important in this).

Manual revegetating is not likely to be successful because of the arid nature of the landscape. Existing soil disturbance will probably result in an increase in herbage and native grass growth. It is therefore likely that the picture will still be visible even if shrubs were replanted.

On environmental grounds reinstatement would not be recommended at this stage. This will be reassessed *once* the report is obtained from Rick Barratt.



John Scapion

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Date: 17/7/98

FXED
17/7/98
8:15pm

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

TO: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

RE: 'MARREE MAN' - UPDATE

Officers from the Department travelled from Adelaide to Marree this morning and met at the Marree Police Stations at approximately 1.00 pm. The officers involved in the inspection are:

- Rick Barratt from the Pastoral Secretariat of the Heritage and Biodiversity division with expertise in range and native vegetation and soils;
- Andy Robb from DOSAA, expert in Aboriginal Heritage Sites; and
- Heidi Crow from DOSAA, expert in Aboriginal Heritage Sites.

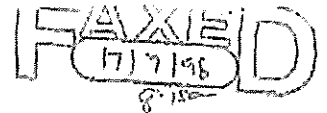
The officers have been instructed to conduct the investigation by way of a team approach and will be working closely with the police officer stationed at Marree. The team has also been directed not to speak to the media, who are to be directed to the Minister's Media Adviser should comment be requested.

Rick Barratt advised that light rain was falling at the time (shortly before 2.00 pm), and interest from the media and the public appeared to be waning.

A preliminary report from the investigation team is expected on Friday morning.

John Scanlon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Date: 17/7/98



MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

TO: MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

RE: 'MARREE MAN'

I received the following information from John Chappell following the investigation team's preliminary telephone advice.

"Approximately 16 passes have been made with a cultivating implement. The cultivated area is marked with stakes every 10-15 metres. The most important effect on vegetation has been the removal of some Chenopod shrubs, mainly bladder saltbush, but also low blue bush. These shrubs should gradually either re-sprout from remaining root stock or recruit from seed-stock left in undisturbed shrubs adjacent to the affected area.

However, the drawing will probably be visible for many years to come due to the change in soil surface combined with the effect that this will have in stimulating grass and herbage growth.

Nobody has been out to the site other than investigation team. Local Aboriginal groups are keen that this remain the case. Most of the media contingent has now flown out of Marree. Some made low flights over the site on their way out and observed the inspection team at work. There may be some footage on the news.

The preliminary report into Aboriginal Heritage sites as understood by Rick Barratt is that the effected area is fairly featureless terrain, and as yet the DOSAA officers are unable to report on anything significant in terms of Aboriginal sites. A further report will be provided in due course by the DOSAA officers."



John Scanlon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Date: 17/7/98

(This update was to 5:30 pm 16/7. Further update coming today)

Chappel, John

To: Karzek, Ania

Subject: Finnis Springs drawing

Rehabilitation of the site

Any attempts to erase the etching from the landscape, at least in the short to medium term, would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. The drawing has been created by a tillage implement which has scarified the soil surface. A full report on the effect of this activity is due on Monday. However, information to hand suggests that the ripping effect is similar to treatments used to rehabilitate degraded arid lands, often applied in chenopod shrubland. Obviously such an operation is not desirable in a healthy stand because living shrubs are physically removed, as has happened in this instance. However in a reasonably short time remaining root stock will resprout and bush recovery should be quite rapid, even though the density will be significantly reduced. In the longer term shrub recruitment should occur from seed drifting from the adjoining unaffected area. The time frames for these events to occur are seasonally driven and are unpredictable.

However, the most dramatic effect is likely to be the grass and herbage response which will benefit from the cultivation, particularly if followed by favorable seasonal conditions. In my opinion the "drawing" will remain visible for a very long time because of an increase in vegetation cover, particularly during favorable seasons.

The most important management factor in maximizing the chances of rehabilitation is usually to minimize total grazing pressure. Being un-stocked, domestic stock are not an issue and being outside of the dog fence, kangaroo numbers should not be a significant factor. The only other factor to consider really is rabbits and further information on likely rabbit impact will flow from Rick Barratt's report on Monday. If rabbits turn out to be problem, ripping of warrens in the vicinity may be advisable.

Research on minimizing the visual impact of seismic lines and well sites in the Cooper Basin is currently being conducted by SANTOS and Mines and Energy. The results of this research may have some implications here and Rick Barratt will be asked to make reference to it in his report.

In the short term the most important management action will be to keep vehicular impact around the site to a minimum.

John Chappel

Also fax copy sent to CE's Office

Chappel, John

To: Karzek, Ania

Subject: Finnis Springs "drawing"

New information received overnight has revealed that some media teams are still in Marree and are becoming increasingly determined to visit the site. Current Affair was mentioned. Regarding the matter of the number of people attending the area, the inspection team saw no evidence of recent visitation to the site. From media interviews it is clear that some local people knew of and visited the site before the news "broke". I have been unable to contact Rick Barratt as yet this morning but will update this memo if new or divergent information comes to hand.

John Chappel

Also sent by fax: having trouble with
EMAILS in and out of Kensington office.

Copy Colin Harris

Karzek, Ania

From: Scanlon, John

Sent: Friday, 17 July 1998 7:31

To: Chappel, John

Cc: Holmes, Allan N; Harris, Colin R (NRG); Karzek, Ania

Subject: Marea Man

John

Thanks for keeping me informed. Please provide me with a further short written briefing for the Minister today.

