Australian Government

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Annual Report 2019-2020



Defending Australia and its National Interests
www.defence.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands upon which Defence operates within the Woomera Prohibited Area and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We also acknowledge the services of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed – and continue to contribute – to the defence of Australia and its national interests.

Image warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this document may contain images or content referring to deceased persons. It may also contain words or descriptions that are culturally sensitive.

Images

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Cover image:

Air Force's Compliance Monitoring Team conducting an aerial patrol in June 2020 over the Prominent Hill mine within the Woomera Prohibited Area, South Australia.

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Annual Report 2019-2020

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Chair's Report

This Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) Advisory Board Annual Report covers the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and fulfils the Board's requirement to report on how defence, economic and cultural interests are being balanced in the WPA.

This period saw the appointment of Ms Andrea Slattery as the Board's Deputy Chair. Ms Slattery brings extensive commercial and stakeholder engagement experience that has been of great value in the Board. Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC, Chief of Air Force, was also appointed an ex officio member.

In line with the 2018 Review of Coexistence recommendations, the Advisory Board has updated Terms of Reference to strengthen our role in support of the coexistence objectives, and assisting the Commonwealth and South Australian governments acquit their responsibilities as joint custodians of the WPA coexistence arrangements. The Board was also proud to release the WPA Coexistence Framework, which sets out stakeholder engagement and actions across the various interests in the WPA in order to foster strategic relationships between Defence and non-Defence users of the WPA. As a result, over time we will start to see more direct consultation between the Advisory Board and WPA stakeholders, which was one of the key recommendations of the 2018 Review.

The Board conducted several productive meetings during this reporting period and we are now at the point where the robust governance arrangements for the WPA coexistence model will advance initiatives and demonstrate benefits to all WPA stakeholders. The Board is looking forward to seeing how the great progress to date will materially benefit all those who live, work and maintain their traditional and cultural heritage activities within the broader WPA.

Amanda Vanstone AO

Chair
Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board
November 2020

Executive Summary

The Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) and its stakeholders, like all regions of Australia, have keenly felt the impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic over the 2019-2020 reporting year.

Non-essential access to Aboriginal lands was suspended from March 2020 to support and safeguard the communities' health and wellbeing.

Defence's test and evaluation activities at the Woomera Test Range were affected by COVID-19. Defence saw a reduced operational tempo from January to June 2020 because of restrictions on the movement of people and equipment.

In contrast, Defence received and processed a steady stream of resources sector applications to access the WPA that were promptly processed to support operations and economic activity in the region. But Defence also received fewer access requests under opal mining and precious stone prospecting permits, which was likely a consequence of the pandemic.

While use of the Woomera Test Range was limited in the latter part of the reporting period, the reduced operational tempo allowed Air Force Test Ranges Squadron to undertake increased training to support the new systems being introduced into service on the range.

At the start of the reporting period, only one mine — Prominent Hill — was operating in the WPA. In May 2020, a new company, Barton Gold Pty Ltd was granted access through its subsidiaries for mining production and exploration across a number of tenements, including the Challenger gold mine. The company is considering the economic feasibility of re-starting mining operations.

Mineral exploration and resource production (mining) remains the highest economic value activity among non-Defence activities within the WPA, with OZ Minerals Limited's (OZ Minerals) Prominent Hill copper-gold mine being the strongest performer. Over the reporting period this mine employed over 1,200 people. As at 30 June 2020, 139 mineral exploration licences granted by the South Australian Department for Energy and Mining remained current, with 24 resource exploration permits granted by the Department of Defence to access the WPA remaining current, each covering a number of exploration licences.

Alongside these activities, the Woomera Test Range remains Australia's most important military testing range. The complexity and volume of trials conducted in the WPA will increase in coming years with the introduction of new Defence capabilities. The Commonwealth and South Australian governments will continue to lead in managing coexistence within the WPA to achieve the balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Purpose

The 2018 Review of Coexistence in the WPA recommended strengthening the role of the Advisory Board to:

- assist the Commonwealth and South Australian governments to acquit their responsibilities as joint custodians of the WPA coexistence arrangements
- be guided by a forward work program that more closely connects the Advisory Board to WPA stakeholders by considering issues of current and emerging importance for coexistence in the WPA

The Advisory Board is guided by updated terms of reference to support its objectives to:

- monitor and report on the balance of national security and economic interests in the WPA
- oversee the implementation of the coexistence policy arrangements
- foster strategic relationships between Defence and non-defence users of the WPA

The revised Advisory Board terms of reference can be found on the WPA website (www.defence.gov.au/woomera)

Advisory Board membership

The Advisory Board was established in October 2012 and includes five ex-officio members from Commonwealth and South Australian government stakeholder agencies.

The independent Chair and Deputy Chair are appointed in accordance with Commonwealth Government guidelines. Ex-officio members relinquish membership on cessation of their substantive appointments within their respective departments.

The Board's membership at 30 June 2020 was:

Commonwealth Government appointees

The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO
Chair

Ms Andrea Slattery
Deputy Chair

South Australian Government ex-officio members

Dr Paul Heithersay PSM
Chief Executive
Department for Energy and Mining

Mr Richard Price
Chief Executive
Defence SA

Commonwealth Government ex-officio members

Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC
Chief of Air Force

Mr Peter Tesch
Deputy Secretary Strategy, Policy, and Industry
Department of Defence

Mr Mike Lawson PSM
Deputy Secretary
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Remuneration

The remuneration base fee and meeting fee for the Chair of the Board is determined by the Commonwealth's Remuneration Tribunal in its determination *Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part Time Public Office* that is amended from time to time. The Minister for Defence determined that the Deputy Chair would be paid 80 per cent of the Chair's base fee.

No remuneration is payable to ex-officio members and their costs are met by their home departments.

Support

The Advisory Board is supported by the WPA Coordination Office within the Department of Defence. The WPA Coordination Office is a joint Commonwealth and South Australian Government office established to administer non Defence use of the WPA. It is responsible for policy and regulation.

Advisory Board meetings

The Advisory Board met in-person twice during the 2019-20 reporting period and considered several other matters out-of-session.

1 August 2019 (Adelaide)

The Advisory Board terms of reference were updated to reflect the Advisory Board's strengthened role in managing WPA coexistence arrangements. The terms of reference facilitate Advisory Board members' direct engagement with stakeholders through a strategic forward work program.

12 December 2019 (Adelaide)

The Advisory Board agreed to a strategic forward work program and agreed in-principle to the WPA Coexistence Framework, consisting of a WPA Coexistence Strategy and Implementation Plan for the 2018 Review recommendations, regular reporting mechanisms and a Strategic Communications Plan. The Board also acknowledged the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for WPA Coexistence Arrangements between Defence and the South Australian Government, which articulates the principles of contemporary coexistence and sets out cooperative arrangements between Defence and the South Australian Government in support of the WPA coexistence framework.

The Board also agreed to a proposal for a new WPA website, to be launched by late 2020. The Board agreed the website should include tailored information on access for each WPA stakeholder group, including the resources sector, Aboriginal Groups, pastoralists, tourists and research and environmental proponents.

The Advisory Board invited representatives from OZ Minerals to present on contemporary resources sector developments. The aim was to give the Board greater insight into resources sector operations and business planning in the WPA, including emerging new technology requirements. The Board acknowledged that further

engagement with the resources sector through enhanced case management and a formal consultation program would enhance policy and regulatory development within the coexistence framework. The Deputy Chair and ex-officio members along with government officials were also able to witness mining operations first-hand during a tour of Prominent Hill the day prior to the 12 December Board meeting.



Members of the Advisory Board and representatives from the Department of Defence, Royal Australian Air Force, Defence SA and the Department for Energy and Mining visiting Prominent Hill in December 2019. The visit was hosted by OZ Minerals Limited, as part of a program of engagement with key WPA stakeholders. Photo courtesy of OZ Minerals.

The Woomera Prohibited Area Coexistence Vision Statement

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.

Coexistence in the WPA is built upon the successful management of the operational needs of all Defence and non-Defence users of the area. A contemporary coexistence arrangement will be based on increased engagement between Defence, the South Australian Government and Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. A robust governance arrangement and commitment to implementing the 2018 WPA Review recommendations will drive the management of the WPA as a national asset. The objective of the coexistence framework is for all parties to protect national security interests while maximising the value of the area.

