

National Parks and Wildlife South Australia  
SA Arid Lands Region

## **DESERT PARKS BULLETIN**

NO. 410

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

**Simpson Desert closed 1 December 2011 to 15 March 2012.**

**Fire Ban Season is 15 October 2011 to 31 March 2012. Wood fires are not permitted during these dates. Gas fires can be used on days that are not a Total Fire Ban day.**

**All fires not permitted on Total Fire Ban days.**

Outback temperatures are increasing and are reaching over 40°C. If you decide to travel in the Outback, you should ensure your vehicles are properly prepared and equipped for outback travel and any emergencies or delays. **The use of trailers in the Simpson Desert is strongly discouraged, plus motor homes and caravans should never attempt this crossing.** Serious damage can be caused to vehicles and the environment, and difficulties are likely to result. Take extra water, food and fuel supplies. Ensure good communications equipment, either HF Radio or Satellite Phone. Ensure you notify a responsible person, such as a family member, of your plans prior to travelling into remote areas, and seek local advice.

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 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 [http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/quicklinks/northern\\_roads/northern.asp](http://www.transport.sa.gov.au/quicklinks/northern_roads/northern.asp).

**Be aware that entry to Desert Parks requires a day/overnight permit or a Desert Parks Pass that must be displayed on the vehicle windscreen.**

## **LAKE EYRE NATIONAL PARK**

**Boating in any type of vessel requires written permission from DENR, and granting of a boating permit will be dependant on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters being resolved.**

Current surface coverage is about 15% are there currently are no new major floods in the catchment. The best way to see water in Lake Eyre is still from the air. Local charters are available at William Creek and Marree.

### **General Conditions**

For further information regarding the National Parks and Wildlife South Australia visit our web site <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/home>. For information regarding air tours phone the Wadlata Outback Centre on 1800 633 060. Check local conditions before traveling into the Outback area.

If you decide to travel in the following areas you should ensure your vehicles are properly prepared and equipped for outback travel and any emergencies. Take extra water, food and fuel supplies. Ensure good communications equipment. Notify a responsible person of your plans prior to travelling. **Do not speed along roads and tracks. Take your time as Lake Eyre is not going anywhere. No fires at Lake Eyre.**

**Halligan Bay Track – Open to 4WD with caution.** This track is a declared Public Access Route. It is a bush track, not a road. Use caution at creek crossing, bulldust holes and washouts, however drive with caution along the entire track as the landscape is fragile and the track will deteriorate due to the unusually high number of vehicles using it. Please drive to track conditions. Driving on the Lake surface is an offence and dangerous. **Trailers and caravans are not recommended.**

**Level Post Bay Track – Open to 4WD with caution.** This track is a declared Public Access Route. It is a bush track, not a road. Caution at corrugations, however drive with caution along the entire track as the landscape is fragile and the track will deteriorate due to the unusually high number of vehicles using it. Please drive to track conditions. Driving on the Lake surface is an offence and dangerous. **Trailers and caravans are not recommended.** No camping at Level Post Bay – camping at Muloorina campground.

**Marree's Outback Roadhouse – Agents for the Desert Parks Pass & Lake Eyre Permits. Post Office & Commonwealth Bank Agency, diesel & unleaded fuel, gas bottle refills, licensed restaurant and take away service available. Ph (61 8) 8675 8360**

## ***INNAMINCKA REGIONAL RESERVE***

### **General Vehicle Access.**

Coongie Lakes National Park may be inaccessible for 2012 due to floodwaters.

**Note:** Be aware that entry to Innamincka Regional Reserve requires a day/camping permit or a Desert Parks Pass that must be displayed on the vehicle windscreen. Desert Parks passes/permits are available from the Innamincka Trading Post.

**Coongie Track – Closed due to floodwaters.**

**Walkers Crossing Track – Closed due to floodwaters.**

**15 Mile Track and Access to Cooper Creek – Closed due to rain.** Wills Grave open to day visitors only. **15 Mile closed beyond Wills turn off.** Town Common and Queerbiddie is open.

**Cullyamurra Track and Burke's Grave – Closed due to rain.** Burke's Grave - day visitors and temporary camping only.

**Bore Track – Closed.** Contact Bollards Lagoon (61 8 8091 3873) prior to crossing private land.

**The Innamincka Trading Post (Ph: (61 8) 8675 9900).** Agent for the Desert Parks Pass and camping permits. Provide a comprehensive range of supplies and services for visitors in the Innamincka area.  
**Innamincka Hotel (Ph: (61 8) 8675 9901).** Provide meals, drinks and accommodation. Agent for the Desert Parks Pass and camping permits.

## ***WITJIRA NATIONAL PARK and the SIMPSON DESERT RESERVES***

Check local conditions before travelling into this area. See the National Parks and Wildlife South Australia web site on <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/home> for more information. Please purchase Desert Parks Pass or permit before travelling to Witjira.

**Witjira National Park – Open to 4WD with caution.** Caution at sections of minor damage due to recent rain.

**Pedirka PAR is open to 4WD vehicles with caution at creek crossings and sand dune crests, but trailers and caravans are not recommended.**

Drive with caution and to track conditions as tracks are over a fragile landscape and deteriorate rapidly. Check local conditions before travelling. Please call the **Desert Parks** hotline on **1800 816 078** for further information. A public phone (card only) is available at Dalhousie Springs. (*Note: Phone cards not available at Dalhousie*). Camping is restricted to Dalhousie Springs, 3 O'clock Creek and Purni Bore.

**The Dalhousie airstrip is currently closed to public use.**

**The Oodnadatta Hotel (Ph: (61 8) 8670 7804) – Agent for the Desert Parks Pass, meals including takeaway, drinks and accommodation (not open Sunday)**

**The Pink Roadhouse Oodnadatta (Ph: 1800 802 074, Email: [pinkroadhouse@bigpond.com](mailto:pinkroadhouse@bigpond.com)) – Agent for the Desert Parks Pass, phone cards, diesel and unleaded fuel, food including takeaways, travel supplies, refreshments, tyre and minor repairs and welding**

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

**Simpson Desert – Closed from 1 December 2011 to 15 March 2012.**

Closed due to excessive summer temperatures that may reach up to 50°C, and soft sand on changing dunes which may cause vehicle breakdown. This can lead to potentially fatal situations to people who cross the desert at this time and emergency personnel that may be required to assist.

**Warburton Crossing – Closed during the Simpson Desert closure.**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Hire of Communications Equipment**

Satellite phones can be hired from Birdsville & Mt Dare. For further information call:

**Wirrarri Centre - Birdsville (61 7) 4656 3300**

**Mt Dare Hotel (61 8) 8670 7835**

## 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 the **Desert Parks** toll free hotline on **1800 816 078** or the **Transport SA Outback Roads** hotline on **1300 361 033**.

Alternatively contact local Police where applicable for condition updates. For travel communications, contact the **Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc** on **(61 8) 8287 6222**.

### Fight the Bite

#### A health warning from SA Health

The recent warm weather and rains in the Northern Territory and in Northern South Australia has seen an increase in mosquito numbers across central 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 these 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](http://www.health.sa.gov.au)

Tony Magor  
District Ranger  
DESERT PARKS  
[desertparks@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:desertparks@saugov.sa.gov.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources



*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 traveling into remote outback areas.*  
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