

# Friends of Parks South Australia Engagement Charter

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*The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) recognises the valuable role that Friends of Parks (FoP) has with the Department in conserving and managing South Australia's national parks, and acknowledges that effective engagement is fundamental to achieving this.*

Our commitment is to foster a strong and ongoing partnership with FoP in their role of providing assistance with the on-ground management of national parks, wildlife, cultural sites and cultural heritage in South Australia. This will include engaging with FoP around new and significant initiatives.

## How we will engage

- We start together
- We communicate early
- We are flexible
- We are genuine and honest in our intent
- We listen to understand
- We keep you informed
- We provide appropriate opportunities to participate
- We recognise your contribution

Adapted from *Better Together – South Australia's approach to engaging citizens*

## DEW Engagement Approach

1. An engagement plan will be prepared. This will be prepared early, so that engagement can start early.
2. Friends – both the FoP Board and individual FoP groups, as appropriate – will be identified as primary stakeholders.
3. Engagement plans will detail how FoP will be engaged, and will specify timeframes, activities, roles and responsibilities.
4. Engagement activities will provide opportunities for meaningful engagement, for example, face to face meetings, field trips or other types of information sessions that reflect how FoP prefer to be engaged.
5. We'll be clear about the decision points and who will make the final decision.
6. We'll be clear about the points at which the process is commercial-in-confidence.
7. We'll be clear about FoP's level of influence in relation to each initiative, and how the views of all stakeholders will be taken into account.
8. We'll close the loop to make sure FoP know how their contribution influenced outcomes.
9. At the conclusion of each engagement project, we will ask FoP how well they felt they were engaged, and how the approach could be improved.
10. We will make sure that FoP are kept up to date with the progress of plans and proposals as they are implemented.



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Environment  
and Water

