Australian Government
Defence

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Annual Report 2022-2023



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

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:
Entrance to the Woomera Rocket Park's Section 1 in front of the Woomera Museum. Across the road opposite the museum is the Rocket Park's Section 2 in front of Woomera's school.

Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Annual Report 2022-2023

Contents

Chair's Report 1

Woomera Prohibited Area at a glance 2

Overview 3

WPA Coexistence Framework 4
- 2022-23 Implementation update 4
- Recommendations closed in 2022-23 6
- 2023-24 Implementation Priorities 6

WPA Advisory Board 7

WPA Health Check 2022 8

Defence in the WPA 9
- Testing of the MQ-28A Ghost Bat 9
- Compliance monitoring inspections 9
- Other Defence testing and training activities 9
- Defence Infrastructure Projects 10
- Exclusion Periods 10
- Defence in South Australia 10

Aboriginal Groups 11
- 11
- Aboriginal Businesses 11
- Woomera Theatre Redevelopment 12
- WPA Inaugural Joint Patrol 12
- Maralinga Tjarutja Indigenous Protected Area 13

Resources sector 14
- South Australian Government Tenements and Licences 14
- Exploration Operations 15
- Major exploration highlights Production Operations 15
- Gawler Phase 2 16
- Accelerated Discovery Initiative 17
- Governor of South Australia's WPA visit 18
- Opal and Precious Stone Operations 19

Pastoralists 20
- Pastoral Board Work 20
- Pastoral Act Amendments 20

Tourism 21
- Woomera Village 21
- Woomera History Museum 22
- Woomera Rocket Park 23

Environmental management 24
- Weed Control 24
- Airside Wildlife Hazard Management Program 25

Looking forward 26

Annex 1: WPA Exclusion Periods 27
- Table 2: Exclusion periods July 2023-June 202428

Annex 2: South Australian Government Licenses 29
- Table 1: Tenements and licences Financial Year 2022-23 29
- Table 2: Tenements and licences current from 30 June 2017-2023 30

Annex 3: 2022-2023 Defence Permits and Deeds 31
- Table 1: Resource permits issued and access 2022-23 31
- Table 2: Opal permits 2022-2023 32
- Table 3: Resource permits and deeds current from 30 June 2017-2023 32
- Table 4: Resource personnel 2022-2023 33
- Table 5: Tourist permits 2022-2023 33

Chair's Report

The Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) Advisory Board oversees the coexistence of diverse government and industry stakeholders and traditional owners in the unique environment of the WPA.

In this annual report, the Advisory Board provides an update on the performance of coexistence arrangements and summarises the activities of the Board. Importantly, it contains the views of non-Defence users of the WPA; and assesses Defence use of the WPA.

During 2022-23, the Advisory Board continued to oversee implementation of the 2018 *WPA Review of the Coexistence Framework* ('the WPA Review') to ensure coexistence arrangements and policies remain contemporary and fit-for-purpose. There were three Review recommendations closed in 2022-23, while four recommendations remain in progress.

To that end, the Advisory Board agreed for Defence to implement the Non-Defence Use of Technology Framework to improve the management of stakeholder technology in accordance with Recommendation 3 of the WPA Review, and agreed to close Recommendation 9 in recognition of the progress made by Defence in strengthening Aboriginal engagement activities.

The Advisory Board agreed to support the Maralinga Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) proposal, which provides a unique opportunity to deliver tangible economic, cultural and environmental outcomes for Aboriginal communities. We will engage in regular consultation and dialogue with Maralinga through our representative on the IPA Advisory Committee.

The Board will continue to support the Commonwealth and SA Government to maximise economic opportunities for Aboriginal Groups and other non-Defence users.

Finally, it is pleasing to report increasing stakeholder activity in the WPA after the previous years' disruptions. Relaxed public health measures, robust economic conditions and favourable weather benefited the resources, pastoral and tourism sectors, as well as all those who live and work on the WPA. Sincere appreciation goes to everyone for working collaboratively to further the success of coexistence in the WPA.

Amanda Vanstone AO
Chair
Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board

Woomera Prohibited Area at a glance

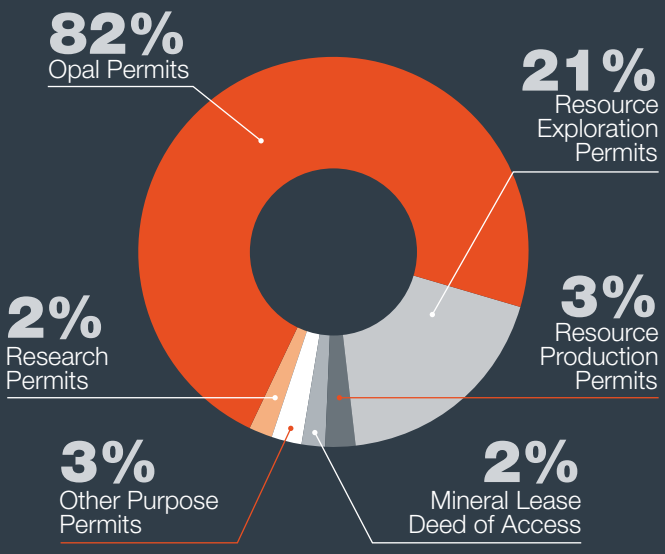
IMPLEMENTATION OF 2018 WPA REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

8 completed

4 in progress

26 Pastoral Leases

PERMIT AND DEED HOLDERS IN THE WPA



ACCESS APPLICATIONS

1,263
Approved Person applications lodged

487
Escorted Person applications lodged

Did you know?

SA contains

69%

of Australia's copper

6 Aboriginal Communities

$430m

in royalties from the WPA since 2014.

Finalised WPA Heritage Management Plan

Modernised the opal mining permits

Overview

The purpose of the WPA Annual Report is to describe the performance of the coexistence arrangements in the WPA including the shared use of the WPA by Defence, the resources sector, defence industry, indigenous groups and pastoralists.



Lake Mary (Courtesy of Ben Pedersen).

WPA Coexistence Framework

The principle of coexistence recognises that the WPA is an essential region for a variety of non Defence cultural and economic uses, enabling mutually beneficial use of the WPA by Defence and non-Defence users in the national interest.

In 2018, the then Minister for Defence and the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, appointed Dr Gordon de Brouwer PSM to lead a review of the WPA coexistence framework ('the review'). The review examined whether the framework remained fit-for-purpose and identified opportunities to update WPA access arrangements.

2022-23 Implementation update

The review made 12 recommendations. Defence has been working closely with the WPA Advisory Board ('the Advisory Board') and other stakeholders to progress these recommendations. Eight recommendations have been implemented and are now part of business-as-usual practice. Three recommendations were closed in 2022-23. Four recommendations remain in progress – as summarised at Table 1.

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

Recommendation 1	**Completed**
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.	Steering and working groups were established to oversee implementation and guide operational and strategic efforts. A strategic vision and communications plan was implemented to reflect the strategic landscape and keep stakeholders informed of WPA activities. Implemented modernised and tailored online interface for all WPA users.
Recommendation 2	**In Progress**
Defence and the South Australian Government should employ a collaborative co-design process to determine the feasibility of a more flexible grid-based arrangement for the WPA green zone.	Defence is undertaking detailed modelling of defence activity to inform the feasibility of a 'flexible green' proposal.
Recommendation 3	**Completed**
All users of the WPA should give greater emphasis to managing the introduction and use of technology in the area.	The Advisory Board agreed to a Non-Defence Use of Technology Framework.
Recommendation 4	**Completed**
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.	Security obligations and foreign investment guidance for WPA access is published on the WPA website. Defence discusses safety and security obligations with WPA stakeholders in regular case management meetings. Defence conducts quarterly audits and governance checks of company data, including foreign investment.