The Minister would also like some information on the numbers of people attending the area and whether this is putting undue pressure on the area (to the extent we are able to make such an assessment)

Thanks.

John

PS Ania, please also fax this to John

This page is intentionally blank

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to**DENR 20/0095**

TO: Minister for Environment and Heritage

FROM: Rick Barratt, Program Leader, Pastoral Lease Assessments - Cattle

SUBJECT: Marree Man

DATE: 20/07/98

THROUGH: Manager, Natural Resources Secretariat (John Chappel)
 Deputy Director - Heritage and Natural Resources (Colin Harris)
 Director - Heritage and Biodiversity (Allan Holmes)
 Chief Executive (John Scanlon)

PURPOSE :

To report on the environmental impact of the "drawing" on the land known as Finniss Springs, ex pastoral lease land, located approximately 60 kilometres west of Marree in the far north of the State.

BACKGROUND :

Accompanied by Senior Constable 6: Documents affecting personal affairs and D.O.S.A.A. officers Andy Robb and Heidi Crowe, I visited the site of what has been dubbed, among other names, "Marree Man" on Thursday 16 July 1998.

Marree Man is located on the former Finniss Springs Station on a plateau approximately 65 km west of Marree (see attached figure). The site is accessed via a station track to Charles Angus Bore which runs off the Oodnadatta Track just north of Albury Creek outstation. A two wheel track veers off the station track and winds its way up onto the plateau - one of only two access points to the plateau.

The Marree Man has been created by scarifying the outline with what appears to be a roller-type cultivation implement which is approximately 1.8 metres wide. The main line work is approximately 30 metres wide indicating some 16 passes with the cultivation implement. The total length of the line work is approximately 20 km which means the total area cultivated is over 60 hectares.

The implement was towed, possibly by a small tractor, and also spins independently leaving 8 furrows. Most sections of the design have been cultivated to a depth of approximately 10 cm. however some small sections have been cultivated to a depth of about 20 cm. Windrows are largely absent from the design.

TOPOGRAPHY, SOIL & VEGETATION

The plateau surface is predominantly flat with no discernible macro-relief. Gilgais or shallow depressions scattered are throughout the site and slight hummocking around low shrubs provide the only micro-relief on the plateau.

Soil type is variable with sandy clay loam dominating over most of the site with scattered patches of red cracking clays. A thin layer of sand is found in scattered bands throughout the site resulting in the scalloped pattern apparent from aerial photos and satellite imagery. Parts of the soil surface are characterised by a sparse cover of small silcrete gibber strew and small outcrops of weathered limestone are found throughout the site. The entire site appears to be underlain with kopi or gypsum which occasionally outcrops at the surface but is predominantly about 20 cm below the soil surface.

The vegetation is typical of the local region and is characterised by a patchy cover of low shrubland with dominated by shrubby twinleaf, *Zygophyllum aurantiacum*, low blue bush *Maireana astrotricha* or bladder saltbush *Atriplex vesicaria*, depending on soil type. Other perennial species include tall sida *Sida calyxhymenia* and satiny bluebush *Maireana georgii* with the taller shrub species of native apricot *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*, dead finish *Acacia tetragonophylla* and plum bush *Santalum lanceolatum* found in isolated groves typically in the deeper gilgais. Ground storey species include salt copper burr *Sclerolaena ventricosa*, five minute grass *Tripogon loliiformis* and oat grass *Enneapogon avenaceous* with recent rain resulting in the emergence of geranium *Erodium malacoides* and sand twin leaf *Zygophyllum ammophila* throughout the site.

More than forty native species were recorded on the site. None of the species or communities are considered uncommon in the region and is considered typical of Kopi land system.

DISTURBANCE/DAMAGE TO SOIL & VEGETATION

As stated above, the cultivation carried out was predominantly shallow, typically to a depth of about 10 cm. Cultivation has been deeper, up to 20 cm., in some isolated sections of the site while is very shallow or absent in areas of rocky outcrop. Windrows are absent from most of the line work with the exception being where the implement was turned to affect the design.

Damage to vegetation has been variable ranging from removal or breaking off of above ground growth leaving the root stock intact, through to complete uprooting of low shrubs in some areas. Less commonly, perennial vegetation is largely intact with the cultivator scarifying around the base or riding over the top and not significantly disturbing the shrub cover. Ground storey perennial grasses such as five minute grass and ephemeral species have been uprooted in most areas cultivated.

Handwritten:
Date Supplied
10/02/00

DISCUSSION

Native Vegetation Act

The cultivation associated with the installation of Marree Man constitutes *clearance* under the Native Vegetation Act (1991) and the clearance is not considered to be covered by any of the *exemptions* under the Act.

Rehabilitation

It is considered that the disturbance to the soil surface associated with Marree Man will stabilise fairly quickly - depending on seasonal conditions and the absence of significant slopes on the site should prevent any problems with soil erosion prior to the site stabilising. Marree Man may be visible for a considerable period of time from the air - possibly for years as the disturbance to the soil surface will initially create a favourable environment for short-lived grass and herbage species. This will create a contrast with the surrounding country where a soil surface crust results in a typically sparse cover of annual vegetation. Perennial vegetation will recover over time. In the first instance, plants not uprooted will resprout and while regeneration by seed will occur, this will take some years with the rate of recovery once again dependent on intervening seasonal conditions. The property is not grazed by stock and although warrens were noted, rabbits are not active at present - factors which should facilitate recovery of the vegetation.