Defence will remain the primary user of the area and national security requirements within the WPA will continue to take precedence. The WPA is the primary location for testing the military systems that will be critical to delivering Defence's mission to defend Australia and its national interests. The enduring success of coexistence relies on the mutual responsibilities of all users in managing the safety and security of the area to maintain an environment that allows the effective conduct of Defence activities in conjunction with commercial and cultural activities.

The WPA is home to some of the freehold lands of the Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara people. The Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara, Kokatha, Arabana and Gawler Ranges people hold native title over the other parts of the WPA. Further information about these groups is available on the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations website at http://oric.gov.au and on their own websites.

The WPA will continue to be managed as a place of national significance for Aboriginal cultural heritage, mineral resources, pastoral operations, environmental research, scientific activity and tourism. Defence and South Australian Government will continue to determine ways to coexist as new technologies are introduced and minerals prospectivity is realised. Defence will seek to offer non-Defence users greater certainty and clarity on the options for commercial operations and practices within the WPA. Further engagement with Aboriginal groups will recognise the cultural importance of the WPA and the importance of heritage preservation and economic viability. Ongoing engagement across the WPA stakeholder community is fundamental to understanding how coexistence can be maintained in anticipation of a changing environment - now and into the future.

The Commonwealth and South Australia governments will approach their custodianship of the WPA as reliable and responsible partners, to maximise the value of the area for state and national benefit. Continuous monitoring and engagement on the changing WPA demands, influences and stakeholder needs - and assessment of their impact on coexistence - will be necessary to deliver the national interest. With a committed effort, contemporary coexistence will continue to foster and shape collaborative use of the WPA within a changing strategic, economic and technological environment.

The Woomera Prohibited Area Coexistence Framework - outcomes and next steps

On 29 March 2019, the Commonwealth Government announced its response to the 2018 WPA Review and released the report. The report made 12 recommendations and found that overall, coexistence arrangements in the WPA were working well.

The Commonwealth Government continues to be committed to coexistence. It recognises the WPA's enduring importance to national security and that national security interests must remain an overriding concern in considering access requests by non-Defence users and commercial activities.

Defence has continued to work in close collaboration with the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and the South Australian Government to implement the Review recommendations. This has led to the development of a Coexistence Framework as illustrated in Figure 1.

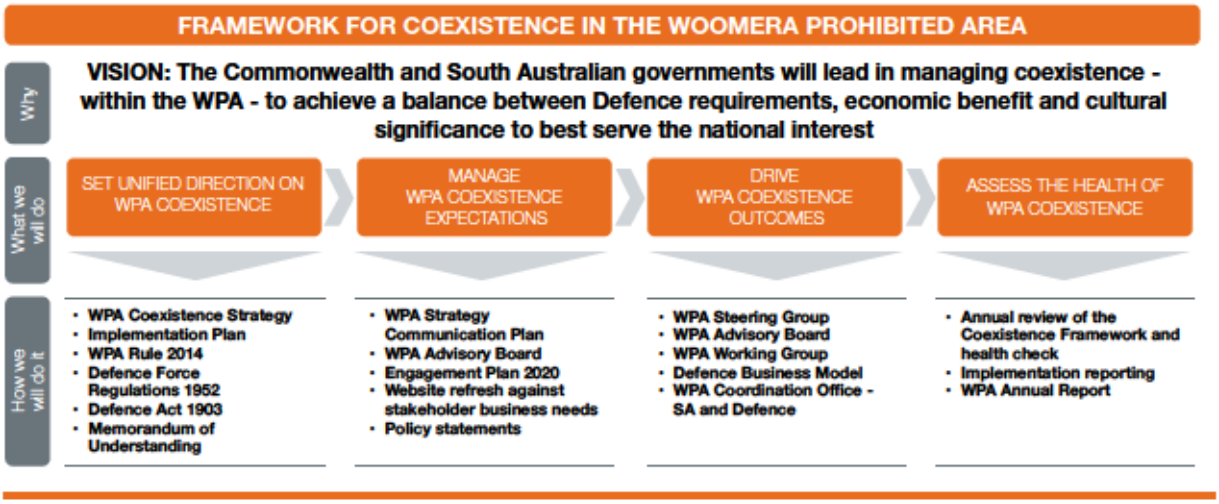


Figure 1: WPA Coexistence Framework

The key components of the WPA Coexistence Framework are:

- **The WPA Coexistence Strategy:** Sets a unified vision for WPA coexistence, describes governance arrangements, and identifies roles and responsibilities for WPA implementation and key implementation priorities using the WPA Review as a guide.
- **The WPA Implementation Plan:** The implementation plan identifies outcomes and deliverables recommended by the 2018 WPA Review.
- **The WPA Strategic Communication Plan:** A communications plan was developed and implemented to create targeted communications across all users and stakeholders.
- **WPA Governance Arrangements:** Governance arrangements are established to oversee implementation and ensure that the WPA is managed in a coherent and coordinated way.

Regular reporting has been built into the governance arrangements to closely monitor the implementation of WPA Coexistence principles. In addition to the enhanced WPA Coexistence Framework, and in the first year of Review implementation, Commonwealth and South Australian government agencies have successfully completed the implementation activities as shown in Figure 2:

THEME	ACHIEVEMENTS	
GOVERNANCE (Recommendations 1, 7, 11 and 12)*	√	A revised terms of reference for the WPA Advisory Board was tabled at the 12 December 2019 meeting, with future Board meetings to be held biannually.
	√	The Memorandum of Understanding regarding Coexistence Arrangements was signed by the South Australian Government and Defence in October 2019.
	√	A strategic forward work program was determined for the WPA Advisory Board.
	√	A policy mechanism to allow the WPA Advisory Board (Chair and Deputy Chair) to provide a non binding recommendation following a request for a review of decision under the WPA regulatory framework was implemented.
POLICY (Recommendations 2,5,6,9, 10)*	√	Established an agreed strategic vision for the WPA which captures national security and stakeholder needs.
	√	Policy guidance was issued for potential users on WPA access obligations through enhanced case management with the resources sector.
	√	Finalised the geophysical survey of the Gawler Craton area, including the red zone, to better understand the minerals prospectivity for the WPA.
	√	An Information and Communication Technology (ICT) information sharing mechanism was adopted for the WPA Advisory Board to offer information and material relevant to their responsibilities.
	√	Compensation processes have been streamlined for WPA users and Defence. Guidelines, including a standard format and examples to assist pastoralists in lodging a claim for compensation were released for consultation.
	√	The WPA Advisory Board agreed to the business needs mapped for the enhanced WPA website, which have allowed for greater tailored information across WPA sectors.
SECURITY (Recommendations 3,4 and 8)*	√	Security risk training was provided to Defence personnel who assess access applications.
	√	Policy guidance was issued for potential users on WPA security obligations through enhanced case management with the resources sector.

**Recommendations found in the 2018 Review of Coexistence in the WPA*

Figure 2: 2019-20 WPA Implementation Plan achievements

Commonwealth and South Australian government agencies will continue to collectively focus on a number of complex implementation activities as part of the longer term program illustrated in Figure 3.