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

Recommendation 5	**In Progress**
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.	The Department of Energy and Mining (SA) commissioned a Resource Prospectivity and Economic Assessment of the WPA.
Recommendation 6	**Completed**
To address concerns about the feasibility of developing new mines in the WPA, Defence should reaffirm publicly its commitment to coexistence in the WPA.	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. The Advisory Board considered and agreed not to pursue third-party technical advisers for non-defence use of the WPA.
Recommendation 7	**Completed**
To strengthen the role of the WPA Advisory Board.	The WPA Advisory Board Terms of Reference was updated, a Memorandum of Understanding between the South Australian Government and Defence was signed and an annual Health Check provides the Board with ongoing feedback on the Coexistence Framework effectiveness.
Recommendation 8	**Completed**
There should be a greater collective emphasis on the security of companies operating in the WPA.	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.
Recommendation 9	**Completed**
Defence and Aboriginal groups in the WPA should continue to build on their already strong relationships.	A WPA Heritage Management Plan was finalised, the Advisory Board Chair and Deputy Chair continue annual meetings with Aboriginal Corporations of the WPA and further developing the Air Force Regional Compliance Officer program.
Recommendation 10	**Completed**
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.	Acquisitions will be considered based on Defence's strategic needs. Guidance for compensation claims is available on the WPA website.
Recommendation 11	**In progress**
Administration of the WPA coexistence arrangements should be modernised.	PDF smart forms for permit and access applications are being trialled. Defence is exploring ICT system options for access applications.
Recommendation 12	**In Progress**
A further complete review of WPA arrangements by 2025.	A decision on further review of WPA arrangements to be considered in 2024.

Recommendations closed in 2022-23

Non-Defence use of technology

The 2018 Review recommended that Defence give greater emphasis to managing the introduction and use of technology in the WPA. Following a trial with the resources, research, and pastoral sectors, the Advisory Board agreed to a policy and framework that would minimise cross technology interference and ensure the safety and security of all WPA users. Stakeholders will need to seek permission to bring certain technologies into the WPA. Other stakeholders operate in the WPA under pre-existing access conditions. Defence will work cooperatively with those parties to address their introduction and use of these technologies.

Strengthen the WPA Advisory Board

The 2018 Review recommended strengthening the Advisory Board's role supporting the Commonwealth and South Australian Government acquit their responsibilities as joint custodians of the WPA coexistence arrangements.

Revised Terms of Reference have been agreed, biannual meetings have been established and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the South Australian Government and Defence. In the interests of transparency and accountability, the minutes of Advisory Board meetings are published on the WPA website. The Advisory Board agreed to close this recommendation.

Aboriginal Engagement

The 2018 Review recommended that Defence and Aboriginal groups in the WPA should continue to build on their already strong relationships. The Advisory Board agreed to close this recommendation in recognition of the productive relationships between Defence and Aboriginal groups.

Aboriginal engagement will remain a standing agenda item at each Advisory Board meeting to ensure the Board maintains oversight of Aboriginal engagement activities. This will enable Advisory Board members to explore and advance cultural and economic opportunities for Aboriginal corporations and communities in the WPA.

2023-24 Implementation Priorities

The Advisory Board will focus on the following implementation activities in the coming year.

Flexible Green Zone

The 2018 Review recommended that Defence and the South Australian Government should determine the feasibility of a more flexible grid-based zoning arrangement for the WPA Green Zone. This would amend the Zone system determined in 2012.

Defence and the South Australian Government continue to work together on this concept. The Advisory Board has agreed the Flexible Green Zone should be considered in the next WPA Framework Review.

Geological and Economic Assessment

Field survey work to assess the geological and economic potential of the WPA was completed in March 2023. The South Australian Department of Energy and Mining in consultation with Department of Industry Science and Resources will use the results to deliver an updated prospectivity report in the second half of 2023. This report will address the first of two phases of work recommended by the 2018 Review.

The second phase, regarding potential access to the Red zone, will incorporate a cost/benefit analysis including to determine what, if any, on the ground data acquisition is required to assess the prospectivity of the Defence Continuous Use Zone (the Red Zone). The Advisory Board will consider next steps in 2024.

WPA Administration

The development, trial and use of smart forms to streamline WPA access applications will continue in 2024. The smart forms are expected to be accessible from tablet and mobile devices.

The feasibility of establishing a modern digital platform to further streamline arrangements will be investigated.

2025 Coexistence Review

A further review of coexistence arrangements was recommended by 2025. A review of WPA coexistence arrangements will occur after the review of the WPA Rule.

WPA Advisory Board

An independent Chair and Deputy Chair lead the WPA Advisory Board, which includes ex officio members representing key Commonwealth and State government entities.

The WPA Advisory Board advises the Commonwealth and the South Australian Government on the WPA's use. Under a 2019 Terms of Reference, the Board is responsible for:

- Monitoring and reporting on the balance of national security and economic interests;
- Overseeing the implementation of the coexistence policy arrangements; and
- Fostering strategic relationships between Defence and non-Defence users.

In performing these functions, the Advisory Board helps balance Defence's use of the WPA with the interests of other stakeholders to utilise the area for cultural and economic purposes. This is achieved through regular and ongoing engagement with the WPA's various stakeholders.

The Advisory Board alternates its biannual meetings between Canberra and Adelaide to reflect the Commonwealth and South Australian Government's joint custodianship of, and shared responsibilities for, coexistence.

WPA Advisory Board members as of 30 June 2023

The Hon Amanda Vanstone AO
Chair

Ms Andrea Slattery
Deputy Chair

Air Marshal Robert Chipman AM, CSC
Chief of Air Force

Mr Hugh Jeffery
Deputy Secretary
Strategy, Policy and Industry
Department of Defence

Ms Jane Urquhart PSM
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

2022-2023 Advisory Board Meeting Summary

November 2022 (Canberra)

- Acknowledged and agreed to publish WPA Annual Report 2021-2022.
- Supported a holistic review of the WPA Framework.
- Agreed the revised Coexistence Framework Health Check proposal including objectives, key results, and key performance indicators.
- Consultation on the Flexible Green Zone concept to be progressed as part of the upcoming WPA Framework Review.
- Agreed to publish the Dashboard report on the WPA Website.

May 2023 (Adelaide)

- Briefed on Infrastructure South Australia's Northern Water Supply pipeline construction in 2024, which will run parallel to the Defence Continuous Use Zone (the Red Zone).
- The Advisory Board supported the Maralinga Tjarutja Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) proposal and opted for a Defence representative to sit on the IPA Advisory Committee.
- The Advisory Board endorsed opportunities for improvements identified through an annual health check of the Coexistence Framework's implementation.
- The Advisory Board was briefed on the Defence Act project.
- The economic potential of the WPA was noted and the Advisory Board agreed that Defence should continue to effectively balance the WPA's commercial prospects with Defence's testing requirements.

WPA Health Check 2022

The WPA Advisory Board at the November 2022 meeting agreed a revised approach to the Annual Health check that uses key objectives to measure, analyse and report on the Coexistance Framework in a qualitative focussed format.

The second annual WPA Health Check was presented to the Advisory Board in May 2023. Six opportunities for improvement were identified for the 2022 Health Check.