Significant rain has fallen at the site in recent days and this will assist in stabilising the site and help to lessen the visual contrast between the cultivated soils and the surrounds in addition to producing a flush of ephemeral growth over the site.

It is considered that intervention (say) by mechanical treatment is unwarranted and indeed may exacerbate compaction on the site.

Site Visitation

The greatest potential for further disturbance and impact would be if large numbers of vehicles and people visit the site. The high gypsum content of the soils leaves them highly susceptible to the formation of "bull dust" as a result of vehicular traffic. There is also considerable risk of erosion on the track leading up the side of the plateau. It is recommended that vehicular traffic to the site be minimised as much as possible to prevent this occurring.

Other Issues

The design has been pegged with small cane stakes each tied with plastic flagging tape and these present an issue at the site.

RECOMMENDATION :

Report for information only.

Rick Barratt

This page is intentionally blank

MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

TO: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DOSAA
DIRECTOR HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY
DIRECTOR RESOURCE INFORMATION

RE: 'MAREE MAN'

Just a short note to thank you for the manner in which the investigation team was organised at such short notice. It was a credit to the individuals involved, and this organisation, to have an inter-divisional team pulling together so quickly and effectively and feeding information through to this office and the Minister as it came to hand.

Please pass on my thanks to John Chappel, Rick Barratt, Andy Robb, Heidi Crow and Dennis Parslow for their work.

Going by the continuing media interest in the 'Marree Man' story it looks like we still have a bit of work to do.



John Scanlon
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Date: 21/7/98

lyn
for action plan
gy 21/7

This page is intentionally blank

Chappel, John
From: Scanlon, John
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 1998 6:51
To: Holmes, Allan N
Cc: Chappel, John; Dyson, Megan; 'Savina'
Subject: Maree Man - Urgent

Allan

The Minister wants to get some additional information on this asap, namely:

1. Out of Scope [REDACTED]
2. What options are there for us to deal with this issue should visitor pressure resume. For example, should we restrict access to the site to supervised access and if so how would the supervision be managed? How would the local Aboriginal communities respond to this? Minister wants some options just in case.

Please develop these options in consultation with DOSAA.

We will need answers for Minister for Parliament tomorrow.

Thanks.

John

This page is intentionally blank

MINUTE *forming* ENCLOSURE to



TO:

~~John Chappel~~
~~Rick Barratt~~
Andy Robb
Heidi Crow
Dennis Parslow

FROM:

A/Personal Assistant, Director Heritage and Biodiversity

SUBJECT:

'Maree Man'

DATE:

22 July 1998

Please find attached correspondence from the Chief Executive regarding the handling of the 'Maree Man' incident.

For your information.

L Metcalf

Lyn Metcalf

John
Could you please pass
attached copy of the
minute on to Rick Barratt.
Thank you.
Lyn

This page is intentionally blank

DENR 20/0295 24079801

10

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

COPY

To: Chief Executive
From: Deputy Director, Heritage and Natural Resources
Subject: Finnis Springs
Date: 23 July 1998

Through Director, Heritage & Biodiversity

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege, 9 - Internal Working Document

- Marree Man and matters related to rehabilitation and/or control of visitor access.

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege, 9 - Internal Working Document

The second matter, Marree Man, requires immediate short term action.

9 - Internal Working Document, 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

It was agreed by all present at the meeting today that the main mechanism for restricting access would be appropriate signage. This would need to be produced and erected quickly, bearing in mind that once the roads dry off after the recent rains there will undoubtedly be renewed interest in ground access to the site. There was acceptance of the advice previously provided by John Chappel and Rick Barratt viz that there should be no active attempt to rehabilitate the actual line work. Any further disturbance would, in a variety of ways, simply make the situation worse.

9 - Internal Working Document, 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

Colin Harris

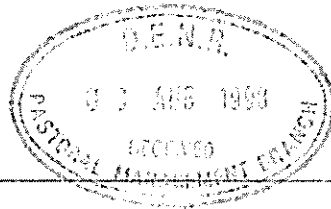
MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

TO: EXECUTIVE

RE: NATIONAL HERITAGE CONVENTION

Out of Scope





copy
C Harris
11
Q: C.H. 24/2.
John Chappell
to note

Nancarrow, Sally L

From: Croft, Peter
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 1998 1:35
To: Scanlon, John
Cc: Nancarrow, Sally L; Stubbs, Tom
Subject: FW: Marree man secured

As requested, the following has happened.

If it is possible, it would be useful to find out the extent of the Minister's concern on this issue. Our impression is that there are no sacred sites in the area.

Thanks

Peter Croft

From: Gulliver, Alan
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 1998 16:58
To: Croft, Peter
Cc: Parslow, Denis R; Stubbs, Tom
Subject: Marree man secured

Peter,

As instructed:

- original negatives now secured by Aircrew in the restricted file room
- all copies taken from those negatives (including those shown to Exec) will be delivered to the Ministers Office tomorrow afternoon. Out of Scope
- the digital file of the composite photo will be stored on a floppy disk to be held by me.
- Aircrew advised that approval of the Minister is required to take copies from secured negs or fly anywhere near MM himself.

