



PARs - Public Access Routes

What is a PAR?

These are public routes that cross pastoral property to an area of public interest (eg historical sites). Permission is not required per se, but note that PARs can be closed for a variety of reasons (eg stock movement or weather).

PARs are situated in remote areas of South Australia's Outback. Travellers must ensure they carry adequate food and water in case of an emergency. PAR tracks are signposted as such, and caution should be exercised while driving as road conditions may vary. Please note that PARs are located on working pastoral properties so please ensure that stock is not disturbed, and assume that pets not allowed. Allow roads to dry out after rain before traversing them.

Camping rules.

Unless otherwise specified, a PAR is a corridor 100m in width. Generally camping is allowed only within a specific distance of the PAR, except the Copper King Mine Route and the Tallaringa Route. On the former route, camping is only allowed along the gum creek. No camping is allowed on the Tallaringa PAR while traversing Mabel Creek Station. The distance camping is permitted from some PAR's has not been determined, and also other rules do apply - therefore, before using any PAR, refer to the Pastoral Program website (see below) and look for the general conditions of use and requirements (Camping, Wet Weather Use, Station Improvements, Heritage Sites etc).

How is a PAR created.

The Pastoral Board identifies and formally delineates public access to points of interest on and through land held under pastoral lease (as needs and resources permit). The process of identification involves consultation with lessees, conservation interests, tourism, operators, 4WD vehicle clubs, and other interested groups. Tracks are signposted before being formally gazetted.

How to find out more about PARS

Visit the Pastoral Program (South Australian Government website) at <http://www.rangelands.sa.gov.au/public%20access.htm> where you will find a brochure that describes the first 18 PARs, or contact Pastoral Branch (telephone 1800 678 447). Also visit our State Association website, <http://www.saafwdc.asn.au/pastoral/pastoral.htm>, for detailed information - a Pastoral Access Request Form can be downloaded from site http://www.saafwdc.asn.au/nrau/pl_acc_req_form_as_at_200312.pdf.

Important notes -

- *Existence of a Public Access Route does not in any way imply that it is possible to traverse it at all times, by either 2 or 4WD vehicles.*
- *Routes may be closed by the Department or station owner if weather conditions or stock management requirement necessitate such action.*
- *If any fencing, gates or signage is noticeably damaged or vandalised, please inform the station owner and/or the Pastoral Program.*

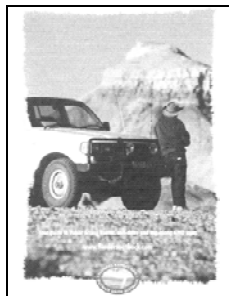


Warning: most States now have large fines for driving on closed tracks.

The South Australian unsealed Outback road network is one of the State's greatest assets. They can be dusty when dry, or prone to flood damage after rain. The roads are often closed after rain to prevent further damage and to ensure the safety of road users. Severe penalties apply for motorists travelling on closed roads.

Road Conditions Hotline – 1300 361 033.

NB - Just because a track is shown on a map does NOT mean the public can access that track - tracks shown on the RAA Map "Outback" are open to the public.



UHF repeaters & 4WD tracks linked in new Outback map

A collaborative effort between Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism (FROSAT) and the Outback Areas Community Development Trust (OACDT) has produced a two-sided map showing available Outback 4WD tracks on one side and the location of CB UHF radio repeaters in the pastoral districts on the other side. It is now available free-of-charge, and is the fourth edition of this map - it now shows the accurate, cadastral location of 82 repeaters together with their call signs and channels.

The repeater map is overlain on the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure's most recent public road and access mapping base. The map includes the plotted location of all Public Access Routes over pastoral leases negotiated and gazetted under the State's Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act, 1989.

The thematic 4WD track map provides directions to, locational information and contacts, where necessary, for 18 Public Access Routes and 19 privately-managed 4WD experience tracks.

Both sides of the map provide introductory information, important tips about preparation and safe travel and protocols relating to the use of UHF radios and travelling over pastoral leases.

There is also information about routes through conservation reserves and the use of the Desert Parks Pass.

The maps will be dispersed to a number of outlets.

Information on availability can be obtained from FROSAT, 4 Marryat Street, Port Augusta 5700, Ph: 08-8648 5187, or Email:

Ryan.Marnie@saugov.sa.gov.au or

Barker.Meg@saugov.sa.gov.au

DRIVERS URGED TO SLOW DOWN FOR WILDLIFE

The Department for Environment and Heritage is urging drivers travelling through parks of the Eyre Peninsula to slow down and give way to local wildlife. Simon Oster, a Regional Investigator with the Department, said drivers should reduce speed, enjoy the views and stick to designated tracks.

"Park roads are mainly unsealed gravel or sandy tracks. While accessible to most conventional vehicles they can be difficult to navigate. Speed limits within reserves are usually set at 40km/h but drivers travelling at this speed must ensure they don't put wildlife at risk."

Drivers need to watch out for wildlife wandering across tracks, particularly emus and kangaroos. "These animals cross the road at random and can be totally unpredictable. It's important to protect them – the parks are their territory and drivers are visitors."

The Department is also asking drivers to protect the natural and cultural aspects of our parks by not straying from tracks. "Parks are areas of environmental sensitivity. Driving off track can crush endangered plants such as native orchids, destroy Indigenous archaeological sites and spread soil-borne diseases," Mr Oster said.

Visitors should plan their trips carefully and ensure they drive within vehicle boundaries. Tracks are usually denoted by red marker posts and are detailed in the free park guides available to the public. Anyone caught driving in unauthorised areas will receive a \$160 on the spot fine.

NGARKAT TRACKS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next Interclub Working Bee will be held from 31 September – 2 October 2006.

Your Club will be sent full details – please support this very worthwhile activity, and help keep some park tracks open.

NRAU COORDINATOR HONOURED



The NRAU Coordinator (Don Ransom) was granted a Medal of the Order of Australia on 12 June 2006.

The Citation read "For service to the environment and to the community of South Australia, particularly through initiatives relating to recreational vehicle access to public lands".

Well done Don - well deserved

NEW EDITOR SOUGHT – after four years as the Editor of the NRAU's newsletter, this will be my last edition - I am moving on. Involvement with this Unit, which does so much for the 4WDing fraternity in keeping track access open, has been very rewarding. I am however very disappointed that no-one from all our associated clubs has volunteered to take over this role. Ian McDougall