

# Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board

## Annual Report

2015-2016



Government  
of South Australia



Natural Resources  
SA Arid Lands

Annual Report of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park  
Co-management Board 2015-16 September 2016

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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

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30 September 2016

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
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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 Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board for the year ended 30 June 2016.

For further information on this matter please contact Mrs Denise McCourt, Senior Executive Officer Co-management, on telephone (08) 86485 348 or via email, [denise.mccourt@sa.gov.au](mailto:denise.mccourt@sa.gov.au).

**John Schutz**  
**Chairperson**  
**Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board**



# A working partnership

First proclaimed in 1945, the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park forms part of the traditional country of the Adnyamathanha people, rich with cultural significance and evidence of their past occupation.

Adnyamathanha and the State Government share a vision for the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park (I-FRNP). The Co-management model provides the framework for the Adnyamathanha people and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to share responsibility for the Park. In 2011, the I-FRNP Co-management Board was established following Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation entering into a formal Co-management Agreement over the Park.

The I-FRNP Co-management Board (the Board) has a challenging agenda - managing the cultural landscape, still known and understood by its Aboriginal traditional owners, in a way that also protects and conserves the Park's outstanding natural and cultural features. The Board seeks to:

**Conserve** its natural and cultural heritage, using both **traditional** and **scientific** knowledge to **better manage** the land

**Respect** the rights, interests and needs of the traditional owners and **create** social development and economic opportunities for Adnyamathanha families and communities

Provide **great experiences** for visitors and position Ikara-Flinders as an iconic, internationally recognised tourism destination.'

This report shows how the Board answered that challenge in 2015-16.

This is the fifth Annual Report of the Board and covers the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. 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 (Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park) Regulations 2011* (the Regulations) and the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

# Strategic priorities and achievements for 2015–16

The Co-management framework meets a number of the State's Strategic Plan Targets, including:

## Aboriginal wellbeing – Target 6

- Reconciliation, Cultural and Traditional Lands
- Number of National Park Co-management Agreements (indicator 19)
- Native title claims resolved (indicator 21)
- Governance and Leadership
- Number of Aboriginal people on government boards and committees (indicator 17)

## Aboriginal lands native title - Target 44

- Resolve 80% of native title claims by 2020.

## Co-naming Celebrations - Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

The iconic Flinders Ranges National Park, located 450 kilometres north of Adelaide, has a new name from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016, with co-naming coming into effect.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter attended the onsite Board meeting and announced that from today, the National Park is known as the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

The area is of geological significance, providing evidence of the early geological history of South Australia. Its dramatic mountains, gorges and tree lined creeks and associated plants and animals, coupled with a rich cultural heritage, makes this park and must see for many visitors. The new name acknowledges the land's Traditional Owners which promotes the areas Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The National Park is part of the traditional country of the Adnyamathanha people and is of special spiritual and cultural significance to them as it contains many important cultural features and stories, plus evidence of previous occupation.

In September 2014, the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association was consulted on a suitable name for the co-naming of the park.

The Traditional Owners advised that the correct name for the park area is 'Ikara' which means 'meeting place', which reflects the Adnyamathanha name for Wilpena Pound."

## Managing the Park for success

Co-management of the Park is a partnership where the Adnyamathanha people work together with the DEWNR to share decision-making and responsibility for the management of the Park.



## Promoting Co-management

### State-wide Co-management Workshop

The second workshop was held in February 2016 to bring together Co-management Boards and Advisory Committees across the State to share co-management experiences. There are now 12 Co-management Agreements, covering two-thirds of the protected area systems in South Australia.

The Workshop identified a number of key issues, challenges and opportunities that will be progressed by both DEWNR and the traditional owners.

The Board continues to maintain an active role in promoting the park and co-management. Adnyamathanha Board members also provide regular presentations and updates at Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS) Congress meetings.

## Training

The non-Adnyamathanha Board members and Parks staff attended Cultural Awareness Training. Community elders provided assistance with delivery of the training, with a focus on Yura Muda and language associated with sites within the I-FRNP.

The Board members undertook governance training on the various aspects of the relevant legislation to build capacity for the members of the Board.



*Cultural Awareness Training*



## Management Plan - Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

The Co-management Agreement provides for the existing management plan (1983 and amended in 1989) to be reviewed and a new draft plan to be prepared in partnership with the Board.

