

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

15 Nov 2016

Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016



**Government
of South Australia**

Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board
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 43(L) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, I am pleased to present the annual report of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr Jonathan Clark
CHAIR
Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board

September 2016

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board (the Board) 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 Board set the following priorities for 2015-16

1. Progressing of the new Management Plan and Interpretation Plan
2. Amalgamation of both the Lake Gairdner Board and the Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee into one
3. Development of a Cultural Heritage Plan

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

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

1. Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan working towards completion. Considerable gathering of information towards progressing the Interpretation Plan
2. Significant progress towards amalgamation of the Board and the Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee following the publication and successful adoption of the Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan by the Minister.
3. The Board has raised the Cultural Heritage Plan to a high priority. Development has been initiated and will be included into the Board's work plan for the following year.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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

In October 2015 the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) changed their legal representation from SA Native Title Services to Norman Waterhouse Lawyers.

26 November 2015 – Wudinna

The following key items were discussed and decisions made:

1. The Board adopted the minutes of the previous meeting #7
2. Reviewed the communication protocol, decisions and responsibilities that are made at meetings so they can be taken back to GRAC. Board spoke about strengthening the relationship between the Board and GRAC, 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.
3. Forward planning for the Board currently at the point of amalgamation and Board decided that this item required a larger discussion therefore postponed for the next meeting.
4. Real concern raised with regards to Lake Gairdner buffer zone which is integral in management of the park and requires follow up. Previous discussions at meetings however unable to retrieve details. Board made a decision for GRAC to follow up with AARD with regards to the buffer zone.
5. Board to consider the final stage of the Lake Gairdner Standard Hire agreement. A previous version has been reviewed by the Board. Few minor changes required for the agreement to be used as standard agreement for events. Discussion on special conditions in the agreement such as need for Aboriginal monitors, no activities allowed on the lake where there is water on the lake surface. Minor changes identified. Agreement to encourage communication and implement other conditions as appropriate. DEWNR to make changes and circulate out of session, with formal endorsement at the next meeting.
6. Film permits and Scientific permits. To ensure all activities are compliant with the Aboriginal Heritage Act. Discussion around access to lake and surrounding area and it became paramount that the buffer zone issue be resolved. Decision that more information required on suggestions for film permits, therefore briefing paper to be prepared with recommendations for the Board on what decisions are required. To be decided at the next meeting.
7. Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan update. P Adamson no longer available by year end. B Hayden to work with the Board to progress the management plan. Clear guidance requested on what is required from the Board for Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner management plans.
8. Board Annual Report was tabled in Parliament on 27 -28 October 2015.
9. Correspondence item on a query regarding establishing a pit toilet. Board decision that as a minimum approval to ensure all relevant authorities are notified and all planning approvals met.
10. Discussed issue of drones with regards to film and photography applications.

11. Workshopped a session on decision making process which included reviewing with the Board the decisions the Board and Advisory Committee can make. Board discussed some scenarios based on the co-management model. Highlighted that Native Title is a separate process. A process to be worked out to distinguish what parts required to go to GRAC. Agreed for a list to be prepared outlining items to be referred to GRAC and items that can be decided by the Board.
12. Detailed review of the Mineral Exploration example as a company that receives an exploration licence that is not referred to the Board.
13. Details of Adelaide co-management workshop in Adelaide. 2 representatives and a young Aboriginal delegate required to attend. A presentation from the Board expected. Decision that a process is required for putting ideas forward for the presentation.
14. Decision that a template to be developed with items the Board would like to consider; and for a GRAC member to take responsibility to follow up. Examples of items are if GRAC has been consulted or if the activities are consistent with the management plan.

