

Department
for Environment
and Heritage

INNOVATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CO-MANAGEMENT OF PARKS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AIATSIS Native Title Conference: *People, Place, Power*
Canberra, 1-3 June 2010



Introduction

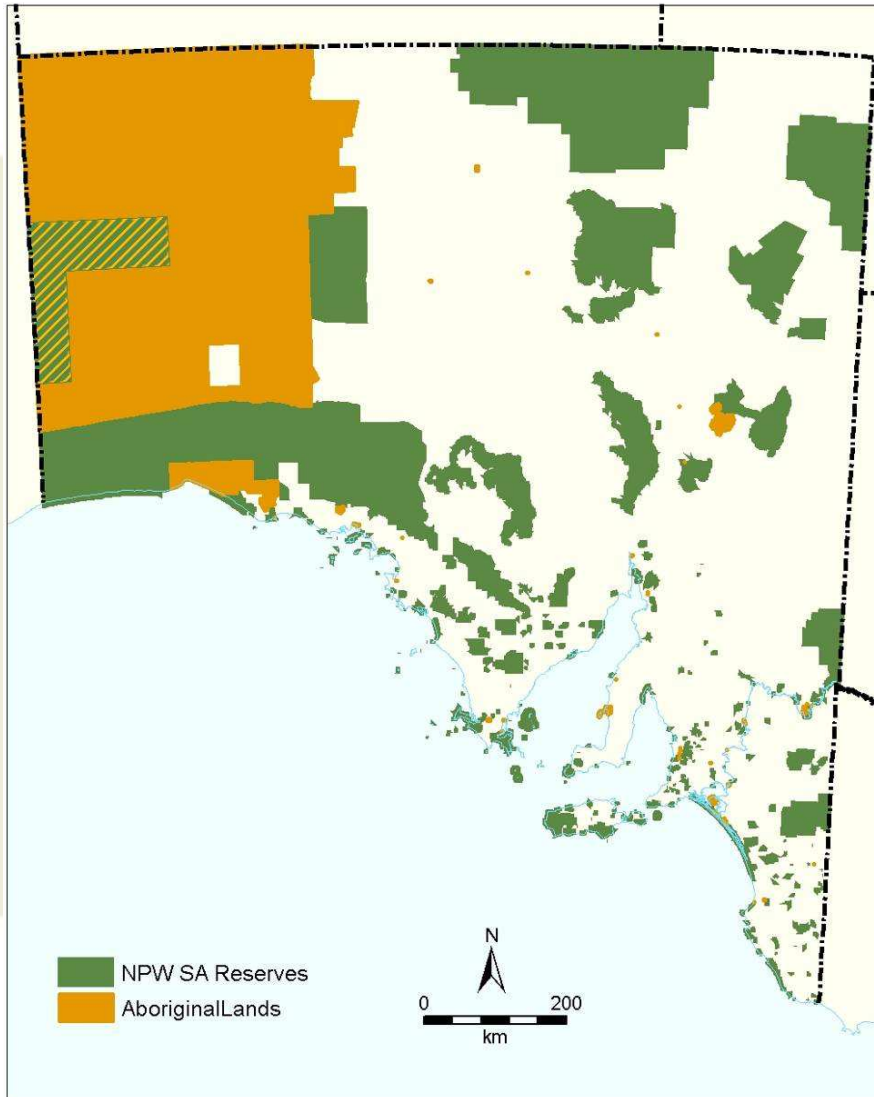
Areas to be covered:

- SA's framework for co-management of parks
- Governance, management, engagement and equity considerations
- Co-management issues and challenges



Government
of South Australia

Protected areas & Aboriginal lands



- SA covers 98 million ha
- 341 parks & reserves – 21 million ha
(21% of SA)
- Aboriginal lands – 20.3 million ha
(21% of SA)

Co-management framework

Three-tiered scheme:

- **Aboriginal owned park – managed by a board**
- **Crown owned – managed by a board**
- **Crown owned – advisory structure**

Co-management agreements

May address:

- the constitution of the board or advisory structure;
- the preparation and implementation of a management plan for the park;
- funding arrangements; and
- employment of staff and dispute resolution.