Key Objectives

OBJECTIVE ONE

Effectively manage coexistence stakeholder relationships

OBJECTIVE TWO

Assure delivery of WPA access regime

OBJECTIVE THREE

Continuous improvement in the administration of WPA Coexistence Framework

What is working well:

- Annual case management meetings were held with all resource and research permit holders within the WPA.
- Communication with Defence and the WPA website received positive feedback.
- Respondents were generally satisfied with their ability to access the WPA.
- The number of access applications significantly increased showing the economic recovery from the pandemic and the increase in economic activity in the WPA.

What could be improved:

- Earlier advice when exclusion periods are cancelled.
- Ability to complete access applications online.

Recommended Opportunities and Learnings for Improvements
Building on the positive feedback on communication, develop a forward schedule for meetings with WPA stakeholders to take place during 2023
A way forward is agreed to close out each of the outstanding 2018 Review recommendations
Develop metrics to measure Opal Miners' and Tourists' satisfaction
Systemise the access arrangements so applicants can complete applications via an external portal
Refine Key Expected Results and operational metrics for the Health Check to align them with corporate governance objectives
Explore the expansion of ex-officio representation on the Advisory Board

Defence in the WPA

During the reporting period, Defence conducted test and evaluation, compliance, and range remediation activities.

Testing of the MQ-28A Ghost Bat

The MQ-28A Ghost Bat is a sovereign autonomous air vehicle designed to operate as part of an integrated system of crewed and uncrewed aircraft and space-based capabilities. It is intended to cost less than a crewed platform, and to be replaced rapidly. The Ghost Bat underwent testing in the WPA throughout the year to support its development.

Other Defence testing and training activities

Defence also conducted test and evaluation activities on new and upgraded systems and technologies at the Woomera Test Range, including recently installed radars, electro optic systems and command and control facilities. Defence members were trained in the safe and efficient use of the new equipment.

The WPA will remain a critical location for test and evaluation as Defence accelerates development of asymmetric military capabilities, including with international partners. As the Southern Hemisphere's largest weapons range, the WPA will be used increasingly to test and develop long-range strike and hypersonic capabilities.



Defence exercise activities in the Woomera Training Area.

Compliance monitoring inspections

Air Force Test Ranges Squadron conducted inspections to ensure that non-Defence users and their activities were compliant with the WPA Rule. The Squadron inspected mines, exploration sites, opal tenements, pastoral stations and other areas in the WPA. In the first six months of 2023, the Air Force Test Ranges Squadron conducted 13 ground patrols and one air patrol.

The Air Force Test Ranges Squadron's patrol objectives typically include:

- Identifying non-Defence users in the area;
- Conducting compliance patrols and permit checks;
- Enforcing Exclusion Period evacuations;
- Performing area familiarisation and field surveys;
- Demonstrating a physical presence within the WPA; and
- Cultivating strong and productive relationships with the public and WPA stakeholders.



Air Force Test Ranges Squadron patrols uphold the safety and security of the WPA.

Defence Infrastructure Projects

Defence infrastructure projects are underway in the WPA to deliver major upgrades to the Range Head and RAAF Base Woomera. Upgrades to electrical infrastructure at RAAF Base Woomera by contractor Aurecon Group Pty Ltd will secure downstream electrical supply and enhance safety for maintenance personnel.

Aurecon Group achieved a major milestone in December 2022 with the installation of a Technical Area Terminal Substation Switchroom.

IPSA Holdings Australia Pty Ltd was engaged by Defence to deliver electrical works at the Woomera Village. The works have focussed primarily on installing underground cabling to supply electricity from the new Technical Area Terminal Substation.

Project AIR3024 Woomera Range Remediation replaced obsolete instrumentation. The systems are now in service and enable Defence to undertake complex test and evaluation activities with current and future capabilities to be tested on the range.



The 54 tonne switchroom required a dual crane lift that took seven hours to align onto the columns.

Exclusion Periods

The WPA is designated a prohibited area for the testing of war materiel. Defence may grant regulated access to non-Defence users, but under the legislative framework this access can be suspended for safety and security during testing activities. Defence aims to minimise disruptions for stakeholders by providing notice of upcoming exclusion periods and working with stakeholders to mitigate impacts to their activities.

Red Zone
Defence continuous use zone
365 days exclusive Defence access

Amber Zone 1
Defence periodic use zone 1
up to 140 days exclusive Defence access

Amber Zone 2
Defence periodic use zone 2
up to 70 days exclusive Defence access

Green Zone
Defence infrequent use zone
up to 56 days exclusive Defence access

Annex A outlines the 2022 2023 exclusion periods for the Green and Amber Zones in the WPA, as well as planned exclusion periods projected for 2023 2024.

Defence is exploring a grid-based model for the Green Zone to provide greater flexibility and scope for Defence trials, while reducing the impact of exclusion periods on stakeholders by activating only targeted areas of the zone.

Defence in South Australia

Delivering on the Government's directions following the Defence Strategic Review, including by pursuing advanced AUKUS capabilities, is a key Defence priority.

The close working relationships fostered through the Advisory Board and the Coexistence Framework enables Defence, working with Australian defence industry and researchers, to leverage the unique test environment afforded by the WPA to develop advanced Defence capabilities.

Growing industrial assets that are complementary to Defence requirements, such as the Koonibba Test Range in far western South Australia, helps to deliver sovereign capabilities.

The CEO of Defence SA, the South Australian Government's lead agency for all defence and space matters, is an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board. By participating in this body, Defence SA can pursue the South Australian Government's priorities of targeting investment opportunities, supporting delivery of major projects and facilities and pursuing suitable locations for additional Defence units and capabilities within the state.

Aboriginal Groups

The WPA is home to the traditional lands of six Aboriginal groups: **Anangu Pitjantjatjara | Yankunytjatjara (APY) | Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara (AMY) | Arabana, Gawler Ranges | Kokatha and Maralinga Tjarutja.** Defence and the WPA Advisory Board acknowledge these communities as the traditional custodians of land in the WPA, with enduring ties and traditional custodianship responsibilities in relation to heritage sites, landmarks, and assets of cultural and historical significance. Defence and the Advisory Board also acknowledge these communities as the traditional custodians of heritage values in the WPA.

Approximately 30 percent of the land in the WPA's west is freehold title belonging to the Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara under South Australian legislation. The four other groups hold native title claims over different areas in the WPA.

The Air Force has maintained a Regional Compliance Officer (RCO) program since 2016 to engage Aboriginal groups in the WPA. The RCO initiative provides employment opportunities for Aboriginal communities and cultural insights for Defence in a mutually beneficial arrangement in support of coexistence.

Aboriginal Businesses

Aboriginal businesses engaged through the Commonwealth Indigenous Procurement Policy are important partners, delivering high-quality goods and services for Defence.

During the reporting period, Defence engaged *Intract Australia*, an Indigenous-owned and operated company, to deliver estate works and infrastructure programs at RAAF Base Woomera. These projects included the provision of housing at RAAF Base Woomera, as well as remediating the storm water system and various buildings, including the Woomera Theatre.



Intract is a construction and building maintenance company engaged by Defence to deliver WPA estate works.

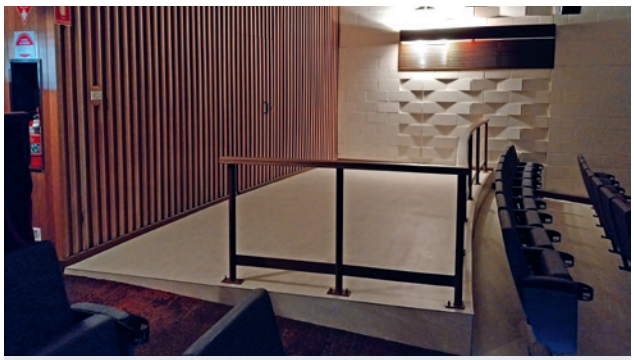


Woomera Theatre Redevelopment

Intract Australia is the head contractor for remediation works to upgrade the Woomera Theatre which was built in 1963. The remediation and refurbishment works will restore the building to a fully-functioning, safe and accommodating cinema for the community by upgrading existing infrastructure while conserving the building's historic and cultural heritage.

