

NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016



**Government
of South Australia**

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee
Annual Report 2015-16

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

John Schutz
Director, National Parks & Wildlife
Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources
Level 10, 81-95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mr Schutz

In accordance with the requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and section 19(L) of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act*, I have pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Yours sincerely

Dr Matthew Ward
PRESIDING MEMBER/ CHAIR
NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee provides expert advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (the Minister) on the following:

- a) Preparation of Management Plans;
- b) Implementation of the Management Plans;
- c) Amendment of the Management Plans from time to time;
- d) Training and employment opportunities for Far West Coast People;
- e) Protection and management of Aboriginal Heritage and other cultural issues;
- f) Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal Heritage and culture;
- g) Exercise of Traditional rights by Far West Coast People;
- h) Taking of plants and animals by the Far West Coast People;
- i) Increased cultural awareness for all visitors to the Other Parks;
- j) Access for the general public;
- k) Opportunities for integration of park management with Natural Resource Management Planning; and
- l) Any other matter referred to it by the Director or the Minister.

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is new and began operations in February 2015. Their main strategic priority has been to establish Board meeting arrangements, put into place governance plans and to begin the Park Management Planning process.

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee, in line with the State Strategic Plan Targets, set the following strategic priorities in 2014-15:

- Target 6: Improve the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal South Australians
- Target 28: Increase the number of Aboriginal South Australians participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs
- Target 44: Resolve 80% of Native Title Claims by 2020
- Target 51: Halve the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal unemployment rates by 2018.
- Target 72: Increase participation in nature conservation activities by 25% by 2015

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee works closely with the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board, in particular around the Board priority (as captured in Schedule Five of the AW NRM Board and DEWNR SLA):

- *People: Support Co-Management, Marine Park and Protected Area frameworks in the effective delivery of good governance, compliance and visitor management in partnership with the community.*

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is also working closely with the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) to ensure the innovative Healthy Country Plan and Park Management Plan are closely aligned with the AW NRM Boards Regional NRM plan, and to ensure landscape scale Park and Natural Resources Management into the future.

OPERATIONS AND INITIATIVES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

General Meeting 2, 28 July 2015, Ceduna

Members of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee held their second meeting with five members in attendance. Although one member short of quorum, decisions were made by phoning a sixth member unable to travel. Issues discussed included: refinement of meeting formats; work model case study; Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Boards Memorandum of Understanding with Co-management and Native Title authorities; Scientific Research Permits approval process endorsed; Scientific Research Permits reviewed (current and upcoming approvals); Healthy Country Planning update; Far West Coast Parks on ground works update; budget update; and, developing a communication strategy.

Healthy Country Planning On-Country Workshop, 10-13 August 2015, Koonalda

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee held their second Healthy Country Planning On-Country Workshop. Main members, deputies, relevant Traditional Owners, elders and youth of the Far West Coast Co-management bodies were asked to identify targets, assets and threats to the ongoing health of the Far West Coast parks. This planning process will see an important alignment with the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan and Park Management Plans in the future, as each boards/communities individual Healthy Country Plan will feed into and become Alinytjara Wilurara's NRM plan and Park Management Plans.

General Meeting 3, 20 November 2015, Ceduna

Members of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee held their third general meeting with all members in attendance. Issues discussed included: budget allocations; interpretive signage; park maintenance; 2014-15 Annual Report; introduction to DEWNR contracting policies; role of NRM & Regional governance; Co-management priorities; Scientific Research Permits (current and upcoming approvals); Healthy Country Planning update; Far West Coast Parks on ground works update.

State wide Co-management Workshop, 17-19 February 2016, Adelaide Zoo

Two representatives from the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee presented at the State-wide Co-Management Workshop held at the Adelaide Zoo. The workshop encouraged members to support each other's aspirations for their land by sharing ideas and experiences whilst making important connections with members of other Co-management Boards. Yumbarra members also contributed to a short film being created by DEWNR to increase awareness of Co-management arrangements within the State.

Healthy Country Planning, Far West Coast Working Group Meeting 2, 23-24 February 2016, Scotdesco Community

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee and Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board held their second joint Healthy Country Planning Working Group meeting. Main members, deputies, relevant Traditional Owners, elders and youth of the Far West Coast Co-management bodies developed vision statements, reviewed targets and threats and prepared a situation analysis.

Natural Resources Committee of Parliament Southern AW Regional Visit, 4-7 April 2016

Two representatives from Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee met with the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament during their tour of the Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara region. The meeting occurred on-country in the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area where a track rationalisation project had been completed. The project involved Traditional Owners and DEWNR working together to mitigate risks to park users, minimise the number of surplus tracks within the Park and protect areas of cultural significance. Tourism opportunities were also discussed and highlighted as a priority for the area.

Healthy Country Planning - Far West Coast Working Group Meeting 3, 3-4 May 2016, Scotdesco Community

Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee and Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board held their third joint Healthy Country Planning Working Group meeting. Main members, deputies, relevant traditional owners, elders and youth of the Far West Coast Co-management bodies reviewed the situation analysis, identified and ranked strategies and identified goals that will feed into the future Management Plan for the Park.

