



**Government  
of South Australia**

# LAKE GAIRDNER NATIONAL PARK CO- MANAGEMENT BOARD **2020-21 Annual Report**

LAKE GAIRDNER NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

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To:

The Hon David Speirs

Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, *Section 43L of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *Section 23 of the National Parks and Wildlife (Co- management Boards) Regulations 2016* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board by:

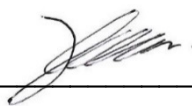
Jonathan Clark

Chairperson

Lake Gairdner National Park Co – management Board

Date 29/07/2021

Signature

  
A horizontal line with a handwritten signature in cursive script above it.

## From the Board

I am pleased to present the 2020-21 annual report on behalf of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board (the Board). The Board is an important partnership between the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and the traditional custodians, the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal people, through the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC).

The 2020-21 year has seen the ongoing development and delivery of the Gawler Ranges National Park's visitor interpretation plan, which the Board has advised on and provided significant input for. The plan is underway with signage and infrastructure that will engage visitors in stories from the traditional custodians, stories from the time the Park was a working station and information on the unique flora, fauna and geology of the area. Along with an installation of Aboriginal artwork produced by Sarah Butcher, one of the park rangers for the Gawler Ranges, this signage will continue to enhance the visitor experience in the park and provide a platform for Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families to share their stories, knowledge and culture. This work will continue and expand into Lake Gairdner National Park over the coming years.

The Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan was adopted by the Minister in September 2019 and is available at:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/park-management/state-wide-park-strategies/park-management-plans>

The amalgamation of the Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner National Parks is progressing through positive partnerships and the development of a strong co-management agreement. The Board continues to work with GRAC and DEW towards establishing an amalgamated board to oversee the strategic management of both the Gawler Ranges and Lake Gairdner National Parks.

More information is contained within the annual report and I encourage people to learn more about this stunning landscape and its significance to the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal people, by reading the management plan.

The Board looks forward to continuing to manage this important park, along with neighbours, community and other key stakeholders into the future.



Jonathan Clark

**Chairperson**

Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board

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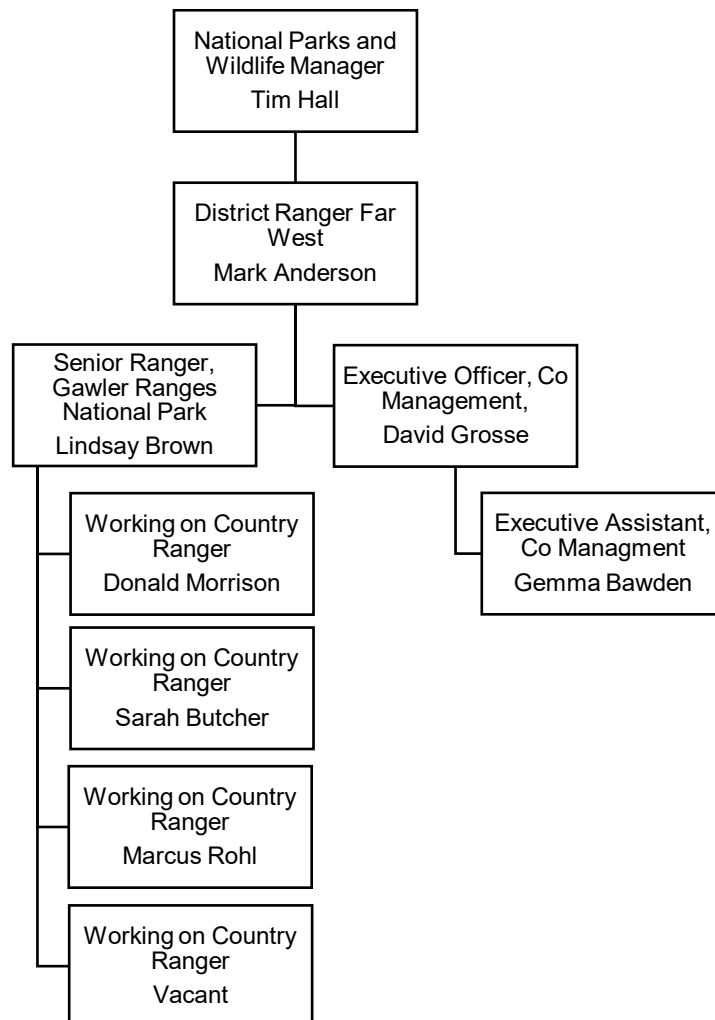
## Overview: about the agency