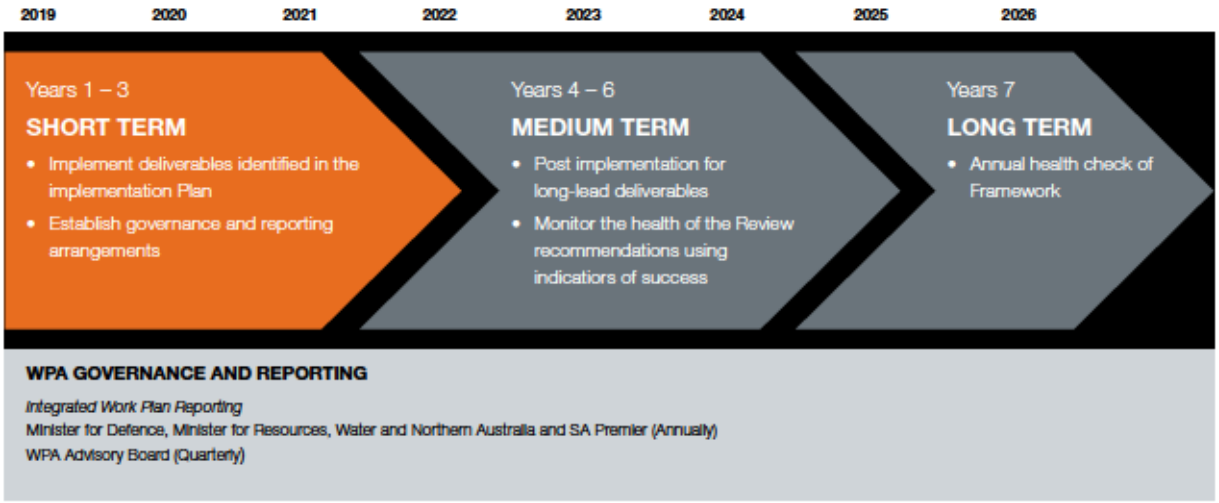


Figure 3: WPA Coexistence Framework implementation timeline

2020 – 21 Implementation priorities

- Initiate a structured dialogue for the Advisory Board to engage and canvass economic opportunities for local Aboriginal groups.
- Complete the WPA Heritage Management Plan to formalise the protection and management of matters and artefacts of cultural significance to Aboriginal people.
- Launch the new WPA website to provide non-Defence users with tailored information about access and their use of the WPA.
- Ensure that the governance arrangements continue to monitor the relationships between the Commonwealth and South Australian governments and across WPA stakeholders.
- Consider alternative models for zoning arrangements, including a more flexible grid-based green zone arrangement for the WPA if feasible, and engage with WPA stakeholders on the proposal.
- Policy guidance issued for potential users on WPA access and security obligations available on the WPA website.
- Conduct a trial with the resources sector to determine a mechanism for better managing the introduction and use of technology within the WPA.
- Assess the results of the Gawler Craton Airborne Survey.
- Develop quarterly and annual reporting on how coexistence is being managed by Commonwealth and South Australian government agencies.

COVID-19 response

The impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on WPA stakeholders varied during the reporting period. The collective efforts of the South Australian and Commonwealth governments, industry and the South Australian public have successfully influenced the shape of the COVID-19 infection curve and largely avoided community transmission of the virus. In close partnership with industry, core economic activity in the South Australian resources and energy sector, including critical service and supply chains, was sustained in the reporting period.

- **Aboriginal people:** The Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara traditional owners advised Defence of travel restrictions put in place within their lands to safeguard the health of their people. Subsequently non essential travel and access across all Aboriginal lands and communities was suspended.
- **Pastoralists:** No pastoral stations reported being overly affected by travel restrictions. Staff stayed mostly on the stations until the restrictions were eased, and they had no issues with deliveries of essential items such as fuel and fresh food. The Royal Flying Doctor Service maintained their schedule of Fly-In / Fly-Out clinics, so routine medical appointments were not affected either.
- **Tourists:** Woomera Test Range staff contacted each tourist with a current or pending tourist permit to ensure they were aware of the travel restrictions, and that their permit would be cancelled as a result. Over the period 16 March to 30 June 2020, 51 tourist permits were cancelled and the issuance of new permits suspended.
- **Resources sector:** Defence supported the operations of resources sector permit holders and applicants to uphold operations and economic activities in the region. Several new resource permits were issued during the pandemic, and there was a steady increase in applications for personnel access. OZ Minerals successfully implemented a number of measures to minimise the operational risks from COVID-19 and this led to no impact on production or regulatory obligations at the Prominent Hill copper-gold mine.
- **Opal and Precious Stone prospecting:** The number of requests to access the Precious Stone fields was lower than usual, likely a direct consequence of the pandemic.
- **Defence:** Social distancing and movement restrictions resulted in a reduction in Defence test and evaluation activities at the Woomera Test Range. Compliance Monitoring teams were also constrained in conducting regular ground patrols during early 2020, but this was mitigated by air patrols. Normal operations recommenced in June but restrictions prevented face-to-face engagement with some stakeholders.

Defence use of the Woomera Prohibited Area

The Commonwealth and South Australian governments will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.



Royal Australian Air Force No.3 Squadron F-35A Lightning 11 in flight over the Australian Outback.

At over 122,000 square kilometres, the WPA provides Defence with a unique capability for the test and evaluation of new and emerging war materiel and associated technology due to its size, remoteness, low population density and quiet electromagnetic environment. It is the only land mass in Australia with an instrumented range capable of safely developing and testing 'next generation' weapons systems to their full extent within its land borders and associated airspace. These may include manned and unmanned aircraft and associated systems; electronic warfare and counter-measure systems; hypersonic engines; missiles; munitions and explosive ordnance; and ground-based weapons systems.

The WPA is also critical to testing and evaluating the technologies and weapons systems already in service within the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and for providing direct support to current military operations. This includes force preparation and training for ADF personnel before deployment overseas.

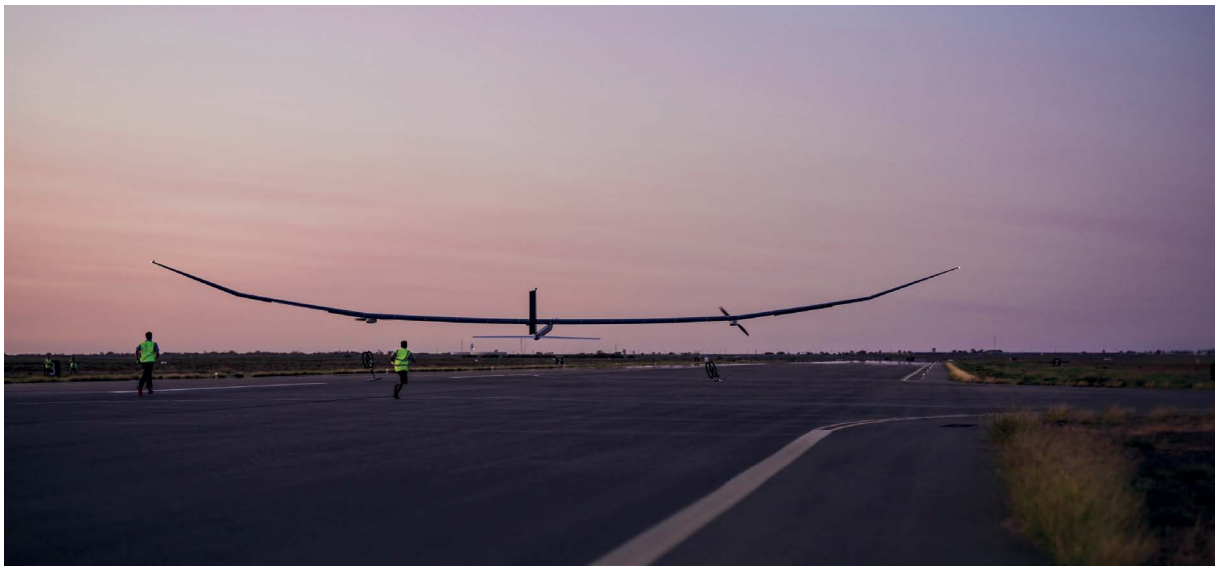
Defence use of the WPA in the first six months of the reporting period was consistent with past years, with the majority of activities conducted within the Defence Continuous Use (Red) Zone. All zones were activated for exclusion periods at some point during the reporting period.

Defence activity levels increased from mid-2019 to December 2019. The impact of COVID-19 and subsequent social distancing and movement restrictions resulted in a reduction of test and evaluation activities from

January to June 2020. The upside was that Air Force Test Ranges Squadron was able to increase its training on the systems being introduced into service. As a result, the squadron is now better positioned to support the introduction of advanced capabilities and weapon systems, including an increased rate of test and evaluation within the WPA.

Throughout the reporting period there were numerous activities conducted by Air Force and Army. The bulk of these were related to the AIR3024 Woomera Range Remediation project, but others included activities like Exercise Griffin Fury, Exercise Thor's Hammer, explosive demolitions, the LAND17 project, and the PHASA-35 flight trial. Many other tests were either cancelled or postponed because of COVID-19.

In January 2020 the PHASA-35 trial took place, during which a 35 metre wingspan PHASA-35 solar-electric aircraft completed its maiden flight at the Woomera Test Range. The Defence Science and Technology Group sponsored the landmark flight with the United Kingdom and defence industry. The new aircraft is expected to address the gap between aircraft and satellite technology.



The PHASA-35 solar-electric aircraft during the January 2020 Solar Hale trials. Photo courtesy of BAE Systems Australia.

Exercise Thor's Hammer was held in Australia for the first time over October to November 2019. More than 100 military personnel and scientific researchers from 12 NATO and partner nations tested their Force Protection Electronic Measure systems within the WPA. Director Exercise Thor's Hammer, Commander Matthew Carroll of the ADF's Joint Counter Improvised Threat Task Force, said the work carried out was at the cutting edge of counter improvised explosive device technology.

