



**Government
of South Australia**

Parks and Wilderness Council 2016-17 Annual Report

Parks and Wilderness Council

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To:

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation


This annual report is presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, section 19D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and meets 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 Parks and Wilderness Council by:

Anne McEwen

Presiding Member



Signature

18 September 2017
Date

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Section A: Reporting required under the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*

Agency purpose or role

The Parks and Wilderness Council provides strategic policy advice to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and advocacy for issues that improve environmental, social and economic opportunities from the State's parks and wildlife.

Objectives

The functions of the Parks and Wilderness Council are to provide advice to the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.*
- *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005.*
- *Marine Parks Act 2007.*
- *Wilderness Protection Act 1992.*

Key strategies and their relationship to SA Government objectives

Key strategy	SA Government objective
<p>The <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> provides that the Council may advise the Minister on any of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Planning in relation to the management of reserves. b) The conservation of wildlife. c) Funding (including matters relating to sponsorship) and the development and marketing of commercial activities. d) Community participation in the management of reserves and the conservation of wildlife; e) The development of policy. f) Existing or proposed national or international agreements relating to the conservation of animals, plants and ecosystems. g) The promotion (including public education) of the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. 	<p>Economic priority: South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers.</p> <p>Economic priority: South Australia – the best place to do business.</p> <p>Economic priority: Promoting South Australia's international connections and engagement.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Creating a vibrant city.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Every chance for every child.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 69: Lose no species.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 72: Nature conservation.</p>

Key strategy	SA Government objective
<p>The <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i> outlines the following functions of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To assess all land in the State to identify those parts of the State that meet the wilderness criteria to a sufficient extent to justify protection under this Act or that warrant restoration to a condition that justifies such protection. b) At the request of a member of the public to assess the extent to which land specified in the request meets the wilderness criteria. c) To report to the Minister on the results of its assessments under paragraphs (a) and (b) and to make recommendations to the Minister as to what land in the State should be constituted as wilderness protection areas or wilderness protection zones. d) To make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the management of wilderness protection areas and zones generally or in relation to a particular wilderness protection area or zone. e) To commission research into the effect of mining, grazing and other forms of primary production and tourism on wilderness and its wildlife and to advise the Minister of the findings of the research. f) To increase understanding in the community of the significance of wilderness. g) To assist the Minister in relation to the preparation of the annual report under Division 1 of the Act. h) Functions assigned to the Council by other provisions of the Act. 	<p>Economic priority: South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers.</p> <p>Economic priority: South Australia – the best place to do business.</p> <p>Economic priority: Promoting South Australia's international connections and engagement.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Creating a vibrant city.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Every chance for every child.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 69: Lose no species.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 72: Nature conservation</p>

Key strategy	SA Government objective
<p>The <i>Marine Parks Act 2007</i> outlines the following functions of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide advice to the Minister on the establishment of marine parks, including— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) advice on any community nominations for marine parks. (ii) advice on the areas to be specified as marine parks. b) Provide advice to the Minister in relation to the introduction, variation or revocation of interim protection orders. c) Provide advice to the Minister in relation to a proposal to alter the boundaries of a marine park. d) Provide advice to the Minister in relation to a proposal to establish or alter a zone within a marine park. e) Provide advice to the Minister in relation to the management of marine parks, the formulation and operation of management plans under this Act, and the extent to which the objects of the Act are being achieved through the implementation of management plans under this Act. f) Provide advice to the Minister on ways to promote community participation in the management of marine parks and the conservation of relevant marine environments. g) Carry out such other functions as may be assigned to the Council by or under this Act or by the Minister. 	<p>Economic priority: South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers.</p> <p>Economic priority: South Australia – the best place to do business.</p> <p>Economic priority: Promoting South Australia's international connections and engagement.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Creating a vibrant city.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Every chance for every child.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 69: Lose no species.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 71: Marine biodiversity.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 72: Nature conservation.</p>

