

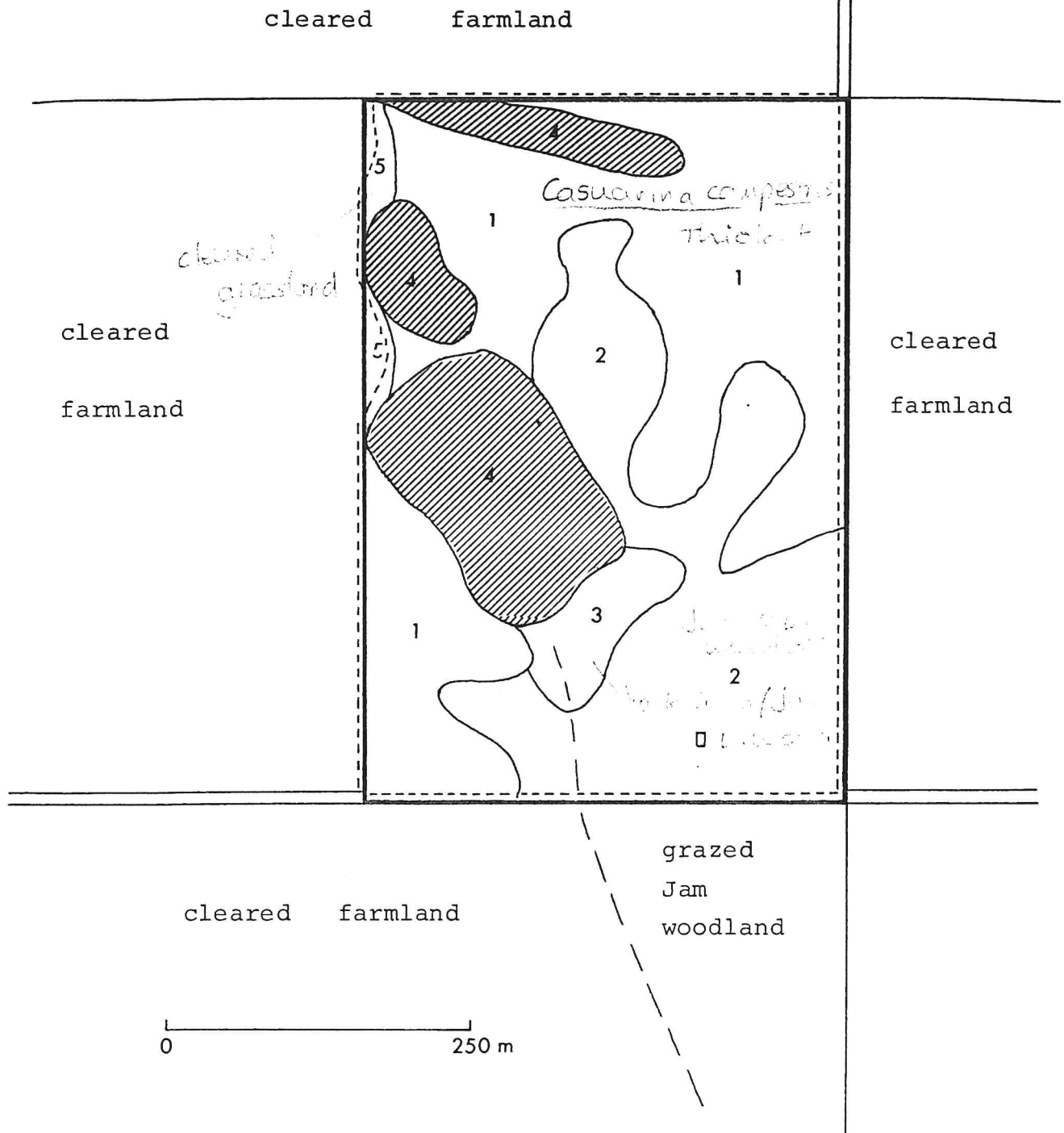
MANAGEMENT PLANNING REPORT

RESERVE NO.10991

Andrew A.E. Williams

CARRIBIN ROCK

RESERVE NO. 10991



Exposed granite rock



Reserve boundary



Seasonal watercourse



Firebreak



Dam

RESERVE NO. 10991 - CARRIBIN ROCK

VEGETATION ASSOCIATIONS SHOWN ON MAP

AREA 1.