Construction of the Test Range's new Range Control Centre and Maintenance Support Facility is complete, with fit out of the operations centre progressing. Upgraded test range systems are also being delivered and training on those systems has been a key focus for all planning staff this year. The AIR3024 project has invested $300 million in advanced instrumentation and enabling infrastructure, with a further $500 million in investment expected in the WPA over the next decade.

The operational tempo for the Air Force Test Ranges Squadron will continue to increase as new and upgraded systems come online. The squadron commenced training on the new systems in late 2019 while continuing to support further test and evaluation activities.

Looking forward, increased Defence activity levels are anticipated with the introduction of next generation weapon systems and increased testing requirements for war materiel within the WPA. These activities will also require Defence to suspend access to a section of the Stuart Highway for short periods and to evacuate an operating mine early in the next reporting period.



A British Army Foxhound and Australian Army Bushmaster during Exercise Thor's Hammer 2019 conducted within the Woomera Prohibited Area.

Exclusion periods for financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21

The exclusion periods for Amber Zone 1 and Amber Zone 2 for financial year 2019 20 were published in March 2019 by a legislative instrument on the Federal Register of Legislation. The *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014* also requires that notice must be given at least three months before the beginning of the financial year in which the exclusion period begins.

Exclusion period information is published on the WPA website. Defence also writes to all stakeholders regarding forthcoming exclusion periods so they can plan their activities accordingly.

The Federal Register of Legislation website provides the latest published or amended exclusion period instruments.

Table 2 in Annex A shows the forthcoming Amber Zone 1 and Amber Zone 2 exclusion periods for financial year 2020-21. They were published in March 2020 by a legislative instrument on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Future Defence investment within the Woomera Prohibited Area

The Commonwealth Government's *2020 Defence Strategic Update* and *2020 Force Structure Plan* recognise that South Australia will be a vital part of supporting situational awareness capabilities, electronic warfare, and research and development activities in the future.

The Force Structure Plan commits a $600 to $900 million investment over the coming decade on the Woomera Range Complex redevelopment. This will ensure that training and testing facilities effectively support current and future Defence capability needs.

This investment will also include a number of smaller projects to upgrade and remediate infrastructure, facilities, and other equipment, reflecting the importance that the Commonwealth places on the WPA and the services and facilities required to support Defence's operations. In the medium term, RAAF Base Woomera will benefit from upgrades to infrastructure including water supply, electricity and other services that will commence around 2021.



Air Force chaplains tour the Woomera Test Range during their national conference in August 2019.

Aboriginal Groups and Cultural Heritage

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.



Oak Valley Primary School children have their photo taken with Oak Valley artist Cindy Watson in front of the Air Force Test Ranges Squadron compliance patrol vehicle at Maralinga Airfield.

Defence acknowledges and respects that Aboriginal people are the custodians of their cultural heritage and that the WPA overlays traditional lands that contain many sites of cultural heritage and significance.

The Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yunkunytjatjara peoples hold freehold title over large areas of the WPA. The Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara, Arabana, Gawler Ranges and Kokatha peoples have non-exclusive Native Title rights over the remaining area. Defence legislation provides that Aboriginal persons and traditional owners may enter and remain within the WPA subject to the requirement to exclude people for safety or security reasons during Defence's testing of war materiel.

Following the successful signing of the cooperation agreement between Defence and Maralinga Tjarutja in 2019, Defence continues to work with each of the remaining five Aboriginal groups with interests in the WPA to develop working-level agreements. Five grants have so far been extended to the Aboriginal groups to assist with costs they may incur in considering the agreements, and Defence are in discussion with Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara about the final funding agreement.

Further information about the Aboriginal groups with traditional lands in the WPA is available on the WPA website.

Heritage Management Plan

Defence is finalising its Heritage Management Plan in consultation with each of the WPA Aboriginal groups to ensure that their sites of cultural significance are preserved, and any future capital works undertaken by Defence address heritage mitigation.

Reserve Compliance Team Officer Program

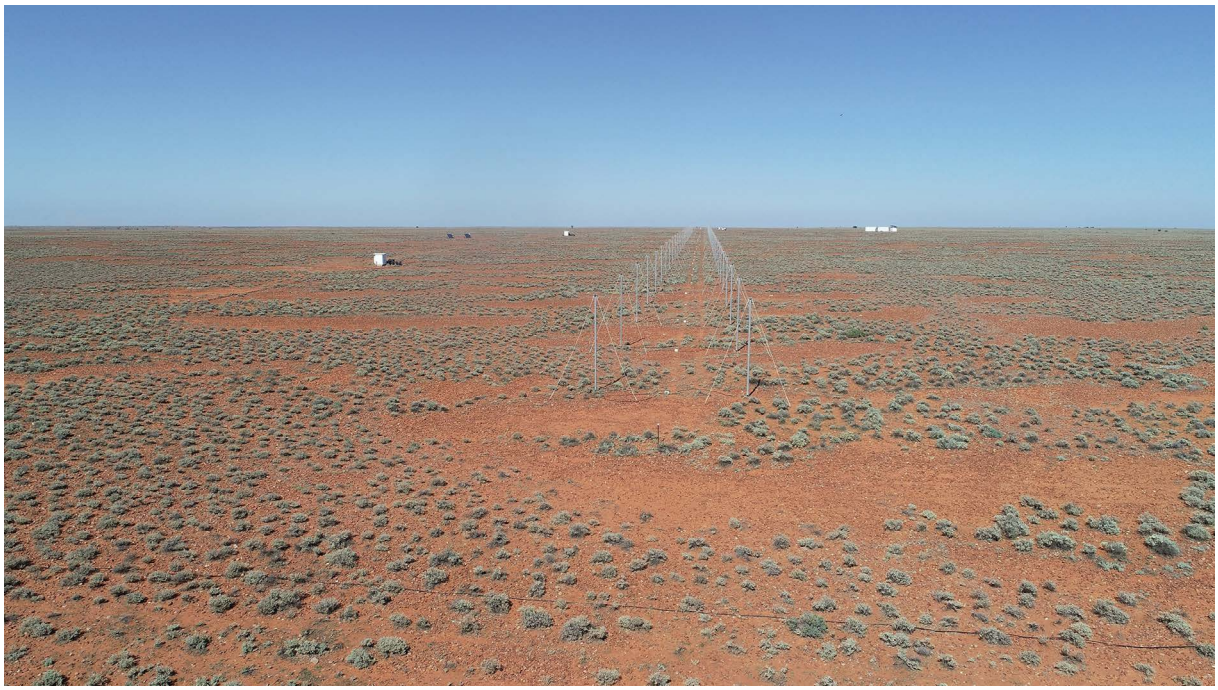
Defence has also continued to promote the Air Force's Reserve Compliance Team Officer Program among the WPA Aboriginal groups. This program supports Air Force's Compliance Monitoring Team operations and Defence's engagement with Aboriginal groups. There were seven Aboriginal members from four local areas working with the Compliance Monitoring Team as at 30 June 2020. Air Force continues to engage Traditional Owners regarding further recruitment opportunities.

Opportunities for Indigenous businesses

Of the $27.9 million recently spent at Woomera as part of Defence's estate works program, $23.2 million was procured through Indigenous businesses. From April to June 2020 the Kokatha Martin Joint Venture also completed $216,000 in works that was funded through a COVID-19 Stimulus Works program. Kokatha was also awarded a contract for construction support to Exercise Griffin Fury in September 2019.

Pastoralists

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.



Project Coorong Array - Joint project - Coondambo Station.

Pastoral leases issued under the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 (SA)* are administered by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Pastoral Board, supported by staff of the Pastoral Unit within the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia. There are 26 pastoral leases that are located either fully or partially within the WPA. Access to, and safety and security on these leases is provided by the Defence Force Regulations 1952.

The *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* is currently under review. The interaction of Defence activities and the administration of pastoral leases within the WPA will be considered, with a new Pastoral Act proposed to be tabled in the South Australian Parliament in early 2021.

Most of 2019 and early 2020 saw the pastoral stations endure drought conditions, and the majority undertook actions to de-stock and agist in less affected areas. Most reported that water was not the most significant problem, but there was a severe shortage of natural feed, and the livestock, both sheep and cattle, were having to compete with native wildlife.

