

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

OUTLINE  
WORKING PLAN

by

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NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY

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## FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

### OUTLINE WORKING PLAN

#### 1. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

1.1 The basic objects of National Parks management are as follows: -

1.1.1 protect the scenery, vegetation and animal life from  
disfigurement, damage or destruction;

1.1.2 provide facilities for the enjoyment of the natural  
resources of the park by the public in appropriate ways;  
and

1.1.3 apply ecological management to correct the unnatural influences  
of man and to permit the natural environment to be maintained  
by nature.

1.2 The objectives for development within the foreseeable future are: -

1.2.1 providing adequate staff and accommodation for the control  
and management of the Park;

1.2.2 improving facilities for parties and individuals wishing to  
explore the Park on foot, particularly along the coast, along  
river valleys and in the hills;

1.2.3 providing information to visitors to the park so that they  
can fully understand and enjoy the natural features in a  
way appropriate to the National Park;

1.2.4 upgrading selected tracks to prevent environmental damage  
by motor vehicles; and

1.2.5 improving facilities for discreet camping in areas which  
can accommodate additional visitors.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS

- 2.1 Fitzgerald River National Park, Class A Reserves 31737 and 31738 about 242 557 ha, lies to the south of the South Coast Highway National Route 1 joining Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe and extends along the coast from Gordon Inlet in the vicinity of Bremer Bay to Culham Inlet near Hopetoun. (Proclaimed G.G. 19 January, 1973 p. 84; named G.G. 31 August, 1973 p. 3335)
- 2.2 The park is outstanding for its coastal scenery of mountains, rugged headlands and sandy beaches. The main mountains, composed of quartzite inclined almost to the vertical, are West Mt. Barren and Mt. Bland between the Gairdner and Fitzgerald Rivers, Mid Mt. Barren, Woolbernup Hill, Thumb Peak and Whoogarup Range between the Fitzgerald and Hamersley Rivers, and in the east of the park, East Mt. Barren and Annie Peak, the latter the highest point in the Eyre Range.
- 2.3 The river valleys are also remarkably attractive. The Gairdner River flowing into Gordon Inlet, the Fitzgerald River, with its major tributaries Twertup Creek and Susetta River, flowing into Fitzgerald Inlet, Hamersley River flowing into Hamersley Inlet, and Phillips River with its tributary West River, flowing into Culham Inlet, all provide spectacular scenery.
- 2.4 The Fitzgerald valley and to a lesser extent, the Hamersley, have fine sandstone cliffs of various colours, and outstanding buttes of which Roe's Rock in the Fitzgerald is one.

- 2.5 The vegetation is particularly rich in its variety and unique species of which some 60 are unique to the park. Outstanding are the numerous species of *Banksia*, the remarkable *Hakea victoriae* with variegated leaves, the delicate *Eucalyptus sepulcralis* and the large flowered *Dryandra quercifolia*.
- 2.6 The readily observable animal life includes the usual kangaroos and emus together with a great variety of birds which attract ornithologists.
- 2.7 The great attractions of this park are its unspoilt nature, wide horizons and scenery. The majority of visitors are drawn to the beaches and fishing spots, near to which they camp discreetly for short periods.
- 2.8 In recent years, conducted parties of school children have undertaken a five day hike along the coast. Hikers have also prospected walking trails down the Fitzgerald River valley.
- 2.9 Its location along and near the south coast gives the park a climate cool enough for enjoyable hiking and exploring on foot.
3. EXISTING FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS
- 3.1 The track system in the park has evolved from the original alignment of the transcontinental telegraph line, the tracks made by farmers and other settlers making their way to beaches and fishing spots, and, more recently, the activities arising from the mineral boom of the late 1960's.
- 3.2 One track across the park, Colletts track from Devils Creek Road near Mt. Maxwell to the north of the Fitzgerald River was constructed by a commercial fisherman. Another, to Point Ann, evolved from the Rabbit Proof Fence, now obsolete.
- 3.3 Between the Bremer River and Gairdner River the Shire of Gnowangerup has constructed two roads across the park, Gordon Inlet Road and Gairdner River Road.
- These serve a glass strewn fishing encampment outside the park on the south side of Gordon Inlet.