The draft Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Management Plan is the over-arching strategic document for the National Park that will guide future management activities. It sets a vision for the Park and has a strong Adnyamathanha influence in managing cultural and natural heritage values in the Park.

The Board had a key role in developing the Management Plan for the Park and engaging with key partners, including the broader Adnyamathanha community. The draft plan is based on three themes; advancing Adnyamathanha spiritual, cultural and economic relationships with Country; healing the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and sharing the spirit of the Flinders Ranges.

The Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation is currently considering the adoption of the Plan, in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. Once adopted, the park management plan will guide the long term protection of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

The new Management Plan for the Park will allow for a Traditional Use Zone that will ensure Adnyamathanha people can hunt and gather safely in a protected area, where the general public will not be permitted.

The Board has identified the Second Plain Area, located off the Wilkawillina Road as the most suitable location (Pantapinna Plains area).

The Board are now developing an Operational Policy to ensure safe use of the site, and ATLA will be engaged accordingly.

In addition to the responsibilities for the Park, the Board has an advisory role to the Minister with respect to Bimbowrie, Yalpara, Ediacara and Black Rock Conservation Parks.

## Ediacara Conservation Park

The Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources have proclaimed additions to the Ediacara Conservation Park under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. The existing Conservation Park primarily conserves a unique and well preserved assemblage of fossilised Ediacaran soft-bodied marine organisms of international importance, as well as providing protection over places of cultural significance to the Adnyamathanha people.

The inclusion of the additional land has consolidated the boundary of the Conservation Park and take in fossil outcrops, located outside the current boundary of the Park.

## Fire Management Plan - Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Fire management plans are developed to reduce and manage impacts from bushfires on life, property, cultural heritage and environmental values within the planning area by identifying appropriate strategies for their protection. Reserves included in the Northern Flinders Ranges Fire Management Plan, include Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park, Ediacara Conservation Park, Bunkers Conservation Reserve and Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park.

Throughout the planning process, advice was sought and provided by the Board and ATLA. This information has shaped the final plan. Adnyamathanha language is used throughout to describe places, plants and animals. Strategies for the protection of significant cultural values, and Adnyamathanha aspirations for the cultural use of fire are included in the plan.



The plan includes the burning of native vegetation for the purpose of creating long-term habitat for the Short-tailed Grasswren, and to reduce the encroachment of Vinba (Northern Cypress Pine) on the Spinifex Hummock Grasslands used by this species of Grasswren. DEWNR must meet the provisions of the Native Vegetation Regulations 2003 (SA) under the Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA) if intending to modify native vegetation on reserves. The Native Vegetation Council approved the Northern Flinders Ranges Fire Management Plan on 30 December 2015.

In February 2016, the Board considered and endorsed the Northern Flinders Ranges Fire Management Plan.

## Interpretation Plan - Providing richer visitor experiences

The Board are progressing the next version of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Interpretation Plan to ensure a strong Adnyamathanha influence. The Interpretation Plan provides a framework for improving interpretation and cultural information about the Park. Interpretation is designed to enrich visitor experiences, connect the audience to big-picture concepts and make emotional and intellectual connections to the park. There are a wealth of stories to tell in I-FRNP, stories about people and places, flora and fauna.

***Through interpretation, understanding;  
through understanding, appreciation;  
through appreciation, protection.*** Freeman Tilden

The Board recognise and support ongoing opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreational activities including a number of international, national and local events which attract thousands of visitors to the region and contribute to regional tourism.

The Board are developing in partnership a Spirit of Endurance Walking Trail located at the Cazneaux Tree area. The walk will provide visitors with both a pastoral and Adnyamathanha perspective.



## Native species protected and habitat improved through pest management

The Board gave approval for continuation of conservation and a pest management program conducted through Bounceback on I-FRNP.

Moderately good rainfall conditions have occurred in the central Flinders Ranges following the high rainfall summers of 2010-11. Rainfall was below average in 2012, but has been around average since then, mostly as a result of good winter rains. 150 to 200 mm of rain has fallen across the Park in May-June this year. These conditions have resulted in widespread recovery of native fauna, including Andu (Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby) and Echidna across the region, noticeably on Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park where management of grazing pressure and fox baiting programs have been ongoing. Recovery of native vegetation has been variable, with some areas showing good signs of recovery of native shrubs and others still affected by historical heavy grazing by stock and current pressures.

