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12 Oct 2021



**Government
of South Australia**

WITJIRA NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD **2020-21 Annual Report**

WITJIRA NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Department for Environment and Water

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OFFICIAL

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT for the Witjira National Park Co-management Board

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 *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 Witjira National Park Co-management Board by:

Piers Brissenden

Chairperson

Date 9 September 2021

Signature Piers Brissenden

From the Chairperson

Co-management of the Park involves a partnership in which the Lower Southern Arrernte and Wangkangurru people work together with the Department for Environment and Water to share responsibility and decision-making for the management of the Park.

As the new Chairperson for the Witjira National Park Co-management Board, I am pleased to work closely with our partners and aim to maintain the crucial connection between conserving the park's natural and cultural heritage, using both traditional and scientific knowledge to better manage the land.

It is with great pleasure that I present the Witjira National Park Co-management Board Annual Report.

Piers Brissenden

Chairperson

Witjira National Park Co-management Board

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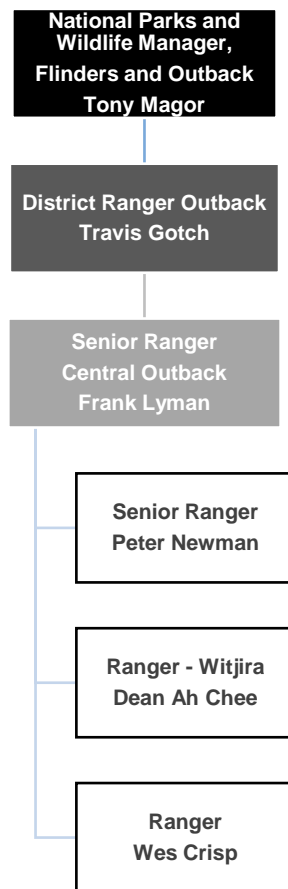
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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

Our Purpose	Co-manage the Witjira National Park in partnership with the Minister for Environment and Water and the Lower Southern Arrernte and Wangkangurru people through the Irrwanyere Aboriginal Corporation (IAC).
Our Vision	<p>Respect the rights, interests and needs of the Traditional Owners and create social development and economic opportunities for Aboriginal families and communities.</p> <p>To manage and preserve the cultural landscape, still known and understood by its Aboriginal Traditional Owners as well as the park's outstanding natural features.</p>
Our Values	Respect the traditional lore and customs and while providing great experiences for visitors, position Witjira National Park as an iconic, internationally recognised tourism destination by effectively and efficiently managing the park within a good governance framework.
Our functions, objectives and deliverables	<p>The Co-management Board is responsible for managing the Witjira National Park.</p> <p>The Co-management Board's role includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and managing cultural heritage and other cultural issues. • Interpreting and promoting Aboriginal culture within the park. • Managing the exercise of traditional rights and access to the park for traditional custodians. • Managing the taking of plants and animals by the traditional custodians. • Increasing cultural awareness for all park visitors. • Managing access to the park for the general public. • Establishing training and employment opportunities for Traditional Owners on park.

Our organisational structure



Changes to the agency

During 2020-2021 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

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 seven members and seven 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



Chairperson: Mr Piers Brissenden is a DEW representative and has a range of governance and strategic management skills that will benefit the Board.



Deputy Chairperson: Ms Bernadette Shields is a Wangkangurru representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



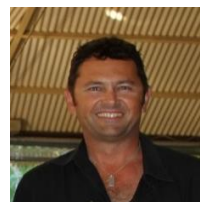
Member: Mr Rex Tjami is a Lower Southern Arrernte representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for his traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



Member: Ms Marlene Doolan is a Lower Southern Arrernte representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for her traditional knowledge, skills and expertise.



Member: Mr Raymond Finn is a Wangkangurru representative and has been elected by the broader IAC community for his 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

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

Department for Environment and Water.

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The agency's performance

Performance at a glance

Not applicable

Agency response to COVID-19

Board meetings were held by Microsoft teams and face to face meetings complied with COVID-19 guidelines.