- 3.4 The Shire of Ravensthorpe constructed a road across the bar of Culham Inlet to high on East Mt. Barren. This road is being developed under National Parks Authority supervision and technical advice from the Main Roads Department, into a park road, eventually to form a loop back towards Ravensthorpe. Although work started only last year, already this road is being greatly appreciated by all as a delightful park experience. So far, it overcomes the difficult crossing of the quartzite shoulder of East Mt. Barren and leads to a discreet camping area at Mylies Beach.
- 3.5 Two huts, one at Point Charles at the mouth of Fitzgerald River, and the other at Point Ann, are used by hikers and fishermen.
- 3.6 All tracks, with the exception of the East Mt. Barren road, are passable only to four-wheel drive vehicles, and, owing to the presence of clay pans and river flood plains, are liable to be impassable to all vehicles in the winter.
- 3.7 Firebreak systems have been established on all boundaries.

#### 4. PRESENT STAFF AND CONTROL

- 4.1 The Ranger-in-Charge is stationed in Jerramungup where he is provided with a house and garage. Located in this position, very high mileage is involved in caring for this park. Jerramungup is 170 km from East Mt. Barren, the area of greatest visitor use.
- 4.2 An Assistant Ranger, who lives in his own house, Quaalup Homestead, on the Gairdner River, is in a good position to control that end of the park.
- 4.3 The Ranger-in-Charge currently spends much of his time in the summer camping in a caravan in the East Mt. Barren area and so maintains good control there during that season.
- 4.4 The Shire's construction of two roads in the area between Bremer River and Gairdner River, providing access across part of the park to the Gordon Inlet and the Doubtful Island Bay areas, makes the area uncontrollable and reduces it to the category of a buffer zone.

- 4.5 Control of access on tracks from the northern boundary of the park is at present impracticable.

5. BLOCKS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

- 5.1 Tentative management blocks are as follows: -

- |             |                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bremer      | - The southern portion of the park including the Bremer and Gairdner Rivers. The boundary being a line from Quaalup to Mt. Maxwell. |
| Bland       | - Between Quaalup and Quiss Road to Point Ann                                                                                       |
| Marningerup | - The extreme western part of the park, west of the Rabbit Proof Fence.                                                             |
| Fitzgerald  | - The Fitzgerald River basin between Quiss Road - Point Ann and Drummond Track to Red Islet.                                        |
| Hamersley   | - The Hamersley River basin between Drummond Track and Red Islet and West River Track to Mylies Beach.                              |
| Eyre        | - The Eyre Range, including West River, Phillips River and East Mt. Barren.                                                         |

- 5.2 The relatively easy access in all areas to four-wheel drive vehicles in the dry season and the existence of numerous tracks over the area makes the concept of extensive wilderness areas impracticable.
- 5.3 Nevertheless, it is proposed that Eyre Range and Phillips River valley in as much as the latter is in the park, be protected from the entry of vehicles, and that the eastern limit of vehicle access be the projected East Mt. Barren - West River Loop road.
- 5.4 No areas appropriate for classification as Special Areas have so far been identified.
- 5.5 On account of the size of the park, and its physical nature, it is proposed that a Facilities Area be established in a central position in the vicinity of Cooper Mine Creek near the junction of \$200 Track and the Telegraph Line. The major portion of the staff of the park should be housed in this area with full management and visitor facilities. All weather access would be by \$200 Track, realigned in some sections.

- 5.6 Minor Facilities Areas where Rangers are housed would be at Quaalup (private property) and East Mt. Barren, controlling the extremities of the park.
- 5.7 Should for any reason it be necessary to make alternative arrangements to Quaalup, a position near Mt. Maxwell on Colletts Track would provide a strategic site for a Ranger's house.
- 5.8 Arrangements are currently in hand for establishing a Ranger at East Mt. Barren. The Shire Council have approved of a proposal to set up an honour box on the access road nearby.

