

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
LAID ON THE TABLE**

31 Oct 2019



**Government
of South Australia**

Witjira National Park Co-Management Board

2018-19 Annual Report

WITJIRA NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Department for Environment and Water

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To:

The Hon David Speirs MP

Minister for Environment and Water

This annual report will be 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* and section 43L of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* 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 Witjira National Park Co-management Board by:

Grant Pelton

Chairperson

Date 1/10/19

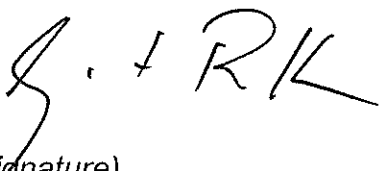
Signature G. F. R. U.

From the Chairperson

The country contained in the Witjira National Park forms part of the traditional lands of the Lower Southern Arrernte and Wangkangurru people. I have been privileged to continue to work with the Irrwanyere board members (both past and present), departmental board members and staff providing support to the Board to manage the Witjira National Park.

The Board has been pleased to work with our partners in managing the Park for the South Australian community by conserving the country: our land, water and rich cultural assets; providing cultural and economic opportunities and presenting. The working relationship with the Department for Environment and Water is built on a strong foundation over two decades. This partnership has overseen the delivery of diverse programs and sensitive decision-making to ensure the protection and management of country and cultural heritage through country, fire, water and pest plants and animals are well managed.

It is with pleasure that as the Chair of the Witjira National Park Co-management Board, I endorse this annual report.



(Signature)

Grant Pelton

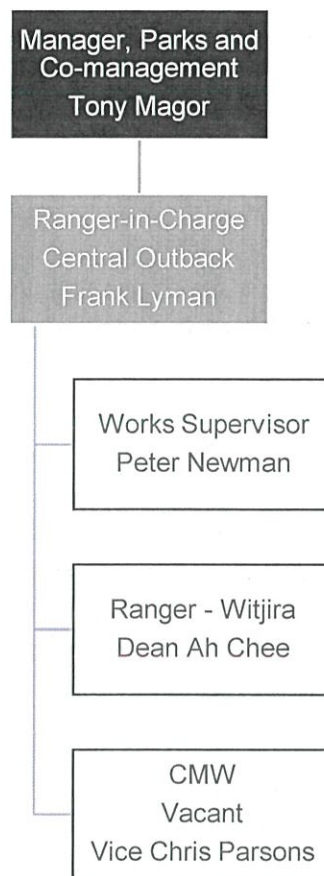
Chairperson

Witjira National Park Co-management Board

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Our organisational structure



Changes to the agency

During 2018-19 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

Our Executive team



Chairperson: Mr Grant Pelton is a DEW representative and has a range of governance and strategic management skills and has provided good leadership and stability for the Board over the past few years.



Deputy Chairperson: Ms Marilyn Ah Chee is a Lower Southern Arrernte representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



Member: Mr Arthur Ah Chee is a Wangkangurru representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for his traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



Member: Mr Rex Tjami is a Lower Southern Arrernte representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for his traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



Member: Ms Jean Ah Chee is a Wangkangurru representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



Member: Mr Tony Magor is a DEW representative and has expertise in Aboriginal engagement, Co-management and conservation land management skills. Mr Magor provides advice on park management issues and guidance on substantial land management practices.



Member: Ms April McInerney is a DEW representative and has a range of governance and policy management expertise.

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
<p>Better Services</p> <p>DEW Corporate Plan 2016-19: Goal 2: Sustaining the natural resources of our state.</p> <p>In accordance with the Witjira National Park Management Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: Preservation and management of wildlife. Preservation of features of geological, natural or scenic interest. Destruction of dangerous weeds and eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants. Control of vermin and exotic animals. Control and eradication of disease of animals and vegetation. Prevention and suppression of bushfires and other hazards. Encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance. Generally, the promotion of the public interest.
<p>DEW Corporate Plan 2016-19: Goal 3 – Connecting people to nature, parks and places</p>	<p>Progressing the reconciliation agenda by working respectfully and constructively with Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>The Reconciliation Action Plan will continue to help us build our ability to partner with Aboriginal people through increasing our capacity to be culturally respectful, improve employment and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and embed Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives into our policies and procedures.</p>
<p>Economic Growth</p> <p>DEW Corporate Plan 2016-19: Goal 3: Connecting people to nature, parks and places</p>	<p>Promote nature-based tourism opportunities on parks.</p>

Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
Functions and powers of the Board are as set out in the Co-management Agreement, the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Regulations.	Regular perusal of the NPWA, 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 IAC to discuss co-management issues and general park operations The Board is responsible for complying with the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> , <i>National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2016</i> and <i>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.

Corporate performance summary

Not applicable

Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
	<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 2018-19.</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 members attendance are recorded in the Minutes.
Government employees supporting the Board's operations undertake a performance review and development program with their managers	Two sessions are held on an annual 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 2018-19.

Workplace injury claims	2018-19	2017-18	% 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)

Work health and safety regulations	2018-19	2017-18	% 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
Return to work costs**	2018-19	2017-18	% 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/witjira-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/witjira-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 2018-19 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2018-19 Budget \$000s	2018-19 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2017-18 Actual \$000s
Expenses	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net cost of providing services	0	0	0	0
Net Revenue from SA Government	0	0	0	0
Net result	0	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Result	0	0	0	0

Statement of Financial Position	2018-19 Budget \$000s	2018-19 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2017-18 Actual \$000s
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0
Total assets	0	0	0	0
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	0	0	0	0
Net assets	0	0	0	0
Equity	0	0	0	0

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

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	Various	\$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/witjira-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
-	-	\$ 0
	Total	\$ 0

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-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 the Witjira National Park on behalf of the Board. Expenditure has been maintained within the budget allocation. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW Annual Report 2018-19.

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

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEW Annual Report 2018-19.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-national-park-co-management-board-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 *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993*:

0

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

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> Section 23. a) Information relating to traditional hunting activities in the park carried out in accordance with section 68D of the Act	<p>The Traditional Use Zone is established under the Witjira National Park Management Plan.</p> <p>A log book station has been placed at Dalhousie, Oodnadatta and Finke to record the traditional hunting activities that have occurred in the Park. The Board will further discuss and develop additional procedures and consult with community members over the next twelve months.</p> <p>No hunting activities have occurred in the reporting period.</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 hunting.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> Section 23. 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>Aboriginal resource-use practices will be permitted in the Conservation Zone and Dalhousie Mound Springs Zone; they will not be permitted in the Public Access Zone given the presence of visitors in this area.</p> <p>No hunting activities have occurred in the reporting period</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 hunting.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-</i>	The Board is provided with a park works

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>management Boards) Regulations 2016 Section 23.</i> c) Information relating to the operation and works programs undertaken by or on behalf of the board	report that includes the works program and park budget at each meeting. Board meetings enable DEW officers to collaborate on operational and management activities in the park. Key programs undertaken in the past year include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pest and weed control programs ○ Support the proposed reintroduction of the Kowari to Witjira NP • Cultural/Historical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Numerous site clearances • Visitor Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular Compliance ○ Campground host programme ○ Online Bookings • Events and Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bathe the World 2023 proposal ○ Friends of Simpson Desert Working Bee

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.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016 Section 23.</i> d) Information relating to park infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt Dare, Dalhousie and Alka Seltza airstrips were graded and rolled • Annual track grading • Purni Bore inspection & maintenance • New Dalhousie Workshop and compound installed • Old Dalhousie Workshop dismantled and removed • Finke Depot on the northern boundary fence installed • Park maintenance • Installation of the Central Land Council boundary fence • Installation of four 22,000 litre water tanks at Dalhousie

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 parks 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 2018-19
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 unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out dated or inadequate	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2018-19
		information; not fit for purpose	
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
		Total	0

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	*

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

Service improvements for period

Service improvements that responded to customer complaints or feedback
nil

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2018-19

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.