



Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board

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COOBER PEDY SA 5723

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11 August 2014

Minister Ian Hunter
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister,

RE: Review of State Government Boards and Committees

Thank you for your letter regarding the State Government review of Boards and Committees dated 7th August 2014. The Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board (the Board) members have discussed the Premiers reform of Government Boards and Committees. We would like to request that you consider this feedback and recommend retaining the Board and the Tallaringa Advisory Committee.

The Board provides an important community driven decision making role in the management of the Breakaways Conservation Park. The representation on the Board covers a broad cross section of the community through board members nominated by Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) and District Council of Coober Pedy. The Breakaways Conservation Park is very important to Antakirinja Matuntjara Yankunytjatjara people and is recognised through their ownership of the park and role on the Board. AMYAC representatives gather information and provide feedback through to the AMYAC board on the management of the park. The District Council of Coober Pedy members do the same with the entire Coober Pedy Community. DEWNR representation on the Board ensures that decisions about the Breakaways Conservation Park are not made in isolation from other wider natural resource considerations.

The uniqueness and remoteness of Coober Pedy lend weight to the need to have a board consisting of predominantly representatives familiar with the local culture and environment making decisions about the Breakaways Conservation Park. Given the diversity of the community the Board have shown an ability and confidence in gathering wide community input into decisions relating to the Park. The Board members bring a wide variety of expertise and knowledge to park management decisions. The current structure is a very effective and efficient means to manage the Breakaways Conservation Park.

If the Board were to be abolished it would risk severe ramifications including:

- Long term damage to the SA governments' relationship with the traditional owners and the wider local community. The likely responses would be anger, disappointment and general distrust with the SA Government.

- It would be a backwards step for reconciliation as the agreement for co-management was part of the native title negotiations.
- The Coober Pedy community would feel that the decision making ability for a park that they hold dear is being removed from them.

In considering implications for the abolishment of the Breakaways Board the members discussed possible mergers with other Boards. As Coober Pedy is so isolated it was felt that merging with other boards would provide less community representation and give less priority to the Breakaways Conservation Park than the current arrangements.

The current Tallaringa Advisory Committee, with its significant overlap in membership with the Board, allows the Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board and Tallaringa Advisory Committee to gain efficiencies with travel and accommodation costs. It also provides the Minister with the same benefits of local input into advice on Tallaringa Conservation Park.

The current Board structure supports a focus on engaging traditional owners in the management of country. It supports development of traditional owners into community leaders. The management of the park also provides economic benefits to the community with opportunities for employment of aboriginal people to work on park.

The board welcome the opportunity to provide comment and trust that the value and benefits of the Breakaways Conservation Park Co-management Board and Tallaringa Advisory Committee is recognised. We appreciate your support for the Board and the Park.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss this matter further please contact me as soon as possible.

Kind Regards



Ian Crombie

Chairperson
Breakaways Conservation Park Co-Management Board