6. APPROPRIATE PUBLIC USE OF THE PARK

- 6.1 The unspoilt nature of the park between the Gairdner and Phillips Rivers, and the cool climate make hiking and walking very attractive activities. The tops of the mountains and hills can be reached by walking. No special skill or equipment is required, only time and energy.
- 6.2 A controlling factor where hiking is concerned is the availability of water. Permanent pools occur along each of the rivers. Close to the coast fresh water is scarce, and currently is transported to camp sites by Rangers for the benefit of hiking parties.
- 6.3 There are numerous possible camp sites for discreet camping as well as for hikers. Some have been used for many years mainly by fishermen, both holiday makers and commercial.
- 6.4 There is great scope for sightseeing, exploring, nature study, photography and painting.
- 6.5 The park is of particular value for youth training in self reliance and bushcraft.

7. PROPOSED FACILITIES AND STAFF

- 7.1 The East Mt. Barren loop road should be continued as planned to the 6 metres-between-bushes standard already established. From the end of the present survey, the alignment should avoid the low-lying areas between the escarpment and Kybulup Pool and remain on top of the escarpment proceeding in a north westerly direction to the mining claims at West River. There it can descend the escarpment on a

gradual slope along a survey line already cut through the thicket and after crossing the West River, connect up with existing road reserves to cross the Phillips River and join Moirs Road.

- 7.2 \$200 Track, from the old Ongerup Road near the Townsite of Fitzgerald to its junction with the old Telegraph Line track should be realigned in parts to avoid ground subject to flooding, and sheeted to the 6 m park road standard. This will then provide the main access to the Fitzgerald Inlet, Dempster Inlet, Mid Mt. Barren and nearby peaks.
- 7.3 During this five year period, other tracks should be maintained only where necessary for management purposes.
- 7.4 Provision should be made for housing the Ranger-in-Charge and three other Rangers in the vicinity of Copper Mine Creek. This area is central in the park with access to Fitzgerald School up \$200 Track. Generating plant could be provided to supply all requirements in the Facilities Area, which should include garage and workshops. Planning should provide for a visitor information centre and hostel type accommodation for students and youth groups.
- 7.5 When a Superintendent is eventually appointed to this park, it would seem appropriate for him to be stationed at Ravensthorpe where he can maintain constant liaison with the Shire Council. More than half the area of the park and all of the coast line from Gordon Inlet to Culham Inlet falls within Ravensthorpe Shire.

#### 8. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 It is essential to the control and management of the park that privately owned enclaves be purchased for addition to the National Park.
- 8.2 The following are regarded as essential: -
  - 1. Kent Location 12 Crown Grant 80 ac. Naendip on Copper Mine Creek  
Owned by Messrs. Roberts and Eastman of Bunbury (114/1 f.49)
  - 2. Worths Quarry and house on Twertup Creek. Estate of Horace Worth  
deceased administered by the Public Trustee occupied and worked  
by Max Lowe. (Mineral Claim No. 1062H)



3. Kent Location 249 Crown Grant 160 ac. Marningerup area, abandoned property on eastern bank of Gairdner River and adjoining Location 377, C.G. 160 ac.

8.3 The following areas of freehold land are considered essential for purchase for addition to the National Park when they become available.

Kent Locations 1293 - 1305 on the Gairdner River in the area of Quaalup.

8.4 It is highly desirable that the following reserves which form enclaves in the National Park be added to the park: -  
Reserve Nos. 512, 1406, 5055, 10133, 10135, 12121, 12122, 12123, 12124.

8.5 It is essential that agreement be reached with the Ravensthorpe Shire Council on the control of Reserve 17544 on Hamersley Inlet to prevent incompatible use of the area which is adjacent to a large area of primary dune.

8.6 It is highly desirable that Oldfield Locations 431 and 1176 east of No Tree Hill in the north-eastern corner of the park be added to the park to protect the hill.

8.7 It is also highly desirable that those parts of Oldfield Location 730 alongside Phillips River which are deeply gullied and contain dense thickets be purchased and added to the adjoining park.