Co-management boards

- **Board assumes management control (previously Director NPW)**
- **Aboriginal owned park**
 - majority of members from the relevant Aboriginal group
 - Chair nominated by the Aboriginal owners
- **Crown owned park**
 - Membership and chair negotiated with traditional owners

Implementation

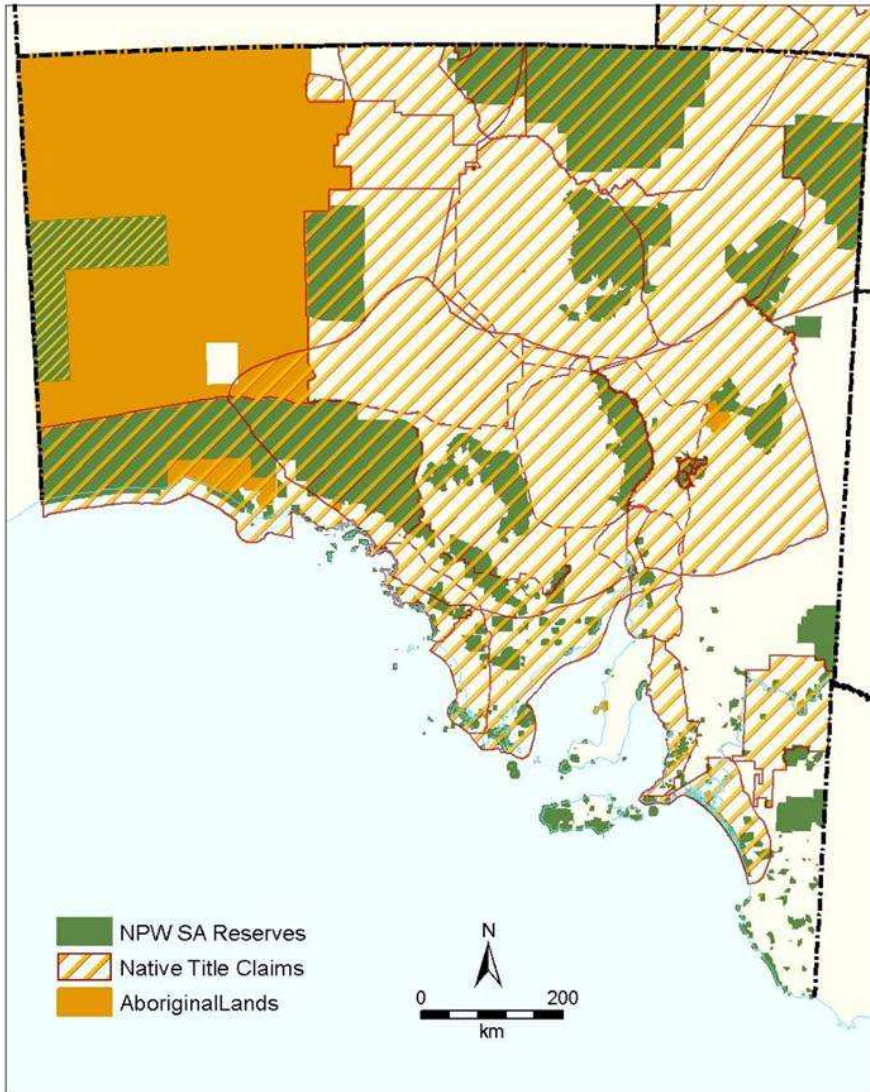


- ***National Parks and Wildlife Act*** amended July 2004
- **Unnamed Conservation Park** handed back August 2004
- **Five co-management arrangements** now in place (3.3 million ha)
- **14% of park system co-managed**
- **Further co-management proposed**



Government
of South Australia

Native Title claims



- 22 Native Title claims
- Cover two-thirds of state
- Include 204 parks (75%+)
- Co-management important tool for ILUAs