### Feral goat and kangaroo impacts on native vegetation

Ongoing goat control aims to reduce browsing pressure to promote vegetation recovery and improve habitat for Andu and other fauna. Some long-lived perennial species such as Yandana (Corkwood) and Minara (Bullock Bush) are showing good signs of recovery but other perennial species are heavily browsed, present in low numbers or completely gone from some locations.

Assessment of goat damage on palatable plant species occurred in three different areas of the Park in autumn 2016. Results indicate good recovery of some species in the Brachina Gorge area as a result of ongoing goat control, including Ngandyu (Native Honeysuckle), Yandana and Wirpari (Shrubby Riceflower).

Highest goat damage of the sites surveyed occurred in the Wilkawillina Gorge area, which is close to the Park boundary, and also around Wilpena Pound. Plants such as Malka (Mulga) and Vara (Dead Finish) showed significant damage on some of the hills around Wilkawillina Gorge. However, the surveys found that a diverse range of palatable plants were still present, although some in low numbers. There is the potential for good recovery with further reduction in goat pressure, important for species like Minga and Ngandyu.

The Wilpena area bears the scars of historic and ongoing heavy browse pressure, with very few palatable species remaining at the three locations assessed. Even with increased goat control, this area will take longer to recover due to the loss of species and therefore seed stock. Recovery of palatable trees and shrubs will require management assistance through targeted planting and seed distribution.

These surveys also assessed grassland condition. The majority of sites had very low grass cover and many were dominated by weeds. Even native Lemon-scented Grass, which is considered largely unpalatable, was being grazed. These surveys provide evidence of current high grazing pressure by kangaroos and rabbits across the lowland areas of the Park.

It is planned to repeat these surveys every few years to provide feedback to pest management programs.

### Fox control

Aerial fox baiting now cover portions of a number of properties neighbouring I-FRNP, namely Gum Creek, Bunkers Conservation Reserve and Arkaba. These off-park activities have been partially funded for the last three years by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, through the SA Arid Lands NRM Board project: 'Connecting Community to Ranges Riches'. This project operates until June 2017. Aerial baiting is complemented by ground fox baiting carried out by Orparinna Rangers across the Park and on adjacent properties by some of the managers and volunteers.

## Remote camera surveys

Systematic remote camera surveys were conducted for the first time across I-FRNP in winter-spring 2015, to monitor predator and herbivore levels in the Park and includes the ongoing camera monitoring that supports the Idnya and Virda Reintroduction project in south of the Bunyerroo Road. The results confirmed very low presence of foxes in the Park (three in 1260 trap nights) which confirms the low numbers recorded in Bounceback's long term spotlight monitoring data.

Cameras are being placed out in the Park again in winter 2016. They will also assist with monitoring of native fauna (e.g. Echidna, Emu, kangaroos). The 2015 cameras indicated very high numbers of Urdlu (Red Kangaroo) on the Pantapinna Plain and Mandya (Euro) in the spinifex grasslands.

## Species of conservation significance

A wide range of species including many with National and State conservation significance benefit from ongoing feral animal management. These include:

- Elegant Wattle (Minga)
- Slender Bell-fruit (Alunga)
- Eremophila species (Ngandyu, Vativaka)
- Palatable bluebush and saltbush species
- Short-tailed Grasswren
- Carpet Python
- Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby (Andu)

Research collaborations with university students provide strong evidence that regionally rare animals such as Echidna and Sand Goanna have increased their populations as a result of long term fox control. Echidna are frequently sighted by staff and on remote cameras in the Park.

## Reintroduction of the Idnya and Virda to the Flinders Ranges, South Australia

The Bounceback Program has also been keen to test whether pest control has been effective in restoring land and vegetation condition to the point where the Park can once again sustain medium sized predators like Idnya (Western Quoll) and herbivores such as Virda (Common Brushtail Possum) that once inhabited the region.

The Idnya is a totem animal of the Adnyamathanha people. The story of the goanna and the native cat tells how the quoll became spotted. The two animals elope and come from the eastern side of Lake Frome, near the border of New South Wales. They travel up into the Gammon Ranges but the elders catch up with them and the native cat is speared all over, causing her to become spotted.

*(Reference Dorothy Tunbridge Flinders Ranges Mammals)*

Last seen in the Flinders Ranges during the 1880s, the Idnya is a small Australian native carnivorous marsupial which once thrived across 80 per cent of the Australian continent.

