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07 Mar 2023



**Government  
of South Australia**

**Parks and Wilderness Council**  
**2021-22 Annual Report**

Parks and Wilderness Council

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2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT for the Parks and Wilderness Council

To:

The Hon Dr Susan Close MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements 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 Parks and Wilderness Council by:

Raymond Spencer

Presiding Member

Date 25 November 2022

Signature



*Annual report submission delayed due to meeting date of Council being deferred.*

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## Overview: about the agency

### Our strategic focus

<p><b>Our Purpose</b></p>	<p>The Parks and Wilderness Council provides strategic policy advice to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and advocacy for issues which improve environmental, social and economic opportunities for South Australia’s parks and wildlife.</p>
<p><b>Our functions, objectives and deliverables</b></p>	<p>The functions of the Parks and Wilderness Council are to provide advice to the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the:</p> <p><i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i></p> <p><i>Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005</i></p> <p><i>Marine Parks Act 2007</i></p> <p><i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i></p>

### Our organisational structure

The Parks and Wilderness Council was established pursuant to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and consists of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and eight other members appointed by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

### Changes to the agency

During 2021-22 there were no changes to the agency’s structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

### Our Minister

The Department for Environment and Water is a portfolio agency of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, the Hon Dr Susan Close MP.

## **Our Executive team**

### **An Overview of Council Membership**

In accordance with Section 15(2) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, the Council consists of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and 8 other members appointed by the Minister who collectively have, in the opinion of the Minister, the knowledge, skills and experience to enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively.

In accordance with section 14 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, Mr Mike Williams in his role as Director of National Parks and Wildlife is the ex-officio member of the Parks and Wilderness Council.

### Council Members:

Raymond Spencer (Presiding Member) – term expires 31 July 2023

Natasha Davis – term expires 31 July 2023

Duncan MacKenzie OAM – term expires 31 July 2023

Klynton Wanganeen – term expires 31 July 2023 (resigned 17 May 2022)

Anita Nedosyko – term expires 31 July 2022

Bill McIntosh AM – term expires 31 July 2022

Ben Trewren – term expires 31 July 2022

Shaun de Bruyn – term expires 31 July 2022

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

*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*

*Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*

*Marine Parks Act 2007*

*Wilderness Protection Act 1992*

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

The Parks and Wilderness Council is supported by the Department for Environment and Water.

## The agency’s performance

### Performance at a glance

During 2021-22 the Parks and Wilderness Council provided strategic policy advice to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and advocacy for issues which improve environmental, social and economic opportunities for the State’s parks and wildlife.

### Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency’s contribution
<p>The <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> provides that the Council may advise the Minister on any of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Planning in relation to the management of reserves</li> <li>b) The conservation of wildlife</li> <li>c) Funding (including matters relating to sponsorship) and the development and marketing of commercial activities</li> <li>d) Community participation in the management of reserves and the conservation of wildlife</li> <li>e) The development of policy</li> <li>f) Existing or proposed national or international agreements relating to the conservation of animals, plants and ecosystems</li> <li>g) The promotion (including public education) of the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources</li> </ul>	<p>Providing strategic policy advice and advocacy on ways to enhance environmental, social and economic opportunities provided by our State’s parks and wildlife.</p>

### Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Providing advice in relation to delivery of the government's key priorities</p>	<p>Operate under a strong governance framework and continue to develop the capacity of the Council to deliver its statutory and functional responsibilities.</p>	<p>Council committed to long-term strategic priorities which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a new protected areas strategy</li> <li>• Providing advice to the Minister on options relating to legislative reform</li> <li>• Advice to the Minister on Reimagining Kangaroo Island planning and project</li> <li>• 'Telling a story' – a communications engagement plan for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</li> </ul>

<p>The management of parks and wilderness protection areas</p>	<p>Support the development and review of park management plans.</p> <p>The Council's specific roles and responsibilities in relation to the development and review of management plans are described in legislation.</p>	<p>During 2021-22 the Council reviewed public submissions on the following park management plans and amendments:</p> <p>Belair National Park Amendment</p> <p>Mount Remarkable National Park Amendment</p> <p>Witjira National Park</p> <p>Glenthorne National Park</p> <p>Parks of Western and Central Kangaroo Island</p> <p>Cleland National Park</p> <p>Munga-Thirri-Simpson Desert National Park</p>
<p>The establishment of wilderness protection areas</p>	<p>Council is responsible for assessing all land in the State to identify those parts of the State which meet the wilderness criteria to a sufficient extent to justify protection under the <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i>, or that warrant restoration to a condition that justifies such protection.</p> <p>Council is responsible for reporting to the Minister on the results of its assessments and to make recommendations to the Minister as to what land in the State should be constituted as wilderness protection areas or wilderness protection zones.</p>	<p>Council did not initiate any wilderness assessments in the reporting period.</p>

**Corporate performance summary**

Council met three times in the past financial year and provided advice to the Minister in line with their roles and responsibilities.

**Employment opportunity programs**

The Parks and Wilderness Council does not employ staff. The Council is supported by the Department for Environment and Water. The Department’s Annual Report for 2021-22 reports on the Department’s employment opportunity programs.

**Agency performance management and development systems**

<b>Performance management and development system</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Reviews of terms of reference every 12 months.	The Council endorsed an updated Terms of Reference at its meeting on 17 August 2021.
Meeting attendance records	A record of meeting attendance is kept with the minutes of each meeting.
The Parks and Wilderness Council will meet a minimum of four times per year, including at least one off-site meeting at a location to be determined by the Council. The Minister or the Presiding Member may direct the Council to meet more regularly.	In 2021-22, the Council met on three occasions however deferred a fourth meeting over the caretaker period.
The Parks and Wilderness Council is supported by staff from the Department for Environment and Water.	Government employees supporting the Council undertake a performance review and development program with their manager.

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

Program name	Performance
The Council abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by the Department for Environment and Water to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2021-22

**Executive employment in the agency**

Executive classification	Number of executives
N/A	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/parks-and-wilderness-council-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 Parks and Wilderness Council is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2021-22.

The costs associated with the administration of the Council are met from within existing DEW resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with the Cabinet approved Remuneration Framework.

### 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

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
N/A	N/A	\$0

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

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
N/A	N/A	\$0
	Total	\$0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/parks-and-wilderness-council-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

<b>Contractors</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
N/A	N/A	\$0

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

<b>Contractors</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
N/A	N/A	\$0
	Total	\$0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/parks-and-wilderness-council-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 information**

Nil to report

## Risk management

### Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
There were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Parks and Wilderness Council during this reporting period	0

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

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the Department for Environment and Water Annual Report 2021-22

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/parks-and-wilderness-council-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/parks-and-wilderness-council-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**

There are no specific reporting requirements required under any other Act or Regulation for the Parks and Wilderness Council.

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

N/A

## Public complaints

### Number of public complaints reported

No specific complaints have been received by Council.

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2021-22
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	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2021-22
		unreasonable or disadvantages customer	
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 met	0
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>	<b>0</b>

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	0
Number of negative feedback comments	0
Total number of feedback comments	0
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/parks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data>

**Service Improvements**

No complaints have been received or acted upon

**Compliance Statement**

Parks and Wilderness Council is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Y
Parks and Wilderness Council has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency’s related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	Y

## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2021-22**

Financial services are provided to the Parks and Wilderness Council by the Department for Environment and Water. Finances are audited annually as part of the Department's financial statements.

Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the [Department for Environment and Water website](#).