Along with the recreation clubs, pool, and social halls, the theatre was meant to narrow the divide between the military and civilians and make Woomera a more pleasant place for families. Maintaining the theatre enhances coexistence with the local communities and visiting tourists.

Air Force's History and Heritage branch is exploring opportunities to use the cinema to show WPA films and documentaries to enhance visitors' experiences and encourage public interest and appreciation of the WPA's history. The theatre renovations are part of broader Woomera redevelopment activities, including refurbishment of the Eldo Hotel, a popular stopover destination for travellers visiting the WPA. Defence anticipates the works will be finalised in 2024.



Newly created wheelchair-friendly seating area accessible from a newly installed lift.



Refurbished auditorium with upgraded seating, flooring and lighting.

WPA Inaugural Joint Patrol

In September 2022, Air Force Test Ranges Squadron's Compliance Monitoring Team conducted the first joint patrol with the Maralinga Tjarutja Oak Valley Rangers in the western part of the WPA.



Aboriginal RCO joint patrol with the Compliance Monitoring Team.

The patrol travelled from Maralinga to Emu Field via the Emu Road – a restricted area due to the significant presence of culturally-sensitive sites.

The Oak Valley Rangers demonstrated their 'Fulcrum' field reporting application, which may be considered for future use to assist the Compliance Monitoring Team in reporting when traversing Maralinga lands.

The patrol provided Defence with an opportunity to learn about Maralinga lands and build relationships with the Oak Valley Rangers. Defence will explore opportunities to replicate similar joint patrols with the other Aboriginal groups in the WPA.

Maralinga Tjarutja Indigenous Protected Area

The Oak Valley Rangers approached Defence with an Indigenous Protected Area proposal on behalf of the Maralinga Tjarutja in September 2022 to manage their traditional lands in the WPA for economic, cultural, and environmental purposes.

An Indigenous Protected Area is a voluntary agreement between the Commonwealth and Aboriginal groups, in which a defined area of land and/or sea is managed by Aboriginal communities to facilitate land management, heritage conservation and biodiversity.

The Maralinga Tjarutja is one of six Aboriginal groups with land rights in the WPA – specifically freehold title under the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*.

BENEFITS OF INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

- Helps to preserve cultural values and sites for future generations.
- Protects the environment through flora and funda management and biodiversity promotion.
- Creates jobs and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and their communities through the maintenance of traditional lands.
- Provides a funding source for rangers to care for their country and conserve heritage assets.

Indigenous Protected Areas are a Commonwealth initiative, with 82 Indigenous Protected Areas in place as of mid-2023. Three of these areas overlap parts of the WPA, namely the Mount Willoughby Indigenous Protected Area (encompassing AMY lands) and the Antara-Sandy Bore and Walalkara Indigenous Protected Areas comprising APY lands.

The Advisory Board considered the Maralinga Tjarutja Indigenous Protected Area proposal and welcomed the opportunity to endorse the proposal in support of coexistence. The Advisory Board also nominated a representative from Defence to participate in the Indigenous Protected Area's governance arrangements which will monitor progress of land management and cultural conservation in the WPA.

The Oak Valley Rangers will be responsible for administering the Indigenous Protected Area on Maralinga Tjarutja lands in support of cultural heritage and the environment, as well as local job creation.

Resources sector

Australia's mining sector contributes around 13.6 per cent of Australia's Gross Domestic Product, and resource and energy exports are an important source of national income.

Demand for **copper** is growing worldwide as investment in clean energy continues to rise. BHP Group Ltd.'s (BHP) Olympic Dam, the world's fourth largest copper deposit and the largest known uranium deposit, has enough high-quality copper reserves to last decades.

Uranium has become a far more sought-after commodity, with higher demand and prices due to bolder emissions targets and a desire for greater energy independence internationally.

South Australia contains 69 per cent of Australia's copper and one-third of Australia's copper production, as well as all of Australia's uranium exports. These minerals are crucial to the global transition to low-emissions energy and both are found around and within the WPA.

Magnetite ore is rich in iron and can be used in hydrogen-based green steelmaking – making it highly attractive in a world moving towards net zero emissions.

Australia is the largest **iron ore** producer in the world. Roughly 95 per cent of Australia's iron ore resources are hematite ores produced in the Pilbara region in Western Australia, but South Australia boasts important magnetite ore deposits and the WPA hosts three iron ore mines.

Gold is a $23 billion industry in Australia and there are several gold mines and exploration leases in the WPA.

South Australian Government Tenements and Licences

Resource exploration and mining are major contributors to South Australia's economy, particularly in the Far North outback region. South Australia is seeking to become a renewables powerhouse by shifting its energy sources to 70 per cent renewables, up from only one per cent, over a 15-year period.

The WPA plays a significant role in global green transformation as it is situated in the mineral-rich Gawler Craton and Stuart Shelf – highly prospective locations for critical minerals such as copper, cobalt, and other resources supporting decarbonisation.

During the reporting period, resources activities continued in the WPA. Annex B details the tenements and licences issued or amended by the South Australian Government throughout the reporting period, as well as those anticipated for the coming year.

$430m

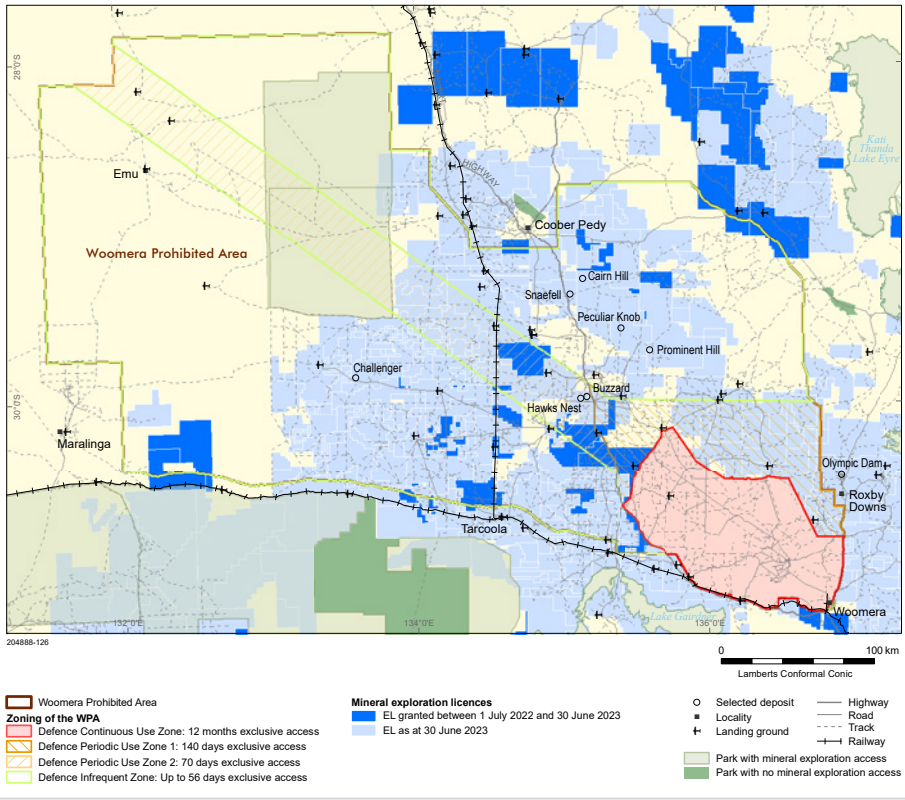
in royalties from the WPA since 2014

Exploration Operations

As of 30 June 2023, there were 167 active mineral exploration licences in the WPA held by junior explorers and major mining companies, including BHP, Rio Tinto, FMG Resources and OZ Minerals (now part of BHP).