In a partnership arrangement with the Foundation for the Australia's Most Endangered species (FAME), 93 Idnya have been reintroduced to I-FRNP between 2014 and 2016, sourced mainly from Western Australia by the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife.



There are encouraging signs. Idnya have bred successfully each year, with 92 new Flinders-born Idnya known to have survived to independence through our trap monitoring program. There are likely to be many more un-trapped locally born animals surviving beyond the trapping areas which are restricted to tracks. This is important given that Idnya only live for 3-4 years. The losses that have been recorded are mostly due to feral cats (~ 25% in the 6<sup>th</sup> months following release), so an ongoing program has been established to remove cats through trapping, shooting and baiting. Encouragingly, remote cameras are detecting more Idnya than feral cats and are providing evidence of Idnya dispersing into new areas.



Photo: New recruits for the Flinders Idnya population

The Virlda had disappeared from the SA Arid Lands including the central and northern Flinders Ranges by the 1950s, probably from a combination of understorey habitat degradation by livestock and rabbits, plus predation by foxes. In 2015, again in partnership with FAME, 79 Virlda were released into the Park, sourced from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy reserve, Yookamurra Sanctuary, in the Riverland. A further 69 Virlda have been released in 2016, with some animals sourced from the southern Flinders, as well as Yookamurra.

To date the Virlda have done very well, with very few losses to cats as well as maintaining healthy weights and continuing to breed. Breeding has been continuous in the 2015 release group, with the first young dispersing over the summer months, and most females now carrying their second or third pouch young since release. Most animals have stayed within a few kilometres of their release sites, occupying daytime shelters in river red gum tree hollows and fallen hollow logs, with a few also using native pines. A few of the young Flinders-born Virlda were predated by cats which do not appear to have a significant impact on adults. Only a small percentage of adult deaths have been recorded to date.



Photo: Female Virda with young on back

It is early days in terms of the success of both reintroductions. More is still being learning about Idnya and Virda shelter requirements, breeding habits, food preference and interaction with predators. An understanding of long term success will only come after the region has been through serious drought.

### Big picture results through partnerships

The Park is part of a broader natural and cultural landscape. The Board supported:

- Ongoing feral animal and pest plant control through the regional Bounceback program.

*Bounceback is a major conservation initiative which aims to protect and restore the semi-arid environments of the Flinders, Gawler and Olary Ranges of South Australia.*

### Sacred Canyon

Sacred Canyon is a significant Aboriginal engraving and cultural site, located on the Mannawarra pastoral lease, a large pastoral property to the south and east of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

The Board has been discussing its concerns regarding ongoing damage and graffiti at this significant site. Through discussions with the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA), the parties have both agreed that immediate action was required to restrict access to the site, while longer term management arrangements can be negotiated with key stakeholders

The State Government has recently negotiated for Sacred Canyon to be surrendered from the Mannawarra Pastoral Lease to allow for it to be included into the park, which will better protect and manage the site's historical and cultural values.



## Park Management

The Board delegated some routine and day-to-day responsibilities for park management to DEWNR staff to manage in accordance with government policy and procedures. This will ensure the effective and timely management of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and will allow the Board to focus on park management at a more strategic level.

## Partnering with Work Camp

The Board supported the mobile Work Camp during the reporting period. Work Camp are a partnership between DEWNR and the Department of Correctional Services whereby low security prisoners from Port Augusta Gaol undertake park management activities.

## Employment

It is a requirement in the Co-management Agreement that preference be given to Adnyamathanha people to work on the park. This has occurred recently with a short term maintenance contract, and further opportunities will be investigated.

Protection of Aboriginal culture is a high priority of the Board. All base grade positions across I-FRNP will include a statement in the job description that ensures Adnyamathanha people are the only applicants that will be considered.

## Improved research management

The Board has delegated its authority for approving research to the Scientific Permits Officer of DEWNR. The Board will review reports on research projects annually and ensure measures to safeguard cultural sites from research-related disturbance.

## Working with neighbours and the Adnyamathanha Community

The Board is committed to working with neighbouring landholders to achieve shared management objectives. Board meetings are generally open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend and participate in Board activities.

## Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

The Friends of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park have been established since in 1995. The volunteer group work closely with DEWNR staff to determine a range of works that complement the parks annual works programs and park management plan. The Friends Group recently changed their name to reflect the co-naming of the Park, which was acknowledged by the Board.

