



Australian Government

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Annual Report 2020-2021



Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara, Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara, Arabana, Gawler Ranges, Kokatha and Maralinga Tjarutja peoples, the traditional custodians of the lands upon which Defence operates within the Woomera Prohibited Area.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We also acknowledge the service 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:

Private Terrance Hartman, 10/27th Royal South Australia Regiment, and Aircraftman Amit Kumar, 3 Security Forces Squadron, at the entrance to RAAF Woomera preparing to go out on patrol.

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Annual Report 2020-2021

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Chair's report

The Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) Advisory Board is charged with balancing Defence, economic and cultural interests within the WPA Coexistence Framework. The Advisory Board is comprised of an independent Chair and Deputy Chair with ex-officio members representing Air Force, Department of Defence (Defence), Australian government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, South Australian (SA) government Department for Energy and Mining and Defence SA.

Over the last 12 months, the Advisory Board has worked closely with Defence and the SA government, as joint managers of the WPA, to protect national security interests and maximise economic opportunities in the WPA. The WPA is a vital area for Defence capability testing but also for Aboriginal communities, pastoralists, resources sector and many other stakeholders. I chaired two Advisory Board meetings that focused on working with Aboriginal communities in the WPA, opportunities to support the resources sector and progressing updates on the Coexistence Framework.

The Advisory Board has a keen interest in the Coexistence Framework and how we can support the implementation of recommendations from the 2018 WPA Review. We are pleased to report five from 12 recommendations have been completed or transitioned to business as usual. This work will continue with key implementation priorities in the next reporting period. Over the next 12 months, we will focus on strengthening Aboriginal engagement within the WPA, beginning the Introduction of Technology trial, and releasing the inaugural WPA Coexistence Health Check.

As Australia continues to manage COVID-19, the Advisory Board has also focused on the Commonwealth and state government's work to support Aboriginal communities, industry sectors and the general public visiting the WPA to respond to and abide by SA Health guidelines. To the extent possible, Defence and SA government have maintained access to the WPA to support economic activity. This work has seen field activities recommence, with many positive announcements from exploration and mining companies in the WPA.

I was impressed by the professionalism of Defence and the advanced capability of the WPA, with the successful re-entry to Earth of Japan's Hayabusa2 sample recovery capsule in December 2020. This international collaboration was only possible due to the Commonwealth government's ongoing investment in the WPA with infrastructure and capability upgrade projects being completed in the reporting period. The re-entry was commemorated by a local Kokatha artist with the artwork presented to the Japanese team in recognition of the successful mission. Attention now turns to design and planning for future projects in the WPA.

As the Chair, I am looking forward to working with Defence, SA government and other WPA stakeholders to continue the great work achieved across 2020 and 2021.

Amanda Vanstone AO

Chair
Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board
December 2021

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Purpose

The Advisory Board's primary role is to support the Commonwealth and SA governments, as joint custodians of the WPA coexistence arrangements. It monitors and reports on the balance of national security and economic interests in the WPA.

The Advisory Board also monitors the implementation of the Coexistence Framework, to foster strategic relationships between Defence and non-Defence users in the WPA, including, but not limited to, Aboriginal groups, pastoralists and the resources sector.

Defence and SA government support the Advisory Board by working with stakeholders and other government departments to support non-Defence use of the WPA.

The Hon Amanda Vanstone
AO
Chair

Ms Andrea Slattery
Deputy Chair

Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld
AO, DSC
Chief of Air Force

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

Mr Sean Sullivan
Deputy Secretary
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

Dr Paul Heithersay
PSM
Chief Executive
Department for Energy and Mining

Mr Richard Price
Chief Executive
Defence SA

Membership

The Advisory Board has an independent Chair and Deputy Chair.

It also includes five ex-officio members from the Commonwealth and SA governments. Mr Sean Sullivan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, joined the Advisory Board in July 2020.

2020-21 Advisory Board Meetings

The Advisory Board met twice during the reporting period, both by video conference due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. There were no out-of-session matters considered by the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board continues to review and guide progress on the 2018 WPA Review implementation, which is progressing well. Further detail is provided in this Annual Report.

5 August 2020 meeting

The Advisory Board began discussions on a strategic forward work program with Aboriginal communities in the WPA. The Advisory Board explored opportunities to strengthen engagement with communities and build on existing Commonwealth and SA government programs.

The impact of COVID-19 was also a key consideration. The Advisory Board was presented with an update on growth opportunities for the resources and energy sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. Defence SA also briefed the Advisory Board on opportunities for stimulating growth in SA's Defence sector.

The redesigned WPA website was launched in August 2020. The Advisory Board has continued to seek feedback from WPA users on its useability and possible future improvements.

14 April 2021 meeting

This meeting considered a proposal to conduct an annual WPA Coexistence (Health Check), which will collect qualitative and quantitative data from all WPA stakeholders to review the performance of coexistence arrangements. The Advisory Board agreed that Health Check outcomes will be presented annually, to provide a clear understanding from WPA users about their experience with Defence, and how effectively it balances its use of the area with access for economic and other sector activities. The first Health Check is expected to be presented to the Board in 2022.

The Advisory Board also considered a strategic forward work program to deepen engagement with Aboriginal communities. This was informed by presentations from experts about strategies and mechanisms to engage with Aboriginal communities in the WPA.

The Advisory Board noted the importance of the resources sector to SA's economic prosperity. New opportunities for growth will be explored by the Advisory Board and the SA government throughout 2021-2022.

Woomera Prohibited Area Coexistence Framework

The principle of coexistence recognises that while Defence testing and evaluation of military systems is important, the WPA is also an essential region for Aboriginal native title and cultural heritage, pastoral activity and resource exploration and mining.

The WPA Coexistence Framework aims to protect national security interests while maximising the value of the WPA for all stakeholders. In 2018, the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia appointed Dr Gordon de Brouwer PSM to lead a review of the coexistence arrangements in the WPA.

The review made 12 recommendations to balance WPA stakeholder interests. These recommendations reflect the enduring significance of the WPA to Australia's national security. It also recognises the importance of maintaining the considerable value the WPA holds for Aboriginal cultural heritage, mineral resources, pastoral operations, environmental research, and other scientific activities.



The Boeing Australia Airpower Teaming System – 'Loyal Wingman' conducts its first flight at the Woomera Range Complex.

The Advisory Board receives regular reporting on the review implementation activities. Five of the review recommendations are now completed or have transitioned to business as usual, with seven recommendations yet to be fully implemented. Table 1 provides summary updates and demonstrates progress against the outstanding review recommendations.

Table 1: Summary of the status of WPA 2018 Review Recommendations

<p><u>Recommendation 1</u></p> <p>Building on the success of current arrangements, contemporary coexistence in the WPA should focus as much on strong and productive relationships as on sound legal and policy frameworks.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Implemented modernised and tailored online interface for all WPA users. Steering and working groups established to oversee implementation and guide operational and strategic efforts. Agreed strategic vision and communications plan implemented to reflect the strategic landscape and keep stakeholders informed of WPA activities.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 2</u></p> <p>Defence and the SA government should employ a collaborative co-design process to determine the feasibility of a more flexible grid-based arrangement for the WPA green zone.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Co-design workshops underway with WPA users.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 3</u></p> <p>All users of the WPA should give greater emphasis to managing the introduction and use of technology in the area.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Introduction of Technology trial is underway in consultation with WPA users.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 4</u></p> <p>To manage the risks to national security associated with investment in the WPA, a key consideration for Defence when it assesses WPA access applications should be whether companies have substantive Australian ownership, control and influence.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Defence case management implemented to engage WPA stakeholders on safety and security compliance obligations. Defence conducts quarterly audits and governance checks of company data, including foreign investment. Security obligations and foreign investment guidance for WPA access management published on WPA website.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 5</u></p> <p>Geological and economic analysis of the mineral, energy and groundwater resources potential of the Gawler Craton Area, including the red zone within the WPA, should continue.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Gawler Craton Airborne Survey was completed and released in 2021 by SA government. Data analysis for the prospectivity report is ongoing.</p>