Most of these licences seek to uncover copper, gold, nickel, and rare earths.

Several advanced exploration programs were undertaken during the reporting period – some through the South Australian Government's Advanced Discovery Initiative funding scheme. Mineral exploration expenditure for the period is expected to surpass $11 million based on currently available expenditure data.



Map highlighting the Mineral exploration licences (ELs) and ELs granted in the WPA between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

16 SA Mineral exploration licences granted

167 Active Mineral exploration licences

Major exploration highlights

Petrotherm limited

Drilling project confirmed a new large, high-grade rare earth prospect (Artemis), adding to its well defined Meteor rare earths prospect.

Marmota limited

Began rare earths exploration program after analysis data and core library samples to identify drilling targets.

Indiana Resources limited

Reported high-grade clay hosted rare earths mineralisation in its Minos project.

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty ltd

Entered into a farm-in agreement over White Tiger Resources' Mt. Brady copper-nickel exploration project.

Production Operations

The WPA contains significant untapped mineral and energy resources, playing host to the world-class Olympic Dam iron oxide, copper and gold deposits and covering about 30 per cent of the Gawler Craton, one of the world's major mineral domains. According to Geoscience Australia estimates, 69 per cent of Australia's known copper resources and 78 per cent of Australia's known uranium resources are located within the WPA or within the WPA's immediate surrounds.

Four major mines are in the WPA – BHP Group Limited's Prominent Hill copper and gold mine (operated by subsidiary tenement holder OZ Minerals), Barton Gold's Challenger gold mine, Cu-River Mining's Cairn Hill magnetite iron ore site and Peak Iron's Peculiar Knob iron mine. Construction of Peak Iron's latest hematite iron ore mine, Buzzard, is underway and projected to be operational by early 2024.

Located to the South East of Coober Pedy, Prominent Hill is a medium-sized, high quality copper-gold mine that has been operational since 2009. Through exploration work within its mineral lease and surrounding exploration tenements, OZ Minerals' has been able to extend the mine's life from 2021 to 2036.



Members of the South Australian Department for Energy and Mining and Defence SA visit Prominent Hill mine. Courtesy of Defence SA.

The mine now produces more than 100,000 tonnes of copper every year, supporting 900 jobs and contributing roughly $50 million in annual royalty payments to the South Australian Government. OZ Minerals' successful operation of the Prominent Hill mine has enabled its growth and expansion to include a $600 million innovative hoisting shaft and a $1 billion Carrapateena copper-gold mine operation.

Gawler Phase 2

After the success of the Gawler Challenge in 2020 in mapping resource prospectivity in the region, Next Generation Mineral Systems Mapping – Gawler Phase 2 (GP2) was developed to discover the potential of the Gawler region. GP2 is funded by the Jobs and Economic Growth Fund and consists of three components: new data acquisition, data science and insight.

Land access negotiations have been conducted with multiple Aboriginal corporate boards, including the WPA-based Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation and Maralinga Tjarutja, as well as the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation.

The Geological Survey of South Australia will run an insights workshop with industry in November 2023 to present the outcome of GP2 and discuss new and emerging mineral potential of the surveyed areas.

GP2 Achievements

All field survey work completed between July 2022 and March 2023, with the contractor meeting key deliverables.

Quality data now available to the science and exploration community to apply modern scientific tools to de-risk mineral exploration work and improve mineral prospectivity.

Geoscience Australia provided airbourne electromagnetic data on the GP2 region without charge.

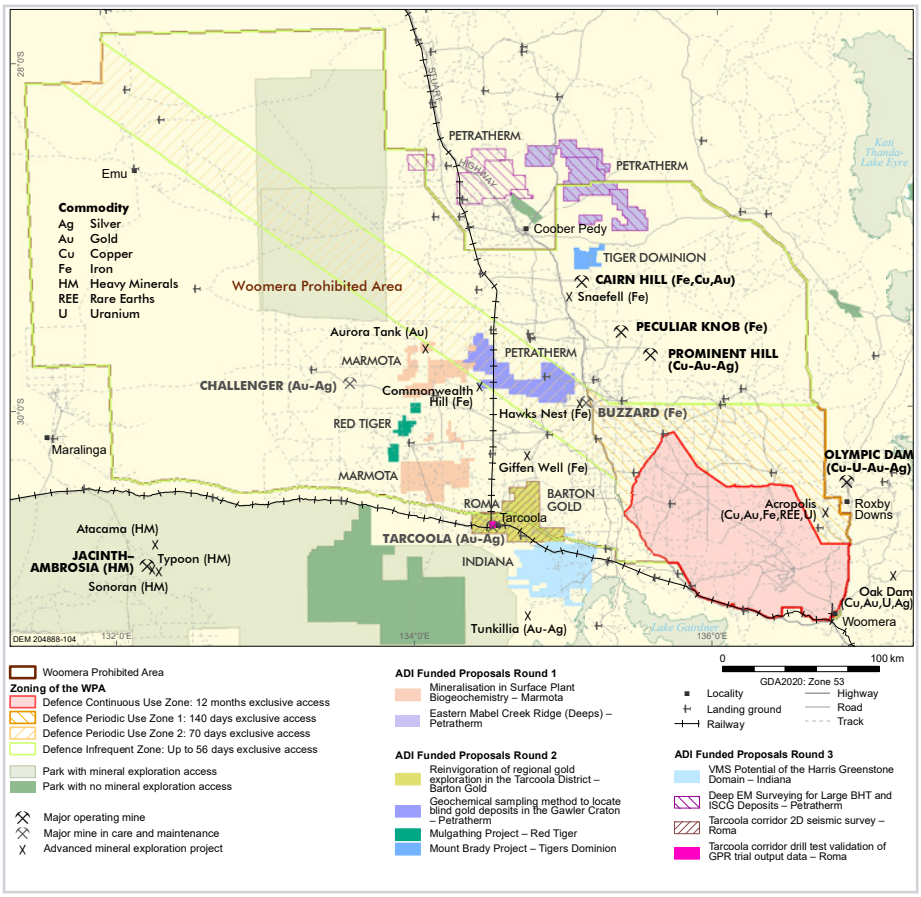
Good relations developed with multiple Native Title corporations to assist with securing land access for future geoscience data acquisition projects.

GP2
Next generation mineral systems mapping

Accelerated Discovery Initiative

The South Australian Government continues to support mineral exploration across South Australia. The South Australian Government's Accelerated Discovery Initiative (ADI) is a three-year scheme to co-fund exploration programs and drive innovation, collaboration, and capacity building to advance mineral exploration activity in South Australia.

During the reporting period, Rio Tinto's exploration arm and WPA resource exploration permit holder Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd entered into a farm-in agreement over White Tiger Resources' Mount Brady copper-nickel exploration project. The Mount Brady exploration project commenced after a successful bid for an exploration grant under the ADI.



$10.5m
in funding

Awarded for
52
proposals

10
Proposals focusing on WPA projects



ADI projects in progress and completed. Courtesy of the South Australian Government.

Governor of South Australia's WPA visit

In May 2023, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, embarked on a tour of far north South Australia to better understand the livelihoods and experiences of those living and working in the region.