Keep smiling

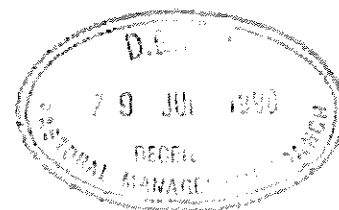
Alan

This page is intentionally blank

J Chappel
COPY

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

To: Minister for Environment and Heritage
 From: Deputy Director, Heritage and Natural Resources
 Subject: Finnis Springs
 Date: 24 July 1998



Through Director, Heritage & Biodiversity
 Chief Executive

PURPOSE

To brief you on recent developments in relation to Out of Scope
 the currently related matter of Marree Man.

BACKGROUND

Finniss Springs is a former pastoral lease, now unallotted Crown lands, approximately 50km west of Marree in the Far North of South Australia. It was purchased for national parks and wildlife purposes in the early 1990s, the objective at the time being to place it under a joint management arrangement with the Aboriginal community along the lines of that developed within the Witjira National Park. Out of Scope

Marree Man is, of course, located within the northern boundary of the Finnis Springs land near Lake Eyre South.

DISCUSSION

I met with 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege
 on 23 July 1998, with several separate, but related issues on the table:

- Out of Scope
- Marree Man and matters related to rehabilitation and control of visitor access
- Out of Scope

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

The second matter, Marree Man, requires immediate short term action.

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

Such signage would need to be produced and erected quickly, bearing in mind that once the roads dry off after the recent rains there will undoubtedly be renewed interest in ground access to the site. At yesterday's meeting there was acceptance of the advice previously provided by John Chappel and Rick Barratt viz that there should be no active attempt to rehabilitate the actual line work. Any further disturbance would, in a variety of ways, simply make the situation worse.

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

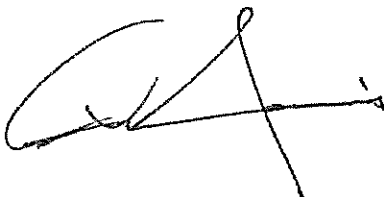
Also attached is a copy of draft wording (prepared by me in consultation with Brenton Arnold) that might be utilised on appropriate signage (Attachment 3).

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

but I would welcome any initial comment or reaction you might have to it - the wording is deliberately positive, avoiding any use of legal or punitive phraseology, our experience in the Far North having indicated that this kind of positive wording produces far better results than wording of a negative, threatening character.

RECOMMENDATION

For information and for any advice or reaction to the proposed signage for restriction of access to the Marree Man site.



Colin Harris

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

FOR ENQUIRIES REFER

Mr Chris Larkin

Phone 8226 8951

TO: THE MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

RE: RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON THE MARREE MAN
GRAFFITI

In response to your memo dated 22/7/1998 I have met with the Executive of the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

The Executive resolved that the Minister take a number of steps to ensure the property is secure from further damage.

In order to secure the property in the short term the Executive suggests that:

1. 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege
2. No further access to the property should be permitted except by the express written consent of the Aboriginal Lands Trust.
3. The Aboriginal Lands Trust will immediately commence the process which ensures all Aboriginal stakeholders are brought together to formulate the agreed steps for the immediate management of the area.

All of the actions suggested above are subject to a commitment that the costs associated with the transfer and management of the property will be provided to the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

7 - Documents affecting business affairs

Garnett Wilson OAM
CHAIRPERSON
ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

22 July 1998

Finniss Springs

REHABILITATION AREA

Visitors travelling through Finniss Springs are requested to keep to the main Marree-Oodnadatta road.

The environment of Finniss Springs is both ecologically and culturally significant and to protect sensitive rehabilitation areas it is important that there be no unnecessary travel away from the main road.

If departure from the main road is required for any reason, prior approval must be obtained in writing from the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide, South Australia 5001.

The cooperation of visitors in protecting this area of national significance is appreciated.



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

(Discussion with Brenton Arnold and 19: Documents subject to legal professional privilege suggests that it may be desirable to include a map of Finniss Springs)

Chappel, John
From: Holmes, Allan N
Sent: Monday, 27 July 1998 3:54
To: Scanlon, John
Cc: Chappel, John (KEN); Harris, Colin R (NRG) (NZI); Irving, Jason (NZI); Arnold, Brenton K (PTA)
Subject: RE: Maree Man

John, Brenton Arnold is my preferred nominee. His alternate is John Chappel. Allan

From: Scanlon, John
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 1998 11:28 AM
To: Karzek, Ania; Holmes, Allan N; 'Savina'
Cc: Dyson, Megan
Subject: Maree Man

David, Allan and Sally

I have been contacted by Roger Cook (Head of the Premier's Project Task Force group) who would like to get a verbal briefing on the Aboriginal and environmental issues surrounding the drawing of the Maree Man and its retention over the longer term.

Allan and David, please nominate appropriate officers to provide the briefing.

Sally, please set up a time for a briefing (and advise me of when it is set up so I can get some feedback). Roger Cook's phone no is: 8216 8479. Please also add 'Maree Man - Roger Cook' to my Monday agenda with the Minister.

Thanks.