Significant rain through the North-West Pastoral District in early February saw regeneration of suitable feed, and most stations retrieved their stock from agistment. The timing of the stock movements proved advantageous, as stations indicated they had their stock back before the COVID-19 travel restrictions came in to effect. As a result of the de-stocking and re-stocking activities, most sheep stations did not get the rams out to the ewes until late March to early April, resulting in a late lambing season and consequently pushing the seasonal work requirement back by a couple of months.

Unfortunately, autumn and early winter were dry again, and the landscape was, in places, reverting to the condition it was pre-rain. Long-range weather forecasts are being eagerly perused by pastoralists.

Station ownership and resident managers remain unchanged from last financial year except for Ingomar Station, Purple Downs and Roxby, which have all welcomed new managers or management.

Tourists and visitors to the Woomera Prohibited Area

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.



Glendambo Township and Racecourse looking north over Coondambo and Mt Vivian Stations.

Between 1 July 2019 and 16 March 2020, 101 tourist permits were processed under the *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014*. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara traditional owners advised Defence that they had placed travel restrictions within their lands to safeguard the health of their people.

In response, Defence suspended the issuance of tourist permits across all Traditional Owner lands. Those tourists that already had been issued permits were advised of the restrictions, and that their permits had been cancelled.

Resources Sector

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.



Train loading of previously stockpiled iron ore from the Peculiar Knob mine on 6 March 2020. Photo courtesy of Peak Iron Mines Pty Ltd.

Active SA mineral exploration licences	139
SA mineral exploration licences granted	28
SA exploration licences turned into permits	8
Defence mining and exploration permits and deeds in force	28

The WPA overlaps a major part of South Australia's significant minerals and energy resources potential, covering about 30 per cent of the Gawler Craton, one of the world's major mineral domains. The Gawler Craton is host to the world-class Olympic Dam Iron Ore Copper Gold deposit, and the Arckaringa, Officer and Eromanga Basins that contain conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons and coal.

Geoscience Australia previously estimated that 62 per cent of Australia's known copper resources, as well as 78 per cent of the country's known uranium resources, are located within the WPA and its immediate surrounds. In addition, the Coober Pedy Proclaimed Precious Stones field covers about 5,000 square kilometres, about half of which falls within the WPA.

Minerals and energy resources exploration and mining continue to be the highest economic value among non-Defence activities in the WPA. Four major mines are located in the WPA: the Prominent Hill copper-gold mine; the Challenger gold mine; the Cairn Hill magnetite iron ore mine; and, the Peculiar Knob iron ore mine.

However, only one was in operation at the end of the reporting period. These mines have over the longer-term contributed approximately $1.2 billion in terms of capital expenditure that has supported local jobs and businesses. Moreover, South Australia has received about $270 million from these mines as royalty payments over the last six years since the *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014* came into effect.

With resources sector work deemed essential, approved person and escorted person applications continued to be processed and issued by Defence during COVID-19 to uphold resource production and exploration and to support economic activities. In the reporting period, over 450 approved person applications, and 340 escorted persons notifications were processed by Defence.

South Australian Government tenements and licences - mineral, petroleum and geothermal exploration

There were 139 active mineral exploration licences in the WPA as at 30 June 2020. These were held by junior explorers as well as major mining companies such as BHP, Rio Tinto, FMG Resources and OZ Minerals. Twenty-eight mineral exploration licences were granted during the reporting period, 54 per cent more than in the previous financial year. Mineral exploration expenditure for the period was expected to be around $9 million based on available expenditure data. There was sustained exploration activity during the first half of the reporting period, however this was adversely affected by the border restrictions and containment measures put in place Australia-wide due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March 2020, Petrex Australia Pty Ltd, a Western Australian based company, applied for six petroleum exploration licences (PELAs) in the Officer Basin, South Australia, of which three applications fall within the WPA. No drilling, seismic or other forms of surface exploration occurred in the petroleum, geothermal and gas storage tenements in the WPA region. Apart from the three new PELAs, the number of petroleum and geothermal tenements and applications has remained largely the same over the last five years.

During the reporting period, the number of mineral and petroleum exploration tenements that were current in the WPA are detailed at Annex B, with the associated Defence permits detailed at Annex C.

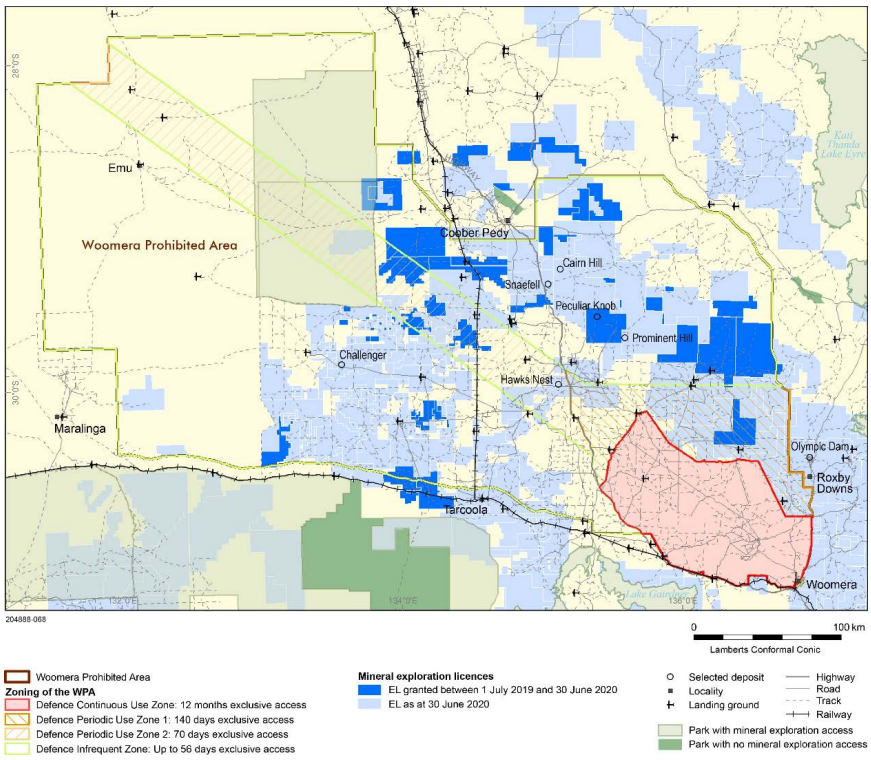


Figure 4: Mineral exploration licences (ELs) and ELs granted in the WPA between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

Mineral exploration

Upon the granting of a mineral exploration licence (EL) by the South Australian Government, the holder of an EL has authority to conduct low impact exploration activities that include geophysical surveys, soil and rock chip sampling, mapping, Aboriginal heritage surveys and other non-invasive exploration techniques. A resource exploration permit under the *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014* is also required for access to the licence area within the WPA. There are currently 24 resource exploration permit holders, while there are a total of 39 EL holders. During the reporting period eight new resource exploration permits were processed and issued. These are shown at Annex C.

When undertaking low impact exploration activities, these must be conducted in accordance with the Generic Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) for Low Impact Exploration Activities in South Australia. Prior to the use of drilling and earthmoving equipment that is required for the search for and delineation of mineral deposits, explorers are required to submit a PEPR for state government assessment and approval.

In 2019-20, six PEPRs were approved covering eight ELs in the WPA. The PEPRs authorised a total of 40,000 metres of drilling targeting iron oxide, copper and gold mineralisation. Low impact exploration activities included Aboriginal heritage surveys, ground sampling and mapping programs, geophysical surveys, and site rehabilitation works.

Exploration highlights



Aerial View of the Challenger Mine. Photo courtesy of Barton Gold Pty Ltd.

Sustained mineral exploration activity took place in the WPA until the COVID-19 pandemic restricted movements of people within the region and around Australia. Activities included OZ Minerals concluding its innovative Unearthed Explorer Challenge on exploration licences surrounding its Prominent Hill copper-gold mine. This challenge involved making the company's two terabytes of technical/geoscience data publicly available. As a result, multidisciplinary teams from around the world could apply machine-learning and other innovative techniques to analyse the data and identify new mineral targets. A $1.0 million prize pool was awarded to leading teams under various categories, and OZ Minerals commenced drill-testing of the targets identified by the challenge winners.

FMG Resources Pty Ltd, Petratherm Ltd and Marmota Ltd also undertook drilling activities during the reporting period as they continued their search for Olympic Dam and Prominent Hill-style copper-gold deposits. Marmota Ltd, in particular, completed phase 2 of its largest drilling program at the Aurora Tank gold discovery that yielded multiple outstanding gold intersections. A follow-up drilling program is currently underway. The Aurora Tank gold discovery is located in the WPA some 50 kilometres northeast of the Challenger gold mine.