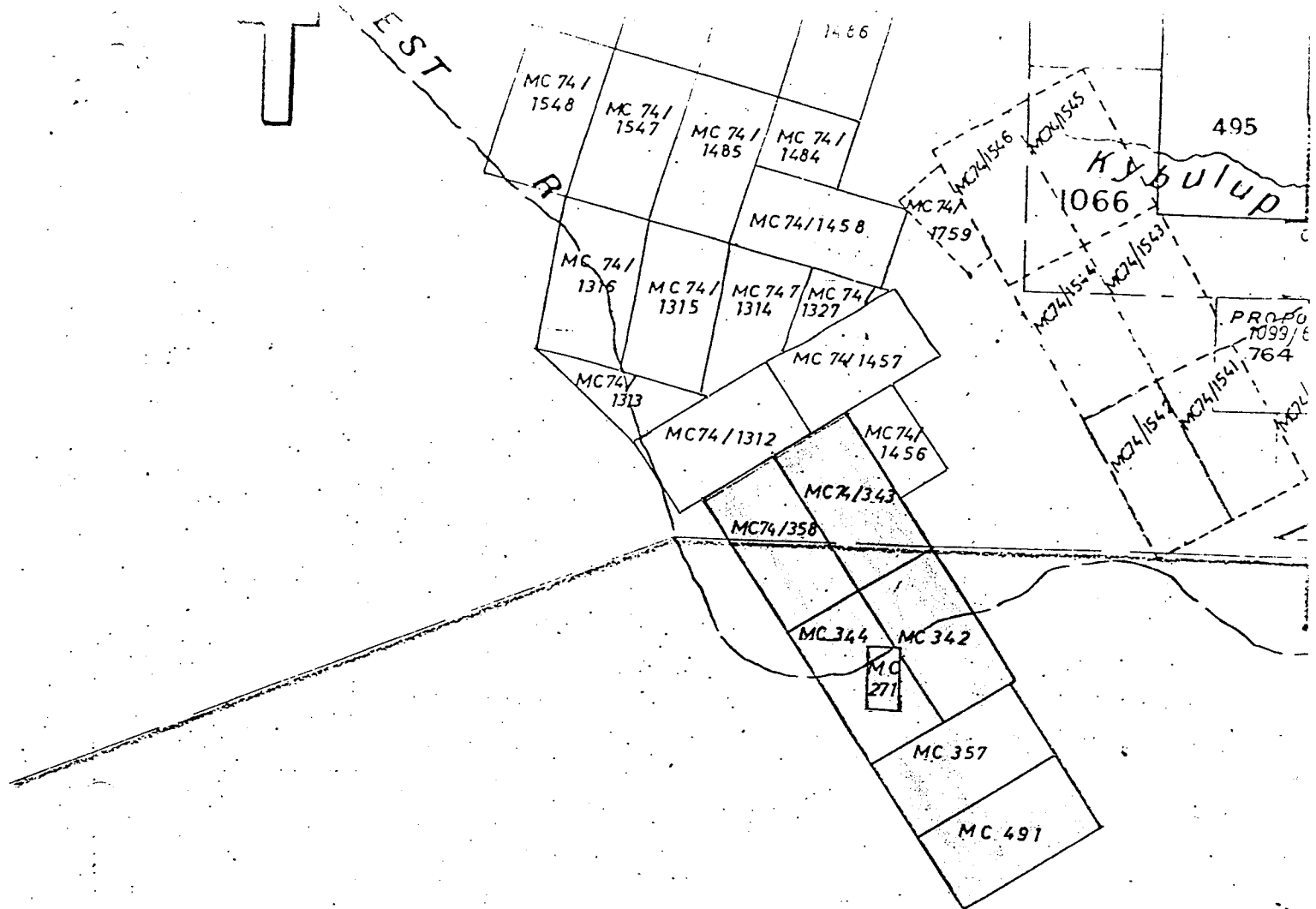
8.8 It is noted that substantial additional areas of vacant Crown Land are proposed to be added to the park. It should be noted that it is most undesirable that any additions should be isolated from boundaries of the park or that they should result in boundary lengths out of proportion to the area gained. Further, any enclaves so produced should be added to the park.

8.9 Mining tenements exist in the vicinity of West River and prospecting is currently taking place in that area. These are Mineral Claim Nos. 271, 342, 343, 344, 357 and 491 held in the name of N.G.M. Proprietary Ltd. being prospected by AMAX Iron Ore Corporation (114/36 V.2 f.3).

8.10 Additional mining tenements exist in the vicinity of Hamersley River in the interior of the Park. These are Mineral Claims 71 and 72 held by Western Development Pty Ltd and MC 82 held by Garrick Agnew Pty Ltd. It is essential that these claims be surrendered or resumed.

