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Response due	



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

Arabana Parks Advisory
Committee

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5 August 2014

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Level 9, Chesser House
91- 97 Grenfell Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Minister

Re: Reform of South Australian Government Boards and Committees

I refer to the recent letter from the Premier dated 8th July 2014, regarding the reform of South Australian government boards and committees. Thank you for your subsequent letter of 1 August requesting that our committee provides a direct response to you on this matter.

The Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park is of special cultural significance to the Arabana People and contains a wide range of important cultural features, Aboriginal Heritage areas and evidence of past occupation.

In 2012, the State of South Australia and the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation entered into a Co-management Agreement (CMA) and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for the Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation Park (the Park).

The CMA provides for the establishment of the Arabana Parks Advisory Committee (the Committee) to advise the Director of National Parks and Wildlife on the management of the Park. The CMA records the manner in which the Parties have agreed to co-manage the Park. It is the intent of the CMA to recognise the traditional knowledge to be used in conjunction with contemporary park management techniques in the management and promotion of the Park. It is also the role of the Committee to advise on the management of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park and Elliot Price Conservation Park.

The Arabana Parks Advisory Committee is disappointed that the Government of South Australia is considering abolishing the Committee. Since the commencement of co-management, the Arabana 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 views and interests of the Arabana broader community and ensures the strong cultural values of these three parks are conserved and protected.

The Committee considers that the alternative engagement options as outlined in the Premier's letter (e.g. YourSAy website) 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.

As you are aware, the co-management framework meets a number of the State's Strategic Plan Targets, including:

Aboriginal wellbeing – Target 6

- Reconciliation, Cultural and Traditional Lands
 - Number of National Park Co-management Agreements (indicator 19)
 - Native title claims resolved (indicator 21)
- Governance and Leadership
 - Number of Aboriginal people on government boards and committees (indicator 17)

Aboriginal lands native title - Target 44

- Resolve 80% of native title claims by 2020

Additionally, the positive relationships we have established between the Arabana people and DEWNR through the Committee are built on respect and trust, which have come with the 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 Committee demonstrate a 'best practice' approach to engaging the Aboriginal community in the effective management of these three important parks.

Yours sincerely



FIONA GILL
CHAIR
ARABANA 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