

South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council

Annual Report

2010-11

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

08 November 2011

Department of
Environment and
Natural Resources



Government
of South Australia

National Parks and Wildlife Council (under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*) Annual Report 2010-11

September 2011

Presented to Parliament by Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation, pursuant to section 19D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Prepared by:

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**Government
of South Australia**



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27 September 2011

Hon Paul Caica MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
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Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Section 19D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, I have the pleasure in presenting the annual report of the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Tony Fleming
**PRESIDING MEMBER
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE COUNCIL**

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Abbreviations

The Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>
Council	South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council
DENR	South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NRM	Natural Resources Management
NSL	<i>No Species Loss – a Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia 2007-2017</i>

Protecting South Australia's environment

The National Parks and Wildlife Council (Council) is South Australia's peak advisory body on the management of the State's parks and wildlife.

The Council is responsible for advising the Minister for Environment and Conservation and DENR on all aspects of protected area and wildlife management, including:

- Planning in relation to the management of reserves and wildlife conservation;
- Promotion of reserves and community participation; and
- Developing protected area policy.

The South Australian protected area system covers approximately 22% of South Australia and forms part of the National Reserve System. The Council is committed to providing leadership through advising on the development of policies for South Australia's protected areas.

This report highlights the activities of Council for the year ending 30 June 2011.

Membership as at 30 June 2011

Presiding Member:

Dr Anthony Fleming 15(4)(a): qualifications or experience in the conservation of animals, plants and ecosystems

Members:

Ms Vicki-Jo Russell AM 15(4)(b): selected by the Minister from a panel of two men and two women nominated by the Conservation Council of South Australia Incorporated

Mr Bill McIntosh AM 15(4)(c): Qualifications or experience in the management of natural resources

Mr Richard Mills 15(4)(d): Qualifications or experience in organising community involvement in the conservation of animals, plants or other natural resources

Prof Suzanne Miller ** 15(4)(e): qualifications or experience in a field of science that is relevant to the conservation of ecosystems and to the relationship of wildlife with its environment

Ms Mille Nicholls * 15 (4)(f)(ii): Nominee with qualification or experience in business management

Ms Pauline Carr 15(4)(f)(iii): Nominee with qualifications or experience in finance management

Ms Joanne Podoliak *** 15(4)(f)(i): Nominee with qualifications or experience in ecologically based tourism

Mr Greg Leaman 15(3): Director of National Parks and Wildlife

* Ms Nicholls retired from the Council in April 2011 and the Council wishes to thank Ms Nicholls for her significant commitment and contribution to the Council for the past six years.

** Prof Suzanne Miller was appointed to the Council on 7 October 2010.

*** Ms Joanne Podoliak was appointed to the Council on 30 June 2011.

Council held five meetings during 2010-11. Attendance at these meetings was as follows:

Member	78 22 September 2010	79 14 October 2010 *	80 17 December 2010	81 21 February 2011	82 27 June 2011
Dr Anthony Fleming	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Ms Vicki-Jo Russell AM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Ms Mourilyan Nicholls	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Mr Richard Mills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Bill McIntosh	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Ms Pauline Carr	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Prof Suzanne Miller	N/A	✗	✓	✓	✓
Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Mr Greg Leaman)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Regional Meeting held in Ceduna

The Year in Review

The South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council provides advice to the Minister on a broad range of protected area and wildlife management issues. Over the past year, Council concentrated on four strategic priorities. These priorities cut across four themes:

- Community engagement;
- Landscape scale conservation;
- NatureLinks and partnerships; and
- Climate change.