Some of the major projects completed in recent years were;

- Restoration of Wilpena Homestead outbuildings
- Replanting Wilpena Homestead heritage garden
- Rebuild of dry stone wall around Appealinna garden
- Site restoration at Aroona ruins
- Re-construction of 19th century shepherd's hut
- Construction of walking trail at Aroona ruins
- Installation of safety covers and fencing at old mine shafts
- Restoration of 19th century horse yard fencing at Yanyanna

The Board acknowledge the valuable work of the 100 Friends Group across the State that provide a range of volunteer works to support the park operations, which is greatly appreciated by both the Board and DEWNR.



# Membership

**Under Regulation 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park) Regulations 2011*, the Board consists of eight members appointed by the Minister, of whom:**

- (a) four must be Adnyamathanha people appointed on the nomination of ATLA; and
- (b) three must be officers of the Department, of whom –
  - (i) one must be either the Director or the person for the time being holding the office of Regional Manager (however described) for the region in which the Park is located (or the person for the time being performing the functions of that office); and
- (c) one must be a person nominated by the Minister.
- (d) At least one member of the Board must be a woman and one a man.
- (e) The Minister may appoint a person to be a deputy member and that person may act as a member of the Board, in the absence of the member.

**The full membership of the Co-management Board as at 30 June 2016 was as follows.**

## Chairperson

Mr John Schutz	(5)(b): officer of the Department (Group Executive Director, Parks and Regions, DEWNR)
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## Deputy Chairperson

Mrs Glenise Coulthard	(5)(a): nominated by ATLA
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## Members

Mr Terrence Coulthard	(5)(a): nominated by ATLA
Ms Cheryl Waye	(5)(a): nominated by ATLA
Mr Arnold Wilton	(5)(a): nominated by ATLA
Mr Stuart Paul	(5)(b): officer of the Department (Regional Director South Australian Arid Lands Region, DEWNR)
Mrs Lisien Loan	(5)(b): officer of the Department (Manager Land, Marine and Biodiversity Services, DEWNR)
Mrs Meg Barker	(5)(c): nominated by the Minister (Regional Coordinator, Nature-based Tourism, DEWNR)

**Deputy Members**

Mr Brenton Gear	(Executive Director Strategy and Advice, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Schutz
Ms Deirdre McKenzie	Deputy to Mrs Glenise Coulthard
Mr Michael Anderson	Deputy to Mr Terrence Coulthard
Ms Beverly Patterson	Deputy to Ms Cheryl Waye
Mr Mark McKenzie	Deputy to Mr Arnold Wilton
Mr Tony Magor	(Manager Parks and Co-management, South Australian Arid Lands Region, DEWNR) Deputy to Mr Stuart Paul
Ms Lucy Dodd	(Principal Policy Officer, Sustainability and Climate Change, DEWNR) Deputy to Ms Loan
Mrs Jodie Gregg-Smith	(Manager Partnerships and Community Engagement, South Australian Arid Lands Region, DEWNR)

The appointments are for up to a two-year period from 10 February 2016 to 31 December 2017.

**Meetings****The Board held three meetings.**

- 15 October 2015; Wilpena, Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
- 12 February 2016; Wilpena, Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
- 30 June 2016; Wilpena, Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

**Attendance at Meetings**

Member	15 October 2015	12 February 2016	30 June 2016
Mr John Schutz	Y	Y	Y
Ms Glenise Coulthard	Y	Y	Y
Ms Kaelene McMillan	N*	-	-
Ms Cheryl Waye	Y	Y	Y
Mr Haydyn Bromley	Y*	-	-
Mr Terrence Coulthard	Y	Y	Y
Mr Stefan Wilton	Y	-	-
Mr Arnold Wilton	Y	Y	Y
Mr Stuart Paul	Y*	Y	Y
Mrs Anne Sellar	-		-
Mrs Meg Barker	-	Y	Y
Mrs Lisien Loan	Y	Y	Y

\*Denotes Deputy Membership expired on 6 November 2015

\*\* Denotes Deputy member attended

# The Co-management Board

The functions and powers of the Board are set out in Regulation 10 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park) Regulations 2011* as follows:

- (1) The functions of the Board are-
  - a) to carry out the functions assigned to the Board by or under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*; and
  - b) to carry out the functions assigned to by 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 subsection (2), the Board may enter into any form of contract, agreement or arrangement.
- (4) The Board must perform its functions, or exercise a power, in a manner that is consistent with the co-management agreement.