Key strategy	SA Government objective
<p>The <i>Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005</i> outlines the following functions of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the preparation of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS) Management Plan and any amendments to the Plan. b) the effectiveness of the ADS Management Plan in achieving the objects and objectives of this Act. c) the effectiveness of the implementation program. d) the application of money belonging to the ADS Fund. e) any matter referred to the Parks and Wilderness Council by the Minister. f) any matter connected with the administration of this Act on which the Parks and Wilderness Council believes it should advise the Minister. 	<p>Economic priority: South Australia – a growing destination choice for international and domestic travellers.</p> <p>Economic priority: South Australia – the best place to do business.</p> <p>Economic priority: Promoting South Australia's international connections and engagement.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Creating a vibrant city.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Every chance for every child.</p> <p>Strategic priority: Safe communities, healthy neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 69: Lose no species.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 71: Marine biodiversity.</p> <p>Strategic plan target 72: Nature conservation.</p>

Agency programs and initiatives and their effectiveness and efficiency

Program name	Indicators of performance/ effectiveness/ efficiency	Comments
Building the capacity of the new Council.	Establish a strong governance framework and develop the capacity of the new Council to deliver its statutory and functional responsibilities.	<p>During its first eight months of operation Council informed itself about its statutory responsibilities, and determined opportunities for influence and engagement within the community. Council informed itself about key government priorities and commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Parks, Healthy People South Australia 2016 - 2021. • Nature Like Nowhere Else: activating nature-based tourism in South Australia. • The First Animal Life on Earth: an action plan for South Australia's Ediacaran fossils. • Establishment of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. • The establishment of Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park—Winaityinaityi Pangkara. • Connecting residents of the North and South with nature. • Establishing the Mount Lofty Ranges as an international mountain bike destination.

Program name	Indicators of performance/ effectiveness/ efficiency	Comments
The management of reserves and wilderness protection areas.	<p>Support the development and review of park management plans.</p> <p>The Council's specific roles and responsibilities in relation to the development and review of management plans are described in legislation.</p>	<p>During 2016-17 Council provided advice to the Minister on the following draft management plans and plan amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to the Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Caves Conservation Park, Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area Management Plans. • Amendments to the management plans for Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks; Onkaparinga River Reserve (including Onkaparinga River National Park and Recreation Park); Anstey Hill Recreation Park; and Morialta and Black Hill Conservation Parks. • Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Management Plan. • Kan̩ku-Breakaways Conservation Park Management Plan. • Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park Management Plan. • Gawler Ranges National Park Management Plan. <p>In preparation for consideration of the Management Plan for the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary (ADS), Council undertook a site inspection and sought briefings on current ADS management strategies and prospects for the ADS to complement government priorities and community engagement with the ADS.</p>

Program name	Indicators of performance/ effectiveness/ efficiency	Comments
The establishment of wilderness protection areas.	<p>Council are responsible for assessing all land in the State to identify those parts of the State that meet the wilderness criteria to a sufficient extent to justify protection under the <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i>, or that warrant restoration to a condition that justifies such protection.</p> <p>Council is responsible for reporting to the Minister on the results of its assessments and to make recommendations to the Minister as to what land in the State should be constituted as wilderness protection areas or wilderness protection zones.</p>	<p>During the 2016/17 financial year Council familiarised itself with the operations of the <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i> and opportunities for Council engagement in processes available under the Act.</p> <p>Council subsequently assessed land adjacent to Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area and recommended that the area be constituted as a wilderness protection area and added to Cape Torrens Wilderness Protection Area.</p>

Legislation administered by the agency

The Parks and Wilderness Council has functional and statutory responsibilities pursuant to the following legislation:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*
- *Marine Parks Act 2007*
- *Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary Act 2005*

Organisation of the agency

The Parks and Wilderness Council was established on 17 October 2016, pursuant to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and consists of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife and eight other members appointed by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation who collectively have the knowledge, skills and experience in the following areas necessary to enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively:

- a) the establishment and management of reserves, wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones;
- b) the conservation of animals, plants and ecosystems;
- c) the conservation of the marine environment;
- d) a scientific field relevant to the conservation of ecosystems and the relationship of wildlife with its environment;
- e) Aboriginal culture and traditional associations with land;
- f) community engagement and community partnerships;
- g) tourism and recreational use of reserves.