General Meeting 4, 15 June 2016, Ceduna

Members of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee held their fourth general meeting with a full attendance. Issues discussed included: business arising from previous meeting; 2016-17 budget endorsement; Scientific Research Permits approval process endorsed; governance training; changes to the National Parks and Wildlife Act; community engagement; fire update; visitor management plan; Scientific Research Permits (current and upcoming approvals); Healthy Country Planning update; Far West Coast Parks on ground works update.

ROLE, LEGISLATION AND STRUCTURE (CORPORATE GOVERNANCE)

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is established under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

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.

ROLE OF THE NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is responsible for providing the duties of an Advisory Committee over Nullarbor Regional Reserve, Nullarbor National Park and Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NULLARBOR PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Act describes the functions of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee.

The functions of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee are provide advice to the Minister regarding:

- a) Preparation of Management Plans;
- b) Implementation of the Management Plans;
- c) Amendment of the Management Plans from time to time;
- d) Training and employment opportunities for Far West Coast People;
- e) Protection and management of Aboriginal Heritage and other cultural issues;
- f) Interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal Heritage and culture;
- g) Exercise of Traditional rights by Far West Coast People;
- h) Taking of plants and animals by the Far West Coast People;
- i) Increased cultural awareness for all visitors to the Other Parks;
- j) Access for the general public;
- k) Opportunities for integration of park management with Natural Resource Management Planning; and
- l) Any other matter referred to it by the Director or the Minister.

MEMBERSHIP

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee consists of eight members. Members are appointed in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

As at 30 June 2016 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee membership was as follows:

Chairperson

Dr Matthew Ward Nominated by DEWNR

Deputy Chairperson

Mr Clem Lawrie Nominated by FWCAC

Members

Mr James Peel Nominated by FWCAC

Ms Dorcas Miller Nominated by FWCAC

Ms Kaylene Kerdel Nominated by FWCAC

Mr Mark Anderson Nominated by DEWNR

(Vacancy to be filled) Nominated by DEWNR

Ms Sophie Keen Nominated by DEWNR

Deputy Members

Mr Bruce Macpherson Deputy to Matthew Ward

Mr Anton Mundy Deputy to Clem Lawrie

Mr Neville Miller Deputy to James Peel

Ms Verna Lawrie Deputy to Dorcas Miller

Ms April Lawrie Smith Deputy to Kaylene Kerdel

Mr Robbie Sleep Deputy to Mark Anderson

Ms Ollanta Lipcer Deputy to (Vacancy to be filled)

Ms Liz McTaggart Deputy to Sophie Keen

During the reporting period the former member Justine Graham, and Deputies Trevor Scott, Benny Reynolds and Millicent Taylor resigned. The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee wish to

thank Justine Graham, Trevor Scott, Benny Reynolds and Millicent Taylor for their contribution to the Committee.

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 (the Co-Management Agreement outlines that at least two general meetings must be held every year).

No special Board meetings were held during the 2015-16 financial year, however as outlined below, it is worth noting that the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee supported three Healthy Country Planning Workshops (including one on-country), the DEWNR State-wide Co-Management Workshop, and supported the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament fact-finding visit to the region.

Attendance by appointed members at meetings:

Member	Meeting attendance	Comments
Dr Matthew Ward	Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015 Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015 Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016	
Mr Clem Lawrie	Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015 Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015 Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016	
Mr James Peel	<i>Apology- Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015</i> <i>Apology- Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015</i> <i>Apology- Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016</i>	Deputy Neville Miller present for Meetings #3 & #4
Ms Dorcas Miller	Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015 Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015 Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016	
Ms Kaylene Kerdel	<i>Apology- Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015</i> Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015 Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016	
Mr Mark Anderson	Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015 <i>Apology- Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015</i> Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016	
Ms Justine Graham (resigned)	Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015 Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015 <i>Resigned</i>	
Ms Sophie Keen	<i>Apology- Board Meeting #2, 28 July 2015</i> Board Meeting #3, 20 November 2015 Board Meeting #4, 15 June 2016	Liz McTaggart present for Meeting #2

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

DEWNR provides support to the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee by providing an Executive Officer and an Executive Assistant for administration and governance. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2014-15.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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

- Chair: \$0
- Member: \$103.00/four hour session

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS, GENDER AND STATUS

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

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

The gender balance of the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee is taken into consideration when members are appointed. During this reporting period, membership of Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee was made up of four males and four 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee did not enter into any contractual arrangements during this reporting period.

FRAUD

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

CONSULTANTS

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

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

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – INFORMATION STATEMENTS

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

WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT 1993

Reporting requirements against *the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* require the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee to report on the number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a Responsible Officer of the agency. There were no disclosures made during the 2015-16 financial year.

REGIONAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee did not undertake any regional Impact Assessment Statements during the 2015-16 financial year.

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee would like to acknowledge the land on which it meets is the traditional lands of the Far West Coast people and that it respects their spiritual relationship with their country. The Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee also acknowledges the Far West Coast people as the custodians of the Far West Coast region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Far West Coast people today.

In fulfilling its functions, the Nullarbor Parks Advisory 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 Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee would like to thank the Minister and staff of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and the AW NRM Board for the support and encouragement that it has received over the year.