Regulation 12 (1) of the Regulations states that six members (of whom at least three must be Adnyamathanha people and at least three must be members appointed under regulation 5(1)(b) or (c)) constitute a quorum of the Board. This requirement was met at each Board meeting.

## Regulations

**The following information addresses annual reporting requirements established under Regulation 16 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park) Regulations 2011*.**

- (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*.

The Board are currently progressing the management plan for the Park, which will incorporate hunting activities.

- (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*).

The Board are currently progressing the management plan for the Park, which will incorporate hunting activities.

- (c) Information relating to the operations and work programs undertaken by or on behalf of the Board.

The Board continued to implement its work program based on the obligations under the Co-management Agreement, Indigenous Land Use Agreement, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *National Parks and Wildlife (I-FRNP) Regulations 2011* and the *Public Sector Act 2009*. The work program will in future addresses the strategic priorities that have been identified by the Board.



DEWNR officers report on operational and management activities undertaken in the Park to the Board at each meeting. The report addresses visitor management, biodiversity programs, cultural management matters, asset maintenance, projects, planning, training and development, work health and safety, and funding applications.

- (d) Information relating to park infrastructure.

Park infrastructure is managed through DEWNR's asset management program to ensure appropriate maintenance of infrastructure/assets on reserves. The Board is provided with an overview at each meeting as part of the DEWNR management report.

- (e) Any other information required by the Minister.

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

## Reconciliation Statement

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

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

## Human Resource Matters

### Staffing

The Board has no staff of its own. Mrs Denise McCourt, from DEWNR's South Australian Arid Lands Region provides executive support to the Board.

In accordance with the Co-Management Agreement, the Board is kept informed of DEWNR staff development and training. Staff working on the Park have undertaken a number of training programs including warden, fire, procurement and conflict training.

### Disability Action Plans

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*. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2013-13.

### Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993

Reporting requirements against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Board 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.

## Equal Opportunity Programs

The Board has no staff of its own and is serviced by staff of DEWNR. Members are aware of and abide by the equal opportunity policies and programs of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter may be viewed in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

## Gender Reporting

The gender balance of the Board is always taken into consideration when members are appointed. Within the reporting period there were four male and four female members. Deputy members gender is aligned with each member's genders

## Work Health and Safety

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

As a user of DEWNR facilities and equipment, the Board is aware of and abides by DEWNR's Work Health and Safety policies. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

During the reporting period DEWNR staff operating in the Park undertook First Aid, manual handling, safety awareness and 4WD vehicle training.

## Public Complaints

Nil

## Use of Consultants

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

# Financial Performance

DEWNR administers the budget for the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park on behalf of the Board and provides a financial report to members at each meeting. Expenditure has been maintained with the budget allocation.

## Finance

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within the existing resources of DEWNR. Members are paid sitting fees in accordance with the recommendation from the Chief Executive, DPC which states;

- Chair: \$221.00 per 4 hour session
- Members: \$177.00 per 4 hour session.

Government employees are not entitled to sitting fees.

## Account Payment Performance

DEWNR provides administrative resources for processing account payments for the Board. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

## Contractual Arrangements

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

# Other Reporting Items

## Energy Efficiency Action Plan Reports

The Board uses the facilities and services of the staff of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

## Overseas Travel

It is declared that no member of the Board has travelled overseas on the 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 DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

## Regional Impact Assessment Statement

The Board undertook no Regional Impact Assessment Statements in 2015-16.

## Freedom of Information

As a DEWNR administered entity, the Board 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 [www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au) to view the FOI Statement.

## Urban Design Charter

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

## Greening of Government (GoGo) Framework

The Board uses the facilities and services of the staff of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.



