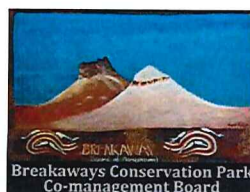


Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board

Annual Report

2014–15



Annual Report of the Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board 2014-15

29 September 2015

Copies of this report can be obtained from:

Telephone +61 499982999

Email choad@cpccouncil.sa.gov.au

Presented to Parliament by Hon Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Sustainability Environment and Conservation,
pursuant to section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*

For further information please contact:

District Council of Coober Pedy

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ISSN 2203-9791

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29 September 2015

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Parliament House
North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Public Sector Act 2009*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board for the year ended 30 June 2015.

For further information on this matter please contact Ms Chevahn Hoad, Executive Officer, Breakaways Co-management Board, on telephone 0499 982 999 or via email, choad@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au



Ian Crombie
Chairperson
Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board

A unique partnership

First proclaimed in 2013, the Breakaways Conservation Park (Park) forms part of the traditional country of the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people. It has cultural significance to the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara through past and current use.

The District Council of Coober Pedy (DCCP), the State Government and Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara (AMY) share a common vision for the park. The area has long been protected as a regional reserve and managed by the local council. The Breakaways Reserve was dedicated as a reserve under the *Crown Lands Act 1929 (SA) (CLA)* for Natural Features by Gazette dated 24 June 2001. The DCCP has had the care, control and management of the Reserve since 12 September 1991. The first co-management agreement between a traditional owner group, a local council and the state government was signed in December 2011. The Co-management model provides the framework for Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people, Coober Pedy community and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to share responsibility for the park. The Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board was created in 2013.

The Park is an Aboriginal owned, co-managed Conservation Park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (SA) (NPWA)*. The Co-Management Agreement (CMA) provides for use of the land by the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people in such a way that their cultural, economic, social and environmental aspirations are enhanced in a manner consistent with the management objectives of the Land.

It is the second Aboriginal owned conservation park after Mamungari Conservation Park. It is owned by Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC). What also makes this partnership unique is park management being delivered in a cooperative arrangement with the local council, District Council of Coober Pedy.

The Board and the manner in which the park is operated seeks to make a significant contribution towards the reconciliation of Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people.

The Board acknowledge the principles within the CMA to

- Ensure the continued **enjoyment** of the Park by the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people for **cultural, spiritual and traditional uses**;
- Ensure the continued **enjoyment** of the Park by members of the public in a manner consistent with the CMA;
- Ensure the **preservation** and **protection** of Aboriginal sites, features, objects and structures of **spiritual** or **cultural significance** on the Park and
- Provide **protection** for the **natural resources**, wildlife, vegetation and other features of the Park.

This is the second Annual Report of the Board and covers the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. It is prepared to fulfil requirements of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, Regulation 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Breakaways Conservation Park) Regulations 2013* (the Regulations) and the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

Links between the Board and the SA Strategic Plan

In pursuing its operations and initiatives, the Board contributed to the following targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan:

Target 28: Aboriginal leadership; increase the number of Aboriginal South Australians participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs.

Target 53: Aboriginal employees; increase the participation of Aboriginal people in the South Australian public sector.

Target 69: Lose no species; lose no native species as a result of human impacts.

The Board in developing a park management plan seeks to align with the regional natural resource management plans of the South Australian Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Boards.

Strategic priorities and achievements for 2014-15

Management Plan – Breakaways Conservation Park

The Co-management Agreement provides for the development of a management plan for the park in partnership with the Board. In May 2015 the Kanku – Breakaways Conservation Park Draft Management Plan was released for public consultation.

Information and consultation sessions along with representation at local events around Coober Pedy enabled the plan to be promoted and feedback to be gathered.

In support of the management plan a number of supporting plans are being developed by the board including a Visitor Experience Strategy and an Infrastructure Master Plan.

Park Management

Park management activities have included improvements to signage, closer monitoring and management of roads in particular preventing vehicle access into sensitive areas and initiation of monitoring of local animal populations.

The roads within the Breakaways Conservation Park are particularly susceptible to major rain events. Over the year the park roads were closed for a total of 27 days, due to safety or weather related damage to roads of which 60% of the days were within peak tourist season. Improvement works on the roads over the coming year should assist in reducing the need to close the roads.

Providing richer visitor experiences

The park has been actively promoted over the last year as both a park for visitors and locals. The links to the South Australian Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara natural resources management regions were also promoted through a combined stall at the Coober Pedy Opal Festival.

Park information and promotion within the local visitor centre has improved the number of vehicle entry permits sold. The fees for vehicle entry permits were also updated to bring them into line with other parks within South Australia.