<p><u>Recommendation 6</u></p> <p>To address concerns about the feasibility of developing new mines in the WPA, Defence should reaffirm publicly its commitment to coexistence in the WPA.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>WPA users provided clear security obligation guidance and foreign investment guidelines on the WPA website to understand the unique requirements of operating in the WPA. Case management and engagement with stakeholders provides an understanding of industry needs for new mining activities in the WPA.</p> <p>The Advisory Board investigated and agreed not to pursue third-party technical advisers for non-defence use of the WPA.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 7</u></p> <p>To strengthen the role of the WPA Advisory Board.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>ICT information sharing mechanism for Advisory Board members is ongoing.</p> <p>The Health Check will provide ongoing feedback on the Coexistence Framework's effectiveness.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 8</u></p> <p>There should be a greater collective emphasis on the security of companies operating in the WPA.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>The self-check and security obligation guidance has been published on the WPA website. Defence security risk assessment framework updated to reflect contemporary security requirements and robust risk guidance.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 9</u></p> <p>Defence and Aboriginal groups in the WPA should continue to build on their already strong relationships.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Working level agreements and WPA Heritage Management Plan are being finalised.</p> <p>WPA Aboriginal Engagement Strategy to be co-designed with Aboriginal communities.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 10</u></p> <p>Consideration should be given to new ways of managing small parcels of land no longer suitable for pastoral activity, and greater guidance provided to pastoralists for claiming compensation for losses due to defence testing.</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Acquisitions will be considered based on Defence's strategic needs.</p> <p>Claims guidance published on WPA website in October 2020.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 11</u></p> <p>Administration of the WPA coexistence arrangements should be modernised.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Updates to the WPA website completed in 2020.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with opal mining stakeholders on their obligations.</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 12</u></p> <p>A further complete review of WPA arrangements by 2025.</p>	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Decision on further review of WPA arrangements to be considered in June 2024.</p>

2020-21 Implementation Update

Reporting on coexistence

The *2018 Review of the Woomera Prohibited Area Coexistence Framework (2018 Review)* recommended that a future review of coexistence arrangements in the WPA be undertaken in 2025. The outcomes of the Health Check will be a primary consideration in determining whether this formal review is required.

The Health Check will engage with all WPA stakeholders, including across government, the resources sector, Aboriginal communities, pastoralists, tourists, and the research sector. The outcomes will assist in setting a unified direction on coexistence in the WPA. This will include managing expectations for all stakeholders, driving existing or newly recognised coexistence outcomes and assessing the health of the WPA coexistence framework.

The first Health Check is due to be reported to the Advisory Board in 2022, with the outcomes to be reported in the 2021-2022 WPA Advisory Board Annual Report.

The Health Check's reporting is underpinned by quarterly dashboard reports. These reports inform the Advisory Board's understanding of the relationship between Defence, the SA government and other stakeholders that access the WPA. At the April 2021 meeting, the Advisory Board agreed the quarterly dashboard reports should include formal reporting statistics and also qualitative insights on the relationship between all WPA users.

Flexible Zoning in the WPA

The WPA currently has four access zones; the Red Zone, Amber Zone 1, Amber Zone 2 and the Green Zone. These zones were determined in 2012 based on the frequency of Defence use, to assist with the management of competing interests in the WPA and provide greater planning certainty for WPA users.

Upgrades at the Woomera Test Range mean trial activities could be supported across most areas of the WPA, including those previously identified for infrequent use. This is an opportunity to understand how the WPA's zoning can take into consideration the advances in where and what kind of testing activities can take place. It will also consider the annual exclusion periods to ensure the use of the WPA is efficient for all users.

The 2018 Review recommended Defence and the SA Government collaborate with WPA users to determine the feasibility of a more flexible grid-based arrangement for the WPA Green Zone. Co-design workshops with Air Force, SA government, the resources sector and other WPA stakeholders considered the benefits of flexible zoning to all users. The workshops identified how Defence could use less commonly used areas outside the Red Zone to increase its testing capacity and provide non-Defence users opportunities to continue certain activities during an exclusion period.

The Air Force is also developing geospatial tools to manage a grid zone concept. These will be trialled as a simulation in parallel with current zoning and exclusion periods under the *Woomera Prohibited Area Rule 2014* (the Rule). Stakeholder feedback on grid-based zoning is also being compiled to understand the impacts if it were to be used and managed in real time.

Managing the Introduction of Technology Trial

As Defence increases the testing of sensitive technology with advanced capability, non-Defence users are also looking to invest in new technologies, particularly remotely operated systems.

The 2018 Review identified Defence should lead an agile approach to better manage the introduction and use of technology to maximise the value of non-Defence investment in the WPA. A 12-month technology trial is being undertaken to investigate the best approach for Defence and non-Defence users.

The trial is looking at possible technologies non-Defence users may use, assessing the safety and security risks and analysing the options for mitigating those risks. This trial has been met with positive support from non-Defence participants.

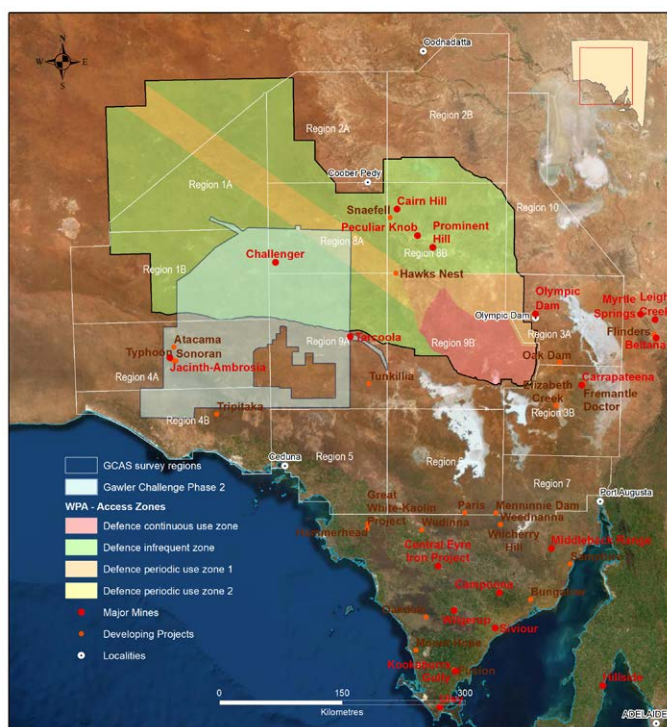
The Air Force is undertaking targeted engagement to ensure stakeholders are engaged early and often. The participant group includes representatives from the resources sector, pastoralists and research permit holders in the WPA. These stakeholders will deliver a range of perspectives on technologies being used across the WPA. The consultation has provided valuable information to Defence on the possible risks from the use of technology and Air Force will work with stakeholders to develop mitigation strategies to manage them.

The 2018 Review recommended the geological and economic analysis of the mineral, energy and groundwater resources potential of the Gawler Craton area, including the Red Zone within the WPA, should continue. This work, led by the SA government, ensures decisions on coexistence in the WPA are fully informed by both Defence technology and economic prospects in the Gawler Craton.

The final phase of this work is a cost-benefit analysis that will draw on the data and modelling to determine the economic viability of exploration in the Gawler Craton. A report will be compiled by SA government to articulate how exploration opportunities could be supported in identified resource-rich areas as well as detail on those areas that will not be commercially viable.

The WPA Heritage Management Plan (HMP) is being developed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* to integrate heritage conservation and management into Defence's day-to-day operations.

The HMP is being developed in close consultation with the Aboriginal communities. Defence recognises that Aboriginal people are the primary source of information about their own heritage and that active engagement of Traditional Owners in identifying and managing Indigenous heritage values is essential. Defence is continuing to work with Traditional Owners and stakeholders to finalise the report.



WPA website

The 2018 Review recommended administering the WPA Coexistence Framework should be modernised. This included a recommendation to implement a modern and tailored digital interface for all WPA users. The redesigned WPA website was launched in August 2020. Its new features include tailored information about non-Defence users' access and use of the WPA, along with clearer navigation across the website for users to find relevant information.

As part of monitoring coexistence, the Advisory Board will continue to engage with WPA users as to how the website could be improved to better meet business and information needs.