# Acknowledgement

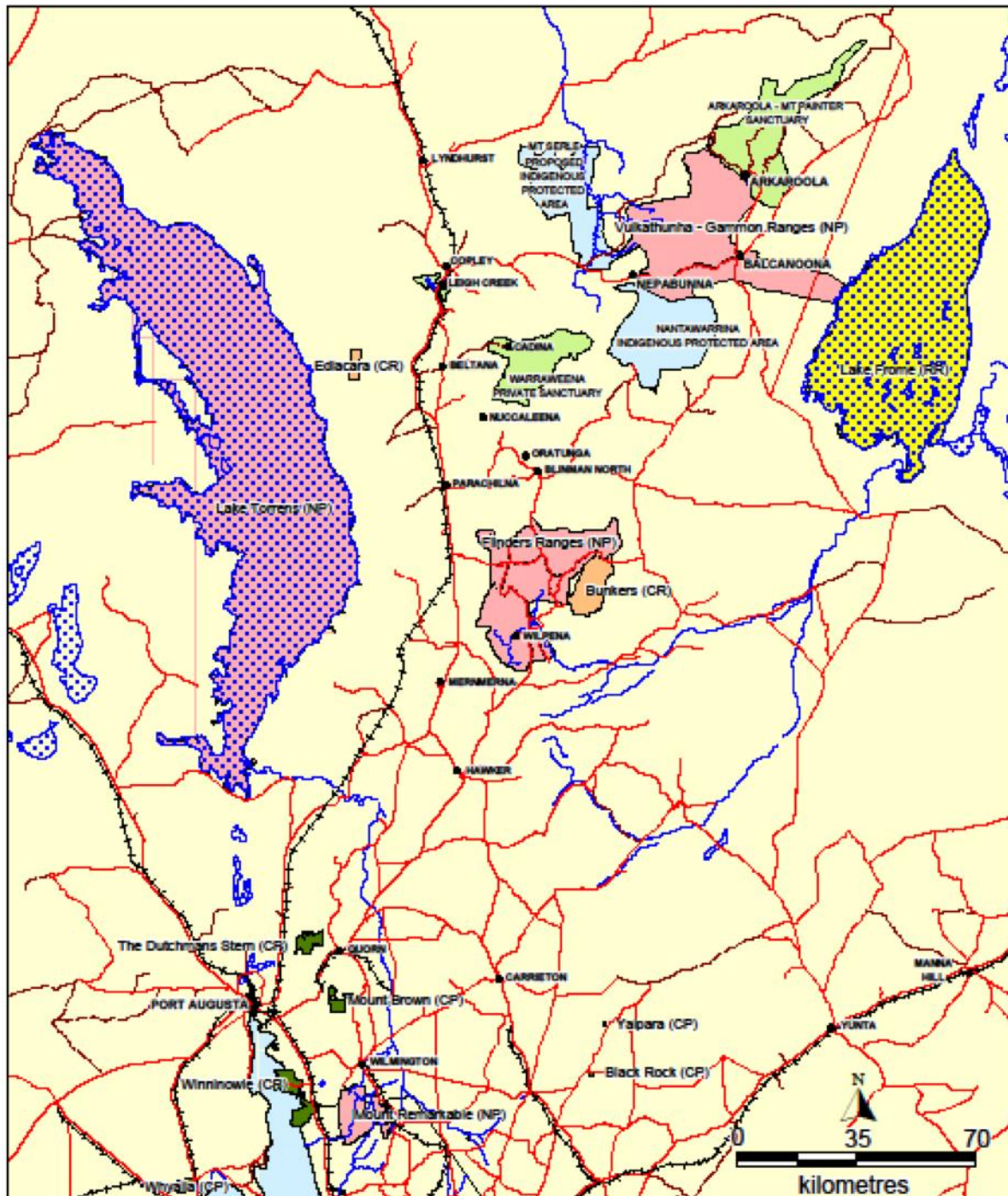
The Board appreciates the support and encouragement it received over the past year from the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, the Hon Ian Hunter MLC.

The Board records its appreciation for the assistance provided by senior DEWNR staff, including: the Chief Executive, Ms Sandy Pitcher; Group Executive Director Parks and Regions, Mr John Schutz; Regional Director South Australian Arid Lands Region, Mr Stuart Paul; Manager Parks and Co-management, Tony Magor and Senior Executive Officer Co-management, Mrs Denise McCourt.

The Board acknowledges key stakeholders including the Adnyamathanha community, ATLA members, Mr Michael Anderson (Chairperson of ATLA), South Australian Arid Lands Region staff of DEWNR - particularly Alan Harbour, Ranger-in-Charge and Senior Cultural Ranger Arthur Coulthard - and the Native Title Holders.

The Board is working collaboratively and advancing partnership arrangements between DEWNR and Adnyamathanha to achieve shared objectives for future conservation management in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.







Government  
of South Australia



**Natural Resources**  
SA Arid Lands