John

This page is intentionally blank

Chappel, John

From: Holmes, Allan N

Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 1998 9:30

To: 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Cc: 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Subject: FW: Finnis Springs

Please note. I have asked Lyn to ring you direct and resolve action on signs. Brenton i suggest you follow up issue of police involvement. Discuss direct with Rathman. Al

From: Scanlon, John
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 1998 8:45 AM
To: Holmes, Allan N (EPA); 'Savina'
Cc: Nancarrow, Sally L; Dyson, Megan
Subject: Finnis Springs

Allan/David

The Minister has approved the installation of signage in accordance with the minute from Colin Harris - 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege The minute will be back with Allan today - copy to go to David.

Out of Scope, 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Minister also wants to explore with DOSAA and H&B involving the local police officer in restricting access to the site.

Thanks.

John

This page is intentionally blank

Chappel, John
From: Holmes, Allan N
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 1998 9:25
To: 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs
Cc: 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs
Subject: FW: Maree Man

Please note Al

From: Scanlon, John
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 1998 8:32 AM
To: Nancarrow, Sally L; Holmes, Allan N (EPA); 'Savina'
Cc: Dyson, Megan
Subject: Maree Man

David, Allan and Sally

I advised the Minister of the request from Roger Cook for a briefing on this issue last night.

The Minister wants the briefing to come from her office - not the department.

As a result, Sally would you please:

1. Cancel all arrangements for officers to brief Roger.
2. Give me Roger's telephone number so I can advise him that he needs to contact Bob Jackson to obtain a briefing.

Thanks.

John

This page is intentionally blank

Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
Heritage and Biodiversity

URGENT!

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO:	" JOHN CHAPPEL 48854
FROM:	" BRENTON ARNOLD 85301
SUBJECT:	" MARREE MIAA
DATE:	" 29/7
NO. OF PAGES	" (Including this one) 9
THROUGH:	"



Level 1
3 Mackay Street
Port Augusta
South Australia 5700

PO Box 75 Port Augusta
SA 51098
South Australia 5700
Australia

Telephone (08) 8648 5300
Facsimile (08) 8648 5301
<http://www.denr.sa.gov.au>

John, paper re Marree Mian
follow as discussed

1. Col. Hamer's B1a to MEIA

2. 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

3. Advice from Bob Jackson to
proceed with sign &
text of proposed sign &
location map.

Please give me a call if you
have any comment on any of the
above.

B. Arnold



Government
of South Australia

Att 2

MAC 98/273

35/98/0027

MAAC 98/275
35/98/0027

27/7 To Allan H (for review) - ~~for~~
a Board R - ~~for~~

URGENT

~~URGENT~~

RE: FINNIS SPARKS

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Please treat as urgent 10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

Lb J.

Bob Jackson
CHIEF OF STAFF to the
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

27 July 1998

Att 3

MINUTES forming **ENCLOSURE** to**FAXED**
28/7

1600h

6 PAGES

25/2.1042

TO: MANAGER VISITOR SERVICES
FROM: REGIONAL MANAGER NORTH
SUBJECT: FINNISS SPRINGS SIGNS
DATE: 28 JULY 1998

URGENT!**URGENT!**

You would be aware of the recent issue of the creation of "Marree Man" on land known as Finnis Springs, approximately 50km west of Marree.

Attached is a copy of a briefing to the Minister on the issue.

Out of Scope

, the Minister requires urgent short term action to prevent further environmental damage to the area by people trying to gain access to the Marree Man site,

Signs have been suggested for this purpose and the Minister has approved this strategy.

Attached is a text for these signs. A map of the area would also have to be included, and Brian Moore is preparing a layout for consideration at the moment.

Can you please review the text etc, and provide me with a suggested layout, including a map which I would suggest would be at least A4 size (landscape or portrait layout). You have suggested 900 x 600 size metal signs.