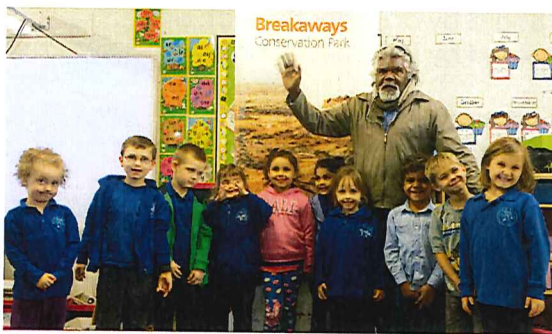
The Park is now listed on the National Parks website and a park brochure is being drafted. A draft brochure on the park has been made available for people purchasing a visitor entry permit.

The Infrastructure Master Plan the Board have endorsed will lead to future infrastructure within the park giving visitors a positive and memorable experience.

Working with neighbours and the Community

The Board is committed to working with neighbouring landholders to achieve shared management objectives. In addition, the board and park staff are taking every opportunity to work with the community to promote connection to country and significance of the Breakaways Conservation Park.

The Board has joined with SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara to promote various aspects of the region. Board members and staff have attended the school to gather feedback on the draft management plan and help educate the students on the park and its significance.



Coober Pedy Area School session



Opal Festival display

An event, supported by the Board and run through the Breakaways Conservation Park, "The Great Breakaways Marathon" has been selected as a finalist (in the top 3) for the Festival and Events Award sponsored by Programmed, within the Far North region, in the 2015 Regional Awards Program.

Park staff attended a Far North Regional Development Board Economic Forum in Coober Pedy to promote the park and talk about how it could assist economic development in the region. Park staff also ran stalls at the Great Breakaways Marathon and the Coober Pedy Opal Festival as well as having an historical display at the Coober Pedy Historical Society reunion day on Easter Sunday all of which was well received.

The Board had also pledged their support to a NAIDOC Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony to be held in the Breakaways Conservation Park on 11 July 2015.

Managing the Park for success

Co-management of the Park is a partnership where the AMY people work together with the DCCP and DEWNR to share decision-making and responsibility for the management of the Park. This unique situation allows the management of the park to support the cultural values of the AMY people and the tourism and environmental values of the wider community.

The DCCP has continued to provide park infrastructure support including regular grading of roads and installation (where necessary) of physical barriers to prevent damage to sensitive areas.

Day to day management of the park is now moving from making infrastructure safe and consistent to focussing on the future visitor experience.

Promoting Co-management

The Board continues to maintain an active role in promoting the park and co-management. The Board through AMYAC members or the Executive Officer also provides presentations and updates at AMY Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) meetings.

In November 2014 Board member Maureen Williams and Deputy Board Member Stephen Staines attended a Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources Co-management Conference to provide feedback on their experiences with co-management.

Functions of the Co-management Board

The functions and powers of the Board are set out in Regulation 9 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Breakaways Conservation Park) Regulations 2013* as follows:

- 1) The functions of the Board are —
 - (a) to carry out the functions assigned to the Board by or under the Act; and
 - (b) to carry out the functions assigned to the Board by the co-management agreement; and
 - (c) to carry out other functions assigned to the Board by the Minister.
- (2) The Board has the power to do anything necessary, expedient or incidental to the performance of its functions.
- (3) Without limiting the generality of subregulation (2), the Board may enter into any form of contract, agreement or arrangement.
- (4) The Board must perform its functions, and exercise its powers, in a manner that is consistent with the co-management agreement.

Regulation 10 (1) of the Regulations states that 5 members (of whom at least 3 must be Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people, at least 1 must be a member appointed under regulation 5(1)(b) and 1 must be the member appointed under regulation 5(1)(c)) constitute a quorum of the Board. This requirement was met at each Board meeting.

Members

Under Regulation 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Breakaways Conservation Park) Regulations 2013*, (1) Subject to subregulation (2), the Board consists of 7 members appointed by the Minister of whom—

- (a) 4 must be Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people appointed on the nomination of AMYAC; and
 - (b) 2 must be persons nominated by the District Council of Coober Pedy; and
 - (c) 1 must be an officer of the Department.
- (2) If AMYAC refuses or fails to nominate a Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara person in relation to a particular office under subregulation (1)(a), the Minister may appoint a suitable Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara person to fill the office.
- (3) The Minister may appoint a person to be a deputy of a member appointed under subregulation (1) and a person so appointed may act as a member of the Board in the absence of the member.
- (4) A requirement or qualification specified by this regulation in relation to an appointment of a member extends to an appointment of a deputy of that member.

The full membership of the Co-management Board as at 30 June 2015 was as follows:

Chairperson

Mr Ian Christopher Crombie (5)(a): nominated by AMYAC

Deputy Chairperson

Mr Michael John Maylin (5)(b): nominated by DCCP

Members

Ms Maureen Williams (5)(a): nominated by AMYAC

Ms Julie O'Toole (5)(a): nominated by AMYAC

Mr Barney Francis Lennon Jnr (5)(a): nominated by AMYAC

Ms Rose-Marie Suzanne Berry (5)(b): nominated by DCCP

Dr Matthew James Ward (5)(c): officer of the Department (Regional Manager
Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara Region, DEWNR)

Deputy Members

Mr Kevin Dennis O'Toole Deputy to Mr Crombie

Mr David Bowman Deputy to Mr Maylin

Mr Michael Brown Deputy to Mr Lennon Jnr

Ms Maisie Wintinna Deputy to Ms Williams

Ms Jane Fatima Khan Deputy to Ms O'Toole

Mr Stephen Harley Staines Deputy to Ms Berry

Mr Grant Anthony Pelton Deputy to Dr Ward

The appointments are staggered to be for a one or two year period.

The gender balance of the Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed.

During the reporting period membership of the Board was made up of four (4) males and three (3) females plus five (5) male deputy members and two (2) female deputy members.

Meetings

The Board held four meetings.

- 16 and 17 September 2014: Coober Pedy
- 3 December 2014: Coober Pedy
- 7 April 2015: Coober Pedy
- 25 June 2015: Coober Pedy

Attendance at Meetings

Member	16 and 17 September 2014	3 December 2014	7 April 2015	25 June 2015
Mr Ian Crombie	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mr Mike Maylin	N*	Y	Y	N*
Ms Maureen Williams	Y	Y	N	Y
Ms Julie O'Toole	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mr Barney Lennon Jnr	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ms Rose Berry	Y	N	Y	Y
Mr Matthew Ward	Y	Y	Y	Y

* Deputy Member attended for Member

Regulatory Reporting

The following information addresses annual reporting requirements established under Regulation 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Breakaways Conservation Park) Regulations 2013*.

(a) information relating to traditional hunting activities in the Park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*;

There has been no traditional hunting within the park.

(b) information relating to the effect of traditional hunting activities in the Park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* on native plants and protected animals, or the eggs of protected animals (and in particular those species that are scheduled as rare, endangered or vulnerable under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*);

There has been no traditional hunting within the park.

(c) information relating to the operations and work programs undertaken by or on behalf of the Board;

The work plan for the park has included significant signage updates and also road management changes. The park has been actively promoted within the region.

DCCP staff reported to the board regarding park management activities at each meeting. Visitor numbers, permit information including commercial photography and filming, grading, road closures, storm damage and corrective action and sign installation were reported.

(d) information relating to Park infrastructure;

Park infrastructure is managed by DCCP and reported on at Board meetings. There is very little infrastructure currently at the park. Park signage has been improved to increase visitor safety. Signage has been developed through collaboration with DEWNR Business and Asset Services in order to meet the requirements of the CMA regarding signage that is consistent with other DEWNR parks.

Signage has been targeted at areas the Board felt were the most important and included preventing camping and off road driving.

(e) any other information required by the Minister.

No additional information was required by the Minister during this reporting period.

Human Resource Matters

Staffing

The Board has no staff of its own. Ms Chevahn Hoad, from DCCP provides executive support to the Board. Mr Joel Kowald is Natural Resource Officer for the Breakaways Conservation Park and employed by DCCP.

In accordance with the CMA, staff employed to work on the park have been given reasonable access to training and development.

Training undertaken this year includes:

- First aid and CPR Update training
- Snake Awareness Training
- Traffic Management training
- Warden Training
- Chemical Certification and weed spraying

Workforce Diversity

The members of the Board are aware of and abide by their obligations under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the State *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plans

The Board has no staff of its own and is serviced by staff of DCCP. Members are aware of and abide by the equal opportunity policies and programs of DCCP.

Work Health and Safety

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

As a user of DCCP facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of and abides by DCCP's Work Health and Safety policies.

During the reporting period DCCP Staff operating in the Park undertook First Aid training.

Use of Consultants

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

Financial Performance

DCCP administers the budget for the Breakaways Conservation Park on behalf of the Board and provides a quarterly financial report at each meeting. Expenditure has been maintained within the budget allocation. See attachment 2 for audited financial statements.

Finance

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met through a funding agreement with DCCP. Some administration and support is provided by DEWNR. Members are paid sitting fees in accordance with the recommendation from the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Session fees are:

Chair: \$221 per four hour session

Members: \$177 per four hour session

Travel and accommodation expenses are in accordance with DPC Circular PC016 – Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-Time Boards and Committees.

Account Payment Performance

DCCP provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Board.

Contractual Arrangements

The Board did not enter any contractual arrangements during the reporting period.

Other Reporting Items

Public Complaints

No formal complaints were made regarding the Board or the Park during 2014-15. Minor community comments regarding rubbish left in the park by visitors and people driving off road has been addressed by the park staff through improved signage and will continue to be monitored

Overseas Travel

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

Fraud

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

Financial services are provided to the Board by DCCP. Please visit www.cooberpedy.sa.gov.au to view the DCCP Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy.

Regional Impact Assessment Statement

The Board undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2014-15.

Freedom of Information

As a DCCP administered entity, the Board participates and abides by the arrangements outlined in the DCCP Freedom of Information regime. Reporting on this matter will be made in the DCCP annual report.

Urban Design Charter

No events occurred in 2014-15 that required the Board to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

Reconciliation Statement

The Board would like to acknowledge that the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people.

In fulfilling its functions, the Board is aware of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

Acknowledgements

The Board is working collaboratively and advancing partnership arrangements between DCCP, AMYAC, Umoona Council, DEWNR, the Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara and the Coober Pedy community to achieve shared objectives for future conservation management in Breakaways Conservation Park. We appreciate the contribution the wider community and stakeholders have made to the management of the park and the activities of the board.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Breakaways Conservation Park Location Map

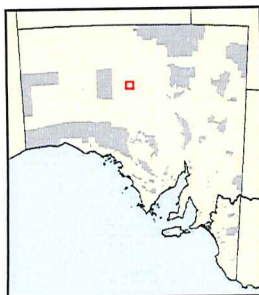
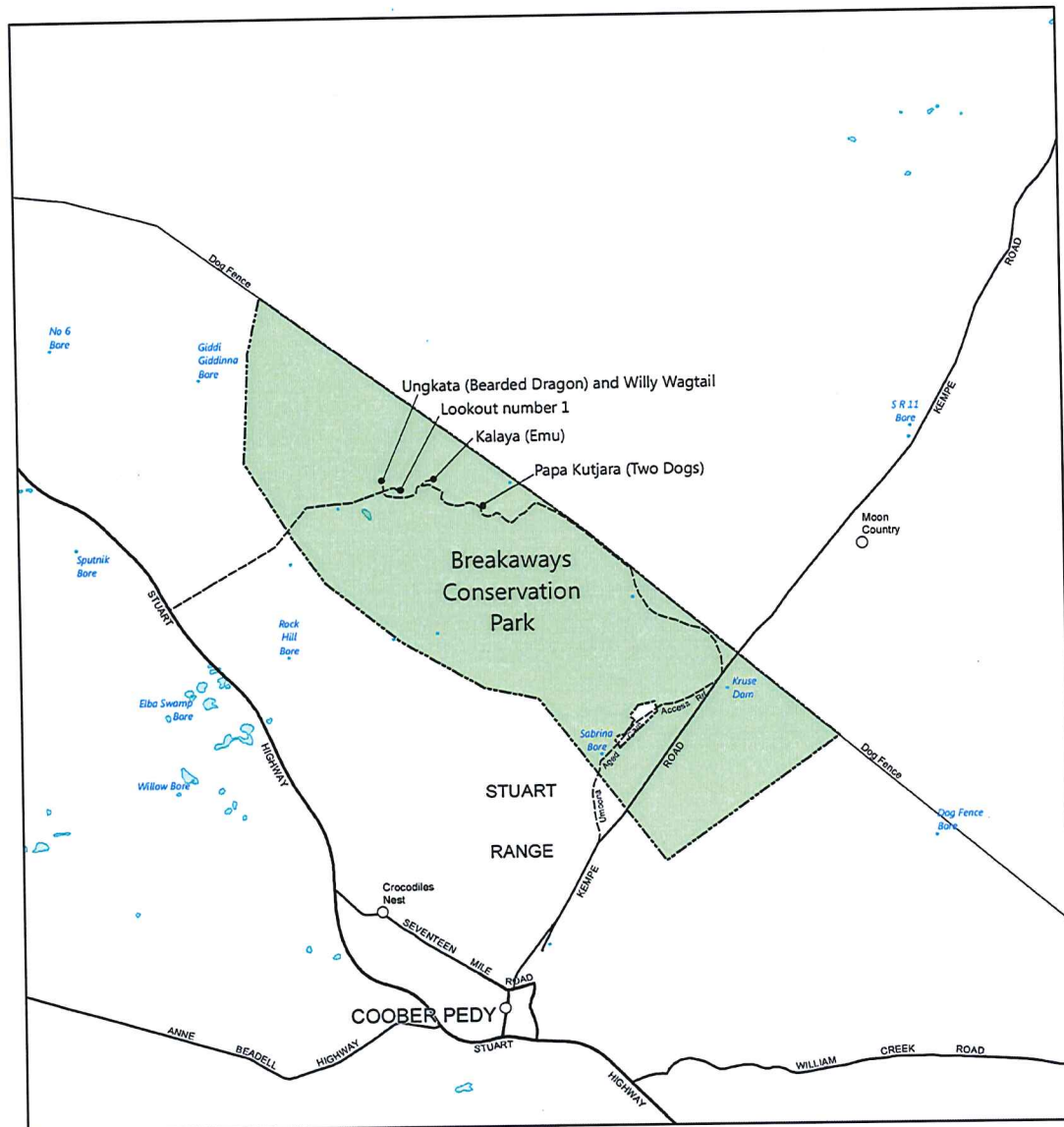
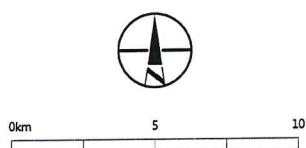


Figure 1
Breakaways Conservation Park



LEGEND

- Bore, Spring, or Water Tank
- ☪ Lake
- Sealed Road
- - - Vehicular Track
- Dog Fence
- █ Breakaways Conservation Park

Attachment 2 Audited Financial Statements

Bentleys (SA) Partnership

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Adelaide SA 5000

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Adelaide SA 5001

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the District Council of Coober Pedy and the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying Financial Report, the District Council of Coober Pedy in respect to the Breakaways Co-Management funding agreement for the year ended 30 June 2015. The financial report has been prepared by management based on the expenditure of funds provided by the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources.

Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the requirements of the funding agreement with the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources (the Funding Agreement).

The council is also responsible for ensuring that the entity complies with all of the procedures and requirements contained in the Funding Agreement, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of District Council of Coober Pedy for the year ended 30 June 2015 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirement of the Funding Agreement with the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources.

Basis of accounting and restriction of distribution and use

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that the financial report is prepared to assist District Council of Coober Pedy to meet the requirements of the Funding Agreement. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than District Council of Coober Pedy or the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Bentleys (SA) Partnership



DAVID PAPA
PARTNER

Dated at Adelaide this 16th day of October 2015

District Council of Coober Pedy

Breakaways Co-Management Board
2014/2015

	Full Year Budget	Actuals calculated
Revenue		
Breakaways Grant		-202,508
Park Fees - Film/Tv/Media		0
Breakaways Pass Income		-8,159
Breakaways Conservation Park Filming Site Fees		0
Breakaways Conservation Park Cultural Heritage Guide Fees		0
Breakaways Conservation Park Filming Bond		0
Total Revenue		-210,667
Expenditure		
Board Support		
Administration	130,408	158,121
Wages	87,680	89,850
On-Costs	15,525	11,992
Training	2,000	13,553
Recruitment	-	610
Vehicle	10,500	11,157
Travel & Accommodation	4,863	4,128
Office & Equipment	1,560	13,272
Accounting & Finance	8,280	8,280
DEWNR		-613
Depreciation Expense (vehicle)		5,892
Board	27,400	34,900
Fees	10,000	13,361
Administration	3,000	2,789
Marketing	2,000	4,259
Travel and accommodation	12,400	14,490
Other Board Costs		0
Total Expenses Fixed	\$ 157,808	\$ 193,021
Works Program		
Maintenance		
General Park & On ground	20,700	17,521
Capital		
Visitor man plan and park infrastructure	18,000	2,451
Management Plan	-	0
Signage Installation	6,000	9,511
Total Works Program	\$ 44,700	29,484
Total	\$ 202,508	222,505

Operating surplus less capital expenditure 2013/14 \$ 36,810

Total Grant, visitor fees and operating surplus 2014/15		247,477
Total Expenses		222,505
Total surplus less capital expenditure		24,972

Notes

Opening event expenditure in 2013/14 - DCCP has still not been invoiced for opening event costs although were expecting the invoice during 2013/14 financial year \$25,000 has been assumed will go to that from 2013/14 financial year

Sitting fees for 13/14 back pay removed from 14/15 report as already included in 13/14 report and calculation of 13/14 operating surplus.