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 Lower Southern Arrernte and Wangkangurru 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.
<p>Better Services</p> <p>In accordance with the Witjira National Park Management Plan and the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i></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"> • 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 2021-2022 Action Plan: Goal 1 - South Australia's natural places, ecosystems and wildlife are conserved.</p> <p><i>Natural places, ecosystems and wildlife – that are sustainably managed and climate-resilient - are inherently valuable and essential to the quality of life of all South Australians</i></p>	<p>PRIORITY ACTIVITIES IN 2021–2022:</p> <p>1.1 Deliver an expanded fire management program to help reduce the impact of bushfire in high-risk areas and promote biodiversity.</p> <p>1.6 Deliver a new Nature Conservation Strategy for South Australia.</p> <p>1.7 Support recovery of key threatened species.</p> <p>1.9 Work with others to manage impact-causing abundant native species.</p> <p>1.10 Work with others to minimise the impact of introduced pest plants and animals in national parks.</p> <p>1.12 Partner with landholders to protect and restore native vegetation through biodiversity offsets and an expanded heritage agreements program.</p>
<p>DEW 2021-2022 Action Plan: Goal 2 - Secure water for the future.</p> <p><i>South Australia's environment, community and economy are dependent upon reliable access to sustainable and fit-for-purpose water.</i></p>	<p>2.7 Continue implementation of the Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience program.</p> <p>2.8 Continue delivery of monitoring data and water science advice to support scheduled reviews of water allocation plans, resource status reports and the Basin Plan.</p>
<p>DEW 2021-2022 Action Plan: Goal 3 - People access and enjoy South Australia's national parks, gardens, coasts and heritage places.</p> <p><i>When people value and visit our diverse natural environments and cultural assets they derive health and wellbeing benefits.</i></p>	<p>3.11 Plan for and deliver a range of complementary marketing activities for commercial sites and other national parks assets to drive increased visitation and revenue (Parks Communications and Marketing).</p>

<p>DEW 2021-2022 Action Plan:</p> <p>Goal 4 - Play our part in making South Australia's economy resilient and positioned for the future.</p> <p><i>For South Australia to prosper, we will manage land and water well, activate nature-based tourism and improve Adelaide's liveability.</i></p>	<p>4.8 Partner with industry to realise ecologically sensitive and commercially sustainable tourism opportunities in our parks, gardens and places (<i>Nature Based Tourism Co-Investment Fund</i>).</p>
<p>DEW 2021-2022 Action Plan:</p> <p>Priority actions that support all of our work</p>	<p>5.3 Implement DEW's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.</p> <p>5.6 Develop and implement a fit-for-purpose asset management framework.</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.	<p>Regular perusal of the NPWA, ILUA and CMA.</p> <p>Advise the Minister on matters relating to the Management of the Park by providing an Annual Report.</p>	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.	<p>Regular contact between the Board and IAC to discuss co-management issues and general park operations</p> <p>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.</p>	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 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 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 2020-21.

Workplace injury claims	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)

Work health and safety regulations	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

Return to work costs**	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/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 2020-2021 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2020-21 Budget \$000s	2019-20 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2018-19 Actual \$000s
Total Income	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	0	0	0	0
Net Result	0	0	0	0
Total Comprehensive Result	0	0	0	0

Statement of Financial Position	2020-21 Budget \$000s	2019-20 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	2018-19 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	Nil	\$0

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

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil	Nil	\$ 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	Nil	\$ 0

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

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil	Nil	\$ 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 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 to report.	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 2020-21.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-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*:

Nil.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/witjira-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 1/7/2021.

Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p><i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) 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>	<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
<p><i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> Section 23.</p> <p>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>	<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
<p><i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> Section 23.</p> <p>Information relating to the operation and works programs undertaken by or on behalf of the board</p>	<p>The Board is provided with a park works report that includes the works program and park budget at each meeting.</p> <p>Board meetings enable DEW officers to collaborate on operational and management activities in the park. Key programs undertaken in the past year include:</p> <p><u>Cultural/Historical</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Site Clearances Ranger Dean Ah Chee has completed the initial site clearances and mapped the old pastoral track from Oasis Bore east to Mt Dare via Alinga Bore. Initial site clearances of old tracks located along the Homelands Track has also been completed which are strategically located to create fire breaks. Dean has been working with the earthmoving contractors to ensure that cultural sites are protected and while producing first class tracks. It is critical that these fire breaks and tracks are in place before the cultural burning is carried out in the future. <p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunistic feral animal control has continued to decrease camels and donkeys. Pest and weed control programs. The park's biodiversity has benefited from 130mm of rain in late March, the best rain since 2016. <p><u>Visitor Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Compliance Campground Host programme Online Bookings Completion of a sign project including replacement of entry signs and installation of additional speed signs.

Act or Regulation	Requirement
<p><i>National Parks and Wildlife (Co-management Boards) Regulations 2016</i> Section 23.</p> <p>Information relating to park infrastructure</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campground and shower/toilet block concept plans • Annual track grading • Purni Bore inspection and maintenance • Boundary fencing • Alka Seltza depot - consists of a truck shed, 22,000 litre water tank, stands for equipment storage, shed/shelter and diesel tank. • Finke depot – completed. • Fire water tank has been installed along the Rocks Road. • The Friends of the Simpson Desert carried out their working Bee in August. The Arabunda depot was erected near the Macumba boundary. • 3 O'clock Creek - new water tank and pipework was installed. • Recycling depots have been built at the two sites, reducing landfill and costs.

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.

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 unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2020-21
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
		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	0

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

Service Improvements

Nil

Compliance Statement

DEW is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Y
DEW has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency's related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	Y

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2020-21

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.