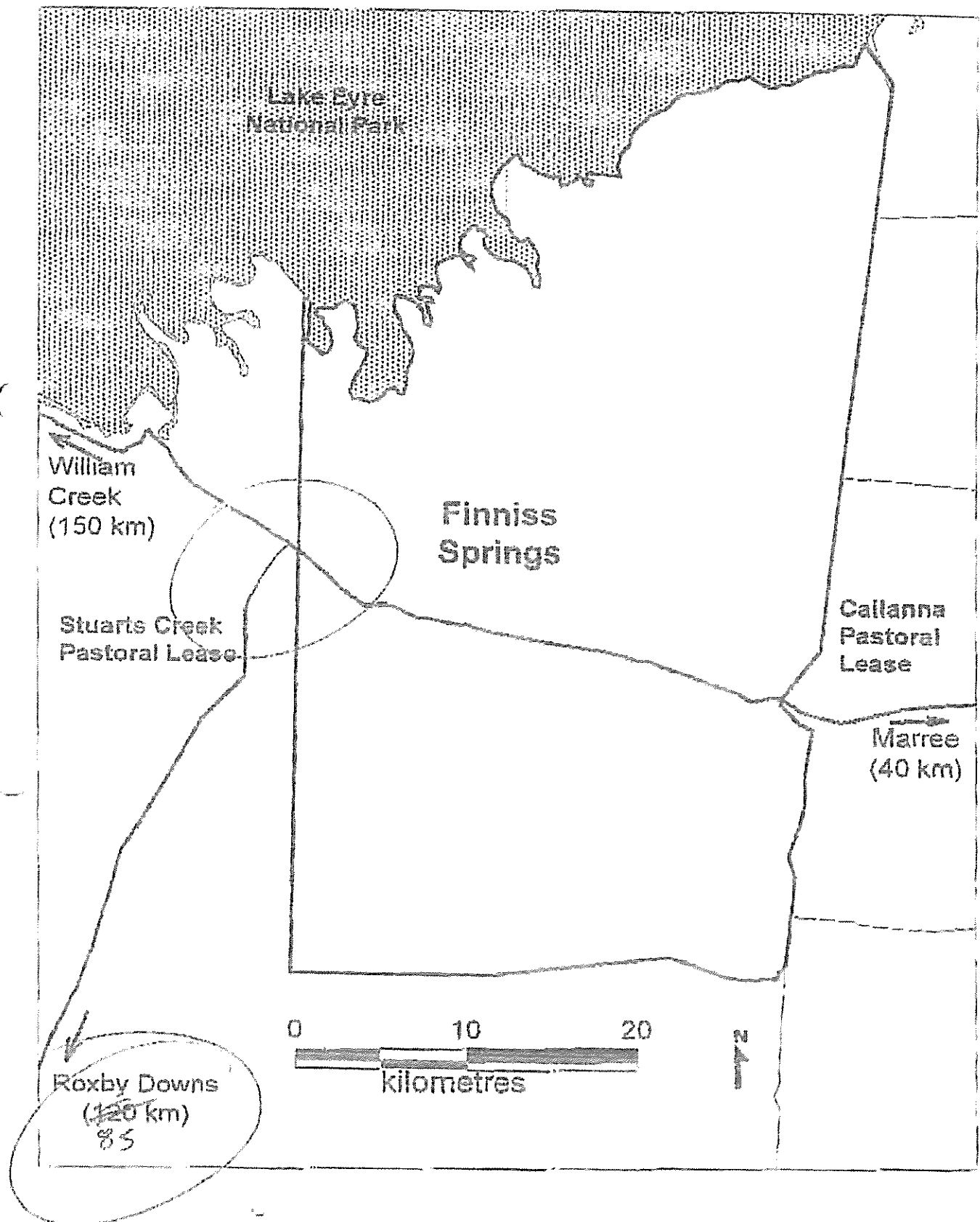
These signs would be a short term solution **Out of Scope** so the quickest production method would be appropriate.

The matter is very urgent and I would appreciate your immediate attention to it.

Ring me to discuss any aspects or clarify details.



Brenton Arnold
REGIONAL MANAGER NORTH



6 - Documents affecting personal affairs



12 August 1998

Mr John CHAPPEL
Pastoral Management Section
DEHAA
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear John,

I spoke to you on the phone this morning in relation to our desire to traverse the Finnis Springs area. 6 -
6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

In relation to the present sensitivity of the 'Maree Man', we are prepared to give our undertaking that we have no interest in this phenomena and will not go near the plateau or to any area specified by you if conditional permission is given to this request.

Yours sincerely,

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
Heritage and Biodiversity
Facsimile Transmission



To: John CHAPPEL
Attention:
Facsimile: 48859
From: BRENTON ARNOLD
Telephone: 85346
Date: 17/8 Ref:
Total Pages: (including Cover Sheet) 8
Subject: 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs Finning access.

Level 1
9 Market Street
Port Augusta
South Australia 5700

PO Box 78 Port Augusta
SA 5700
South Australia 5700
Australia

Telephone (08) 8648 5300
Facsimile (08) 8648 5301
http://www.denr.sa.gov.au

John, paper to bring you up to date with the Finning access situation. I will contact

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

late this week - approval (a scheme) will have to come from MEH. We only have ~~affairs~~ to deal in emergency authorization

situation. We will look as for (see att. paper).

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Arnold

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF PRIVILEGE OR PUBLIC INTEREST IMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT ANY USE, DISCLOSURE OR REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS UNAUTHORISED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE DOCUMENT IN ERROR PLEASE TELEPHONE (086)485300



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
Heritage and Biodiversity



Date: 13 October 1998

«JobTitle»
«Company»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«City» «State» «PostalCode»

Level 1
9 Mackay Street
Port Augusta
South Australia 5700

PO Box 78 Port Augusta
DX 14009
South Australia 5700
Australia

Telephone (08) 8648 5300
Facsimile (08) 8648 5301
<http://www.denr.sa.gov.au>

Dear «JobTitle»

I am writing to advise you of decisions the Government has recently made which restrict public access to Crown land known as Finniss Springs, west of Marree.

The land comprising Finniss Springs was until 1989 a pastoral lease (Block 179) which was resumed by the Government in 1989. The land is now Allotment 2 in DP 34847 Out Of Hundreds (Curdimurka). The 1500 square km block, 40 km west of Marree has immense significance to Aboriginal people and in addition has very high conservation and biodiversity values. Finniss Springs contains the Hermit Hill mound spring complex, one of the most important of the chain of mound springs stretching from Marree to north of Oodnadatta.

Since 1989 the land has been under the care and control of the then Minister for Lands, now the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Dorothy Kotz.

