Desert Parks Bulletin

No. 879 – 26th October 2026

Witjira NP Closed.

Munga-Thirri Simpson Desert NP Closed.

PAR No 15 K1 Warburton,
PAR No 16 Walkers Crossing,
PAR No 2 Level Post Bay are closed

ALERT: Significant falls of rain and flooding in the far north have resulted in the closures of Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba – Coongie Lakes National Park

Safety in the Outback

Warning: Water across tracks has resulted in electrical faults being reported in a number of vehicles. High clearance 4WD's recommended and extra care is required when navigating these areas.

Outback daytime temperatures can reach high 40°Cs. If you are travelling in the Outback, you should bring appropriate clothing, ensure your vehicles are properly prepared and equipped for outback travel and any emergencies or delays. Take extra water, food and fuel supplies. Ensure good communications equipment, either HF Radio or Satellite Phone and an EPIRB or PLB. Ensure you notify a responsible person, such as a family member, of your plans prior to travelling into remote areas, and seek local advice.

In soft and narrow sandy sections, lower tyre pressure. Use caution on dune crests and dune flags recommended.
Do not drive through ponded water. Do not drive off track, past or around track closure markers as there are many areas of cultural significance.

Dingoes are about, do not feed them.

Water across tracks has resulted in electrical faults being reported in a number of vehicles. High clearance 4WD's recommended and extra care is required when navigating these areas.

If you attempt driving in sandy conditions and get bogged, do not attempt to get the vehicle out without ensuring 4WD and hubs are engaged, tyre pressures are decreased, and sand is removed from the path of the tyres. If you become stuck, **DO NOT leave your vehicles** to walk for assistance as this can have fatal consequences.

Check local conditions before travelling into area.

Speed limits

Check road and weather bulletins and local conditions before travelling into the Outback. Speed limits of 40km per hour apply within all parks. For up to date public road information outside of National Parks, please call the Transport SA Road Condition Hotline on 1300 361 033 or visit the Transport SA web site on Outback Road Warnings - Department for Infrastructure and Transport - South Australia (dit.sa.gov.au)

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park

Warning: It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own firewood, drinking water cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

NOTE: No Access is permitted onto the lakes surface

NOTE: Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre can be viewed from the viewing area on the Oodnadatta Track.

Public Access Route 13 Halligan Bay Point – Open
Public Access Route 2 Level Post Bay – Closed for safety purposes due to flood damage

Tallaringa Conservation Park

Warning: It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own firewood, drinking water cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

Online Park bookings or a Desert Parks Pass is required, as well as a tourist access permit to access this area from the Department of Defence. Enquiries about tourist permits should be directed to woomera.enquiries@defence.gov.au

The Anne Beadell Highway west of Tallaringa crosses the Amber Zone 2 in the Woomera Prohibited Area and is subject to annual closures by the Department of Defence. For the latest information please check the Department of Defence website at: www.defence.gov.au/woomera .

The tracks within Tallaringa Conservation Park are un-maintained 4WD tracks and conditions can change unpredictably. Extreme caution at ponded water, washouts and corrugations, plus rutted sections.

Public Access Route 6 Tallaringa – Open to 4WD

Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park CLOSED Due to Flooding

Warning: Brucellosis (*Brucella suis*) has been detected in feral pigs in the Cooper and Diamantina catchments including pigs within Innamincka Regional Reserve. This disease can cause serious illness and in some cases death. Avoid contact with feral pigs and do not let dogs eat from feral pig carcases or faeces. For more information please check the PIRSA website at Brucella suis - PIRSA.

Warning: Japanese Encephalitis has been detected in feral pigs in the Cooper and Diamantina catchments including pigs within Innamincka Regional Reserve. This disease is spread by mosquitos so prevent its spread by covering up, using insect repellent, ensure screens are installed and in good repair on caravans and tents and use mosquito nets. More information can be found at the PIRSA website here Current alert (pir.sa.gov.au) .

Please note that chainsaws and firewood collection is prohibited in Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park, with no wood fires permitted at Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park. Bring firewood with you and take your waste material home or deposit it at the Innamincka township refuse site.

Dogs, generators and powered watercraft not permitted within Malkumba – Coongie Lakes National Park.