New entrant company, Barton Gold Pty Ltd, purchased the tenement assets of former holder WPG Resources (in administration) in order to review the economic feasibility of re-starting mining operations at the Tarcoola and Challenger gold mines, which are currently in care and maintenance. The Challenger gold mine is within the WPA. Barton Gold is planning exploration in coming years to identify new gold resources on exploration licences surrounding these mines.

For non-iron oxide copper-gold exploration, Maosen Australia Pty Ltd commenced a drilling campaign in its Giffen Well iron ore project in the WPA located approximately 50 kilometres north-northeast of Tarcoola.

New owners of the Hawks Nest iron ore project, Peak Iron Mines Pty Ltd and its subsidiary Central Iron Pty Ltd, commenced planning for an extensive exploration drilling program to further define high grade magnetite resources. Hawks Nest is located 50 kilometres south-west of the Peculiar Knob mine within the WPA Amber Zone 2 and hosts a number of direct shipping ore hematite deposits as well as a magnetite resource with exploration potential of up to about 500 million tonnes.



Drilling at the Giffen Well Iron Ore project. Photo taken during a site inspection visit by DEM Officers in December 2019. Photo courtesy of the Government of South Australia.

Mining operations



Barton Gold team at the Challenger mine's Jumbuck Decline in August 2019. Photo courtesy of Barton Gold Pty Ltd.

Two resource production permits and two mining deeds remain current for access and operations in the WPA. During the reporting period one new resource production permit was issued. These are shown at Annex C.

OZ Minerals' Prominent Hill copper-gold mine continued its active mining operation during the reporting period and employed over 1,200 people. It also reported successful completion of a scheduled site evacuation for four days when Defence conducted testing in the WPA Green Zone in 2019.

Peak Iron Mines Pty Ltd, parent company of Southern Iron Pty Ltd's, recommenced operations in Peculiar Knob iron ore mine in February 2020. This started with low grade crushing and screening of the existing stockpile of 1.2 million tonnes of lower grade iron ore mined by previous owners, Arrium Ltd. Full mining production will likely commence in late 2020, while low grade operations will be completed by end of 2020. The Peculiar Knob iron ore mine is located in the WPA approximately 90 kilometres southeast of Coober Pedy and has identified mineral resources of approximately

Ten million tonnes of high grade hematite ore. Around 58 people are currently employed and working on site at Peculiar Knob.

The Challenger gold mine, previously in care and maintenance, is now owned by Challenger 2 Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of Barton Gold Pty Ltd), and has a new resource production permit. During the reporting period, the Cairn Hill iron ore mine (Cu-River Mining Australia Pty Ltd) formally entered into care and maintenance in June 2020, having previously suspended operations.

South Australian Department for Energy and Mining officers conduct regular inspections of mine operations within the WPA. Annual compliance reporting is required from mineral production tenement holders to

demonstrate compliance with the Outcomes and Criteria of an approved PEPR for mining operations, including progressive rehabilitation, closure and completion requirements.

Total royalty payment received by the South Australian Government from the operating mines in the WPA for the reporting period was around $54 million, representing a 29 per cent increase on the royalties received in FY 2018-19.

What all this demonstrates is that there has been only a relatively minor reduction in resources and energy sector operations during the reporting period. The most notable developments were a temporary reduction in total worker movements and the scope of activities being undertaken at the Prominent Hill copper-gold mine, as well as delays to some exploration programs.

The COVID-19 experience across global and national resources and energy sectors is expected to have reinforced interest in remote operations and other technology solutions that might contribute to operational resilience.

Annex C provides information regarding permits and deeds for the WPA, and Annex D provides information about the major mines in the WPA.

PACE Copper

The PACE Copper Gawler Craton airborne survey (GCAS) acquisition – the largest of its type in Australia – conducted in mid-2019, with acquired data releases concluding in March 2020. The survey captured about 1,660,000 line kilometres of new magnetic, radiometric and digital elevation data over an area of about 295,000 square kilometres. This new data surpassed the previous patchwork of historical surveys and provides an internally consistent dataset that will be fundamental in reinterpreting the geological structure of the Gawler Craton. The geophysical data was captured by fixed-wing aircraft flying about 60 metres above the ground along flight lines spaced 200 metres apart. Both government and the private sector are now undertaking further analysis of the substantial volume of data captured by the GCAS program.

To date, there have been over 3,000 GCAS data downloads, including over 2,000 downloads of the new survey data and value-added and depth model data packages. There have been more than 37,000 views of GCAS data on South Australian Resources Information Gateway or SARIG, the online portal for delivery of statewide geoscientific and geospatial data.

The Gawler Craton Airborne Survey has been a catalyst for the South Australian Government's Explore SA – Gawler Challenge, managed by Unearthed Solutions, the largest ever open data exploration challenge to be run by a government. The Gawler Challenge brings together a community of start-ups, developers, data scientists and geoscientists, helping to make the energy and resources industry more efficient and sustainable. The Gawler Challenge seeks to identify or predict mineralisation locations in the Gawler Craton using any discovery approach.

The Gawler Challenge has attracted 59 submissions, using both established and novel approaches to predict mineralisation and prospectivity within the GCAS region. The submissions are expected to have a significant, positive impact on the exploration and mining sector when they are released into the public domain. Details of Explore SA: The Gawler Challenge can be found at the Department for Energy and Mining website.

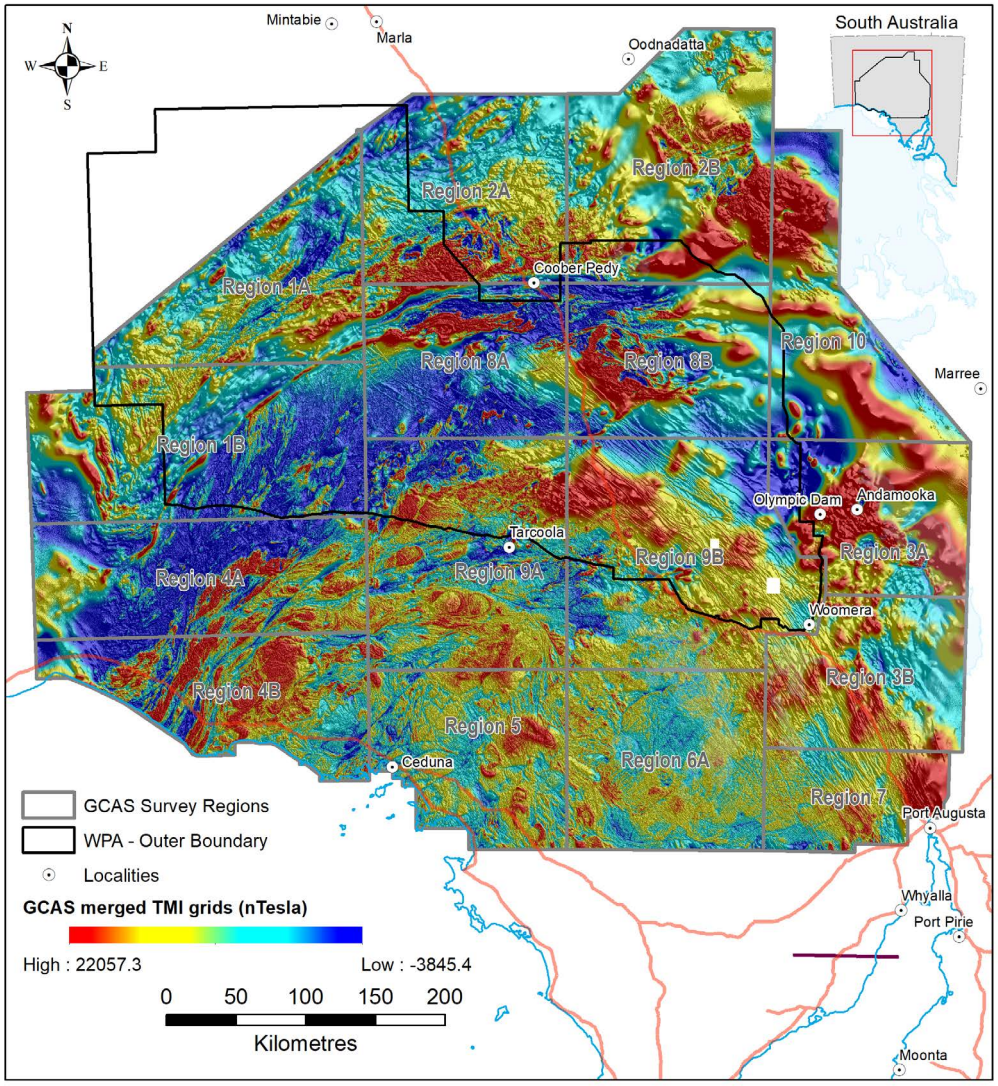


Figure 5: Locality diagram of the complete Gawler Craton airborne survey magnetic imagery and its proximity to the Woomera Prohibited Area.