2021-22 Implementation Priorities

Following progress made in 2020-21, the Advisory Board will focus on a number of implementation activities. These priorities are driven by recommendations in the 2018 Review and the Coexistence Framework's intent to balance the interests of Defence and non-Defence WPA users, including:

- The **WPA Case Management Strategy** will be implemented between Defence and the resources sector. The 2018 Review recommended that contemporary coexistence in the WPA should focus on strong and productive relationships. The Case Management Strategy formalises regular meetings between Defence, SA government and the resources sector. These meetings are an opportunity for the sector to communicate their experiences and understand their responsibilities as WPA permit holders.
- The 2018 Review recommended Defence and Aboriginal communities should continue to enhance their already strong relationships. Building on the Advisory Board's work to constructively engage with Aboriginal communities on their use of the WPA, an **Aboriginal Engagement Strategy** for the WPA will be further developed. Defence and SA government will co-design the Strategy with Aboriginal communities connected with the WPA for mutually beneficial economic and cultural cooperation.
- The **WPA Heritage Management Plan** is being finalised and implemented into the day-to-day operations of the WPA. This will imbed policies and processes for the protection of historic, natural and Aboriginal heritage values and improve heritage management outcomes for Defence activities. Once finalised, it will be the largest ever HMP commissioned by Defence.
- The **quarterly dashboard reporting** will continue to provide a snapshot of the implementation of the Coexistence Framework.
- The **first Coexistence Health Check report** is due in 2022. It will be a clear and holistic report on the implementation of the Coexistence Framework and include feedback from the quarterly reporting, Case Management Strategy meetings and Aboriginal Engagement Strategy consultation.
- Developing **domestic and international stakeholder engagement plans** to improve coexistence in the WPA.
- Continue to strengthen the **governance framework** to coordinate the implementation of the Coexistence Framework.
- Work will continue in assessing the impacts to stakeholders should there be **alternative models for zoning**.
- Progress work with the participant group on the **Introduction of Technology Trial**.
- Continue to engage with WPA users to determine how the **WPA website** can be improved to meet business needs.

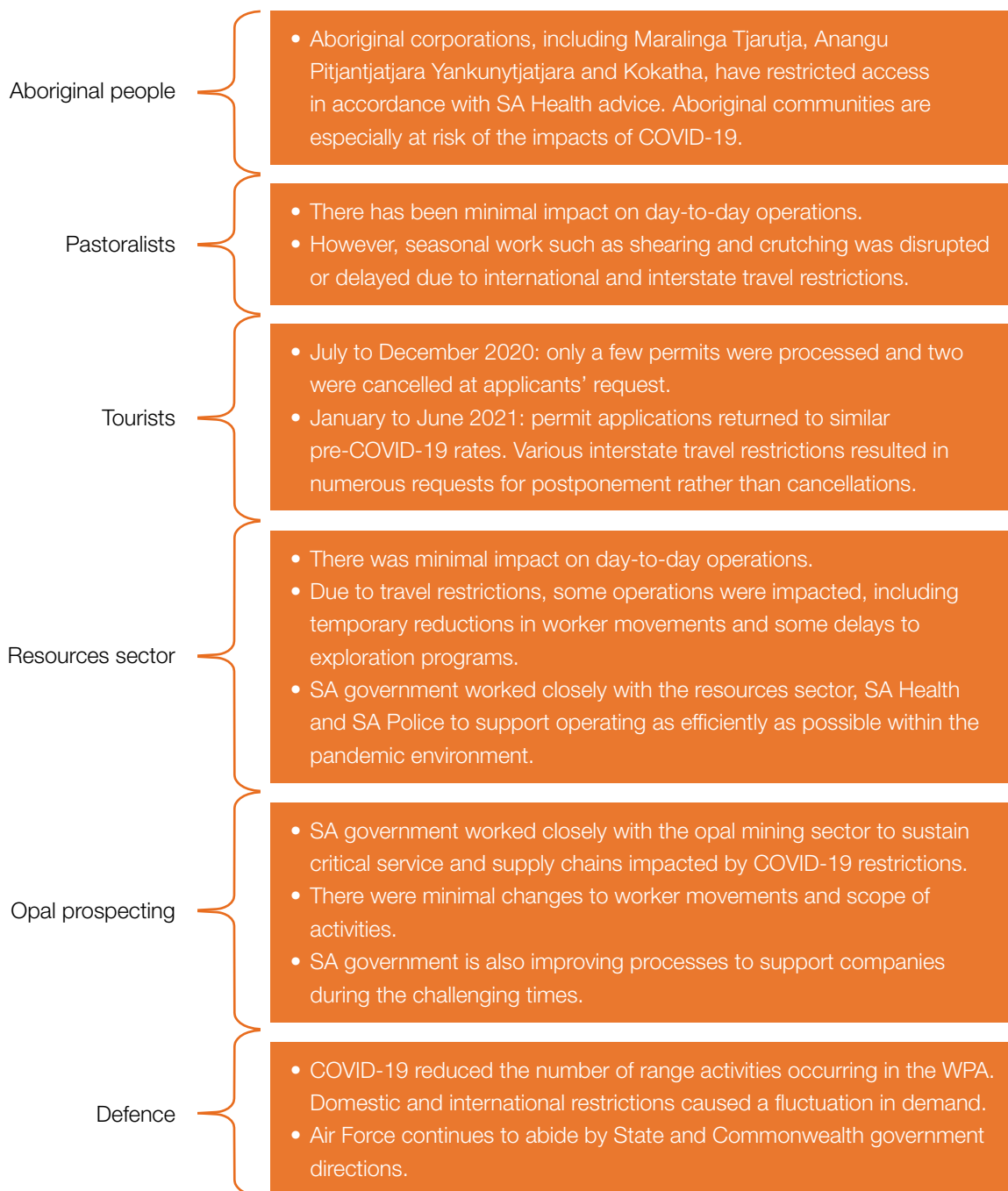
COVID-19 response

The COVID-19 global pandemic continued to affect WPA stakeholders during the reporting period.

The quick response and ongoing vigilance by the Commonwealth and SA governments, Aboriginal communities, industry sectors and general public has mitigated the impact of COVID-19 in the WPA.

In close partnership with all stakeholders, core economic activity, critical service and supply chains and community activities have continued.

Government, industry and the community continue to abide by SA Health guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.



Stakeholders in the Woomera Prohibited Area

Department of Defence



The new Range Operations Centre at the Woomera Test Range.

The WPA is a unique 122,000 square kilometre area to test and evaluate new and emerging war materiel. Its size, remoteness, low population density and quiet electromagnetic environment, makes it a distinctive capability for Defence. Non-Defence access to the WPA is managed by the Rule.

Exclusion periods

The Rule sets out exclusion periods each year for Defence use of the WPA to test war materiel. This means Defence can exclude non-Defence users from the WPA access zones (Amber Zones 1 and 2 and the Green Zone) during the conduct of testing for safety and security reasons. The Rule requires notice to be given at least three months before the beginning of the financial year in which the exclusion periods take place for Amber Zones 1 and 2. Exclusion period information is published on the WPA website. Defence also informs permit holders and stakeholders regarding upcoming exclusion periods.

Table 2 in Annex A shows the upcoming Amber Zone 1 and Amber Zone 2 exclusion periods for the financial year, 2021-22. The periods of exclusion were published on 12 March 2021 by a legislative instrument registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

COVID-19 restrictions resulted in Defence test cancellations and deferrals, and exclusion periods were revoked in July to August 2020. Planned exclusion periods and trials continued in November and December 2020, including Defence's support for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Hayabusa2 sample return capsule re-entry.

The exclusion period for Amber Zone 2 between March and April 2021 was also revoked due to changes in test schedules. Stakeholders were notified in advance of these changes to mitigate disruption to their activities.

Suspension of access to the Olympic Dam Highway and part of the Woomera Village to accommodate testing for Air Force's Loyal Wingman project was scheduled between June and July 2021. However, due to changes in the test schedule, this suspension was delayed. Defence will continue to work with the SA community and industry on possible highway access suspensions and exclusions in the WPA.

2020-21 Defence Activities

Defence's focus remained on test and evaluation activities during 2020 and 2021. This includes supporting the re-entry of the Hayabusa2 sample capsule.

There was also testing of advanced drone technology and Defence supporting Boeing Australia with the development of the unmanned aerial vehicle capability for Air Force, the Loyal Wingman.

Further development of capabilities and future testing of advanced weapon technologies will continue in the WPA.

Hayabusa2 Space Capsule

Defence supported JAXA in the recovery of the Hayabusa2 asteroid sample return capsule after its re-entry to Earth in December 2020.

Air Force's newly constructed Range Control Centre and Range Instrumentation System was also used for the first time. It successfully demonstrated the advanced capability and highlights that the Woomera Test Range is able to deliver a fifth generation weapon testing and evaluation environment.



