

Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park
Co-Management Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



**Government
of South Australia**

Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board
Annual Report 2014-15

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ABN: 36 702 093 234

ISSN: 1833-0371

16 September 2015

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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(d) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Mungee
Presiding Member

MARALINGA LANDS UNNAMED CONSERVATION PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on Park operation issues. The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board set the following strategic priorities for 2014-15.

Relationship of strategic plans / priorities to South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) targets where relevant.

Table 1: Links between MLUCP Board's Park Management Plan and SASP*

Mamungari Board Park Management Plan		SASP					
Areas		Visions					
		Our Community	Our prosperity	Our environment	Our health	Our education	Our ideas
Zoning							
Managing Natural Heritage							
Managing Fire							
Managing Cultural Heritage							
Managing Tourism and Recreation							
Key		Primary Alignment					
		Secondary Alignment					

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

- Target 28: Aboriginal leadership; increase the number of Aboriginal South Australians participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs.
- Target 53: Aboriginal employees; increase the participation of Aboriginal people in the South Australian public sector.
- Target 69: Lose no species; lose no native species as a result of human impacts.

PRESCRIBED REPORTING

The following information addresses annual reporting requirements prescribed under Regulation 15 of the Maralinga Regulations:

Regulation 15 (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*.

Very little or no hunting occurred within the Park within the reporting period.

Regulation 15 (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*).

No gathering of native plants and protected animals, or the eggs of protected animals took place in the reporting period.

Regulation 15 (c) Information relating to the operations and work programs undertaken by or on behalf of the Board.

The Board has a contractual agreement with Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara (Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, DEWNR) for a 0.5 FTE Executive Officer, to work on its operation and governance and with Maralinga Tjarutja for another 0.5 FTE Executive Officer to facilitate on-ground involvement with the community. The Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board provided guidance and support to the Board's operations and development during 2014-15.

The Board is facilitating the employment of Anangu rangers in association with Maralinga Tjarutja and Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation. The Board contracts land management and cultural work on the park to both Maralinga Tjarutja and Pila Nguru who deliver the work. This is a good sustainable model for the future, but is dependent on sufficient support in both Oak Valley (Maralinga Tjarutja) and Tjuntjuntjara (Pila Nguru).

Regulation 15 (d) Information relating to public access to the Park (including details of any applications by members of the public that were refused by the Board).

The public has continued to access the Park by the existing public roads. The existing cooperative public access procedures of DEWNR and Maralinga Tjarutja have been maintained and monitored. There were no refusals of access during the reporting period.

Regulation 15 (e) Information relating to Park infrastructure.

The Board has established a shared office accommodation in the Oak Valley community, outside the Park. The Board is working with Maralinga Tjarutja Council to provide an ablutions block for use by the public and staff at this facility.

The Mamungari Conservation Park has no built infrastructure other than two tracks which are not maintained. The Board is working on improved signage for the park.

Regulation 15 (f) Any other information required by the Minister.

The Minister has not made a request for any other information.

Links between the Board and the seven strategic priorities of Government

Table 2 below, illustrates where each priority area in the MLUCP Board's Park Management Plan contributed to achieving the seven strategic priorities of Government.

Table 2: Links between MLUCP Board's Park Management Plan Priority Areas and the seven strategic priorities of Government

Mamungari Board Park Management Plan	Seven Strategic Priorities						
Areas	Visions						
	Creating a vibrant city	Safe communities healthy neighbourhoods	Premium food and wine from our clean environment	An affordable place to live	Every chance for every child	Growing advanced manufacturing	Realising the benefits of the mining boom for all South Australians
Zoning		✓					✓
Managing Natural Heritage			✓		✓		
Managing Fire		✓					
Managing Cultural Heritage		✓			✓		
Managing Tourism and Recreation	✓		✓	✓			

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

The Year in Review

A summary of achievements and operations of the Board during 2013-14 are as below:

- The Chair of the Board, Mr John Mungee, attended several Board meetings of the Alinytjara Wilurara NRM Board in order to develop his skills in governance, and to provide an important partnership discussions with the AW NRM Board.
- Members of the Board participated in three (3) other special meetings in the 2014-15 period including:
 - Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Board: Strategic Workshop in Adelaide, 22-23 September 2014. MLUCP Board members were invited to attend this meeting to discuss future economic strategies for Boards in the Region.
 - DEWNR Co-Management Boards Workshop in Adelaide, 6-7 November 2014. This was the first meeting hosted by DEWNR to bring all Co-management Boards and Advisory Committee's together for discussions on current issues and future directions.

- Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Board: Co-Management Meeting in Ceduna, 22 April 2015. The meeting was held to discuss developing an agreement or 'Palya Kalkuni' between the AW NRM Board and the MLUCP Co-management Board to create a working partnership which shares strategies, purpose and outcomes for activities in the Region.
- The Board contracted Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation during the reporting period. to assist the Board with the following:
 - Conduct bi-monthly park surveillance (monitor and maintain public roads, buffel grass survey/control, compliance, rubbish collection, and infrastructure inspection/maintenance)
 - Work in partnership with DEWNR Natural Resources AW staff and other government agencies to delivers specific training of relevance to the strategic land management of the Mamungari Conservation Park
 - Support the Men's Trip – aimed at revisiting and relocating a number of important living birth and sacred locations as identified as a priority in the Mamungari Conservation Park Management Plan.
 - Support On-Country Meetings to inform the community on progress of land management activities.
 - Work in partnership with DEWNR Natural Resources AW staff to conduct Work Health and Safety Training, and ensure the good order of vehicles and equipment utilised in land management activities.
- The Board agreed upon an annual compliance program being developed in relation to Park signage and compliance. The program will incorporates Training, Reviews and Reporting.
- An illustrated version of the Nganamara (Mallee Fowl) has been agreed upon by the Board as their logo. The logo is currently being developed by a graphic designer.
- Board activities during 2014-15 have included: Senior Men's Trip, Buffel Grass Surveillance, Buffel Grass Training, On Country Board Meeting, and Compliance Training.
- Following approaches made to the Board by the University of Adelaide, researchers were given access to Mamungari Conservation Park to conduct the Deep Crustal Research Survey. The access was subject to conditions including; preservation of soil and vegetation, prior site access approvals, appropriate Anangu supervision on-site, and that the results of the survey would be communicated back to the Board.
- A joint access permit for Tallarainga and Mamungari Conservation Parks, and Anne Beadell Highway is being investigated to assist with compliance and monitoring visitor activity. Interim measures have been implemented including: small brochure and map with clear conditions i.e. tracks which can be utilised, will be included with current permit system. An approach will be made to the Australian Government with a single permit concept and draft brochure for consideration.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board is established under Section 15B of the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984* (the Maralinga Act) which enables the establishment of a co-management board pursuant to the provisions of the Maralinga Act and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPW Act).

The Board was established in August 2004 under Regulation 4 of the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights (Establishment of Co-management Board) Regulations 2004* (Maralinga Regulations) as the co-management board for the Park.

Management of the Mamungari Conservation Park has been vested in the Board by virtue of the Maralinga Act, the NPW Act and the Maralinga Regulations.

The Maralinga Regulations further prescribe the composition, procedures and reporting requirements of the Board.

Objective of the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPW Act)

Division 6A of the NPW Act sets out the provisions relating to co-management of parks. Section 43E(1) of that Act describes the primary objective of co-management boards as ‘*effective co-management of parks to which this Division applies by representatives of the relevant Aboriginal groups and the Minister*’, and more specifically to:

- ensure the continued enjoyment of the Park by the relevant Aboriginal groups for cultural, spiritual and traditional uses
- ensure the continued enjoyment of the Park by members of the public in a manner consistent with the co-management agreement
- ensure the preservation and protection of Aboriginal sites, features, objects and structures of spiritual or cultural significance within the Park
- provide protection for natural resources, wildlife, vegetation and other features of the Park

Role of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board is responsible for managing Park operational issues such as entry, opening and closing, vehicle access, aircraft access, camping and related matters pursuant to the *National Parks and Wildlife (Unnamed Conservation Park - Maralinga Tjarutja Lands) Regulations 2004* (National Parks UCP Regulations).

In managing the Park, the Board actively encourages science-based research projects.

Functions of Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board

The functions of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board as set out in Regulation 10(1) of the Maralinga Regulations are as follows:

- (a) To carry out the functions assigned to the Board by or under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*;

- (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 or under the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*, or by the Minister.

Membership

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board consists of 8 members. Members are appointed by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation. Five members are to be Maralinga Tjarutja community members and the remaining positions are to be filled by DEWNR officers. The Minister may appoint deputies for each member (Regulation 5).

Of the five Maralinga Tjarutja members, three are to be nominated by the Maralinga Tjarutja Council and the remaining two are to be nominated by the Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation. Of the three DEWNR officers, one must be the Regional Conservator (now Regional Manager) for the region in which the Park is located and another must have qualifications or substantial experience in the field of ecology or a related field (Regulation 5).

