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15 Nov 2023



**Government
of South Australia**

Parks and Wilderness Council 2022-23 Annual Report

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2022-23 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 *Public Sector Act 2009*, the Public Sector Regulations 2019, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, section 19D 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:

Vicki-Jo Russell

Presiding Member

Date 28 September 2023 Signature 

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Overview: about the agency

Agency purpose or role

The Parks and Wilderness Council provides strategic policy advice to the Minister for Environment and Water and advocacy for issues that improve environmental, social and economic opportunities for the State's parks and wildlife.

Objectives

The functions of the Parks and Wilderness Council are to provide advice to the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*
- *Marine Parks Act 2007*
- *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*

Our organisational structure

The Parks and Wilderness Council was established on 15 January 2023, pursuant to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and consists of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and 8 other members appointed by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

Changes to the agency

During 2022-2023 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 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 SA 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 Michael Williams in his role as Director National Parks and Wildlife SA is the ex-officio member of the Parks and Wilderness Council.

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 2022-2023 the Parks and Wilderness Council provided strategic policy advice to the Minister for Environment and Water and advocacy for issues that 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"> a) Planning in relation to the management of reserves b) The conservation of wildlife c) Funding (including matters relating to sponsorship) and the development and marketing of commercial activities d) Community participation in the management of reserves and the conservation of wildlife e) The development of policy f) Existing or proposed national or international agreements relating to the conservation of animals, plants and ecosystems g) The promotion (including public education) of the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources 	<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 kept itself informed about key government priorities and commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination of the Flinders Ranges for World Heritage status • Ediacara Fossil Experience, Nilpena Ediacara National Park • Current review of marine park boundaries and management plans, and 10 year review of marine park network • New Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary management plan • Assessing an area for wilderness values • Invigorating the National Parks and Wildlife Service
<p>The management of parks and wilderness protection areas</p>	<p>Support the development and review of park management plans. The Council's specific roles and responsibilities in relation to the development and review of management plans are described in legislation.</p>	<p>During 2022-23 the Council kept itself informed about the Department's key park management planning projects. The Council considered, and provided advice on, the Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park and Yorke Peninsula Parks Draft Management Plan and the draft Murray River National Park Management Plan.</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 that 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. 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 has not undertaken any assessments in this financial year. The Council oversaw the update of the Wilderness Inventory in 2022/23 and the updated document will be utilised for future wilderness assessments and other protected area establishment considerations.</p>
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Corporate performance summary

Council met twice in the last 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 2022-2023 reports on the Department’s employment opportunity programs.

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
Reviews of terms of reference every 12 months.	The New Council established a Terms of Reference at its inaugural meeting on 1 May 2023 and will review this document at its meeting in May 2024.
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.	In 2022-23 the Council met once as there was a short hiatus of the Council while some memberships were renewed and some new members appointed.
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 2022-23.

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
N/A	0

Data for previous years is available at: [Parks and Wilderness Council Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au/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 2022-23.

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: [Parks and Wilderness Council Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au/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

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

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

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

Data for previous years is available at: [Parks and Wilderness Council Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au/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 2018-19.

Data for previous years is available at: [Parks and Wilderness Council Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](#)

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: [Parks and Wilderness Council Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](#)

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 2022-23
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

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2022-23
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 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
		Total	0

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: [Parks and Wilderness Council Annual Report Data - Dataset - data.sa.gov.au](https://data.sa.gov.au/dataset/parks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data)

Service Improvements

No complaints have been received or acted upon
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Appendix: Audited financial statements 2022-23

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.