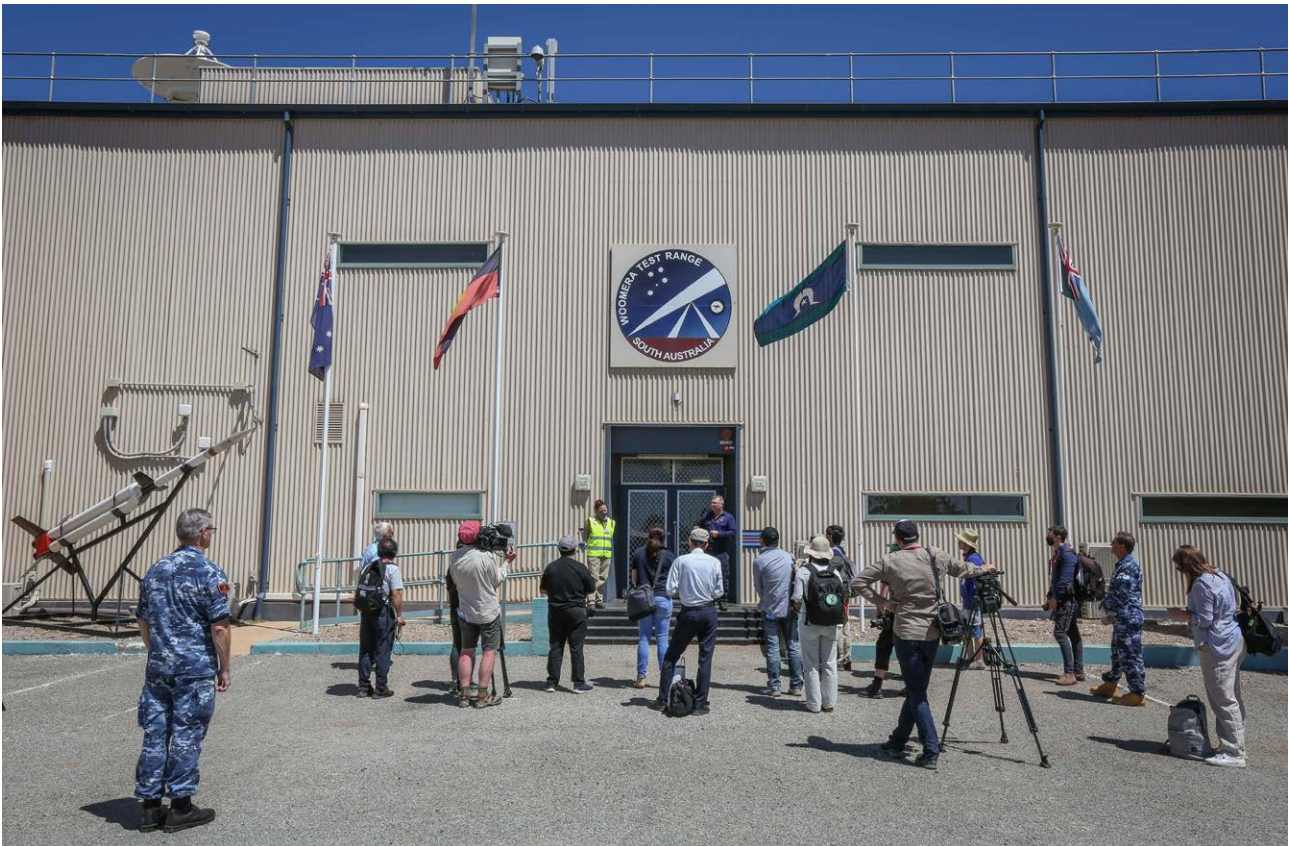
Members from the JAXA retrieve a sample from the returned capsule during the Hayabusa2 mission at the Woomera Test Range.

Infrastructure Projects

There were numerous Defence infrastructure projects delivered in the WPA throughout the reporting period.

The Woomera Range Safety and Control Systems Remediation Project delivered a new Range Control Centre, Maintenance Support Facilities and remote array sites. This new Range Control Centre also supported Defence activities and the Hayabusa2 capsule return mission, in partnership with JAXA.

The primary contractor for the works was a joint venture between National Aboriginal Construction Partners (NACP) Projects and BADGE construction. They were engaged under the Australian Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy.



Media tour the new Range Control Centre at the Woomera Test Range during the Hayabusa2 capsule return mission.

Protecting native wildlife and managing flora and fauna in the WPA

Defence has worked closely with the base services contractor, Ventia, to protect native wildlife at Woomera. There have been a range of programs to manage threats and promote new habitat for wildlife.

In collaboration with the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and Ventia, Defence is tackling an infestation of Coral Cactus across almost nine hectares of land near Woomera. The pest competes with native vegetation and threatens native flora and fauna. The program will continue over the next 6-12 months to eliminate the pests.



SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and Ventia team tackling the infestation of Coral Cactus

Defence is also investing in quarterly fauna surveys to record and better understand the habitat for native wildlife. These surveys have recorded native wildlife in areas where they have not been previously seen, including:

- Knob-tailed Geckos
- Shingleback Lizards
- Spotted Nightjars
- Gibber Dragons
- Sand Goannas
- White-winged Wrens
- Cinammon Quail-thrushes



Shingleback Lizard

There have also been increased sightings of the Southern Bookbuck and Tawny Frogmouth populations at the township.

The program is showing great signs of success, with the native wildlife in Woomera given an opportunity to survive and thrive.



Knob-tailed Gecko



Juvenile Black Fronted Dotterel

Future Defence Investment

The *2020 Defence Strategic Update* and *2020 Force Structure Plan* recognise the vital role that SA plays to support Defence's capabilities, electronic warfare, and research and development activities.

The *2020 Force Structure Plan* commits an additional \$600-\$900 million in additional Defence estate investment over the next 10 years to advance the 'Woomera Redevelopment and Refresh' program and upgrade the Woomera Range Complex. This investment will directly support Defence capability, including air operations and leading-edge systems development.

There will also be a number of smaller projects to upgrade and remediate infrastructure, facilities, and other equipment, including:

- RAAF Base Woomera will benefit from infrastructure upgrades including water supply, electricity and other services that commenced in 2021.
- \$250,000 will also be invested for aircraft pavement maintenance works at the Woomera Airfield, which is scheduled for completion in early 2022.
- The Defence Renewable Energy and Energy Security Program is in the early stages of developing a project to deliver a ground-mounted solar photo-voltaic system to support Defence operations. It is expected to be completed in 2024-25.

Defence is also recycling and reusing concrete stockpiles and concrete steel reinforcements. In May 2021, approximately 30,000 tonnes of existing concrete stockpiles were crushed from landfill deposits. The crushed materials will be recycled in future projects, avoiding the transportation of new materials to the site.



Concrete crushing in action at the Contractors Landfill area

Aboriginal groups

The WPA encompasses the traditional lands of six Aboriginal groups. Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara hold almost 30 per cent of the land in the west of the WPA as freehold title granted under South Australian legislation. Four other groups – Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara, Arabana, Gawler Ranges and Kokatha – hold native title over areas in the WPA.

The Advisory Board acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal communities as the traditional custodians of the land in the WPA. Defence continues to work closely with Traditional Owners to manage their cultural heritage.

The WPA comprises a complex array of cultural places, stories and landscapes that are significant to Traditional Owners. The cultural and archaeological sites including landscapes and landforms, cultural places, dreamings and storylines; hold a deep and enduring Aboriginal cultural connection that binds people, past and present, with land and space.

Heritage Management Plan

The Heritage Management Plan (HMP) documents Aboriginal heritage values in the WPA. It includes policies for the effective protection and management of those values for Defence activities. It also outlines Traditional Owner consultation guidelines. The HMP was developed in close collaboration with the Aboriginal communities.

The HMP includes protocols for managing and using sensitive cultural knowledge, including limiting access to certain information while ensuring that relevant heritage values are known. This allows Defence to appropriately manage access to significant or sensitive areas. It also enables Defence to safeguard information in line with the wishes of Traditional Owners.

JAXA Artwork Commission

Defence commissioned Kokatha artist Wulla Designs to produce a traditionally-styled painting representing Woomera. This was a gift for JAXA.