15 Mile Track – Closed due to flooding.
Merninie Loop – Closed due to flooding.
Cullyamurra Waterhole – Closed due to flooding.
Burke's Grave – Closed due to flooding.
Queerbidie – Closed due to flooding.
Policemans – Closed due to flooding.
King's Marker Campground – Closed due to flooding.
King's Marker Day Visitor Area - Closed due to flooding.
Ski Beach Campground – Closed due to flooding.
Wills Grave – Closed due to flood flooding.
Minkie Waterhole Campground – Closed due to flood flooding.

Coongie Track Innamincka to Kudriemitchie Campground – Closed due to flooding.
Coongie Track Kudriemitchie Campground to Malkumba-Coongie Lakes Nat Park – Closed due to flooding.

Warning: The following information for visitors is pertinent:

- High clearance 4WD access only.

- Not suitable for caravans.
- Soft and narrow sandy sections, lower tyre pressure.
- Caution on dune crests, dune flags recommended.
- Do not drive through ponded water.
- Do not drive off track, past or around track closure markers as there are many areas of cultural significance.
- Dingos are about, do not feed them.

Old Strzelecki Track (on Innamincka Regional Reserve only) – Closed due to flooding.
Bore Track North – Closed due to flooding.
Bore Track South – Closed indefinitely.

Public Access Route Number 16 Walkers Crossing– Closed due to flooding.

Witjira National Park CLOSED due to rain event

Warning: Mt Dare Rd is closed due to a rain event preventing access to/from the reserve.

Warning: do not attempt to drive following rain until the tracks have dried. If it rains, you need to stay where you are until the tracks have dried.

Tracks in the park are graded in May/June every year.

Rubbish tips are located 3 kilometres east and west of the Dalhousie campground or at Birdsville for disposal of rubbish.

Wood fires are not permitted in Witjira, with the exception that wood fires are still permitted at Mt Dare. Wood can be carried through Witjira to be used in the Munga-Thirri–Simpson Desert National Park.

Witjira National Park – Closed
Dalhousie Campground – Closed
Three O'Clock Creek Campground – Closed
Dalhousie Campground to Purni Bore – Closed
The Dalhousie airstrip – Closed (closed to the public)
Pedirka Track (on park) - Closed
Bloods Creek Ruin to Federal Waterhole Track: Closed
Binns Track: Closed

Public Access Route Number 8 Pedirka: Closed

Munga-Thirri-Simpson Desert National Park - CLOSED due to rain event

Warning: This bulletin applies to the South Australian Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert National Park only. It does not apply to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service' Munga-Thirri National Park. For up-to-date information on this park please check https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/munga-thirri.

Warning: It is important that campers and other park visitors are self-sufficient, and carry their own cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene products with them.

A Desert Parks Pass (12-month vehicle entry and camping for desert parks permit) is mandatory to enter the Munga-Thirri-Simpson Desert National Park.

The tracks within Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert are un-maintained 4WD tracks and conditions can change unpredictably. Extreme caution at ponded water, washouts and corrugations, plus rutted sections. National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia do not recommend the towing of trailers or campers within the desert.

Colson Track – Closed

Poeppels Corner – Closed

Public Access Route 15 K1 Warburton Crossing – Closed

Pink Roadhouse (Ph: (61 8) 8670 7822) – Agent for the Desert Parks Pass. Provides diesel and unleaded fuel, accommodation, food and groceries, meals, tyres, travel supplies, and alcohol.

Mt Dare Hotel (Ph: (61 8) 8670 7835) – Agent for the Desert Parks Pass. Provides diesel and unleaded fuel, accommodation, meals, hot showers, minor repairs, camping, travel supplies, alcohol, and phone cards available for travellers. Satellite phones are available to hire from Mt Dare Hotel for trips across the Simpson Desert

Condition updates

As conditions change a further update bulletin will be issued. For further information on SA Desert Parks and Far Northern South Australian road and track access, please call Desert Parks on (61 8) 8648 5328 or the Department for Infrastructure and Transport Outback Road Warnings website Outback Road Warnings - Department for Infrastructure and Transport - South Australia (dit.sa.gov.au)

Alternatively contact local Police where applicable for condition updates. For travel communications, contact the Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc on (61 8) 7325 2600.