Peak Iron Mines worked with Coober Pedy Together Group to host Her Excellency at Southern Iron's Peculiar Knob iron ore mine. Her Excellency was accompanied by South Australia's Local Government Minister, Geoff Brock, as well as the chief executive and other administrators from the District Council of Coober Pedy.

Her Excellency was provided with an overview of mining operations and procedures by Peak Iron Mines and mining contractor Agile Mining Services. This overview outlined the mining process from initial exploration and extraction of ore material from a pit to product transport by truck and train to a shipping dock for export.

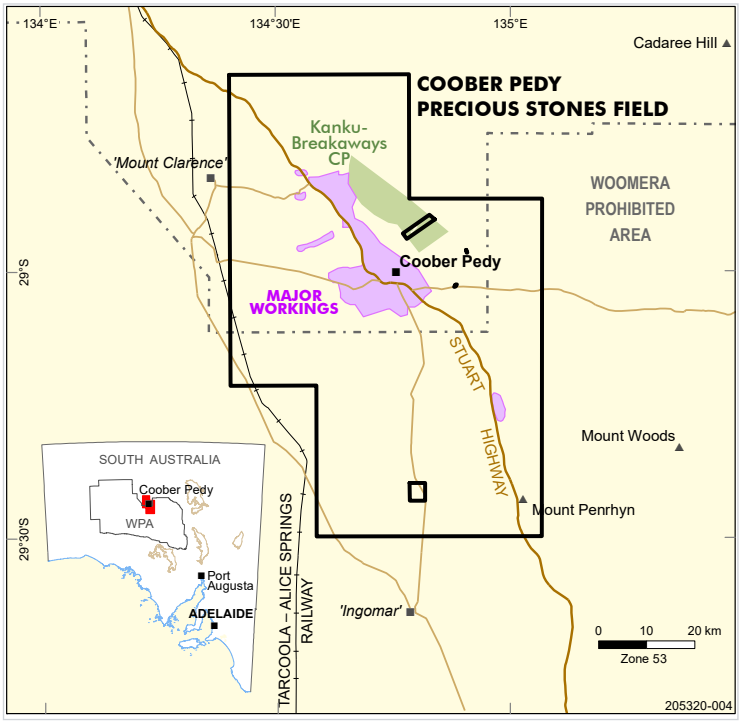
During her visit, Her Excellency also sat in the driver's seat of a Cat Triple 7 truck – a very large mining vehicle, detonated a blast in a pit with trained supervision and examined accommodation facilities at Windy Valley camp.



Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia in front of one of the new Cat Triple 7 trucks.

OPAL AND PRECIOUS STONE OPERATIONS

Opal prospecting contributes to commercial activity within the WPA. The opal was designated South Australia's official state gem in 1975.



Map. Courtesy of the South Australian Government.

All opal permits now have a nominal expiry date of 31 March each year under a new streamlined opal mining permit system. This enables Defence and the South Australian Government to streamline compliance patrols and inspections as joint custodians of the WPA.

During the reporting period, South Australian Department for Energy and Mining Opal Fields staff conducted 113 inspections in the area.

Miners source opals from the 5,000 square kilometre Coober Pedy Proclaimed Precious Stones Field, half of which falls within the WPA. Currently 56 precious stones tenements are registered in the WPA. Most are located at Opal Valley, with others at Opal Ridge, Allan Rise, and Tee Valley. Approximately $1.7 million worth of opal was produced during the reporting period.

South Australia provides
80 per cent
of the world's opal market.

Table 2: Opal Permits in 2022-23

Registered precious stone tenements in the WPA.	
Allan Rise	8
Gift Dam	0
Jasper Gully	0
Leonard Rise	0
Morton Rise	0
Mt Brady	0
Mt Penrhyn	0
Opal Ridge	8
Opal Valley	38
Peppercorn	0
Reynolds Ridge	0
Tee Valley	2
Wild Duck	0
Total	56

Pastoralists

Pastoralists have worked the land now contained within the WPA since the early 20th century, overcoming challenges including remoteness, a lack of infrastructure and hazards such as drought, rabbit plagues and dingoes.

While innovative farming technologies and techniques have assisted pastoralists to overcome these challenges, the fortunes of pastoralists remain linked to seasonal changes and fluctuations in prices for livestock and wool.

Conducive weather in late 2022 and 2023 resulted in the most favourable grazing conditions experienced in the past decade. Wool yields have also been consistent with pastoralists able to source good prices for beef and lamb.

This is a marked improvement on the previous reporting period, when COVID-19-related travel restrictions and logistical constraints led to disruptions as well as staff and contractor shortages, delaying and prolonging shearing activities.

Pastoral Board Work

The Pastoral Unit within South Australia's Department for Environment and Water supports the Pastoral Board, which has developed strategic priorities to focus its efforts over the next three years. This agenda includes enacting the South Australian Government's election commitment to complete land condition assessments to provide certainty to leaseholders.

The Pastoral Board is considering new guidelines for changing or introducing watering points and reviewing existing guidelines for stock-proof boundary fencing and processes for seeking maximum stock level increases. The Pastoral Board will also update its guidelines for approving non-pastoral uses, pending the outcome of the proposed amendments to the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989 (SA).

Pastoral Act Amendments

The South Australian Government has proposed minor amendments to confirm the Pastoral Board's ability to approve use of pastoral land for conservation and carbon farming. The amendments were developed after discussions with pastoralists, coordinated by Livestock South Australia, as well as with several conservation organisations, coordinated by the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia.



Cattle at Wirraminna Station near Lake Hart and Lake Gairdner.

Tourism

The WPA often draws tourists on their travels throughout outback South Australia due to its historical significance and beautiful landscape. Eased COVID-19 restrictions enabled increased tourism, with 550 tourist permits issued during the reporting period.

The Woomera Village's Heritage Centre, History Museum and Rocket Park are all popular tourist destinations depicting the WPA's rich history and offering visitors an engaging and informative experience.

Woomera Village

The Woomera Village is in the south-eastern corner of the WPA and has been open to the public since 1982. Part of RAAF Base Woomera, the village acts as a stopover and resupply point for roughly 65,000 tourists every year.

While the village's primary purpose is to support Defence, it also accommodates other stakeholders and consists of a school, supermarket, and medical centre, as well as tourist attractions including the Eldo Hotel, the Rocket Park, multiple museums, and an information centre. The resources sector has also made use of the village as an accommodation site for employees.

171

Tourist permits issued from July to December 2022

379

Tourist permits issued from January to June 2023



The chapel near the Woomera History Museum and Rocket Park.

The village fosters strong and productive relationships between Defence and the public. Defence's regular engagement with the community and participation in township events has built support for its ongoing presence and public appreciation for the WPA's importance as a crucial asset for Defence to conduct weapons testing.

Woomera History Museum



The Woomera History Museum is located in a former church.

Air Force's History and Heritage Branch manages the Woomera History Museum, housed in an old church. The museum is divided into two sections – the first displaying WPA history through artefacts and photos, and the second containing a collection of Aboriginal material culture. The latter collection has been audited by Australian Heritage Services and is not currently on display.

History and Heritage Branch is curating objects of historical value to be added to the heritage collection, including pieces of rocket technology from around the range and items in storage at Salisbury from when its facilities supported trials for various weapons.

History and Heritage Branch also seeks to preserve historical houses in the township that would otherwise be demolished. There are over 40 buildings scheduled for demolition, including Building 140.