The painting was presented to Professor Masaki Fujimoto, who headed the JAXA team, at the completion of the successful sample recovery mission.

Artwork Story

‘Munta and Ilgari’ (Land and Sky), viewing from the sky of the beautiful landscape and the Air Force working together with the Kokatha people on country.



Munta and Ilgari (Land and Sky) painting presented to JAXA.

Reserve Compliance Officer Program

The Air Force Reserve Compliance Officer (RCO) Program is an important and successful program for Defence to work with Aboriginal communities across the WPA. RCOs undertake compliance patrols with Air Force Test Ranges Squadron in the WPA and assist the Air Force to understand the land and culture of those communities.

The RCO program is another example of the importance of coexistence with Aboriginal communities in the WPA. RCOs are supported by their community and maintain strong community ties. This allows Aboriginal community views to be considered in the day-to-day operations of the WPA.

There are currently five Aboriginal RCOs representing Maralinga Tjarutja, Kokatha and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. Defence will continue to work closely with Aboriginal elders and communities to highlight the important benefits and contribution of the RCO program.

Opportunities for Aboriginal businesses

Defence is a strong supporter of Indigenous businesses and stimulating Aboriginal economic development. Encouraging Aboriginal economic development also supports the communities Defence engages with in the WPA for its day-to-day operations.

As the Commonwealth's largest procurer of goods and services, Defence is well positioned to take a leading role in supporting Aboriginal procurement opportunities through its Indigenous Procurement Policy and guidelines. The use of Supply Nation, as Australia's leading database of verified Aboriginal businesses, also supports Defence in engaging with the Aboriginal business sector.

During the reporting period, there have been a number of opportunities to maximise local Indigenous business opportunities to deliver projects in the WPA.

Joint Venture

A new Range Control Centre, Maintenance Support Facilities and remote array sites were delivered at the Woomera Test Range.

The primary contractor was a joint venture between Indigenous business, NACP projects, and BADGE construction.



New Range Control Centre at Woomera.

Pastoralists

There are 26 pastoral leases located, either fully or partially, in the WPA.

Pastoral leases are managed under the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* (SA) (the Pastoral Act) and administered by the SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

A review of the current Pastoral Act is continuing and will consider the interaction of Defence activities and the administration of pastoral leases within the WPA.

The new Pastoral Act is proposed to be tabled in the SA Parliament in late 2021.

During the reporting period, pastoral stations achieved good grazing conditions.

The majority of pastoral leases in the WPA re-stocked and consolidated on the favourable weather and rainfall.

Station ownership and resident managers remain largely unchanged from last financial year.

However, Stuart Creek and Mabel Creek, Bulgunnia and Roxby Downs have welcomed new management.

Bon Bon Station Reserve has also welcomed new managers.

Sheep Graziers

While beef and lamb prices are performing very well, COVID-19 is impacting sheep graziers. Due to travel restrictions and Australia's increasing sheep numbers, sourcing shearing teams has been difficult.

Shearing teams are often working with lower team member numbers and trying to keep up with demand.



Range Control Management Flight Vehicle at the Geographic Centre of SA, and Mount Eba Station

Tourists and visitors

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, travel restrictions were in place for extended periods in 2020 and 2021.

In the last half of 2020, there were only five tourist permits issued, for nine people transiting through the WPA. Subject to the SA health advice and policies implemented by Aboriginal corporations, issuing of tourist permits was suspended by Defence.

5

tourist permits issued in
July to December 2020



Children look over Lake Hart. Photo courtesy of Travis Collins.

As travel restrictions were eased, during the first half of 2021, visitors from across the state and Australia increased in the WPA with 247 tourist permits issued, for 457 people in total.

The return of visitors has not been exclusive to the WPA, with the surrounding communities being supported by tourists following the COVID-19 hardships in 2020.

The Coober Pedy Opal Festival and the William Creek Gymkhana also enjoyed large numbers of visitors supporting their local economies.

Those travelling to the WPA were informed of the changes to the health advice and that their permits had been cancelled to uphold the safety of local communities.

There have been significant impacts to travelling in SA due to COVID-19. However, as restrictions have eased, SA and interstate visitors have come out to support regional economies.

As travel restrictions were eased, during

247

tourist permits issued in
January to June 2021



Woomera Rocket Park. Photo courtesy of Tracee Martin.

Resources sector

Mineral exploration and resource production remain the highest economic value in non-Defence activities within the WPA. The WPA overlaps a major area of SA's minerals and energy resources potential. The WPA land mass is 12 per cent of the state and encompasses 30 per cent of the mineral-rich Gawler Craton, one of the world's major mineral domains.

The operations of resources companies in the WPA has increased, with:

- Peculiar Knob mine (operated by Southern Iron Pty Ltd) exporting ore stockpiles and transitioning to full mining operations.
- Cairn Hill mine (operated by Cu-River Mining Australia Pty Ltd) transitioning from care and maintenance.
- Copper Search, Endeavour Copper Gold and Petrathern undertaking drilling programs within their tenements.

This has increased the number of people from the resources sector accessing the WPA. Defence has worked closely with those resources companies, in the spirit of coexistence, to support operations and economic activity in the region. Processing permit and access applications was a priority for Defence throughout the reporting period, even when subject to COVID-19 restrictions.



Cairn Hill Mine Pit 2 Lookout. Photo courtesy of Cu-River Mining Australia Pty Ltd.

Peak Iron Mines is expanding its work within the Hawks Nest area, with the Buzzard Iron Ore Project. Defence issued a Resource Production permit to subsidiary Central Iron Pty Ltd in October 2020 to support this project. Peak Iron Mines has also submitted its mining lease application to the Department for Energy and Mining. This application is being assessed.

Reforms to the *Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975* (Cth), effective from 1 January 2021, resulted in all new foreign investment in the WPA requiring application to the Foreign Investment Review Board. Defence will also continue to assess WPA access applications under its own legislative framework.

13

Active SA mineral
exploration licences
granted

140

Active SA mineral
exploration licences

29

Defence mining and
exploration permits and
deeds in force

Petrex Australia

Land access negotiations between Petrex Australia Pty Ltd, the Maralinga Tjarutja people, and the Antakirinja Matu-Yunkunyjtjara people have begun.

Petrex Australia is the applicant for three petroleum exploration licences within the WPA. Subject to a successful outcome to land access negotiations, petroleum exploration licences could be granted to Petrex Australia in 2022-2023.



Air Force's Range Control Management Flight team at the Challenger Mine viewing platform.

South Australian Government tenements and licences

As of 30 June 2021, there were 140 active mineral exploration licences in the WPA.

They are held by junior explorers and major mining companies, including:

- BHP
- Rio Tinto
- FMG
- OZ Minerals

Mineral exploration expenditure for the period is expected to be more than \$8.6 million based on current available expenditure data.

Over \$321 million has been received as royalty payments from operating mines in the WPA since 2014.

Exploration operations

Mineral exploration activity experienced delays due to COVID-19 restrictions. SA granted an exemption for licence expenditure requirements from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. These exemptions recognised the impact of COVID-19 and provided further support to the exploration sector.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased in late 2020, explorers re-commenced field activities, including drilling with a number of positive announcements from companies exploring in the WPA region.