Opal and Precious Stone prospectivity and operations

The Coober Pedy Proclaimed Precious Stones field covers about 5,000 square kilometres, half of which falls within the WPA (Figure 6). Prospecting for opal and opal mining tend to be ephemeral activities with a constant turnover of registered tenements. Exceptions to this occur when opal is found, and then tenements tend to be renewed for longer periods.

There are currently 57 registered precious stones tenements within the WPA. Table 2 in Annex C details the Opal Permits granted by Defence. It is estimated from the Opal Production report that the currently registered tenements may produce about $2.04 million worth of opal. During the reporting period, Department for Energy and Mining Opal Fields staff conducted a total of 144 inspections in the area.

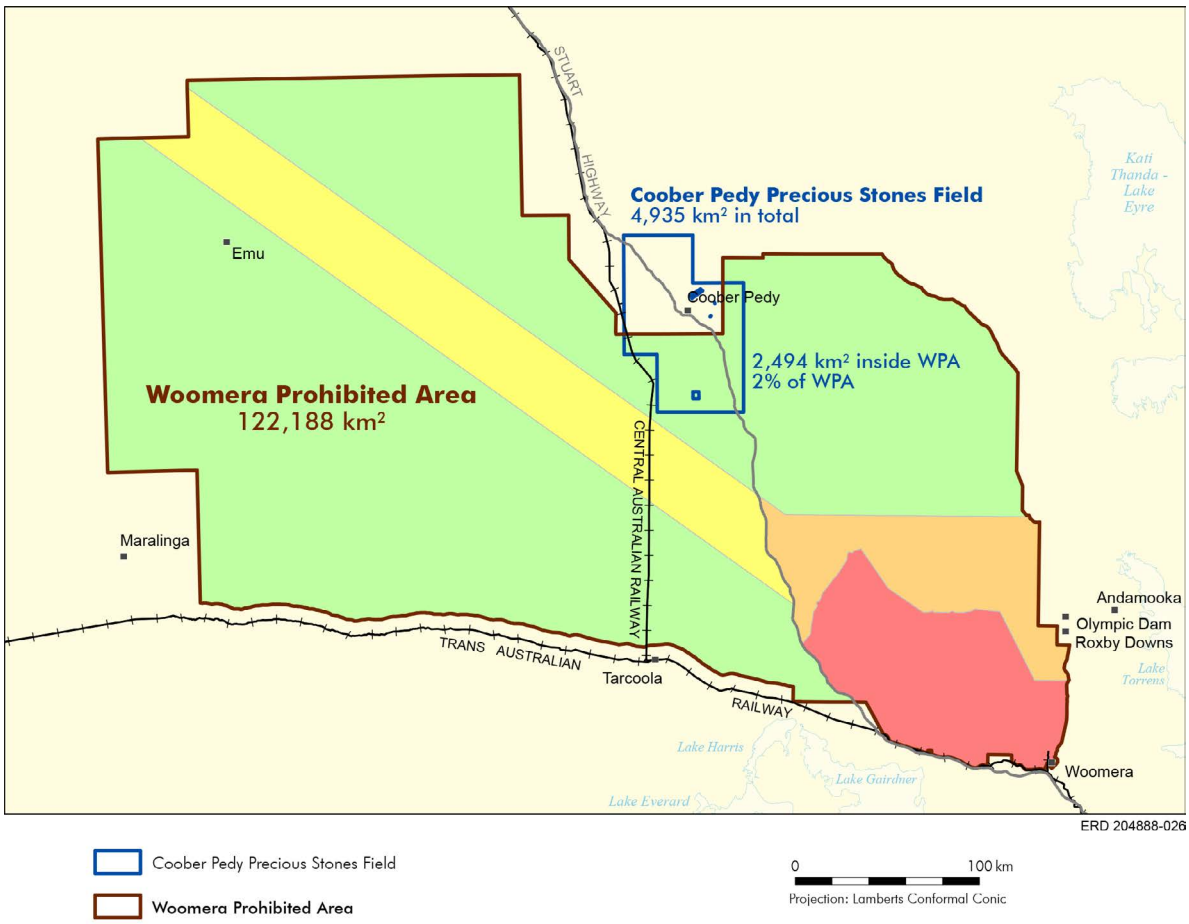


Figure 6: Location Map of the Woomera Prohibited Area showing the Coober Pedy Precious Stones Field

South Australia supplies 80 per cent of the world market for these precious stones, and opal became the official State gem in 1975.

There were 24 requests for access into the Precious Stone fields over this reporting period. The low numbers can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Woomera Test Range staff have a close working relationship with the Coober Pedy-based South Australian Government compliance officer regarding permit requests for access to the opal fields within the WPA.



Mining at Opal Ridge. Photo courtesy of the Government of South Australia.

Research and Environmental access to the Woomera Prohibited Area

The Commonwealth and South Australian Government will lead in managing coexistence – within the WPA – to achieve a balance between Defence requirements, economic benefit and cultural significance to best serve the national interest.

Defence research and environment permits issued	1
Companies/agencies operating with a research and environment permit	2
Personnel access approvals	6

One research permit was issued in the reporting period for the purpose of conducting seismic surveys, with the aim of filling-in in gaps in national seismic data coverage for the monitoring of earthquakes.

There was one other research permit that remained current during the reporting period. This permit was issued for the purpose of the Australian Lithospheric Architecture Magnetotelluric Project (AusLAMP), a national survey measuring the earth's electric and magnetic fields to understand geological processes.



The PHASA-35 solar-electric aircraft during the January 2020 Solar Hale trials in the WPA. Photo courtesy of BAE Systems Australia.

Looking Forward

As noted in last year's Annual Report, the WPA will continue to be shaped by local, national and global developments and the Financial Year 2019-20 reporting year has most certainly been a reflection of that. Defence and non Defence users and stakeholders experienced the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 while pastoralists continue to suffer extreme drought conditions. Commonwealth and South Australian agencies will continue to support the communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Future efforts will focus on providing additional guidance to WPA stakeholders on how to operate within the WPA. This guidance will be available on the updated WPA website (launched in August 2020) which provides easy access to all relevant and up-to-date information for permit holders, stakeholders, tourists and visitors. The updated website can be found at: www.defence.gov.au/woomera.

Another priority will be the continued implementation of robust governance arrangements and reporting, to promote and maintain continuing positive relationships between Defence, the South Australian Government, and WPA stakeholders. This will include direct engagement by the WPA Advisory Board across multiple WPA stakeholders, including Aboriginal groups, pastoralists and the resources sector.

Strong, productive and positive relationships continue to remain critical to coexistence in the WPA. These relationships will underpin how broader policy changes will be introduced or amended across the Commonwealth and South Australian governments. Finding ways to seek out economic value and minimise any impacts of possible increased Defence and non-Defence activities on the WPA stakeholder community will also be important.

Commonwealth and South Australian government agencies remain committed to the spirit of collaboration and consultation with all users of the WPA to ensure that the WPA coexistence framework continues to thrive in the years ahead.