MLUCP Board members are appointed on conditions determined by the Minister and for a term specified in the instrument of appointment, not exceeding four years and at the expiration of a term of appointment, are eligible for reappointment. The office of a board member becomes vacant if the member dies, completes a term of appointment (not re-nominated), resigns, ceases to satisfy qualification requirements or is removed by the Minister (Regulation 6).

As at 30 June 2015 Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board membership was as follows:

Presiding Member	Appointed pursuant to the following section of the Act
Mr John Mungee	Nominated from Maralinga Tjarutja
Member	
Mr Keith Peters	Nominated from Maralinga Tjarutja
Ms Dora Queama (Deputy Chair)	Nominated from Maralinga Tjarutja
Mr Bruce Hogan	Nominated from Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Josie McArthur	Nominated from Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation
Dr Matthew Ward	Nominated from Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Mr Mark Anderson	Nominated from Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Ms Justine Graham	Nominated from Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Deputy Member

Mr Robert Singer	Nominated from Maralinga Tjarutja
Ms Marjorie Kugena	Nominated from Maralinga Tjarutja
Ms Cindy Watson	Nominated from Maralinga Tjarutja
Mr Parka Hogan	Nominated from Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation
Ms Debbie Hansen	Nominated from Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Bruce MacPherson	Nominated from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Mr Robert Sleep	Nominated from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Ms Ollanta Lipcer	Nominated from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Meetings: general and special

A total of 2 general Board meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

A total of 0 special Board meetings were held during the 2014-15 financial year.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
John Mungee	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	Deputy Dora Queama also present for both meetings
Keith Peters	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	Cindy Watson also present for Meeting # 23
Josie McArthur	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	Debbie Hansen also present for Meeting # 23
Bruce Hogan	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	Parka Hogan also present for Meeting # 23
Dora Queama	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	Marjorie Kugena also present for Meeting # 23
Matthew Ward*	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	
Justine Graham*	Board Meeting # 23, 11 September 2104 Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	Erin Gibson also present for Meeting # 23
Mark Anderson*	Board Meeting # 24, 13 February 2015	

* Nominated from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Governance Arrangements

DEWNR provides support to the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board by providing 0.5 FTE Executive Officer and Secretary for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board members (other than government employees) received the following remuneration as determined by the Minister:

- Presiding Member: \$221 per four hours
- Members: \$177 per four hours

Travel and accommodation expenses are in accordance with DPC Circular PC016 – Remuneration for Government Appointed Part-Time Boards and Committees. Members are entitled to meals and accommodation allowance (if travelling more than 40 kms), actual travel costs (if public transport) or motor vehicle allowance at the rates prescribed in attachment A of Commissioners Standard 3.2.

Employee Numbers, Gender and Status

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEWNR. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board from existing DEWNR resources.

The gender balance of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board was made up of five (5) males and three (3) females, with four (4) male and four (4) female deputy members.

The following matters are contained in the DEWNR annual report 2014-15:

- 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 MLUCP Board did not enter into any contractual arrangements exceeding \$4 million during this reporting period.

Finance Performance

The Board is a corporate entity and is responsible for the administration of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Board funds.

On behalf of the Board, Bean Cruncher's accountants were responsible for the preparation of the 2014-15 Financial Statement and for the preparation and lodging of BAS statements for the 2014-15 financial year.

The audited Financial Statement for 2014-15 is attached (Appendix 1).

Fraud

It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board in this reporting period. Financial services are provided to the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board by Bean Crunchers accountants. Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

Consultants

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board did not engage any consultants in this reporting period.

Overseas Travel

It is declared that no member of the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board has travelled overseas on Board / Committee business during this reporting period.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management 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 2014-15 that required the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management 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 Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management 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 Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management 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 2014-15 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2014-15 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board would like to acknowledge that the land on which it meets is the traditional lands for the Anangu (Maralinga Tjarutja – Pila Nguru) people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country.

The Board also acknowledges the Anangu (Maralinga Tjarutja – Pila Nguru) people as the custodians of the greater western desert region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Anangu (Maralinga Tjarutja – Pila Nguru) people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board is cognisant of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional owners and strives to achieve positive outcomes wherever these matters are concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Maralinga Lands Unnamed Conservation Park Co-Management Board acknowledges the financial assistance given to it from the Government of South Australia, without which there would be no ability to deliver effective co-management of parks.

The Board would like to thank the Minister, Maralinga Tjarutja, the AW NRM Board and staff of DEWNR, AW and Eyre Peninsula Regions for the support and encouragement that it has received over the 2014-15 financial year.

The MLUCP Board also wishes to thank DEWNR for its support with funding to enable the Board to work in partnership with communities and other stakeholders to achieve a range of outcomes in managing the Parks operation issues and related matters pursuant to the NPW Act.

