

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

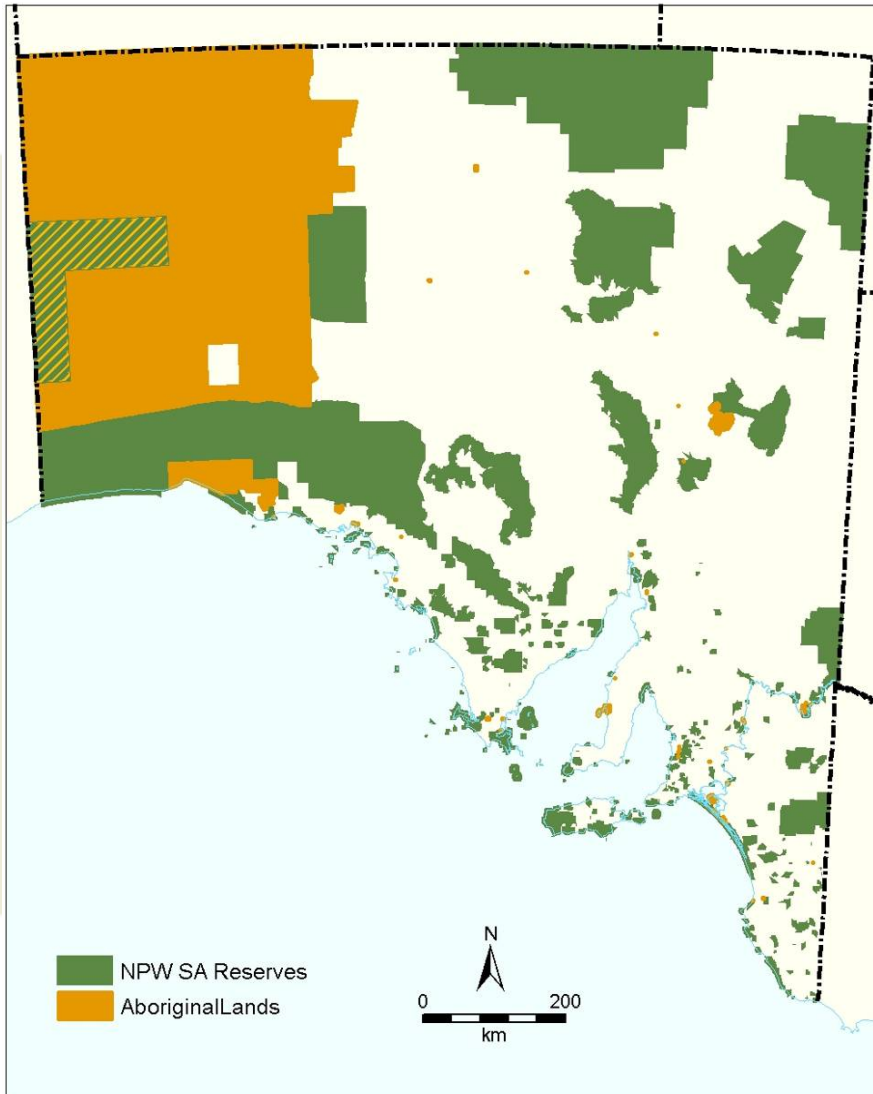
Areas to be covered:

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



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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



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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.



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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