Strategic Priorities	Actions in 2010-11
<p>People and Parks</p> <p>People and Parks, South Australia's Visitor Strategy, will provide strategic direction for innovative and sustainable recreation and tourism in parks.</p> <p><u>Council's Role:</u></p> <p>To provide strategic input to the development of the Strategy and to monitor community engagement outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council provided input to discussions on issues raised as part of the development of the Visitor Strategy. • Council provided detailed comment on the draft Strategy and feedback to the Minister on the benefits of promoting South Australia's parks and reserves, including encouraging environmental stewardship, balancing conservation outcomes with recreation activities and engaging children with parks at a young age. • Council discussed the Strategy with the Minister at their September 2010 meeting. • Council will play a key on-going monitoring role once the Strategy has been released.
<p>Protected Areas on Private Land</p> <p>The Protected Areas on Private Land (PAPL) Framework will provide legislative and policy mechanisms for establishing and managing protected areas on private lands.</p> <p><u>Council's Role:</u></p> <p>To provide advice to the Minister during the development phase of the discussion paper and to provide advice on the development of the legislative and policy framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council provided detailed advice to the Minister and the Department on the development of the PAPL Discussion Paper. • Council provided advice to the Minister on the issues raised during public consultation. • Council requested to review the public submissions from the consultation process to provide advice to the Minister. • Council was consulted on the development of the legislative and policy framework for protected areas on private land. • Council highlighted the importance of developing a contemporary framework for protected private land.
<p>Protected Area Strategy</p> <p>South Australia's Protected Area Strategy will provide strategic direction and priorities for establishing protected areas on public, private and Aboriginal land.</p> <p><u>Council's Role:</u></p> <p>To provide advice to the Minister on the draft Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council provided preliminary advice on the scope of the Strategy. • Council strongly supported the targeted approach to consultation. • A focus of Council's advice was ensuring the Strategy considered adaptation to Climate Change and that it linked with State and National protected area policies. • Council will provide advice on the implementation of the Strategy over the next financial year.
<p>Prioritising Biodiversity Outcomes</p> <p>There is a need to prioritise biodiversity conservation strategies based on the No Species Loss Strategy and other State and National initiatives.</p> <p><u>Council's role:</u></p> <p>To provide policy advice to assist the prioritising of biodiversity conservation outcomes and to identify partnership opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council discussed current NRM reform initiatives and highlighted the need for a consistent approach to biodiversity strategies in the State. • Council identified the need to further develop partnership opportunities to assist with delivery of the NatureLinks program.

Providing Advice and Monitoring Activities

Minister for Environment and Conservation

In addition to its written advice, Council discussed its strategic priorities with the Minister at its September 2010 meeting.

Priorities highlighted in the discussion were the Visitor Strategy and the proposed Protected Areas on Private Land framework.

Peak Environmental Bodies Forum

Following discussion with the Minister it was proposed to hold a forum for peak environmental bodies to network and discuss strategic directions and possible synergies. The Council is planning to host the forum in 2012.

Open Hunting Season

In December 2010 the Council provided advice to the Minister on the proposed Open Hunting Season.

Council received detailed information from DENR on the proposed hunting season and, whilst supporting an open hunting season, recommended a restricted bag limit to provide an opportunity for ducks to re-establish populations following prolonged drought.

Council also recommended further research to confirm that quail habitat condition is a suitable proxy for quail numbers, and that waterfowl identification tests are regularly updated.

Reserve Management Plans

South Australia has over 300 national parks, conservation parks, regional reserves, game reserves and recreation parks. Reviewing the park management plans that set the management policy direction and framework for these parks is one of the Council's main items of business.

During 2010-11, Council endorsed the following reserve management plans:

- Mamungari Conservation Park
- Lake St Clair Conservation Park
- Danggali Wilderness Protection Area and Conservation Park
- Reserves of the Billiatt District.

The Council was also closely consulted on the development of the Reserves of the Yellabinna Region Management Plan.

Regional Meeting

In October 2010 the Council held its 79th Meeting in Ceduna on the Eyre Peninsula.

Members visited the Yellabinna Regional Reserve and were invited by Iluka to tour the Jacinth-Ambrosia mine, where the Council saw first hand the research being undertaken into rehabilitation techniques. This was a valuable experience for members.

The Council also met with local Traditional Owners and discussed protecting cultural areas and incorporating cultural awareness into the Reserves of the Yellabinna Region Management Plan.

Council also met with regional DENR and NRM staff, who provided an update on the *East meets West* NatureLinks project, which has developed a range of successful partnerships across the Eyre Peninsula.

Reconciliation Statement

The Council acknowledges the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands it met during 2010-11 and respects their spiritual relationship with country.