FMG Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed drilling programs for copper-gold
Indiana Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressed RC drilling at the Minos prospect • It delivered high grade gold results
Marmota Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported the best ever one metre gold intersection at their Aurora Tank Prospect
Barton Gold (Tarcoola)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive drilling and identified a new gold zone
Barton Gold (Challenger)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmined and remnant mineralisation in the Challenger underground mine was converted to a JORC 2021 compliant Inferred Mineral Resource Estimate

Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation

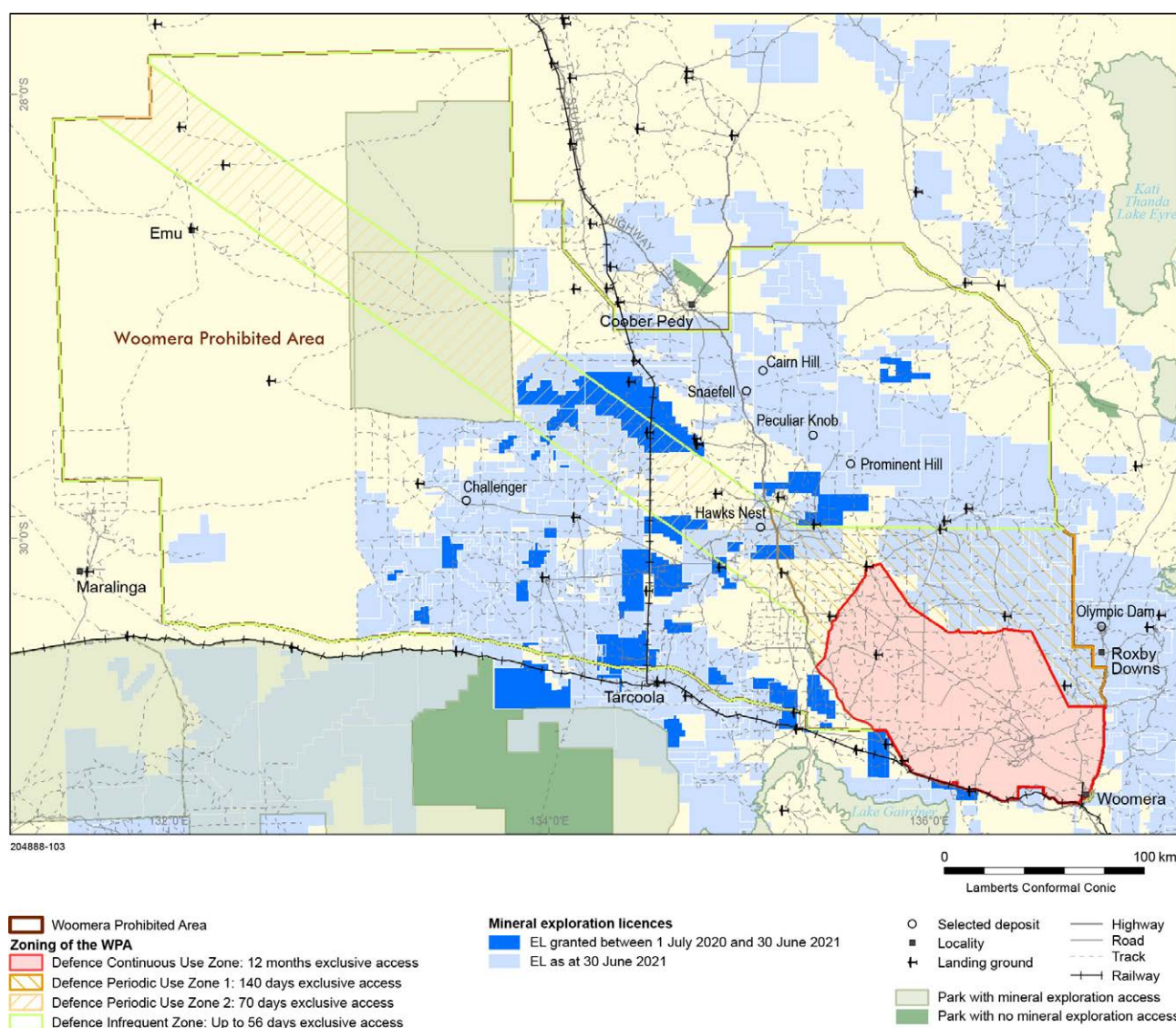
Exploration companies must have an approved Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) under SA's legislation before conducting any exploration operations. PEPRs identify and demonstrate that the exploration tenement holder has addressed the key environmental impacts associated with the program and how these impacts will be managed and rehabilitated.

Between 2020-21, 10 PEPRs were approved covering eight exploration licences in the WPA.

These programs authorised 60,000 metres of drilling targeting iron oxide, copper and gold mineralisation. Low impact exploration activities also include Aboriginal heritage surveys, ground sampling and mapping programs, geophysical surveys and site rehabilitation works.

10

Programs for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation were approved



Mineral exploration licences (ELs) granted in the WPA between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021

Accelerated Discovery Initiative

The SA government continues to drive mineral exploration growth through the Accelerated Discovery Initiative (ADI).

ADI is part of achieving SA's Growth State Target by supporting the potential discovery of new mineral deposits.

The government will invest \$9 million over three years to co-fund exploration programs that embrace innovation, collaboration and capacity building to advance exploration activity in SA.

To date, successful applicants for Round 1 and 2 of the ADI have been allocated approximately \$7.4 million in funding to 36 proposals. Projects in the WPA were also supported in the first two rounds of the ADI.

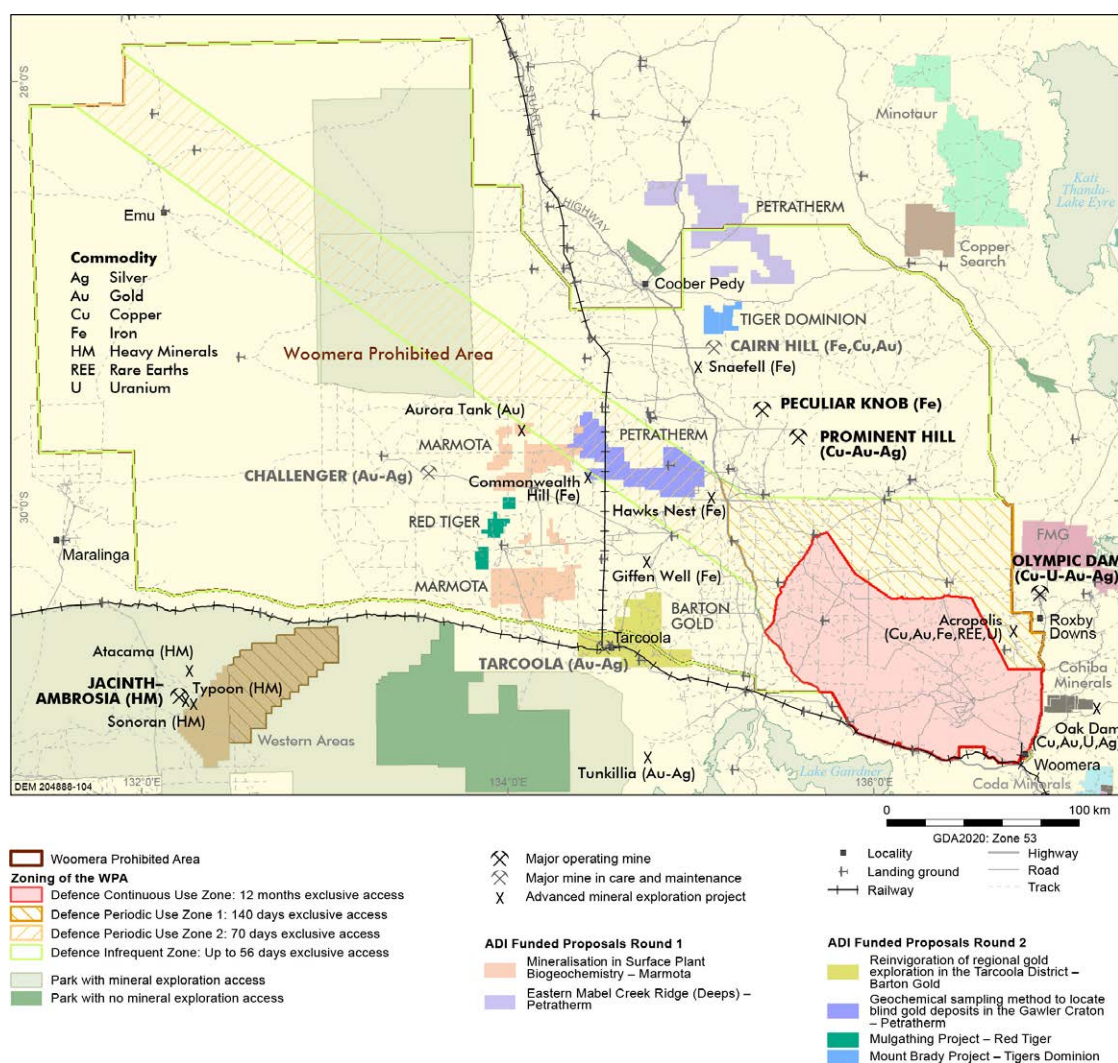
A third round of co-funding will open in November 2021.