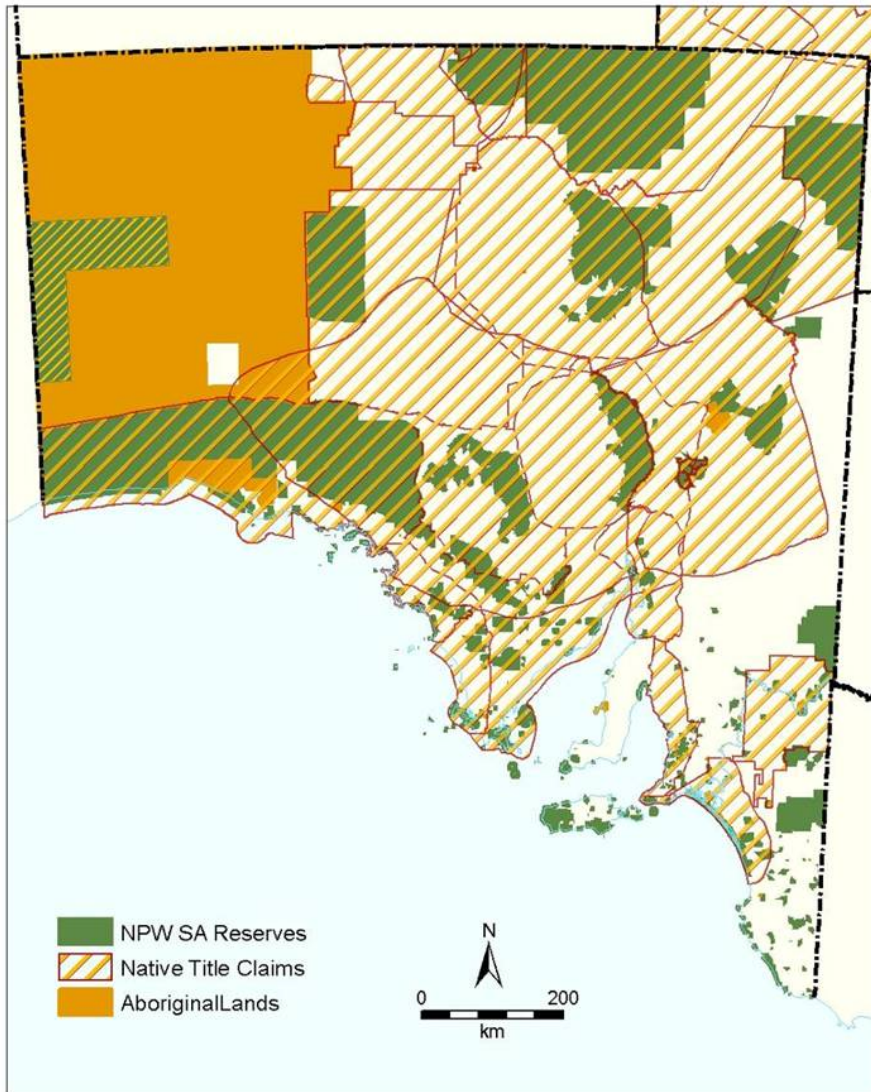


- *National Parks and Wildlife Act* amended July 2004
- Unnamed Conservation Park handed back August 2004
- Five co-management arrangements now in place (3.3 million ha)
- 14% of park system co-managed
- Further co-management proposed



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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



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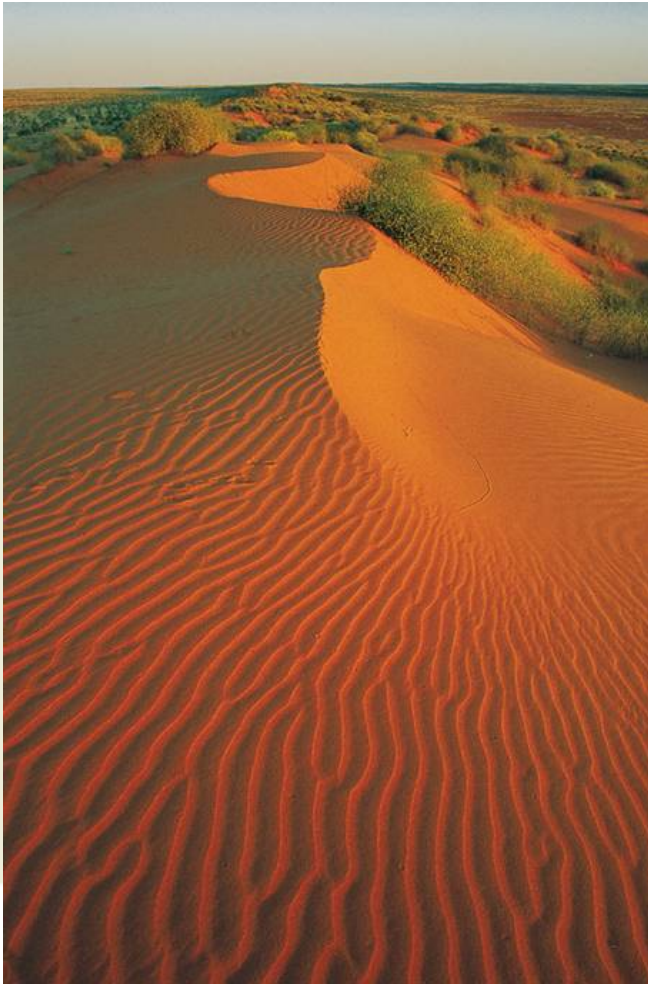
Summary

- 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



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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



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