Appendix 1

Role of the Council

The Council is South Australia's peak advisory body on management of parks and wildlife. It was established in 1996 under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* to provide advice to the Minister for Environment and Conservation. DENR provides support to the Council to carry out this role.

Section 19C of the Act describes the functions of the Council.

19C (1) The functions of the Council are:

- (a) to provide advice to the Minister at the Minister's request or on its own initiative on any matter relating to the administration of this Act; and
- (b) such other functions as are set out in this Act.

19C (2) Without limiting subsection (1)(a), Council may advise the Minister on the following matters relating to the administration of this Act:

- (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;
- (h) the Council's assessment of the performance of the department in administering this Act;
- (i) any other matter referred to the Council by the Minister or on which the Council believes it should advise the Minister.

While Council has no powers under the Act, it has community-based representation, a wide ranging brief, and provides independent, expert advice to the Minister.

Membership

Council is made up of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister. The eighth member of the Council is the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, who is not entitled to vote at Council meetings. Each of the appointed members of the Council is a person who, in the opinion of the Minister, meets the standards stipulated by section 15 (4) of the Act for the appointment of members:

- (a) one must have qualifications or experience in the conservation of animals, plants and ecosystems;
- (b) another must be a person selected by the Minister from a panel of two men and two women nominated by the Conservation Council of South Australia Incorporated;
- (c) another must have qualifications or experience in the management of natural resources;
- (d) another must have qualifications or experience in organising community involvement in the conservation of animals, plants or other natural resources;
- (e) another must have qualifications or experience in a field of science that is relevant to the conservation of ecosystems and to the relationship of wildlife with its environment;
- (f) each of the remaining two must have qualifications or experience in at least one of the following:
 - (i) ecologically based tourism; or
 - (ii) business management; or
 - (iii) financial management; or
 - (iv) marketing, being an area in which the other does not have qualifications or experience.

Each of the appointed members must be a person who has, in the opinion of the Minister, a commitment to the conservation of animals, plants and other natural resources. One of the appointed members of the Council will be appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Minister, to be the Presiding Member of the Council.

Management of Human Resources

Council members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Minister:

- Chair: \$221 per four-hour session.
- Member: \$177 per four-hour session.

Staffing

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Council from existing DENR resources. The Executive Officer for the Council was Ms Farlie Taylor.

Disability Action Plans

Members of the Council are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Equal Opportunity Programs

The Council is serviced by staff of DENR. Members are aware of and abide by the equal opportunity policies and programs of DENR. Reporting on this matter may be viewed in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (OHS&W)

There were no incidents reported by the Council during the reporting period.

As a user of DENR facilities and equipment, Council is aware of and abides by DENR's OHS&W policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Use of Consultants

The Council did not engage any consultants in the reporting period.

Financial Performance

Financial Performance of the Committee

The Council is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. As such, reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Account Payment Performance

DENR provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Council. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Contractual Arrangements

The Council did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million in value during the reporting period.

Other Reporting

Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

The Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Overseas Travel

It is declared that no member of the Council has travelled overseas on the business of the Council during the reporting period.

Fraud

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Council.

Financial services are provided to the Council by DENR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

As a DENR administered entity, Council participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DENR Freedom of Information statement. Reporting on this matter is available on the DENR internet site. Please visit <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au> to view the FOI Statement.

Regional Impact Assessment Statement

The Council undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2010-11.

Other Reporting con't

Urban Design Charter

No events occurred in 2010-11 that required the Council to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

Asbestos Management in Government Buildings

The Council does not own any non-residential buildings and therefore is not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

Greening of Government (GoGo) Framework

The Council uses the facilities and services of the staff of DENR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DENR Annual Report 2010-11.

Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the SA National Parks and Wildlife Council to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2010 - 2011 financial year.

Acknowledgments

The Council appreciates the support and encouragement it received over the past year from the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon Paul Caica MP.

The Council records its appreciation for the assistance provided by senior DENR staff, including the Chief Executive, Mr Allan Holmes, and Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Mr Greg Leaman. Council also records its appreciation to the Executive Officer, Ms Farlie Taylor.