



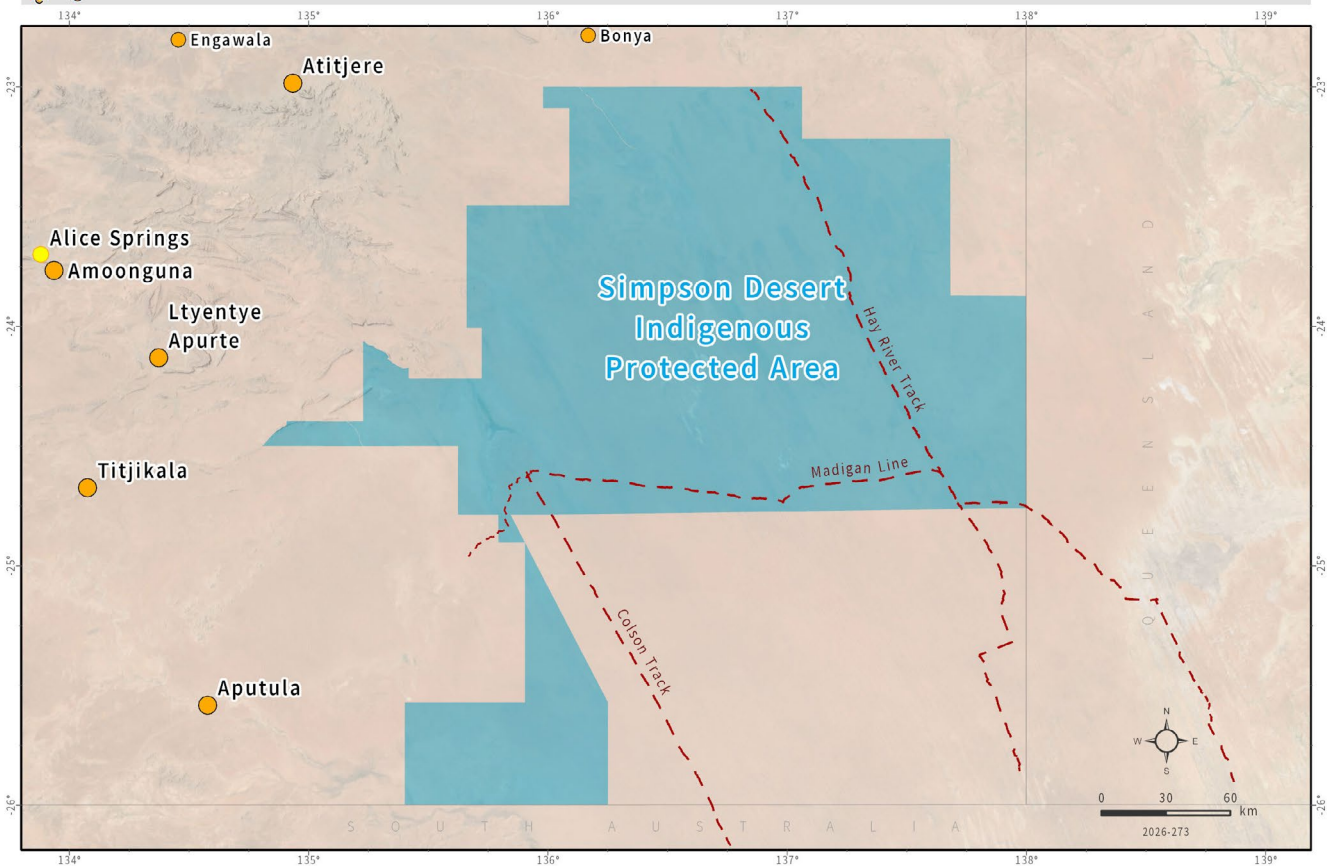
Fact sheet

# Pmere Atherre Antenterreme / Simpson Desert Indigenous Protected Area

The new Pmere Atherre Antenterreme/Simpson Desert Indigenous Protected Area covers 47,311 square kilometres of the Simpson Desert in the Northern Territory.

The IPA is on Aboriginal land and consists of the Pmere Nyente, Atnetye and Pmer Ulperre Ingwemirne Arletherre Aboriginal land trusts.

Pmere Atherre Antenterreme means ‘working together to look after two countries’ and refers to two language and cultural groups in the area: East Arrernte and Lower Southern Arrernte.