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP



- Proclaimed 1970
- 128,228 ha
- Conservation, scenic and recreation values
- Culturally significant to Adnyamathanha



Government
of South Australia

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP



Governance

- 2005 co-management agreement (linked to ILUA)
- Crown-owned park under control and management of a Board
- 8 member board (50% Adnyamathanha) replaces role of Director
- Board powers & functions defined in Act, Regulations and Co-mgt Agreement



Government
of South Australia

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP



Management

- Statutory management plan prepared collaboratively by Board and Minister
- Board responsible for implementation and monitoring
- Annual report provided to Minister and tabled in Parliament
- Review co-management every 5 years



Government
of South Australia

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP

Engagement



- Traditional Owners and Minister engaged in development of co-management agreement
- Broader community and stakeholders engaged through management planning process
- Specific management strategies to involve local community, neighbours, volunteers, etc
- Good community support



Government
of South Australia

Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP

Equity

- Government funds management
- ~20% increase in management costs
= investment in capacity building
- Preference given to Adnyamathanha employees and contractors
- 100% Adnyamathanha park staff
- Continued access to traditional resources



Issues & challenges



- **Community and agency capacity**
- **Management complexity of reserves**
- **Relationships**
- **Resourcing**
- **Aspirations of Aboriginal communities**
- **Government, agency and stakeholder positions**

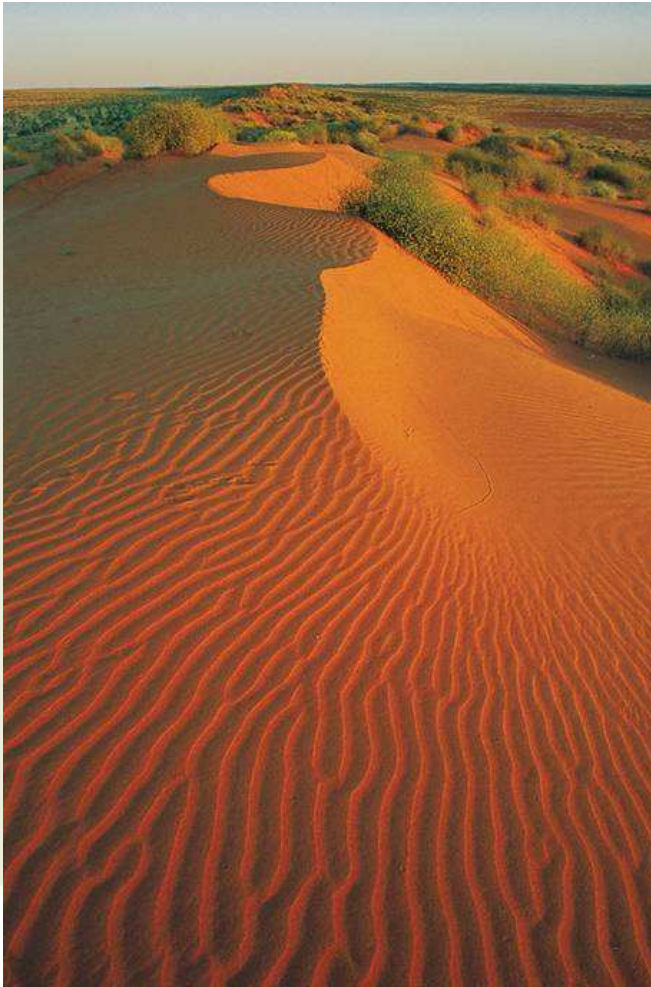


Government
of South Australia

Summary

- SA legislation provides an innovative three-tiered framework for co-management of parks over Crown and Aboriginal land
- Important tool to assist resolution of native title
- Opportunities to progress reconciliation, contribute to Indigenous self-determination and improve biodiversity conservation
- Five co-management agreements in place – 14% of reserve system - others being negotiated

Further information



Greg Leaman
Executive Director, Conservation Policy and Programs
Director of National Parks and Wildlife

Department for Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE, South Australia 5001
Australia

Phone: +61 8 8124 4702

Email: greg.leaman@sa.gov.au