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Action Officers	/ LH
Response due	

Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

31 July 2014

Yandruwandha  
Yawarrawarrka  
Parks Advisory Committee

Hon Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
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Dear Minister

**Re: Reform of South Australian Government Boards and Committees**

I refer to the recent letter from the Premier dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014, regarding the reform of South Australian Government Boards and Committees.

The Coongie Lakes National Park is part of the traditional country of the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka people. The Park is of special cultural significance and contains a wide range of important cultural features and evidence of past occupation.

In 2009, the State of South Australia and the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Traditional Lands Owners entered into a Co-management Agreement (CMA) and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

The CMA is over Coongie Lakes National Park and provides for the establishment of the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Parks Advisory Committee. It is the role of the Committee to advise the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (the Director) on the management of the Innamincka Regional Reserve and a portion of Strzelecki Regional Reserve.

The CMA records the manner in which the Parties have agreed to co-manage the Park. In addition, this CMA also provides for the use of the Park by the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka people in such a way that their cultural, economic, social and environmental aspirations are enhanced consistently with management objectives for the Park.

The Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Parks Advisory Committee is disappointed that the Government is considering abolishing the Committee. Since the commencement of Co-management, Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka people have for the first time, enjoyed self-determination and recognition of native title rights through the CMA and ILUA arrangements, which were entered into in good faith with the South Australian Government.

The Committee represents the view and interests of the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka broader community and ensures the strong cultural values of the Park are conserved and protected.

The Committee considers that the alternative engagement options as outlined in the Premier's letter (Your SAY) would not provide an appropriate mechanism for engaging with the Aboriginal community, many of whom have limited access to technology and live in remote and isolated areas.

Additionally, the positive relationships we have established with DEWNR through the Co-Management Board are built on respect and trust, which have come with the passage of time and the ability to meet 'on country' to debate and make decisions together that affect the management of the park.

I trust you will agree that the Governance arrangements around our Co-Management Board demonstrate a 'best practice' approach to engaging the Aboriginal community in the effective management of the park.

Yours sincerely



**Robert Singleton**  
**CHAIRPERSON,**  
**YANDRUWANDHA YAWARRAWARRKA**  
**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

cc: Jason Irving, Manager Protected Areas  
John Schutz, Group Executive Director, Partnerships and Stewardship  
Tim Goodes, Group Executive Director, Strategy and Advice  
Allan Holmes, Chief Executive