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Recently an unknown party created a figure of an Aboriginal man on Finniss Springs, an act that was both unauthorised and which has caused concern to a number of Aboriginal people of the Marree area who have strong traditional and cultural ties with the country.

"Marree Man", as the 4 km long figure has become known, has generated considerable public interest and has resulted in uncontrolled vehicle access to the site. This has the potential to seriously damage the fragile environment of the area.



Government
of South Australia

2

To ensure the protection of Finniss Springs Crown lands and to alleviate concerns within the Aboriginal community, the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has decided to restrict public access to Finniss Springs, Out of Scope

The Minister issued a statement on Saturday 8 August advising that pursuant to her powers under the Crown Lands Act, general public access to Finniss Springs will be restricted to the main Marree - Oodnadatta Track and the Borefield (Roxby Downs) road. A copy of the Minister's statement is attached.

From the above date, general public access off these roads, including to the site of Marree Man, will not be permitted without the written approval of the Minister, except in emergency situations.

During the weekend of 8 and 9 August 1998, signs were erected on the above roads at the boundaries of Finniss Springs, advising of restrictions to off road travel.

Enquiries regarding approval for emergency off-road access within Finniss Springs should be directed to Mr Brenton Arnold or Mr John Watkins, Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, Port Augusta, telephone 08 86485300, after hours Documents affecting personal affairs

I seek your cooperation in ensuring that the wishes of the traditional custodians of Finniss Springs are respected, and the nationally significant values of the land are protected.

Please feel free to contact me during business hours on telephone 08 8648 5346 (mobile Documents affecting personal affairs), if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Brenton Arnold
REGIONAL MANAGER NORTH

finniss3/c/brief/bka



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon Dorothy Kotz MP

Minister for Environment & Heritage
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

15th Floor
Wakefield House
30 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Saturday, August 8, 1998

Sightseers Urged to Steer Clear of Marree Man

Signs will be erected along the Oodnadatta Track near Marree next week to discourage "Marree Man" sightseers from damaging the surrounding fragile environment and offending local Aboriginal groups.

The Minister for Environment and Heritage, Mrs Dorothy Kotz, says very little of the Marree Man can be seen at ground level, providing a very limited tourism experience.

"However, unrestricted vehicle access has the potential to seriously damage the surrounding environment, which is home to a series of mound springs and supports a number of endangered species which are found nowhere else in the world," Mrs Kotz said.

Mrs Kotz said the Crown land in question was soon to be transferred to the Aboriginal Lands Trust, following negotiations which began more than three years ago.

"There is no doubt that this land is of great cultural and historic significance to Aboriginal peoples of the region," she said.

"It is important that people respect the wishes of the soon-to-be custodians of this land and, therefore, access to the area will be restricted unless I have provided a written authorisation for entry into the Finniss Springs Crown land," she said.

Mrs Kotz has authorised two officers from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs' Port Augusta office to deal with emergency access inquiries.

Mrs Kotz said the decision did not diminish the tourism opportunities presented by the Marree Man, which was best viewed from the air.

"At ground level, there are little more than scrapes in the ground, similar to those found in any farmer's paddock. As the carving is on a plateau, there are no vantage points to enable visitors to gain any perspective of the figure," she said.

"Given that the land will soon be under Aboriginal ownership - due to its great cultural significance - and that it contains fragile and important geographical features and native species, it is vital that we protect it from indiscriminate damage.

"Those who are genuinely interested in the Aboriginal culture of the region will gain far more by speaking with the indigenous communities living around Marree."

Media Contact: Michael Astbury -

Documents affecting personal affairs

08 AUG '98 06:04

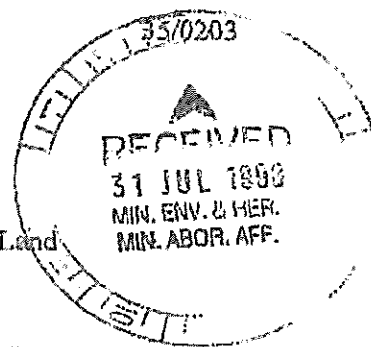
+61884102231

PAGE 01
*** TOTAL PAGE 01 ***

URGENT

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

To: Minister for Environment and Heritage
From: Deputy Director, Heritage & Natural Resources
Subject: Authorisation of officers, Finniss Springs Crown Land
Date: 31 July 1998



Through: Director, Heritage & Biodiversity
Chief Executive

PURPOSE

To authorise selected DEHAA officers to issue emergency approvals for travel on the Finniss Springs Crown Lands.

BACKGROUND

You are aware that the signage being prepared to restrict access onto the Finniss Springs Crown lands indicates that your prior approval is necessary for any travel off the main roads.

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege the signage also indicates that in an emergency situation approval can be sought by telephoning the Pt Augusta office of DEHAA. The Crown Law advice is that unforeseen or emergency situations are always likely and that it would be prudent to have this quick response capability.

DISCUSSION

10 - Documents subject to legal professional privilege

It would be appropriate to authorise Brenton Arnold, DEHAA Manager, North Region and his deputy, John Watkins, Manager, Desert Parks Operations, - both based at Pt Augusta - and to authorise me as a backup in the event of both Pt Augusta officers being unavailable.

RECOMMENDATION

That you formally authorise DEHAA officers, as detailed below, to act on your behalf where emergency approvals for access to the Finnis Springs Crown Lands are required.