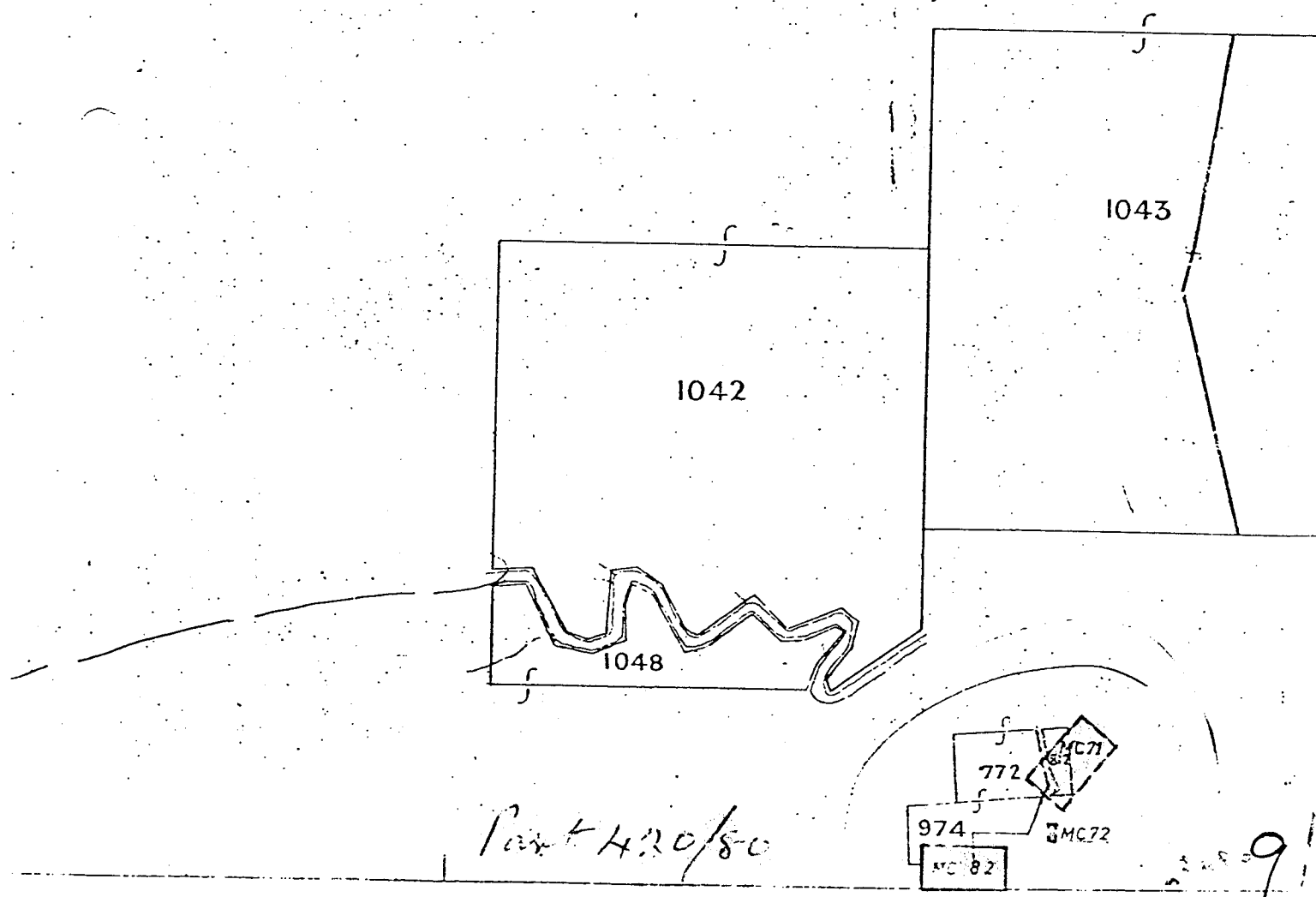
## PLANS

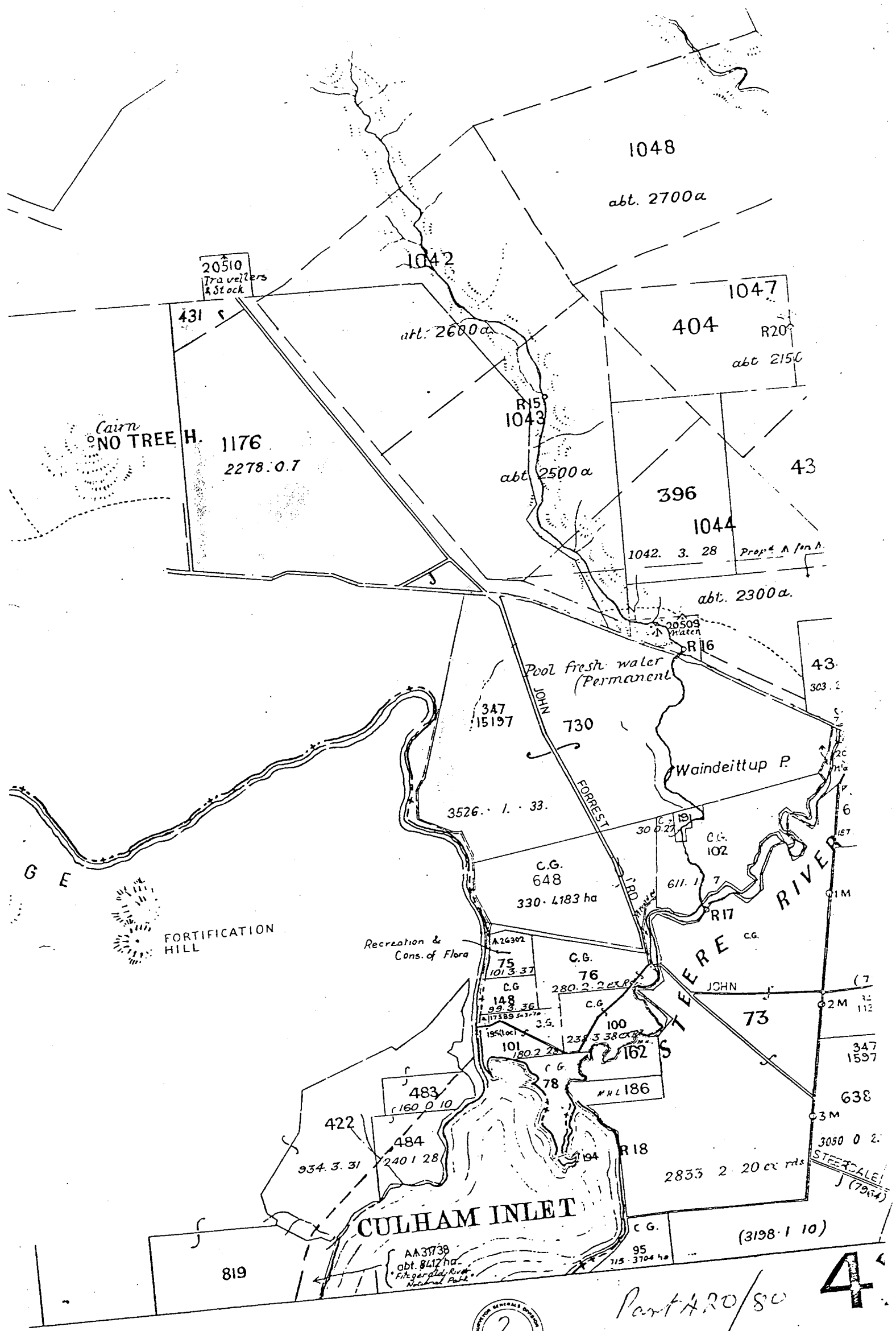
1. Boundary, roads, tracks and water features 1:250,000
2. Vegetation (with original only)
3. Kent Location 12
4. Worth's Quarry MC.1062H
5. Kent Locations 249 and 377
6. Kent Locations 1293 - 1305, Quaakup
7. Reserve 17544
8. Oldfield Locations 431, 1176 and part Location 730
9. Mining tenements MC.271, 342, 343, 357 and 491 at West River and MC. 71, 72 and 82 at Hamersley River.