### Our strategic focus

<b>Our Purpose</b>	Jointly manage the Lake Gairdner National Park in partnership with the Minister for Environment and Water and the Gawler Ranges people through the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation
<b>Our Vision</b>	We are working together to improve natural and cultural landscapes for all stakeholders. We respect the rights, interests and needs of the traditional owners and create social development and economic opportunities for Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families and communities while sharing the responsibility for the effective management of the Lake Gairdner National Park.
<b>Our Values</b>	Respect the laws, customs and cultural identity of the Gawler Ranges People while providing positive experiences for visitors. Position Lake Gairdner National Park as an iconic, internationally recognised tourism destination by effectively and efficiently managing the environmental value of the park within a good governance framework.
<b>Our functions, objectives and deliverables</b>	<p>The Co-management Board is responsible for managing the Lake Gairdner National Park and also has an advisory role in relation to Lake Gilles Conservation Park and also performs an unofficial role in the management of the Gawler Ranges National Park whilst awaiting finalisation of the amalgamation.</p> <p>The Co-management Board's role includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and managing cultural heritage and other cultural issues.</li> <li>• Interpreting and promoting Aboriginal culture within the park.</li> <li>• Managing the exercise of traditional rights and access to the park for traditional custodians.</li> <li>• Managing the taking of plants and animals by the traditional custodians.</li> <li>• Increasing cultural awareness for all park visitors.</li> <li>• Managing access to the park for the general public.</li> <li>• Establishing training and employment opportunities for traditional owners on park.</li> </ul>

## Our organisational structure

The section reflects the structure of the agency as at 30 June 2021.



## Changes to the agency

During 2020-21 there were the following changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

- The Amalgamation of the Lake Gairdner National Park Co-Management Board with The Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee (non-functional) is advancing, awaiting legal arrangements to progress towards a Co-management agreement. The Board continues to perform an unofficial advisory role in relation to the Gawler Ranges National Park.

## Our Minister



The Department for Environment and Water is a portfolio agency of the Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon David Speirs MP.

## An Overview of Board Membership

The Board consists of eight members and eight deputies. Members and deputies are appointed in accordance with Part 2 (6), and Part 3 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016*.

## Our Executive team

As at 30 June 2021 the Board membership was as follows:

### Chairperson

Mr Jonathan Clark

### Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act

Part 2, 6 (2) (c): nominated by the Minister

### Deputy Chairperson

Ms Cheryl Saunders

Part 2, 6 (2) (a): nominated by Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC)

### Members

Mr Brandon McNamara

Part 2, 6 (2) (a): nominated by GRAC

Ms Dawn Taylor

Part 2, 6 (2) (a): nominated by GRAC

Mrs Helen Smith

Part 2, 6 (2) (a): nominated by GRAC

Ms Tamahina Cox

Part 2, 6 (2) (b): nominated by the Department

Ms Mary-Anne Healy

Part 2, 6 (2) (b): nominated by the Department

Mr Peter Copley

Part 2, 6 (2) (b): nominated by the Department

### Deputy Members

Mr Tim Hall

Deputy to Ms Healy

Mr Brandon Mundy

Deputy to Ms Taylor



Mrs Elizabeth Pool	Deputy to Mr McNamara
Ms Janelle Saunders	Deputy to Ms Saunders
Ms Tracey Reid	Deputy to Mrs Smith
Ms Mia Toscano	Deputy to Mr Clarke
Ms Meg Barker	Deputy to Ms Cox
Mr Anthony Freebairn	Deputy to Mr Copley

### **Legislation administered by the agency**

The Board is responsible for complying with the following legislation which are administered by DEW:

*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*

*National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016*

*National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016*

### **Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)**

Department for Environment and Water.

## The agency's performance

### Performance at a glance

Not Applicable.