Colin Harris

I, Dorothy Kotz, Minister for Environment and Heritage authorise

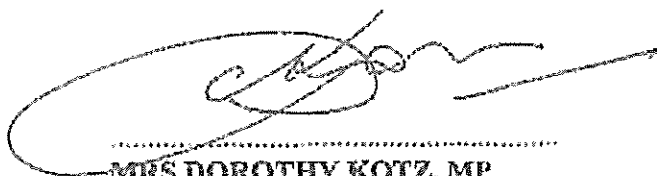
Brenton Kenneth Arnold, Manager, North Region, Department for Environment,
Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

Raymond John Watkins, Manager, Desert Parks Operations, Department for
Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

Colin Raymond Harris, Deputy Director, Heritage & Natural Resources,
Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

or any person acting in those positions or undertaking the responsibilities of those
positions from time to time

to give permission either in writing or verbally (subject to conditions if thought
appropriate) to persons who wish to travel on Finnis Springs Crown land (land in lot 2
of DP 34847) and also to be authorised persons to deal with any person on the land
without permission.



MRS DOROTHY KOTZ, MP
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

MINUTES *forming* ENCLOSURE to

35/0203

To: Minister for Environment and Heritage
From: Deputy Director, Heritage and Natural Resources
Subject: Finnis Springs Crown Lands
Date: 5 August 1998

Through Director, Heritage & Biodiversity
Chief Executive

PURPOSE

To consider a request from the 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs to travel on the Finnis Springs Crown Lands.

BACKGROUND

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

**DISCUSSION**

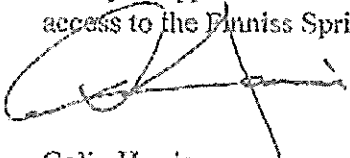
This is a case where approval is justified. Aboriginal communities in and around Marree have strong cultural and historical ties with Finnis Springs and cross-cultural tours of the kind being conducted by 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs are worthy of support.

Some conditions of approval have been placed in the accompanying draft response which we would see as becoming standard in dealing with future applications of this kind. 10 - Documents

subject to legal
professional
privilege

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the accompanying request from 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs for access to the Finnis Springs Crown Lands.


Colin Harris

35/0205

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Dear 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 1998 addressed to Mr Colin Harris, Deputy Director, Heritage and Natural Resources, in which you have sought approval for access to the Finnis Springs Crown Lands for the purposes of 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

In response I am pleased to grant approval subject to the following conditions:

- that vehicular travel be restricted, as far as is practicable, to existing tracks
- that tour operators ensure that sites of significance to Aboriginal people are not damaged, disturbed or interfered with
- that the tours avoid the site of so-called "Marree Man"
- that any rubbish incidental to the tours be removed from the Finnis Springs lands and disposed of in an appropriate manner at Marree.

As you will appreciate, the conditions are aimed at rehabilitation and environmental and cultural site protection and I have no doubt you will understand and respect the need for them. Additionally, I would wish to make clear that approval is given on the basis that what is proposed is a low impact activity. In giving approval the Government expresses no view on the merits or otherwise of the three native title claims over the Finnis Springs land. The Government will consider any other low impact proposals put to it in relation to the Finnis Springs land.

Yours sincerely

MRS DOROTHY KOTZ, MP
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

This page is intentionally blank

MINUTES forming ENCLOSURE to

DENR 20/0095

+ Minister's 3R Folder.

TO: Minister for Environment and Heritage
FROM: Manager, Pastoral Board Secretariat (John Chappel)
SUBJECT: Access to Finniss Springs
DATE: 10/09/98

THROUGH: Chief Executive (John Scanlon)
 Director - Heritage and Biodiversity (Allan Holmes)
 Deputy Director - Heritage and Natural Resources (Colin Harris)

PURPOSE :

To consider a request from 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs to travel on the Finniss Springs Crown Lands.

BACKGROUND :

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs



There is no intention to travel across Finniss Springs Crown Lands in the vicinity of Marree Man which is located north of the Oodnadatta Track.

DISCUSSION :

I believe the bona fides of 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs to be genuine and that approval to his request is justified.

Some conditions of approval have been placed in the accompanying draft response which are consistent with a previous application granted to 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs to conduct cultural awareness, environmental and reconciliation tours on the same land.

RECOMMENDATION :

That you approve the accompanying request from 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs to access Finniss Springs Crown Lands.


 John Chappel

DENR 20/0095

6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Dear 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

Thank you for your letter of 12 August 1998 addressed to Mr John Chappel, Manager, Pastoral Board Secretariat, in which you have sought approval for access to the Finnis Springs Crown Lands for the purpose of 6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

In response I am pleased to grant approval subject to the following conditions.

- that vehicular travel be restricted to existing tracks
- that sites of significance to Aboriginal people are not damaged, disturbed, or interfered with
- that your traverse avoid the site of the so-called Marree Man
- that you do not camp on Finnis Springs lands and that any rubbish incidental to your travel be removed from the land and disposed in a reasonable manner at Marree.

As you will appreciate, the conditions are aimed at recognising Aboriginal sensitivities associated with Finnis Springs, rehabilitation of degraded areas and cultural site protection and I have no doubt you will understand and respect the need for them.

Your Sincerely

MRS DOROTHY KOTZ, MP
MINISER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE