

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
LAID ON THE TABLE**

15 Nov 2016

# **Gawler Ranges National Park**

## **Advisory Committee**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee  
Annual Report 2015-16

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## 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 the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 19(L) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, I am pleased to present the annual report of the Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Clark'.

Mr Jonathan Clark  
**CHAIR**  
Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee

September 2016

## **PLANS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Gawler Ranges National Park Advisory Committee (the Committee) provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on the following:

1. Training and employment opportunities for Traditional Owners
2. Protection and management of cultural heritage and other cultural issues
3. Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal culture within the Park
4. Exercise of Traditional Rights and access to the Park for Traditional Owners
5. Taking of plants and animals by the Traditional Owners
6. Increased cultural awareness for all Park visitors
7. Access to the Park for the general public.

The Advisory Committee set the following priorities for 2015-16:

1. Publication of the Management Plan
2. Progressing the Interpretation Plan
3. Amalgamation of both the Board and the Advisory Committee into one Board to govern both Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner National Parks
4. Development and implementation of a Cultural Heritage Plan

## **OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

During the reporting period, the Committee made the following progress on the priorities for 2015-16:

1. Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan finalised and endorsed following the February 2016 meeting of the Committee
2. Considerable gathering of information towards progressing the Interpretation Plan
3. Significant progress towards amalgamation to the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board, leading up to and following the amended Management Plan being satisfactorily prepared and adopted by the Minister; as per the key functions of the Committee
4. The Committee has raised the Cultural Heritage Plan to a high priority. Development has been initiated and will be included into the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board and the Committee's work plans for the following year.

## **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

In October 2015, the Co-management Agreement for the park expired and it became necessary for the membership to be reviewed. The Co-management Agreement was negotiated and extended for a further twelve months with the view towards amalgamation. The Minister appointed new membership to the Advisory Committee in November 2015.

Three Committee meetings were held in the 2015-16 financial year.

An On Country workshop with members of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) was held on 23-24 November 2015 in Wudinna. Five GRAC members provided cultural information and advice; and were paid a fee for service.

In October 2015 GRAC changed their legal representation from SA Native Title Services to Norman Waterhouse Lawyers.

### **25 November 2015 – Wudinna**

The following key items were discussed:

- Minutes of the meeting #7 were adopted
- Welcome and formal introductions of new Committee members recently appointed by the Minister. New members informed of their roles, responsibilities and housekeeping matters with an emphasis on conflict of interest.
- Amalgamation of the Board and Committee towards one co-management board set up to manage both Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner National Parks. J Irving explained the process and advised the co-management agreement undergoing approvals process and to be extended for further twelve months. The Committee informed members of the new GRAC nominees for the Advisory Committee
- Strengthening the relationship between the Board and GRAC. The need for clearer communication and decision making. Committee approved the writing of an informal procedure for communication between GRAC and the Advisory Committee. Key decision for Committee to provide GRAC with draft minutes of its meetings.
- DEWNR gave a presentation on the progress of the Interpretation plan for Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner including a description of each of the sites within the park and the progress for each site. Committee decided that the presentation be brought to GRAC Board of Directors for guidance on who and where to obtain information. Key decision for representative from DEWNR to attend and present at the next GRAC meeting.
- Summary of GRAC On Country workshop held on 23-24 November. Overall comments that workshop was productive however noted a difficulty in getting the right people together.
- Cross cultural training for Committee members. Committee discussed to leave it up to GRAC to choose who delivers the training. Decision to seek advice in writing from GRAC regarding appropriate training requirements for this group and detail the work achieved to date.
- Governance, roles, responsibilities of members of Committees and Boards. New Committee members advised of their roles and responsibilities particularly regarding decision making, conflict of interest and confidentiality requirements.

- Update on the Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan. DEWNR will continue to work with the Committee to progress the management plan.
- Annual report of the Committee tabled in Parliament on 27 -28 October 2015.
- Drilling application lodged for drilling within the park for a geological survey, for further consideration.
- Co-management workshop in Adelaide. 2 representatives and a young Aboriginal delegate required to attend with a presentation. Decision that a process is required for putting ideas forward for the presentation.

### **10 February 2016 – Port Lincoln**

The following key items were discussed:

1. Minutes of the Meeting #8 were adopted with few minor changes.
2. Action items discussed.
3. Committee agreed for a list to be prepared with items to be referred to GRAC.
4. The final Gawler Ranges Management plan was presented to the Committee for endorsement. Changes as requested by the GRAC board at its meeting on Friday 5 February 2016 were adopted. Special amendments from members of the Committee were identified and incorporated into the plan. The Committee endorsed the Management Plan for adoption by the Minister, with the inclusion of the special amendments.
5. Cross cultural training for members as required under the co-management agreement. The matter has been extensively discussed over a number of meetings since the Committee was formed. Despite some background work conducted, matter has not progressed to date.
6. Update on the progress of the Interpretation Plans. Committee discussed areas of interest within the park. Request made for Committee to state priorities so they can be followed through.
7. Governance and amalgamation. Focused on the manner which the Committee is run and decision making, with emphasis on the role of the Committee to advise the Minister and Director of National Parks.
8. Co-management workshop scheduled to be held in Adelaide 17-19 February 2016. Committee advised of a request to present briefly about the Committee's achievements, challenges and aspirations. Nominated C Rothwell, M Reid and C Woodford to present on behalf of GRAC.

9. Committee provided with a final copy of the co-management agreement and advised the term of the agreement is for 12 months expiring 11 December 2016, with the view to the amalgamation of the Board.
10. In a previous meeting, the Committee discussed how GRAC members could present cultural stories. Committee decision to include this item on the Agenda for the next meeting.
11. Committee decision to include on each Agenda, the item of GRAC report/feedback on the summary of the Committee meetings that they receive. A report to be provided at each Committee meeting.
12. Committee noted the proposed addition to the Gawler Ranges National Park. Committee presented with the notice pursuant to the Gawler Ranges National Park Indigenous Land Use Agreement; and the area proposed for inclusion within the park.
13. Committee informed of a request for filming within the park. Discussed developing a flowchart for events and permits similar to the flowchart presented within the DEWNR Commercial filming policy.
14. Committee noted the Gawler Ranges National Park Operations Report for February 2016, tabled at the meeting.

Mr Howard Richards resigned from the Committee during the period following the February 2016 meeting and ceased to be a member of the Committee.

Ms Cheryl Rothwell was appointed the Deputy Chair of the Committee during the change of membership.

### **17-18 February 2016 – Adelaide**

A number of Committee members attended the co-management workshop held in Adelaide and presented at the meeting.

### **HUNTING ON PARKS**

Although Traditional hunting is permitted on the Park no hunting activities have occurred in the period.



## **ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)**

The Committee is established under section 19E of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act).

### **OBJECT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1972**

The object of the Act is to provide for the establishment and management of reserves for public benefit and enjoyment; to provide for the conservation of wildlife in a natural environment; and for other purposes.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Act describes the functions of the Committee.

The functions of the Committee are:

- a) set out in the Co-Management Agreement, the NPW Act and the Regulations.
- b) to consult with the Minister with a view to developing a new Management Plan, or an amendment to the existing Management Plan for the Park, incorporating a Cultural Heritage Plan and Traditional Use Zone, to a level where it is suitable for release for public comment.
- c) upon the new or amended Management Plan being satisfactorily prepared and adopted by the Minister, to take the necessary steps to establish a Board for the Park. This will include the negotiation of an ongoing co-management agreement for the Park consistent with clause 14 of the current co-management agreement, and the passing of appropriate regulations pursuant to s43G of the NPW Act.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with section 19F of the Act.

As at 30 June 2016 Committee membership was as follows:

<b>Chairperson</b> Mr Jonathan Clark	<b>Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act</b> (5)(1)(b): officer of the Department (Regional Director, Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula, DEWNR)
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> Ms Cheryl Rothwell	(5)(1)(a): nominated by Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC)

## **Members**

Position Vacant	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Mr Leslie Taylor	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Mrs Helen Smith	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Ms Mia Toscano	(5)(1)(c): nominated by the Minister
Ms Sophie Keen	(5)(1)(b):nominated by the Department (Team Leader, Aboriginal Partnerships, DEWNR)
Mr Peter Copley	(5)(1)(b): nominated by the Department (Senior Ecologist, Threatened Species, DEWNR)

## **Deputy Members**

Mr Tim Hall	(Manager Public Lands, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Jonathan Clark
Mr Brandon McNamara	Deputy to Ms Rothwell
Mr Kevin Smith	Deputy to Mr Taylor
Mr Maxwell Reid	Deputy to Vacant position
Mrs Janice Wingfield	Deputy to Mrs Smith
Ms Yvette Colton	(Senior Policy Officer, River Murray Operations and Trade Policy, Water and Climate Change Branch, DEWNR) Deputy to Ms Toscano
Ms Elizabeth McTaggart	(Senior Community Engagement and Sustainable Landscapes Officer, West Eyre Peninsula, DEWNR) Deputy to Ms Keen
Mr Anthony Freebairn	(Manager Sustainable Landscapes, SA Arid Lands, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Copley

During the reporting period:

- the former Committee Member, Mr Howard Richards resigned.
- the membership of the former Committee Member, Mr Mick Starkey and Deputy Member Mr Bob Starkey was replaced with the expiry of the co-management agreement.

The Committee wish to thank Mr H Richards, Mr M Starkey and Mr B Starkey for their valued contribution to the Committee.

## **MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL**

A total of three general Committee meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year.

An On Country workshop with members of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation was held on 23-24 November 2015 in Wudinna.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	25 Nov 2015	10 Feb 2016	17 Feb 2016 (co-management workshop)	Comments
Mr Jonathan Clark	Y	Y	Y	
Ms Cheryl Rothwell	Y	Y	Y	
Mr Howard Richards	Y	Y		Resigned after Feb 2016 meeting
Mr Leslie Taylor	Y	Y	N	
Mrs Helen Smith	N	Y	N	
Ms Mia Toscano	Y	Y	N	
Ms Sophie Keen	Y	Y	Y	
Mr Peter Copley	Y	Y	N	

Attendance by appointed deputies at meetings:

Member	25 Nov 2015*	10 Feb 2016*	17 Feb 2016 (co-management workshop)	Comments
Mr Tim Hall	Y	N	N	
Mr Brandon McNamara	N	N	N	
Mr Maxwell Reid	N	Y	Y	
Mr Kenneth Smith	N	N	N	
Mrs Janice Wingfield	N	N	N	
Ms Yvette Colton	N	N	N	
Mrs Elizabeth McTaggart	N	N	N	
Mr Anthony Freebairn	N	N	N	

\*Deputies not required at this meeting

## GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Committee by providing an Executive Officer and Executive Assistant for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

## MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

- Chair: \$0
- Member: \$103 each per four hour session

## **EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS**

The Committee has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Committee from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Committee is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Committee (including Delegates) is made up of eight males and seven females.

### **The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2015-16:**

- Workforce Diversity
- Workplace Adaptation
- Executives
- Leave Management
- Performance Development
- Leadership and Management Development
- Employment Opportunity Programs
- Work Health and Safety and Injury Management
- Reporting Against the *Carers Recognition Act 2005*
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plans
- Government Buildings Energy Strategy
- Public Complaints
- Sustainability Reporting
- Financial Performance
- Account Payment Performance.

## **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

## **FRAUD**

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Committee in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Committee by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

## **CONSULTANTS**

The Committee did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

## **OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

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

## **ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

The Committee does not own any buildings and is therefore not required to develop an asbestos risk reduction program.

## **URBAN DESIGN CHARTER**

No events occurred in 2015-16 that required the Committee to consider the principles of urban design contained in the South Australian Urban Design Charter.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS**

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

## **WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993**

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Committee 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 2015-16 financial year.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS**

The Committee did not undertake any Regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2015-16 financial year.

## **RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

The Committee would like to acknowledge the importance of Gawler Ranges National Park being part of the traditional lands of the Gawler Ranges people. It respects their spiritual relationship with country and that their cultural and heritage beliefs still remain important today.

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Committee would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), particularly the staff in the Policy and Planning Section of DEWNR for their work on the management plans; and the staff from the Visual Communications Section of DEWNR for their work on the Interpretation Plans; Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) and Norman Waterhouse Lawyers for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.