Annex A: Exclusion Periods - status

Table 1: Exclusion periods July 2019 – June 2020

Access Zone	Exclusion Period Determined by Instrument	Status
Amber 1	1 July – 7 July 2019	Exclusion exercised
	8 July – 14 July 2019	Exclusion exercised
	2 September – 8 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	9 September – 15 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	16 September – 22 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	23 September – 29 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	30 September – 6 October 2019	Exclusion exercised
	07 October – 13 October 2019	Exclusion exercised
	25 November – 1 December 2019	Exclusion exercised
	2 December – 8 December 2019	Exclusion exercised
	9 December – 15 December 2019	Exclusion exercised
	3 March – 9 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	10 March – 16 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	17 March – 23 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	24 March – 30 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	31 March – 6 April 2020	Exclusion exercised
	7 April – 13 April 2020	Exclusion exercised
	14 April – 20 April 2020	Exclusion exercised
	21 April – 27 April 2020	Exclusion exercised
	28 April – 04 May 2020	Exclusion exercised
Amber 2	2 September – 8 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	9 September – 15 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	16 September – 22 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	23 September – 29 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	26 November – 2 December 2019	Revoked
	3 December – 9 December 2019	Revoked
	3 March – 9 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	10 March – 16 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	17 March – 23 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
	24 March – 30 March 2020	Exclusion exercised
Green	1 September – 7 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	8 September – 14 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	15 September – 21 September 2019	Exclusion exercised
	22 September – 28 September 2019	Exclusion exercised

Table 2: Exclusion periods July 2020 – June 2021

Access Zone	Exclusion period Determined by Instrument	Status
Amber 1	20 July – 26 July 2020	Planned
	27 July – 2 August 2020	Planned
	3 August – 9 August 2020	Planned
	10 August – 16 August 2020	Planned
	17 August – 23 August 2020	Planned
	24 August – 30 August 2020	Planned
	5 November – 11 November 2020	Planned
	12 November – 18 November 2020	Planned
	19 November – 25 November 2020	Planned
	26 November – 2 December 2020	Planned
	3 December – 9 December 2020	Planned
	8 March – 14 March 2021	Planned
	15 March – 21 March 2021	Planned
	22 March – 28 March 2021	Planned
	29 March – 4 April 2021	Planned
	5 April – 11 April 2021	Planned
	12 April – 18 April 2021	Planned
	19 April – 25 April 2021	Planned
	26 April – 2 May 2021	Planned
	3 May – 9 May 2021	Planned
Amber 2	20 July – 26 July 2020	Planned
	27 July – 2 August 2020	Planned
	3 August – 9 August 2020	Planned
	10 August – 16 August 2020	Planned
	19 November – 25 November 2020	Planned
	26 November – 2 December 2020	Planned
	3 December – 9 December 2020	Planned
	22 March – 28 March 2021	Planned
	29 March – 4 April 2021	Planned
	5 April – 11 April 2021	Planned
Green	3 August – 16 August 2020	Planned
	19 November – 9 December 2020	Planned
	22 March – 11 April 2021	Planned

Annex B: Licences issued or amended by the South Australian Government

Table 1: Tenements and licences FY 2019-20

Tenements / Licences	Current	Granted	Renewed	Anticipated over the next 12 months
ELA – Exploration Licence Application	35	-	-	35 ELAs may be finalised and granted
EL – Exploration Licence	139	28	36	Up to 39 ELs may be renewed
ML – Mineral Lease	6	0	0	Anticipated to be similar to previous year
EML – Extractive Minerals Lease	59	0	0	Anticipated to be similar to previous year
MPL – Miscellaneous Purposes Licence	34	0	0	Anticipated to be similar to previous year; one RL may be renewed
MC – Mineral Claim	0	0	0	
RL – Retention Lease	1	0	0	
GEL – Geothermal Exploration Licence	0	0	0	Anticipated to be similar to previous year
GELA - Geothermal Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	Anticipated to be similar to previous year
GSEL – Gas Storage Exploration Licence	1	0	0	
GSELA – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	21	0	0	
PEL – Petroleum Exploration Licence	10	0	0	1 PEL may be renewed
PELA – Petroleum Exploration Licence Application	23	-	-	

Table 2: Tenements and licences - Historical and Current

Tenements / Licences	30 June 2014	30 June 2015	30 June 2016	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	30 June 2020
ELA – Exploration Licence Application	17	36	25	36	18	29	35
EL – Exploration Licence	163	165	149	148	143	137	139
ML – Mineral Lease	5	6	7	7	7	6	6
EML – Extractive Minerals Lease	60	60	60	59	59	59	59
MPL – Miscellaneous Purposes Licence	33	34	34	34	34	34	34
MC – Mineral Claim	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
RL – Retention Lease	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
GEL – Geothermal Exploration Licence	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
GELA - Geothermal Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GSEL – Gas Storage Exploration Licence	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
GSELA – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
PEL – Petroleum Exploration Licence	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
PELA – Petroleum Exploration Licence Application	17	17	18	19	19	20	23

Annex C: Permits issued or amended by Defence

Table 1: Resource permits issued and access FY 2019-20

Permit or Access	1 July 19 to 30 Sep 19	1 Oct 19 to 31 Dec 19	1 Jan 20 to 31 Mar 20	1 Apr 20 to 30 Jun 20	Total
Resource Production Permits issued	0	0	0	1	1
Resource Exploration Permits issued	2	0	1	5	8
Resource Exploration Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Exploration Permits varied	0	0	2	4	6
Resource Exploration Permits surrendered by permit holders	0	0	1	3	4
Permit variation refused	0	0	0	0	0
Research Permit	1	0	0	0	1
Other Purpose Permit issued	0	0	0	0	0
Permit non-compliance (Breaches issued)	0	0	0	0	0
Access Requests processed	19	36	28	31	114
Total number of personnel processed on Access Requests	82	168	322	212	784
Access Requests refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Opal permits FY 2019-20

Permit or Access	1 July 19 to 30 Sep 19	1 Oct 19 to 31 Dec 19	1 Jan 20 to 31 Mar 20	1 Apr 20 to 30 Jun 20	Total
Opal Permits issued	5	2	5	12	24
Opal Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Resource permits and deeds - Historical and Current

Deed or Permit type	30 June 2014	30 June 2015	30 June 2016	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	30 June 2020
Mineral Lease Deed of Access[1]	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
Resource Production Permit	0	0	1	1	1	1	2
Exploration Deed of Access[1]	34						
Extractive, Petroleum or Other Purpose Deeds[1]	6						
Resource Exploration Permit	0	36	34	34	24	27	24
Other Purpose Permit[2]	0	5	5	7	7	7	4
Research Permit	0	0	2	3	2	1	2
Opal Permits	25	69	51	23	13	13	24

(1) No further deeds issued following the commencement of the *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014*.

(2) Includes two extractive deeds and one other purpose deed that transitioned to Other Purpose Permits under the *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014*.

Table 4: Resource personnel FY 2019-20

Resource personnel	1 July 19 to 30 Sep 19	1 Oct 19 to 31 Dec 19	1 Jan 20 to 31 Mar 20	1 Apr 20 to 30 Jun 20	Total
Approved Person applications lodged	124	81	144	102	451
Approved Persons refused	0	0	0	0	0
Escorted Person applications lodged	76	52	117	95	340
Escorted Person refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Tourist permits FY 2019-20

Permits	1 July 19 to 30 Sep 19	1 Oct 19 to 31 Dec 19	1 Jan 20 to 31 Mar 20	1 Apr 20 to 30 Jun 20[1]	Total
Number of Tourist Permits issued	81	16	55	0	152
Number of tourists authorised on Tourist Permits	163	32	114	0	309
Tourist Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0
Tourist Permits cancelled	0	0	51[2]	0	51

(1) No tourist permits issued for this quarter as a result of COVID-19.

(2) Cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Annex D: Major Mines within the Woomera Prohibited Area

Mine Name	Commodity	Company	Status	Term of Mining Lease	Life of Mine[1] (years)	Production(2) FY 2019-20
Prominent Hill	Copper (Cu) Gold (Au)	OZ Minerals Prominent Hill Operations Pty Ltd (OZ Minerals Ltd)	Operating Underground (Ankata and Malu). Open Pit mining has ceased	ML 6228 – 15 years from 2006 to 2021	To 2031	80, 587t Cu 165, 698oz Au
Challenger	Gold (Au)	Challenger 2 Pty Ltd (Barton Gold Pty Ltd)	Mine in care and maintenance	ML 6103 – 27 years from 2001 to 2028; ML 6457 – 12 years from 2016 to 2028	Mine in care and maintenance	Nil ore mined
Cairn Hill	Magnetite iron ore (Fe_3O_4)	Cu-River Mining Australia Pty Ltd	Mine in care and maintenance	ML 6303 – 20 years from 2008 to 2028 (ML renewed for another ten years)	Mine in care and maintenance	Nil ore mined
Peculiar Knob	Hematite iron ore (Fe_2O_3)	Southern Iron Pty Ltd (Peak Iron Mines Pty Ltd)	Operating; Recommenced operations in February 2020	ML 6314 – 14 years from 2008 to 2022	To 2025	530,136t

(1) Published information based on currently defined reserves.

(2) Based on ASX releases and Department for Energy and Mining Record.



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