### Agency contribution to whole of Government objectives

Key objective	Agency's contribution
More jobs	We are respecting the rights, interests and needs of First Nations People and creating social development and economic opportunities for the Gawler Ranges People, their families and communities.
Lower costs	Through the DEW procurement process we seek to support local regional businesses and community in our efforts to provide a great park experience and management at a reasonable cost.
Better Services In accordance with the Lake Gairdner National Park Management Plan and the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>	<p>SA Government seeks to foster a greater relationship with all South Australians to work together for better services and a better future, particularly in enabling partnerships that support and encourage First Nations People to continue to take a leading role in park management.</p> <p>When managing reserves, the DEW is required under section 37 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> to have regard to, and undertake actions that are consistent with the following objectives as stated in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation and management of wildlife.</li> <li>• Preservation of features of geological, natural or scenic interest.</li> <li>• Destruction of dangerous weeds and eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants.</li> <li>• Control of vermin and exotic animals.</li> <li>• Control and eradication of disease of animals and vegetation.</li> <li>• Prevention and suppression of bushfires and other hazards.</li> <li>• Encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance.</li> </ul>

**Agency specific objectives and performance**

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Functions and powers of the Board are as set out in the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> [NPWA], <i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> and the <i>Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Agreement</i> [CMA].	Regular perusal of the NPWA, Indigenous Land Use Agreement [ILUA] and CMA Advise the Minister on matters relating to the Management of the Park by providing an Annual Report.	Protection of the environmental and cultural assets within the National Park whilst providing safe and controlled visitor access
In exercising its functions and powers, the Board must have regard to the objects of Co-management as specified in the NPWA and clause 8 of the Co-management Agreement, and must not act inconsistently with the Management Plan for the Park.	Regular contact between the Board and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) to discuss Co-management issues and general park operations.  The Board is responsible for complying with the <i>NPWA 1972, National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> which are administered by DEW.	This has provided a valuable tool and sense of participation in the management of the Park by the Traditional Owners; which in turn leads to greater community knowledge of cultural practices.
Working on country program (WOC)	Support the Australian Government funded Working on Country Program employing up to 4 Aboriginal Rangers	Provision of cultural land management practices and interaction with visitors on Traditional lands

**Corporate performance summary**

Not applicable.

### Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
Working on Country Program	Support the Australian Government funded working on Country Program employing up to 4 Aboriginal Rangers
	<p>The Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEW. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2020-21.</p> <p>Executive administrative and project support were provided to the Board from existing DEW resources.</p>

### Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
The Board undertake a performance review, including evaluation of its effectiveness and governance responsibilities	Regular governance training is undertaken by the Board members.
The Board maintain a register of attendance at meetings	Board member's attendance are recorded in the Minutes of each meeting
Government employees supporting the Board's operations, undertake a performance review and development program with their managers	Two performance reviews are undertaken annually. Training is provided to employees on an as needs basis. This is considered to be effective.

### Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
This Board abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEW to meet whole of government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEW Annual Report 2020 - 2021

<b>Workplace injury claims</b>	2020-21	2019-20	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	0	0	0
Fatalities	0	0	0
Seriously injured workers*	0	0	0
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	0	0	0

\*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

<b>Work health and safety regulations</b>	2020-21	2019-20	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents ( <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i> )	0	0	0
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices ( <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i> )	0	0	0

<b>Return to work costs**</b>	2020-21	2019-20	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	0	0	0
Income support payments – gross (\$)	0	0	0

\*\*before third party recovery

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

**Executive employment in the agency**

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES Level 1	Nil

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

## Financial performance

### Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. The information is unaudited. Full audited financial statements for 2020-2021 are available in the link provided at the end of this report.

<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>2020-21 Budget \$000s</b>	<b>2020-21 Actual \$000s</b>	<b>Variation \$000s</b>	<b>2019-20 Actual \$000s</b>
Total Income	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Result</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>2020-21 Budget \$000s</b>	<b>2020-21 Actual \$000s</b>	<b>Variation \$000s</b>	<b>2019-20 Actual \$000s</b>
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

#### Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

<b>Consultancies</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	-	0

**Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
-	-	0
	Total	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

**Contractors disclosure**

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

**Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000**

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined	-	0

**Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
InterpMatters	Working with local historians and GRAC to develop content for interpretive signage	\$13,900
	Total	\$13,900

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts](#).