Public Access Routes

Public Access Routes (PARs) provide public access over pastoral leasehold land, from public roads or tracks to points of public interest, which in some cases include parks and reserves, without the need for travellers to seek permission to travel along these routes. PARs are not part of the formal road network; they are unsealed and unformed dirt tracks intended to provide four wheel drive access in dry conditions only.

The Minister for the Pastoral Act manages14 PARs in the desert parks area:

- Curdimurka
- Strangways Springs
- Lake Cadibarrawirricanna
- Tallaringa
- Lake Eyre/Kati Thanda - Halligan Bay Point
- Lake Eyre/Kati Thanda – Level Post Bay
- Old Peake
- Pedirka
- Arckaringa Hills
- K1 Warburton Crossing Track
- Walkers Crossing
- Algebuckina Bridge
- Beresford Bore
- Mungerannie Bore

Current closures of Public Access Routes:

PAR Closures are directed by the Pastoral Board and are not administered by National Parks. PAR's may be closed annually for safety from 1 December to 15 March, or for a specific safety concern.

- PAR Number 2 Level Post Bay for safety purposes due to flooding damage
- PAR Number 3 Nuccaleena Mine for safety purposes
- PAR Number 9 Warraweena for safety purposes
- PAR Number 15 Warburton Crossing for safety purposes due to flooding damage
- PAR Number 16 Walkers Crossing for safety purposes due to flooding damage

Camping on PARs

Camping is permitted (temporarily) on PARs. Camping is not allowed on pastoral leasehold land without the permission of the lessee. If the lessee grants permission to camp on the lease, you must not camp within one kilometre of homesteads or other buildings and not within 500 metres of stock watering points.'

Travelling on PARs

PARs are unsealed, unformed, dirt tracks designed for 4WD use in good weather only and should therefore be treated with caution. The following tips will help you to travel safely:

- Use a high clearance 4WD
- Caravans and trailers are not recommended
- Beware of washouts, corrugations and other road hazards
- Beware of wandering stock – these routes are not fenced and are usually part of the network of tracks used by lessees to manage their pastoral properties
- Drive to road conditions
- Leave gates as you find them
- In case of emergency ensure you have adequate food and water, and appropriate communication devices, and in the event of a breakdown stay with your vehicle.
- Tracks may temporarily close as required (i.e. due to rain), so ensure you check prior to leaving at www.dit.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads.

Please avoid travel during or immediately after rain – this can cause significant damage to the track and put others that follow at risk. It can also cost many thousands of dollars to make basic road/ track repairs.

Travelling through pastoral land

In the South Australian outback, most land not in the Department for Environment and Water's parks and reserve system is pastoral leasehold land. If you wish to travel through pastoral property on tracks that are not PARs or main public roads or tracks, then prior approval from the pastoral lessee of the respective pastoral lease must be obtained.

Fight the Bite - a health warning from SA Health

Mosquitoes can be active around waterbodies in northern South Australia.

Mosquitoes are not only a nuisance, but some can spread serious disease such as Ross River virus (RRv) and Barmah Forest virus (BFv) when they bite (symptoms of RRv and BFv can include joint pains, rash, fever, fatigue or muscle pain).

There is NO CURE and NO VACCINE to protect against mosquito borne diseases. The only known and effective way to reduce risk of mosquito borne disease is to prevent mosquito bites.

If you are a visitor, or if you live in northern South Australia, it is important that you protect yourself, your family and friends against mosquito borne disease by Fighting the Bite. Key strategies include:

- **Covering up** – wear long, light coloured, loose fitting clothing (mosquitoes can bite through tight clothes like jeans)
- **Apply personal insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin** (avoid using on babies and toddlers and ALWAYS read and follow instructions on the label first).
- **Ensure insect screens cover openings** in holiday houses, boats, caravans or tents.
- Cover sleeping areas or beds with **mosquito nets** if necessary.

For additional strategies and information about how to **Fight the Bite** and protect against mosquito borne disease visit www.health.sa.gov.au

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While every attempt has been made to provide up to date information in this bulletin, all travellers are responsible for ensuring that they obtain accurate and detailed information and are properly equipped and prepared for all emergencies prior to travelling into remote outback areas. Privacy, Disclaimer, Copyright