Constructed in the 1950s, building 140 showcases living in the WPA during peak activity in the 1960s when the town supported a population exceeding 6,000 people. History and Heritage Branch is considering preservation of Building 140 given its location adjacent to the museum carpark, its near-original condition and expected ease of preservation.

It is envisaged that a historical precinct could eventually be established encompassing the Woomera History Museum, Building 140, the Woomera Theatre and the Woomera Rocket Park.



Building 140 – an excellent example of Woomera's '60s and '70s living and a potential heritage house.



The same artist who originally painted it in 1987 will soon repaint the museum's mural. Courtesy of Dr. Sue Gibbs.

Woomera Rocket Park

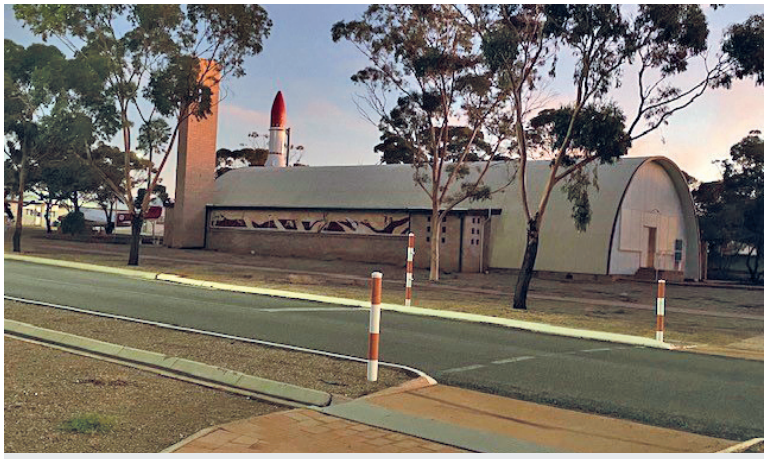
History and Heritage Branch also manages the Woomera Rocket Park and its contents. The Rocket Park is a popular tourist destination displaying aircraft, rockets, bombs, missiles and radars of historical interest and value.

The Rocket Park is divided into two sections. The first is in front of the History Museum and the second is situated across the road from the museum in front of the school.

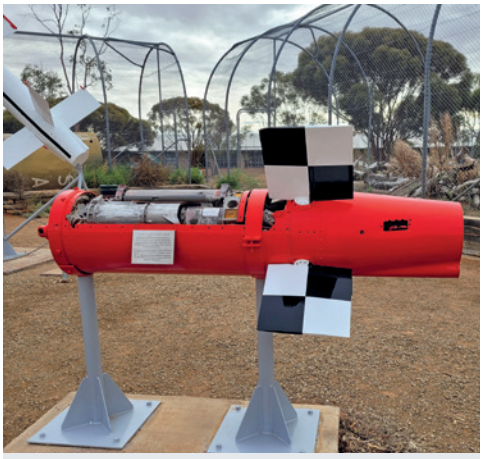
Defence continues to collect and conserve artefacts and technologies for display at the Rocket Park to enhance public awareness of the WPA's historical and ongoing significance to Defence and the nation.



Jabiru Rocket.



The Rocket Park with the Black Arrow rocket in the background.



General Purpose Bomb with tail.



HAD Rocket on launcher, with the museum in the background.

Environmental management

Defence works closely with base services contractor Ventia to manage native flora and fauna and preserve habitats in the WPA. Land management activities including pest control and rehabilitation works to protect the natural environment and enable wildlife to flourish by promoting biodiversity.

Weed Control



The Sturt's desert pea wildflower was adopted as the floral emblem of South Australia in 1961.

Coral Cacti – Cylindropuntia spp.

Coral cacti infestations present an ongoing issue. Management of the invasive species continued over the reporting period using a naturally occurring biocontrol measure. The Cochineal insect, which feeds on the cacti and eventually kills the host, has been utilised to great effect.

90 per cent of the population has now been infested with Cochineal, up from the previous 30 per cent infestation rate. The use and spread of a natural biocontrol has subsequently reduced the need for herbicide.





Cacti infected with Cochineal biocontrol (Courtesy of Department of Primary Industries and Regions – SA).

Buffel Grass – Cenchrus ciliaris.

A declared weed in South Australia, Buffel grass is prioritised by Defence for biocontrol. In March 2023, Buffel grass was identified on the edge of the Woomera township adjacent to the Olympic Dam Highway. The observed tussocks were treated with herbicide and an inspection program is in place to prevent re-emergence.

Mesquite – Prosopis spp.

As a Weed of National Significance, Mesquite is considered one the most problematic species and was particularly prevalent within the creek line encircling the Woomera Village. The area was the primary target location for pest control after several hundred plants were identified.

The significant reduction in Mesquite has prevented its spread across the site and into neighbouring properties and supported the restoration of native vegetation.

All known populations of the invasive spiny weed Parkinsonia (Parkinsonia aculeata) have also now been successfully controlled.



A buffel grass tussock (Courtesy of Department of Primary Industries and Regions – SA).



Buffel grass (Courtesy of Department of Primary Industries and Regions – SA).

Feral Animal Control

Feral animal control, particularly of rabbits and cats, remains a priority, and during the reporting period Defence successfully implemented a program to keep rabbit numbers low. In December 2022, the K5 Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) was released at several Defence locations, including the Woomera Village and the operational area of the Woomera Airfield. RHDV is an effective biocontrol exclusively targeting rabbits and survey data indicates numbers remain low after RHDV's release.

In addition, Defence administered the humane culling of 12 feral cats on Defence land, in a context in which the cat population continues to dwindle. Native fauna including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals stand to benefit from the gradual reduction in cat numbers.

Airside Wildlife Hazard Management Program

The Airside Wildlife Hazard Management program commenced at RAAF Base Woomera to identify and manage airside risks posed by mostly predator birds at the airfield to ensure aerodrome activities are not impeded. Such species include wedge-tailed eagles, little corellas, kestrels, and lapwings.

Looking forward

During the reporting period, Defence and WPA stakeholders enjoyed greater opportunity to use the WPA due to eased COVID-19 restrictions. Defence could increase testing, Aboriginal contractors could deliver estate works, resources sector operators could resume commercial activities at full capacity, pastoralists could capitalise on favourable grazing conditions and tourists could visit the WPA more easily.

Implementation of the 2018 Review's recommendations will ensure the WPA Coexistence Framework remains modern and fit-for-purpose in a changing strategic environment. During the reporting period, considerable progress was made in advancing the Review's recommendations, with the Advisory Board endorsing the Non-Defence Technology Framework and transitioning Aboriginal engagement into business-as-usual practice in recognition of the close ties Defence has cultivated with Aboriginal communities in the WPA.

Defence expects further progress on the four remaining recommendations in the coming year, particularly in relation to exploring the resource and economic potential of the Gawler Craton region and modernising administration of coexistence arrangements.

Preserving the WPA as a vital strategic capability for the testing of war materiel is imperative to secure Australia's national interests in an increasingly contested region. In coming years, Defence's need to progress the Government's response to the Defence Strategic Review, including through testing of advanced capabilities, is expected to expand Defence's requirements for use of the WPA.

In line with the Coexistence Framework, Defence and the South Australian Government will keep working with WPA stakeholders to explore and promote viable commercial and cultural opportunities while retaining WPA use for testing activities that protect and advance the national interest.



Winter sunset at RAAF Base Woomera's village entrance.