The website also provides details of [across government contracts](#).



### **Other financial information**

The Board is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. DEW administers the budget for Lake Gairdner National Park on behalf of the Board and provides a budget report to members at each meeting. Expenditure has been maintained within the budget allocation. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2020-21.

The costs associated with the administration of the Board are met from within existing DEW resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with a recommendation by the Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in line with the Cabinet-approved Remuneration Framework.

### **Other information**

Nil to report

## Risk management

### Risk and audit at a glance

Nil to report.

### Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
Nil	0

*NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.*

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

### Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

## Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) <i>Regulations 2016</i> Section 23</p> <p>a) Information relating to traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal families are entitled to undertake cultural activities throughout the park.</li> <li>• Although traditional hunting is permitted on the Park, no hunting activities have occurred in the reporting period.</li> </ul>

For the purposes of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), the annual report of the Board must include the above information relating to hunting

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (<i>Co-management Boards</i>) <i>Regulations 2016</i> Section 23</p> <p>b) information relating to the effect of traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act on native plants and protected animals or the eggs of protected animals (in particular endangered species, vulnerable species and rare species)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil effect to report as no traditional hunting activities have occurred in the reporting period</li> </ul>

For the purposes of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), the annual report of the Board must include the above information relating to hunting.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016 Section 23</p> <p>c) Information relating to the operation and works programs undertaken by or on behalf of the board.</p>	<p>The Board has achieved a number of changes in the strategic management of the Park including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressing the Visitor Interpretation plan, offering visitors an opportunity to learn more about Gawler Ranges Aboriginal culture, history, and the natural values of the Park. In the absence of a Gawler Ranges Advisory Committee, the Board has provided advice, and work has commenced on agreed priority sites identified within the Gawler Ranges National Park, with future plans for Lake Gairdner National Park.</li> <li>• The Board is working towards a Co-Management agreement to amalgamate and form one Co-management Board over the Gawler Ranges Parks</li> <li>• A governance schedule has been incorporated into every board meeting to ensure governance requirements for board members are met</li> <li>• The Board endorsed an Event Agreement for the annual Dry Lakes Racers Association (DLRA) Land Speed Week event, which proceeded in March 2021. This event provides a tourism opportunity for South Australia. International competitors were unable to attend this event due to Covid-19 restrictions, however many interstate visitors attended this event. The Board continues to negotiate towards a three-year agreement between GRAC, DLRA and DEW for a multiyear agreement to provide ongoing certainty for the running of the event.</li> <li>• The Board endorsed the following applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 commercial filming applications</li> <li>• 10 Scientific Research Permits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Act or Regulation	Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Event application for Speedweek</li> <li>• At the March 2021 meeting, the Board received a second presentation from Ms Ariane Gienger, University of Adelaide thesis student, who presented on an update on her Co-management Research Project. The Board supported the project and noted that it would be beneficial for other co-management boards to be involved in the research of co-management around the State. Board members participated in providing content to the study.</li> <li>• The Board is provided with a park works report that includes the works program and park budget at each meeting.</li> <li>• Board meetings enable DEW officers to collaborate on operational and management activities in the park.</li> </ul>

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016 Section 23</p> <p>d) Information relating to park infrastructure</p>	<p>A contractor was engaged to gather information for the development of interpretive signage throughout the Park based on the Visitor Information Plan.</p>

For the purposes of section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act), the annual report of the Board must include the above information relating to operations and works programs and park infrastructure.

### Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

Nil to report.

## Public complaints

### Number of public complaints reported

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2020-21
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	0
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	0
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	0
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2020-21
		unreasonable or disadvantages customer	
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	0
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	0
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	0
Number of negative feedback comments	0
Total number of feedback comments	0
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/lake-gairdner-national-park-co-management-board-annual-report-data>

**Service Improvements**

Service Improvements resulting from complaints or consumer suggestions over 2020-21 (current year).

Not applicable.

**Compliance Statement**

Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Y
Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency's related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	N/A



## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2020 - 2021**

Financial services are provided to the Board by DEW. Finances are audited annually as part of DEW's financial statements.

Annual report information (including financial statements) is available on the [DEW](#) website.