Round 1

- Marmota
 - Expressions of mineralisation in surface plant biochemistry on the North West Gawler Craton
- Petrathern
 - Eastern Mabel Creek Ridge (Deeps)

Round 2

- Barton Gold
 - Reinvigoration of regional gold exploration in the Tarcoola District
- Petrathern
 - Geochemical sampling method to locate blind gold deposits in the Gawler Craton
- Red Tiger Resources
 - Mulgathing project
- Tigers Dominion Group
 - Mount Brady project



Mining operations

In the WPA, there are two major mines actively operating and two others in care and maintenance. These mines employed over 1,500 people and contributed about \$52.5 million to SA in royalties during the reporting period.

OZ Minerals

OZ Minerals' Prominent Hill copper-gold mine continued its active mining operation. It also announced a \$47 million investment to investigate a \$600 million expansion and hoisting shaft at the Prominent Hill mine.

Peak Iron Mines

Peak Iron Mines recommenced operations at the Peculiar Knob mine in February 2020 through its subsidiary Southern Iron, while a return to full mining operations was approved in October 2020. Revisions to mine pit designs enabled access to an additional 10 million tonnes of high grade hematite ore for the Peculiar Knob mine.

In October 2020, Peak Iron Mines secured a Resource Production Permit for its Buzzard Iron Ore project in the WPA through its subsidiary Central Iron. It is subject to further state approvals. However, the current life of the project is estimated to be five years, with future potential for an extension to the Buzzard Pit and development of the Tui Pit subject to further assessment.

Cu-River Mining

The Cairn Hill mine, operated by Cu-River Mining Australia Pty Ltd, remained in care and maintenance during the reporting period.



Aerial image of the Peculiar Knob mine. Photo courtesy of Peak Iron Mines Pty Ltd.

Opal and Precious Stone operations

The Coober Pedy Proclaimed Precious Stones field covers about 5,000 square kilometres, half of which falls within the WPA (Figure 5). SA supplies 80 per cent of the world market for these precious stones and opal became the Official State Gem in 1975.

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 54 registered precious stones tenements within the WPA, with Table 2 in Annex C showing the Opal Permits granted by Defence.

It is estimated that the currently registered tenements may produce about \$2.2 million worth of opal. During the reporting period, Department for Energy and Mining Opal Fields staff conducted a total of 108 inspections in the area.

Current Active Claims within the WPA

There are currently 54 active claims for opal and precious stone operations in the WPA.

Active claims within the WPA	
Allan Rise	7
Jasper Gully	1
Leonard Rise	0
Opal Ridge	8
Opal Valley	36
Reynolds Ridge	0
Tee Valley	2

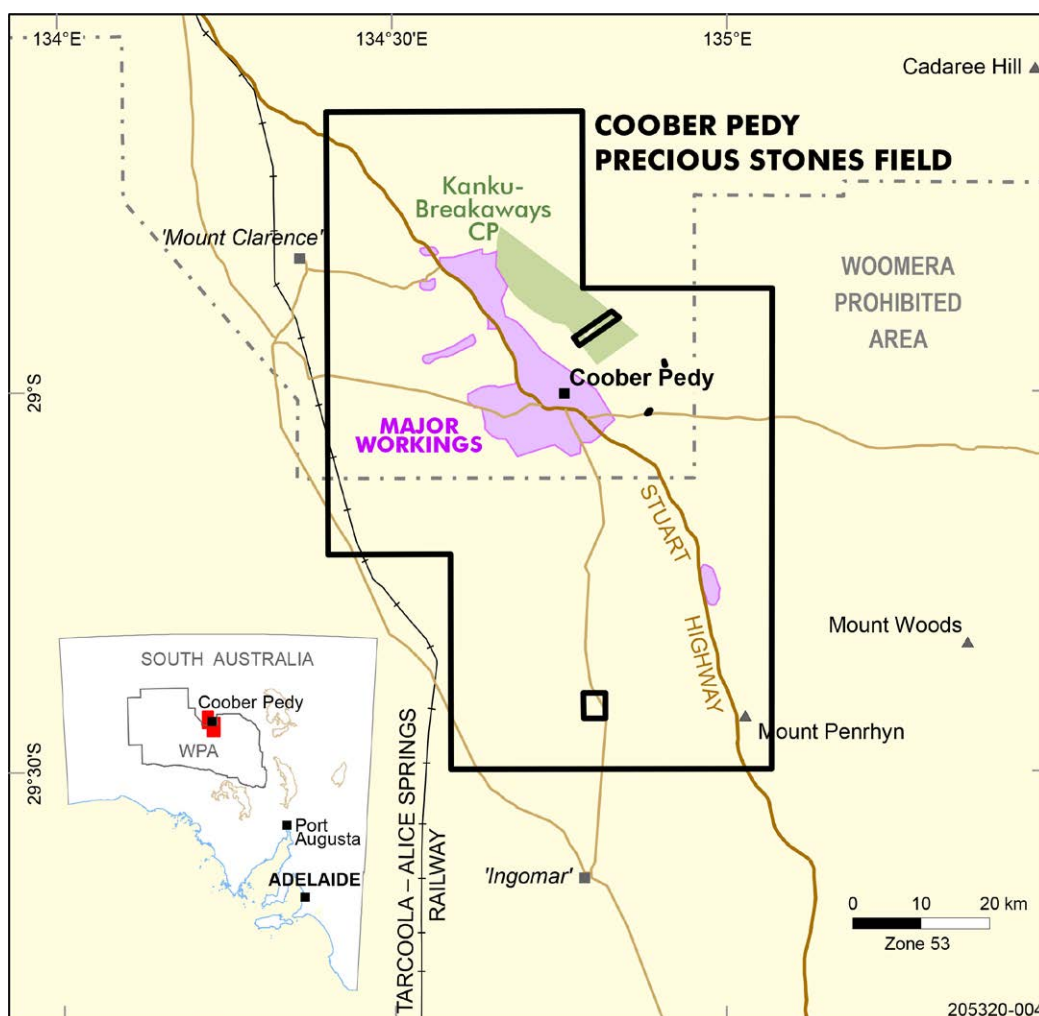


Figure 5 Location Map of Coober Pedy Precious Stones Field

Research and Environmental access

Defence research and environment permits issued	0
Companies/agencies operating with a research and environment permit	2
Personnel access approvals	0

The WPA is an important region for research and environmental projects. As part of the Coexistence Framework, Defence works closely with research proponents on opportunities to conduct and contribute to academic research.

There were no applications for new Research or Environment access permits during the reporting period.

However, there were two research permits current in the reporting period, which support research by universities across Australia.

University of Adelaide permit

The University of Adelaide's permit was issued for the Australian Lithospheric Architecture Magnetotelluric Project (AusLAMP).

The project is a collaborative, national survey that acquires long-period magnetotelluric (MT) data. It was conducted at approximately 3000 sites, to create the first national MT dataset in the world.

The permit expired in May 2021 after its five year duration and is not expected to be renewed.

ANU permit

The Australian National University Research School of Earth Sciences has a research permit to conduct seismic surveys.

It aims to build national seismic data coverage for the monitoring of earthquakes.

The research is expected to continue with ANU advising they intend to renew their permit in the next reporting period.

Looking forward

Throughout the reporting period, the WPA was shaped by local, national and global developments, including the impacts of COVID-19. Defence and the SA government will continue to work closely with stakeholders in the WPA to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and respond to restrictions, as required.

The Advisory Board will continue its strategic work program and support Defence and the SA government to achieve strong coexistence outcomes in the WPA. Clear implementation priorities for the Coexistence Framework have been developed for the next 12 months, with the Advisory Board eager to see further progress on the 2018 Review recommendations.

There is a strong commitment to improving the experience of WPA users. Work will continue closely with the SA public, Aboriginal communities, industry, and other WPA stakeholders to improve processes and access to the region.

Although activities by Defence, Aboriginal groups, pastoralists and the resources sector have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, there have been positive economic and strategic outcomes regardless. This activity will continue in the next year, with strong relationships between government and stakeholders a necessity to support these endeavours.

The Advisory Board is committed to supporting strong, positive relationships between government and stakeholders in the WPA in the years ahead.



An Air Force Compliance Monitoring Team vehicle, near Emu Field along the Anne Beadell Highway, conducting a routine patrol. The sunrise is always spectacular.