11 February 2016 – Port Lincoln

The following items were discussed:

1. Minutes of the Meeting #8 were adopted with few minor changes.
2. Action items discussed.
3. Update on the progress of the Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan. Further strategic planning discussions and workings on the Lake Gairdner Management Plan.
4. DEWNR informed the Board that changes to the National Parks and Wildlife Act have been approved by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Moving forward towards amalgamation of the Board and Committee.
5. Focus on governance. Board reminded of its authority with the powers of the Director of National Parks. Discussion around delegations and how it would be timely to have the discussion around the time of the amalgamation. Board decision to include in the Agenda for a future meeting later in the year.
6. Update provided on the co-management workshop to be held in Adelaide 17-19 February. Board required to present with 2 or 3 members briefly about the achievements, challenges and aspirations of the group.
7. Update on the interpretation plan. Board discussed a project plan around the interpretation plan for the parks and a possible joint workshop with GRAC.
8. Board endorsed the changes that were made to the Lake Gairdner Standard Hire Agreement.

9. Permits and applications discussed. Board endorsed the changes that were made to the Lake Gairdner Film Permit Application.
10. Cross cultural training issue raised as discussed at the Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee meeting the previous day. Training for members required under the co-management agreement and has been extensively discussed over a number of meetings since the Board was formed. Despite some background work conducted, matter has not progressed to date. Board emphasised the need to have the issue resolved so the training can occur as a matter of priority.

During the period following the February 2016 meeting, Mr Howard Richards resigned from the Board and ceased to be a Member.

17-18 February 2016 – Adelaide

A number of Board members attended the co-management workshop 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 Board is established under Regulation 4 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Lake Gairdner National Park) Regulations 2013*

OBJECT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1972

The object of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW 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 LAKE GAIRDNER NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Act describes the functions of the Board.

- 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.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with Regulation 5 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Lake Gairdner National Park) Regulations 2013*

As at 30 June 2016 the Board membership was as follows:

Chairperson	Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act
Mr Jonathan Clark	(5)(1)(b): officer of the Department (Regional Director, Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula, DEWNR)
Deputy Chairperson	
Mr Mick Starkey	(5)(1)(a): nominated by Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC)
Members	
Position Vacant	(5)(1)(a): nominated by GRAC
Position Vacant	(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 Bob Starkey	Deputy to Mr Starkey
Mrs Elizabeth Pool	Deputy to Position Vacant
Mr Leslie Taylor	Deputy to Position Vacant
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 Board Member, Mr Howard Richards resigned. The Board wish to thank Mr H Richards for his valued contribution to the Board.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Section 19(e) of the Act provides for the establishment of advisory committees to advise the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the Act. This provision was not required in this reporting period.

MEETINGS: GENERAL AND SPECIAL

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

No special Board meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	26 Nov 2015	11 Feb 2016	18 Feb 2016 (co-management workshop)	1 June 2016 (out of session meeting**)	Comments
Mr Jonathan Clark	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Mr Mick Starkey	N	N	N	Y	
Mr Howard Richards	Y	N			Resigned after Feb 2016 meeting
Mrs Helen Smith	N	Y	N	Y	
Ms Mia Toscano	Y	Y	N	Y	
Ms Sophie Keen	N	Y	Y	Y	
Mr Peter Copley	Y	Y	N	Y	

Attendance by appointed deputies at meetings:

Member	26 Nov 2015*	11 Feb 2016*	18 Feb 2016 (co-management workshop)	1 June 2016 (out of session meeting**)	Comments
Mr Tim Hall	N	N	N	N	
Mr Bob Starkey	N	N	N	N	
Mrs Elizabeth Pool	Y	N	N	Y	
Mr Leslie Taylor	N	Y	N	Y	
Mrs Janice Wingfield	N	N	N	N	
Ms Yvette Colton	N	N	N	N	
Mrs Elizabeth McTaggart	N	N	N	N	
Mr Anthony Freebairn	N	N	N	N	

*Deputies not required at this meeting

** No fees payable for this meeting

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Board by providing an Executive Officer and Executive Assistant (equivalent to one full time role) for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

- Chair: \$0
- Member: \$177 each per four hour session

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

The Board 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 Board from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of the Board was 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 Board 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 Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Board by DEWNR. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2015-16.

CONSULTANTS

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Board 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 Board 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 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 <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 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.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

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

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Board would like to acknowledge the importance of Lake Gairdner National Park as 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 Board would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR); South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS), Norman Waterhouse Lawyers and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.