Other agencies related to this agency (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)

The Parks and Wilderness Council is supported by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Employment opportunity programs

The Parks and Wilderness Council does not employ staff.

The Parks and Wilderness Council is supported by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The Department's Annual Report for 2016/17 reports on the Department's employment opportunity programs.

Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency
The Parks and Wilderness Council has developed and reviews a terms of reference every 12 months.	The Council established a Terms of Reference at its inaugural meeting on 6 December 2016.
Meeting attendance records.	A records of meeting attendance is kept with the minutes of each meeting.
The Parks and Wilderness Council will meet a minimum of four times per year, including at least one off-site meeting at a location to be determined by the Council. The Minister or the Presiding Member may direct the Council to meet more regularly.	The Council met four times between its establishment in October 2016 and 30 June 2017. The Council held one off-site meeting at the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, Port Adelaide.
The Parks and Wilderness Council is supported by staff from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.	Government employees supporting the Council undertake a performance review and development program with their manager.

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs of the agency and their effectiveness

Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation programs	Effectiveness
This Council abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEWNR to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
There were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Parks and Wilderness Council during this reporting period.	0

Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

Data is available at:

https://data.sa.gov.au/data/user/login?came_from=http%3A%2F%2Fdata.sa.gov.au%2Fdata%2Fdataset%2Fparks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data

Whistle-blowers' disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Whistle-blowers' Protection Act 1993* 0

Data is available at:

https://data.sa.gov.au/data/user/login?came_from=http%3A%2F%2Fdata.sa.gov.au%2Fdata%2Fdataset%2Fparks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data

Executive employment in the agency

Executive classification	Number of executives
SAES Level 1	0

Data is available at:

https://data.sa.gov.au/data/user/login?came_from=http%3A%2F%2Fdata.sa.gov.au%2Fdata%2Fdataset%2Fparks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data

For further information, the [Office for the Public Sector](#) has a [data dashboard](#) for further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

Consultants

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken and the total cost of the work undertaken.

Consultants	Purpose	Value
All consultancies below \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Consultancies above \$10 000 each	-	\$0
Total all consultancies		\$0

Data is available at:

https://data.sa.gov.au/data/user/login?came_from=http%3A%2F%2Fdata.sa.gov.au%2Fdata%2Fdataset%2Fparks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data

See also <https://www.tenders.sa.gov.au/tenders/index.do> for a list of all external consultancies, including nature of work and value. See also the Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance <http://treasury.sa.gov.au/> for total value of consultancy contracts across the SA Public Sector.

Financial performance of the agency

The Council is a statutory body; it is not a corporate entity and has no funds of its own. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEWNR Annual Report 2016-17.

The costs associated with the administration of the Council are met from within existing DEWNR resources. Members are remunerated in accordance with the Cabinet-approved Remuneration Framework.

Other financial information

Nil to report.

Other information requested by the Minister(s) or other significant issues affecting the agency or reporting pertaining to independent functions

Nil to report.

Section B: Reporting of public complaints as requested by the Ombudsman

Summary of complaints by subject

Public complaints received by the Parks and Wilderness Council	
Category of complaints by subject	Number of instances
All complaints	No specific complaints have been received by the Council.

Data is available at:

https://data.sa.gov.au/data/user/login?came_from=http%3A%2F%2Fdata.sa.gov.au%2Fdata%2Fdataset%2Fparks-and-wilderness-council-annual-report-data

Complaint outcomes

Nature of complaint or suggestion	Services improved or changes as a result of complaints or consumer suggestions
All complaints	No complaints have been received or acted upon.

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2016-17

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

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