## Cultural values

The traditional owners of the IPA speak Eastern Arrernte, Akityarre and Yankunytjatjara, as well as English.

The IPA features rich cultural landscapes their ancestors have been living on for tens of thousands of years. Laws, customs, language, ceremonies and connections to country were passed down from the altyerre/tjukurrpa (creation time). Ancestral beings created all the features of the country, including the plants, animals and water places. As they travelled, they created sacred sites. The tracks joining these sacred sites are often referred to as 'songlines'. These can be hundreds and even thousands of kilometres long, across the Simpson Desert and beyond.

Senior traditional owners continue to pass on knowledge of their altyerre/tjukurrpa to younger generations and carry out traditional practices such as hunting, burning, collecting bush medicines and performing ceremony.

Despite the disruption of life caused by colonisation and pastoralism, they have maintained a resilient connection to country. IPA funding will support this link and make it easier for them to travel to these very remote areas, enabling them to share their knowledge with future generations.



Glenys Drover with yalke (bush onion) on a trip to Lhere Apiwente/Ahunje Bore in 2023.



Peppi Drover burning spinifex at Madigan in 2022.



## Natural values

The Simpson Desert is known for its long, parallel red sand dunes.

The IPA's key sites of environmental significance include the Andado and Snake Creek lakes, Allitra tablelands and Plenty salt lakes. The area also features gibber stone plains, rocky ranges, ephemeral wetlands and floodplains.

It is home to more than 900 plant and animal species. Twenty-one animals and three plants (birds nest wattle, sea heath and acacia peuce) are listed threatened species. Nine listed migratory species are also found in the area.

There are habitats of threatened animals such as the crest-tailed mulgara, night parrot, bilby, dusky hopping mouse, plains mouse, princess parrot, grey falcon and eyrean grasswren.

Some flora and fauna surveys have contributed to a greater understanding of biodiversity in the area. However, due to its remoteness, few surveys have been undertaken. The IPA agreement will fund more surveys.



Elisha James holds minker (mouse) trapped on the Pmer Ulperre Aboriginal Land Trust in 2023.



The central-nettled dragon, taken at a fauna survey on the Pmer Ulperre Aboriginal Land Trust in 2023.



Damian Doolan holds a dusky hopping mouse captured during a fauna survey on the Pmer Ulperre Ingwemirme Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust in 2023.



## Threats

The IPA's traditional owners have identified several inter-connected threats to country and culture. They include limited road access for land management and poorly maintained tracks, loss of cultural knowledge, unmanaged tourism and trespassing, uncontrolled bushfires, weeds, feral camels and cattle and climate change.

They also face great challenges when it comes to visiting, looking after, working and living on their country.



Dunefields at Madigan. Photo by Marty Campbell.



Jeffrey Doolan, Salbena Cleary, Jill Doolan and Richard Doolan checking pitfall traps on the Pmer Ulperre Aboriginal Land Trust.



## Indigenous Protected Area program

The IPA program is an Australian government initiative that resources Aboriginal people who look after the unique natural and cultural values of their land. Since 1997 the program has expanded to support 96 IPAs, including the Simpson Desert IPA.

Traditional owners and rangers develop and manage these areas based on their IPA management plans. Under the Pmere Atherre Antenterreme/Simpson Desert IPA agreement the CLC is expected to receive approximately \$1.3 million over two years to protect country and culture on the new IPA.

## IPA governance and management

Traditional owners hold Aboriginal freehold title to, and control the management of, the Pmere Atherre Antenterreme/Simpson Desert IPA. They will work with rangers, other CLC staff and partners to implement the IPA management plan.

Eight projects guide the work that will be done each year. They include improving access and infrastructure, managing weeds and feral animals and protecting sites.

Representatives of the Atnetye, Pmere Nyente and Pmer Ulperre traditional owner groups make up the IPA management and advisory committees.

The IPA management committee plans trips, works on the IPA, makes budget decisions, monitors progress and evaluates results.

Three traditional owner committees advise the CLC's Aputula, Ltyentye Apurte and Akityarre ranger groups. These groups predate the IPA agreement and each have their own area of operation in, near and outside the IPA. The agreement allows the CLC to employ additional rangers and support officers. The CLC will administer the IPA and employ an IPA coordinator.



Traditional owners for the Simpson Desert area and the three Aboriginal land trusts in this area discuss a potential IPA in 2023.