Annex 1: WPA Exclusion Periods

Table 1: Exclusion Periods July 2022-June 2023		
Access Zone	**Exclusion Period Determined by Instrument**	**Status**
Amber Zone 1	04 July 2022 – 10 July 2022	Exclusion exercised
	11 July 2022 – 17 July 2022	Exclusion exercised
	18 July 2022 – 24 July 2022	Exclusion exercised
	25 July 2022 – 31 July 2022	Exclusion exercised
	01 August 2022 – 07 August 2022	Exclusion exercised
	08 August 2022 – 14 August 2022	Exclusion exercised
	10 October 2022 – 16 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	17 October 2022 – 23 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	24 October 2022 – 30 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	31 October 2022 – 06 November 2022	Exclusion exercised
	07 November 2022 – 13 November 2022	Exclusion exercised
	20 February 2023 – 26 February 2023	Exclusion exercised
	27 February 2023 – 05 March 2023	Exclusion exercised
	06 March 2023 – 12 March 2023	Exclusion exercised
	13 March 2023 – 19 March 2023	Exclusion exercised
	20 March 2023 – 26 March 2023	Exclusion exercised
	03 June 2023 – 09 June 2023	Exclusion exercised
	10 June 2023 – 16 June 2023	Exclusion exercised
	17 June 2023 – 23 June 2023	Exclusion exercised
	24 June 2023 – 30 June 2023	Exclusion exercised
Amber Zone 2	16 October 2022 – 22 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	23 October 2022 – 29 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	30 October 2022 – 05 November 2022	Exclusion exercised
	20 February 2023 – 26 February 2023	Revoked
	27 February 2023 – 05 March 2023	Revoked
	06 March 2023 – 12 March 2023	Revoked
	03 June 2023 – 09 June 2023	Revoked
	10 June 2023 – 16 June 2023	Revoked
	17 June 2023 – 23 June 2023	Revoked
	24 June 2023 – 30 June 2023	Revoked
Green Zone	16 October – 22 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	23 October – 29 October 2022	Exclusion exercised
	30 October – 05 November	Exclusion exercised

Table 2: Exclusion periods July 2023-June 2024

Access Zone	Exclusion Period Determined by Instrument	Status
Amber Zone 1	01 July 2023 – 07 July 2023	Planned
	08 July 2023 – 14 July 2023	Planned
	15 July 2023 – 21 July 2023	Planned
	22 July 2023 – 28 July 2023	Planned
	13 November 2023 – 19 November 2023	Planned
	20 November 2023 – 26 November 2023	Planned
	27 November 2023 – 03 December 2023	Planned
	04 December 2023 – 10 December 2023	Planned
	11 December 2023 – 17 December 2023	Planned
	05 February 2024 – 11 February 2024	Planned
	12 February 2024 – 18 February 2024	Planned
	19 February 2024 – 25 February 2024	Planned
	26 February 2024 – 03 March 2024	Planned
	04 March 2024 – 10 March 2024	Planned
	11 March 2024 – 17 March 2024	Planned
	06 May 2024 – 12 May 2024	Planned
	13 May 2024 – 19 May 2024	Planned
	20 May 2024 – 26 May 2024	Planned
	27 May 2024 – 02 June 2024	Planned
	03 June 2024 – 09 June 2024	Planned
Amber Zone 2	13 November 2023 – 19 November 2023	Planned
	20 November 2023 – 26 November 2023	Planned
	27 November 2023 – 03 December 2023	Planned
	04 December 2023 – 10 December 2023	Planned
	11 December 2023 – 17 December 2023	Planned
	06 May 2024 – 12 May 2024	Planned
	13 May 2024 – 19 May 2024	Planned
	20 May 2024 – 26 May 2024	Planned
	27 May 2024 – 02 June 2024	Planned
	03 June 2024 – 09 June 2024	Planned

Annex 2: South Australian Government Licenses

Table 1: Tenements and licences Financial Year 2022-23

Tenements / Licences	Current	Granted	Renewed	Anticipated over the next 12 months
ELA – Exploration Licence Application	13	0	0	13 ELAs may be finalised and granted.
EL – Exploration Licence	167	16	48	Up to 33 ELs may be renewed.
ML – Mineral Lease	7	0	2	0
EML – Extractive Minerals Lease	58	0	20	0
MPL – Miscellaneous Purposes Licence	34	0	11	0
MC – Mineral Claim	0	0	0	0
RL – Retention Lease	1	0	0	0
GEL – Geothermal Exploration Licence	0	0	0	0
GELA – Geothermal Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	
GSEL – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	
GSELA – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	
PEL – Petroleum Exploration Licence	8	0	0	0
PELA – Petroleum Exploration Licence Application	20	0	0	4 PELAs may be finalised and granted.

Table 2: Tenements and licences current from 30 June 2017-2023

Tenements / Licences	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
ELA – Exploration Licence Application	36	18	29	35	44	27	13
EL – Exploration Licence	148	143	137	139	140	157	167
ML – Mineral Lease	7	7	6	6	6	7	7
EML – Extractive Minerals Lease	59	59	59	59	59	58	58
MPL – Miscellaneous Purposes Licence	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
MC – Mineral Claim	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
RL – Retention Lease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
GEL – Geothermal Exploration Licence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GELA – Geothermal Exploration Licence Application	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GSEL – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
GSELA – Gas Storage Exploration Licence Application	21	21	21	21	21	0	0
PEL – Petroleum Exploration Licence	10	10	10	10	10	8	8
PELA – Petroleum Exploration Licence Application	19	19	20	23	23	21	20

Annex 3: 2022-2023 Defence Permits and Deeds

Table 1: Resource permits issued and access 2022-23

Permit or Access	1 July 22 to 30 Sep 22	1 Oct 22 to 31 Dec 22	1 Jan 23 to 31 Mar 23	1 Apr 23 to 30 Jun 23	Total
Resource Production Permits issued	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Exploration Permits issued	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Exploration Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Exploration Permits varied	4	0	0	1	5
Resource Exploration Permits surrendered by permit holders	0	1	2	3	6
Permit variation refused	0	0	0	0	0
Research Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0
Other Purpose Permit issued	0	0	0	0	0
Permit non-compliance (Breaches issued)	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Opal permits 2022-2023

Permits	1 July 22 to 30 Sep 22	1 Oct 22 to 31 Dec 22	1 Jan 23 to 31 Mar 23	1 Apr 23 to 30 Jun 23	Total
Opal Permits issued	11	12	23	36	82
Opal Permits refused	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Resource permits and deeds current from 30 June 2017-2023

Permit or Deed type	30 June 2017	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
Mineral Lease Deed of Access(1)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Resource Production Permit	1	1	1	2	3	3	3
Exploration Deed of Access(1)							
Extractive, Petroleum or Other Purpose Deeds(1)							
Resource Exploration Permit	34	24	27	24	24	27	21
Other Purpose Permit(2)	7	7	7	4	4	3	3
Research Permit	3	2	1	2	1	2	2
Opal Permits	23	13	13	24	33	39	82

(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 2022-2023

Resource personnel	1 July 22 to 30 Sept 22	1 Oct 22 to 31 Dec 22	1 Jan 23 to 31 Mar 23	1 Apr 23 to 30 Jun 23	Total
Approved Person applications lodged	387	310	354	212	1263
Approved Persons refused	0	0	0	0	0
Escorted Person applications lodged	69	100	186	132	487

Table 5: Tourist permits 2022-2023

Permits	1 July 22 to 30 Sept 22	1 Oct 22 to 31 Dec 22	1 Jan 23 to 31 Mar 23	1 Apr 23 to 30 Jun 23	Total
Number of Tourist Permits issued	155	16	115	264	550
Number of tourists authorised on Tourist Permits	289	31	197	428	945
Tourist Permits refused	5	0	0	0	5
Tourist Permits cancelled	2	0	0	0	2



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