AM 31737

"Fitzgerald River National Park"





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320m  
10133  
Water

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377

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IX<sup>52</sup>  
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347  
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Parklands &  
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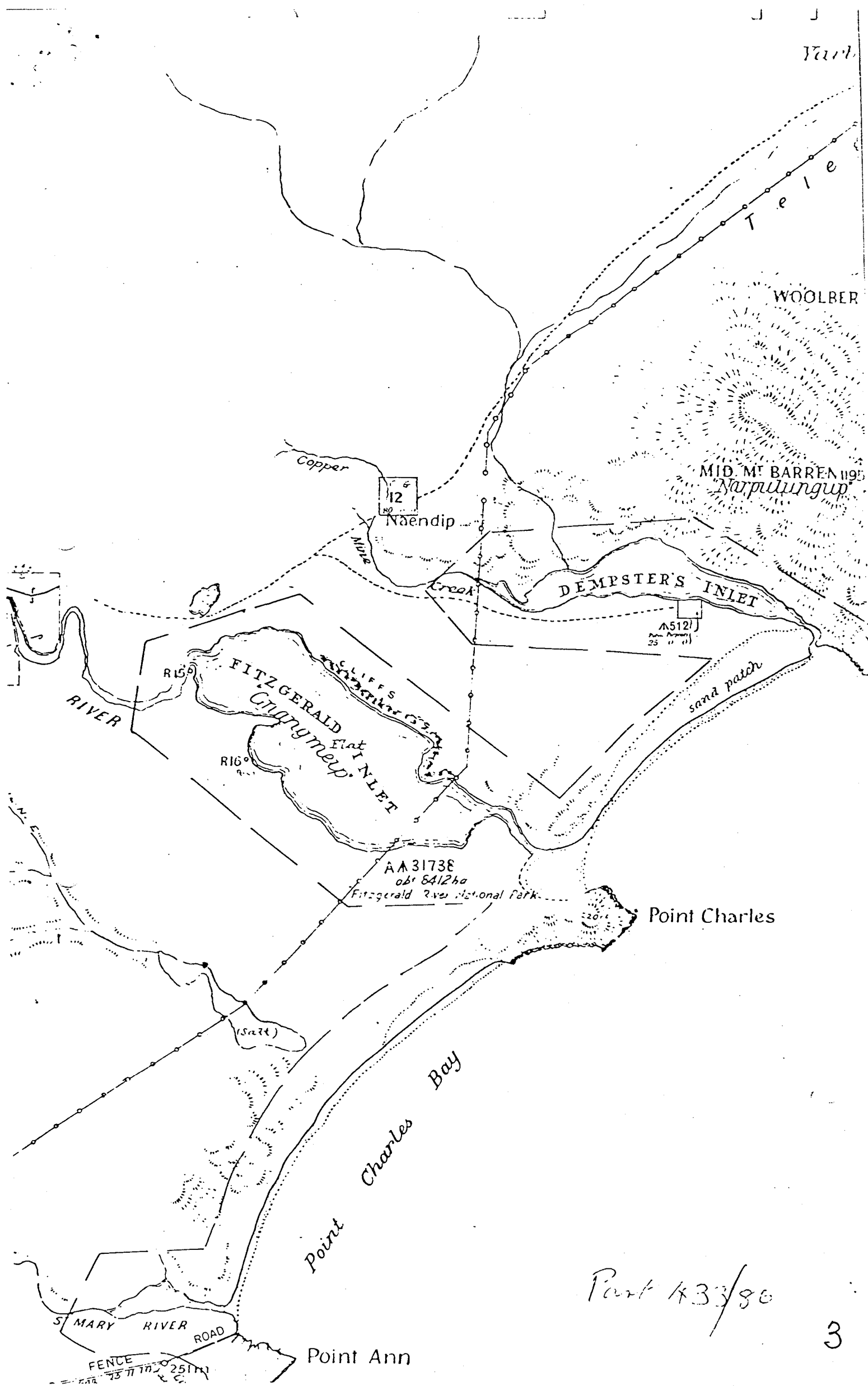
347  
17227

Open feeding  
grain

X568

Marlingup Sp

5/1/8



Bureau of Reclamation

1737

National Park

Shoal

Route

Perkins Pool

Perkins Rock

Rue's Rk

219

Wapiti

SUSSETTA

WATER  
1406 571  
PA 20/567

Jonacgonack

RED PEAK

SWIMMING CHIT

Pay to Jonacgonack

Marlin

Perf-434/sec

R120

Oil bearing Plant

Isaac





