



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



ULURU - KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007 - 2014

Have Your Say

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management and the Director of National Parks would like to hear your views on how Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park should be managed for the next seven years.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is on Aboriginal land that is leased to the Australian Government to be managed as a national park. It is renowned for its exceptional natural environment and the living culture of Anangu, its Aboriginal traditional owners. The Park is internationally acclaimed as a World Heritage Area with outstanding universal cultural and natural values.

Anangu have managed their land for thousands of years using traditional methods governed by Tjukurpa, which is Anangu law. Today, this internationally significant cultural landscape is protected and promoted by joint management arrangements. Anangu and the Director of National Parks work side-by-side, sharing traditional knowledge and modern science.

Tjukurpa remains the fundamental guide to management of the Park and the rights, skills and knowledge of the traditional owners are integrated into daily management practices.

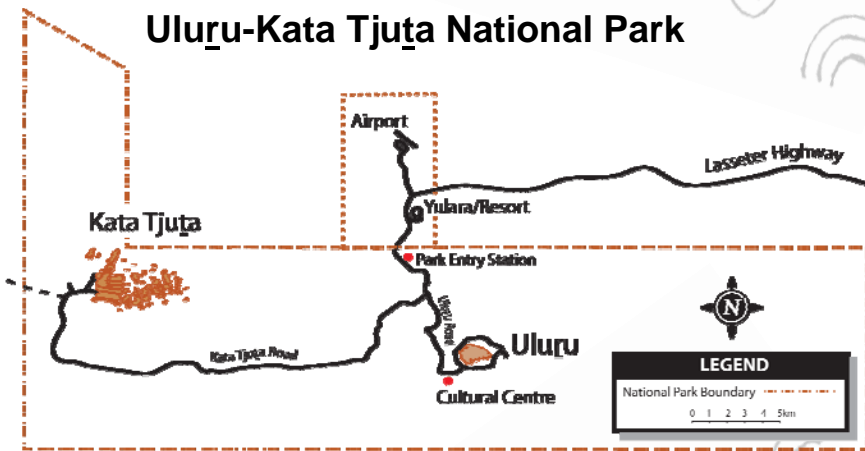
More than 400,000 visitors travel to the Park each year. They come from all over the world and all over Australia to see the landscape and learn about Anangu culture. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is a key visitor destination in Australia's 'Red Centre' and very important to the region. The Northern Territory Tourist Commission has estimated that the Park generates over \$400 million annually for the Australian economy.

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management and the Director of National Parks manage the Park in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) and the management plan for the Park.

The Board of Management has a majority of members who are nominated by traditional owners. Together with the Director of National Parks, the Board is responsible for preparing management plans for the Park and making decisions to implement the plans.

Staff of Parks Australia, a division of the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage, carry out the day-to-day management of the Park in accordance with the management plan and decisions of the Board.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park



*Plan of Management nyuwana Tjukurpa pulka mulapa Anangu tjutaku.
The Plan of Management is an important Tjukurpa for Anangu.*
- Mrs Patterson ©

*Ara nyangatja panya wirura atunymankutnyjakutjara.
This is a story about looking after things properly.*
- Edith Imantura Richards ©



Managing Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park – What do you think?

The management plan governs everything we do in the Park and is produced by Nguraritja, Board of Management and stakeholders working together. Nguraritja and the Government are planning for the future, ensuring clear management goals, helping Anangu reach self-determination and enabling Park staff to carry out the wishes of this partnership.*

Mr Donald Fraser ©
Chair Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management

* Nguraritja – Aboriginal traditional owner

The current management plan for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park guides the management of the Park until 28 June 2007. A new plan must then be put in place to guide how the Park will be managed for the next seven years. There are many complex issues involved in managing Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park because it is a fragile arid region ecosystem with many users.

You are invited to contribute to the new management plan by having your say on issues you would like to see addressed. The current management plan may be a useful starting point when you are considering what comments and suggestions to make. It is available at: www.deh.gov.au/parks/publications/uluru-pom.html and by mail from the address shown on the next page.

Some of the issues on which you may wish to comment might include:

Cultural heritage

Tjukurpa is a fundamental principle in managing Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and Anangu have a key role in the planning and management of the whole Park. How can Anangu optimise their involvement in activities, including natural and cultural heritage site management and maintaining Tjukurpa?

Partnerships and Business

The land has always provided for the economic well-being of Anangu and tourism is central to the regional economy. Can partnerships be formed to maximise benefits from tourism and commercial enterprises? Are there enough Indigenous business opportunities? What other business could be developed in the Park?

Visitor Experience

The new management plan will determine how tourism is managed in the Park for the next seven years. This is your chance to have your say about what will be provided for and permitted in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Around 400,000 people visit the Park each year, a figure likely to increase significantly over the next ten years. How should the Park manage the predicted growth in visitor numbers? What types of commercial activity should be allowed? Are there some visitor activities in the Park that should be discontinued or managed differently? Should new activities be introduced?

Natural heritage

Introduced plants like buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) pose a major threat to ecosystems in the Park, as do weeds elsewhere in Australia. Feral animals such as foxes, cats and rabbits can also have significant adverse impacts. Are there better ways to manage the country, such as greater use of volunteers? While fire is a major management tool, unplanned fires within the Park and from surrounding areas can undermine the effectiveness of Park management. How can we better manage these issues?

Ecologically sustainable management

Parks Australia uses water, fuel and materials to provide and manage visitor facilities and services, and to manage natural and cultural heritage. Do you have suggestions about how these resources could be used more efficiently, in order to reduce costs and environmental impacts? How do we make the Park more ecologically and economically sustainable for the long term?

Your comments on these and other issues relevant to management of the Park are welcome.

Preparing the new management plan

The EPBC Act requires the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management and the Director of National Parks to prepare a management plan for the Park.

Steps in preparing the management plan

1. The Director of National Parks publishes an invitation to comment on the proposal to draft a new plan.
2. The Director and the Board of Management prepare a draft plan, taking into account all comments from the public and workshops with Aboriginal traditional owners.
3. The Director publishes the draft plan and an invitation to comment on the plan. It is anticipated that a draft plan will be available for public comment by early 2007.
4. The Director and the Board of Management consider all comments and may alter the plan.
5. The plan goes through an approval process, including submission of the plan to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and tabling in the Parliament.

How to provide your comments

Please send your comments in writing by the closing date of **Friday 28 April 2006** to:

Postal: The Park Manager
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
PO Box 119
Yulara NT 0872

Email: Uluruplan@deh.gov.au
Facsimile: 08 8956 2064

Comments received after 28 April 2006 may not be considered in preparing the draft plan.

Further information about Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park may be found at the web site www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru/index.html or by phoning Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park on (08) 8956 2299.