



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

DEWNR 42/14/0177

7 August 2014

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

Flinders Ranges National  
Park Co-management  
Board

Railway Station  
PO Box 78  
Port Augusta SA 5700  
Australia  
DX51009

Ph: +61 8 8648 5348  
Fax: +61 8 8648 5301

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

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 2014 requesting that our Board provides a direct response to you on this matter.

The Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board considered the Premier's correspondence at its most recent meeting held on 4 August 2014. The Board resolved that I write to you expressing concern that our Co-management Board has the potential to be abolished.

The Flinders Ranges National Park is one of our state's iconic tourism destinations, and is a key part of the traditional lands of the Adnyamathanha people. The Park has special cultural significance for the Adnyamathanha traditional owners who have always held a close spiritual relationship with their country.

In 2011, the State of South Australia and the Adnyamathanha people entered into a Co-management Agreement (CMA) and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

The management of the park became the responsibility of the Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board, a body that includes representatives from both the Adnyamathanha community and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. The Adnyamathanha representatives on the Board are nominated by the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA), and as such, effectively represent the broader views of the Adnyamathanha community.

The Co-management framework for South Australia has been recognised internationally as a model which supports effective collaboration with Aboriginal people in the management of their traditional lands. The Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners who sit on the Flinders Ranges Co-Management Board speak regularly of the opportunity that Co-Management model provides

for the Board to respect the spiritual connection that Adnyamathanha people have with the landscape, which enables the Board to collectively consider cultural perspectives when making decisions relevant to the management of the park.

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.

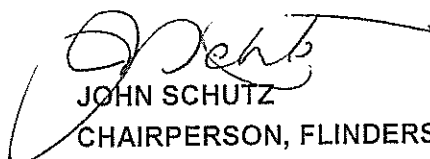
The Flinders Ranges National Park is of great significance to all Adnyamathanha people, and the Co-management Board is widely acknowledged and respected as the body through which the Adnyamathanha community can express its views in support of the protection and enhancement of the cultural values of the park.

The Co-management Board 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 Adnyamathanha community, many of whom have limited access to technology and live in remote and isolated areas. In addition, the Adnyamathanha community hold a strong view that the current Co-Management Board model will continue to support strong relationships, where trust and respect has developed over time with a strong commitment to regular 'face to face' communication.

Finally, the CMA and ILUA arrangements are integral to the native title rights and the consent determination process and were entered into in good faith with the South Australian Government.

The governance arrangements around the Co-Management Board are considered to demonstrate a 'best practice' approach to engaging the Aboriginal community in the effective management of the park.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN SCHÜTZ**

**CHAIRPERSON, FLINDERS RANGES NATIONAL PARK CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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