Annex A: Exclusion Periods - status

Table 1: Exclusion periods July 2020 – June 2021

Access Zone	Exclusion period Determined by Instrument	Status
Amber 1	20 July – 26 July 2020	Revoked
	27 July – 2 August 2020	Revoked
	3 August – 9 August 2020	Revoked
	10 August – 16 August 2020	Revoked
	17 August – 23 August 2020	Revoked
	24 August – 30 August 2020	Revoked
	5 November – 11 November 2020	Exclusion exercised
	12 November – 18 November 2020	Exclusion exercised
	19 November – 25 November 2020	Exclusion exercised
	26 November – 2 December 2020	Exclusion exercised
	3 December – 9 December 2020	Exclusion exercised
	8 March – 14 March 2021	Exclusion exercised
	15 March – 21 March 2021	Exclusion exercised
	22 March – 28 March 2021	Exclusion exercised
	29 March – 4 April 2021	Exclusion exercised
	5 April – 11 April 2021	Exclusion exercised
	12 April – 18 April 2021	Exclusion exercised
	19 April – 25 April 2021	Exclusion exercised
	26 April – 2 May 2021	Exclusion exercised
	3 May – 9 May 2021	Exclusion exercised
Amber 2	20 July – 26 July 2020	Revoked
	27 July – 2 August 2020	Revoked
	3 August – 9 August 2020	Revoked
	10 August – 16 August 2020	Revoked
	19 November – 25 November 2020	Exclusion exercised
	26 November – 2 December 2020	Exclusion exercised
	3 December – 9 December 2020	Exclusion exercised
	22 March – 28 March 2021	Revoked
	29 March – 4 April 2021	Revoked
	5 April – 11 April 2021	Revoked
Green	09 August -16 August 2020	Exclusion exercised
	19 November – 25 November 2020	Exclusion exercised
	26 November – 2 December 2020	Exclusion exercised
	3 December – 9 December 2020	Exclusion exercised
	22 March – 28 March 2021	Exclusion exercised
	29 March – 4 April 2021	Exclusion exercised
	5 April – 11 April 2021	Exclusion exercised

Table 2: Exclusion periods July 2021 – June 2022

Access Zone	Exclusion period Determined by Instrument	Status
Amber 1	3 July – 9 July 2021	Revoked
	10 July – 16 July 2021	Revoked
	17 July – 23 July 2021	Revoked
	24 July – 30 July 2021	Revoked
	20 September – 26 September 2021	Planned
	27 September – 3 October 2021	Planned
	4 October – 10 October 2021	Planned
	11 October – 17 October 2021	Planned
	18 October – 24 October 2021	Planned
	25 October – 31 October 2021	Planned
	1 November – 7 November 2021	Planned
	8 November – 14 November 2021	Planned
	15 November – 21 November 2021	Planned
	7 March – 13 March 2022	Planned
	14 March – 20 March 2022	Planned
	21 March – 27 March 2022	Planned
	28 March – 3 April 2022	Planned
	4 April – 10 April 2022	Planned
	23 May – 29 May 2022	Planned
	30 May – 5 June 2022	Planned
Amber 2	3 July – 9 July 2021	Planned
	10 July – 16 July 2021	Planned
	4 October – 10 October 2021	Planned
	11 October – 17 October 2021	Planned
	18 October – 24 October 2021	Planned
	25 October – 31 October 2021	Planned
	1 November – 7 November 2021	Planned
	21 March – 27 March 2022	Planned
	28 March – 3 April 2022	Planned
	4 April – 10 April 2022	Planned
Green	04 October – 10 October 2021	Planned
	11 October – 17 October 2021	Planned
	18 October – 24 October 2021	Planned
	25 October – 31 October 2021	Planned
	1 November – 7 November 2021	Planned
	21 March – 27 March 2022	Planned
	28 March – 3 April 2022	Planned
	4 April – 10 April 2022	Planned

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

Table 1: Tenements and licences FY 2020-21

Tenements / Licences	Current	Granted	Renewed	Anticipated over the next 12 months
ELA – Exploration Licence Application	44	0	0	44 ELAs may be finalised and granted
EL – Exploration Licence	140	17	30	Up to 65 ELs may be renewed
ML – Mineral Lease	6	0	0	One ML may be granted
EML – Extractive Minerals Lease	59	0	0	Expected to be similar to previous year
MPL – Miscellaneous Purposes Licence	34	0	0	Anticipated to be similar to previous year
MC – Mineral Claim	1	0	0	
RL – Retention Lease	1	0	0	
GEL – Geothermal Exploration Licence	0	0	0	0
GELA - Geothermal Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	0
GSEL – Gas Storage Exploration Licence	1	0	0	0
GSELA – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	21	0	0	0
PEL – Petroleum Exploration Licence	10	0	0	3
PELA – Petroleum Exploration Licence Application	23	0	0	0

Table 2: Tenements and licences current at 30 June 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Tenements / Licences	30 June 2015	30 June 2016	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021
ELA – Exploration Licence Application	36	25	36	18	29	35	44
EL – Exploration Licence	165	149	148	143	137	139	140
ML – Mineral Lease	6	7	7	7	6	6	6
EML – Extractive Minerals Lease	60	60	59	59	59	59	59
MPL – Miscellaneous Purposes Licence	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
MC – Mineral Claim	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
RL – Retention Lease	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
GEL – Geothermal Exploration Licence	3	0	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	18	19	19	20	23	23

Annex C: Permits issued or amended by Defence

Table 1: Resource permits issued and access FY 2020-21

Permit or Access	1 July 20 to 30 Sep 20	1 Oct 20 to 31 Dec 20	1 Jan 21 to 31 Mar 21	1 Apr 21 to 30 Jun 21	Total
Resource Production Permits issued	0	1	0	0	1
Resource Exploration Permits issued	1	1	0	0	2
Resource Exploration Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Exploration Permits varied	8	2	1	0	11
Resource Exploration Permits surrendered by permit holders	0	0	0	0	0
Permit variation refused	0	0	0	0	0
Research Permit	0	0	0	0	0
Other Purpose Permit issued	0	0	0	0	0
Permit non-compliance (Breaches issued)	0	0	0	1	1
Access Requests processed	35	29	31	29	124
Total number of personnel processed on Access Requests	230	155	252	265	902
Access Requests refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Opal permits FY 2020-21

Permits	1 July 20 to 30 Sep 20	1 Oct 20 to 31 Dec 20	1 Jan 21 to 31 Mar 21	1 Apr 21 to 30 Jun 21	Total
Opal Permits issued	6	3	10	14	33
Opal Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Resource permits and deeds current at 30 June 2015, 2016 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

Permit or Deed type	30 June 2015	30 June 2016	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021
Mineral Lease Deed of Access ⁽¹⁾	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
Resource Production Permit	0	1	1	1	1	2	3
Exploration Deed of Access ⁽¹⁾							
Extractive, Petroleum or Other Purpose Deeds ⁽¹⁾							
Resource Exploration Permit	36	34	34	24	27	24	24
Other Purpose Permit ⁽²⁾	5	5	7	7	7	4	4
Research Permit	0	2	3	2	1	2	1
Opal Permits	69	51	23	13	13	24	33

(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 2020-21

Resource personnel	1 July 20 to 30 Sep 20	1 Oct 20 to 31 Dec 20	1 Jan 21 to 31 Mar 21	1 Apr 21 to 30 Jun 21	Total
Approved Person applications lodged	202	181	190	230	803
Approved Person refused	0	0	0	0	0
Escorted Person applications lodged	78	23	32	65	198
Escorted Person refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Tourist permits FY 2020-2021

Permits	1 July 20 to 30 Sep 20	1 Oct 20 to 31 Dec 20	1 Jan 21 to 31 Mar 21	1 Apr 21 to 30 Jun 21	Total
Number of Tourist Permits issued	3	2	75	172	252
Number of tourists authorised on Tourist Permits	5	4	142	315	466
Tourist Permits refused	0	2	3	9	14
Tourist Permits cancelled	0	2	0	0	2

Annex D: Major mines within the Woomera Prohibited Area

Mine Name	Commodity	Company	Status	Term of Mining Lease	Life of Mine ⁽¹⁾ (years)	Production FY 202-21 ⁽²⁾
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 2036	112,335t Cu 246,666 oz 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 ₃ O 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 ₂ O ₃)	Southern Iron Pty Ltd (Peak Iron Mines Pty Ltd)	Operating; Recommended operations in February 2020	ML 6314 – 14 years from 2008 to 2022	To 2025	818,076 Tonnes

(1) Published information based on currently defined reserves

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



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