Casuarina campestris Thicket.

AREA 2.

Jam Open Low Woodland.

AREA 3.

York Gum/Jam Low Woodland - (around soak).

AREA 4.

Exposed granite rock.

AREA 5.

Cleared grassland.

TABLE 1: VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION AS USED IN WHEATBELT SURVEY

LIFE FORM/HEIGHT CLASS		CANOPY COVER			
		DENSE ^d 70-100%	MID-DENSE ^c 30-70%	SPARSE ⁱ 10-30%	VERY SPARSE ^r 2-10%
T	Trees >30m	Dense Tall Forest	Tall Forest	Tall Woodland	Open Tall Woodland
M	Trees 15-30m	Dense Forest	Forest	Woodland	Open Woodland
LA	Trees 5-15m	Dense Low Forest A	Low Forest A	Low Woodland A	Open Low Woodland A
LB	Trees <5m	Dense Low Forest B	Low Forest B	Low Woodland B	Open Low Woodland B
KT	Mallee tree form	Dense Tree Mallee	Tree Mallee	Open Tree Mallee	Very Open Tree Mallee
KS	Mallee shrub form	Dense Shrub Mallee	Shrub Mallee	Open Shrub Mallee	Very Open Shrub Mallee
S	Shrubs >2m	Dense Thicket	Thicket	Scrub	Open Scrub
SA	Shrubs 1.5-2.0m	Dense Heath A	Heath A	Low Scrub A	Open Low Scrub A
SB	Shrubs 1.0-1.5m	Dense Heath B	Heath B	Low Scrub B	Open Low Scrub B
SC	Shrubs 0.5-1.0m	Dense Low Heath C	Low Heath C	Dwarf Scrub C	Open Dwarf Scrub C
SD	Shrubs 0.0-0.5m	Dense Low Heath D	Low Heath D	Dwarf Scrub D	Open Dwarf Scrub D
P	Mat plants	Dense Mat Plants	Mat Plants	Open Mat Plants	Very Open Mat Plants
H	Hummock Grass	Dense Hummock Grass	Mid-Dense Hummock Grass	Hummock Grass	Open Hummock Grass
GT	Bunch grass >0.5m	Dense Tall Grass	Tall Grass	Open Tall Grass	Very Open Tall Grass
GL	Bunch grass <0.5m	Dense Low Grass	Low Grass	Open Low Grass	Very Open Low Grass
J	Herbaceous spp.	Dense Herbs	Herbs	Open Herbs	Very Open Herbs
VT	Sedges >0.5m	Dense Tall Sedges	Tall Sedges	Open Tall Sedges	Very Open Tall Sedges
VL	Sedges <0.5m	Dense Low Sedges	Low Sedges	Open Low Sedges	Very Open Low Sedges
X	Ferns	Dense Ferns	Ferns	Open Ferns	Very Open Ferns
	Mosses, liverwort	Dense Mosses	Mosses	Open Mosses	Very Open Mosses

MANAGEMENT PLANNING REPORT

WYALKATCHEM SHIRE

RESERVE No. 10991 - CARRIBIN ROCK

1. INTRODUCTION

Reserve No. 10991 (Avon Location No. 11533), locally known as Carribin Rock, is located ca. 4.5 km east-south-east of Elashgin Soak, and ca. 15.5 km south of Korrelocking Townsite. It is shown on lithograph 2335-11-Bulagin.

The Reserve was originally gazetted for the purpose of 'Water' on 25th October 1907. In 1909 its area was increased to 1032 acres, and then decreased to 112 acres in 1910. It presently covers an area of 22.6624 hectares. On 11 May 1956 the Reserve purpose was amended to 'Water, Flora and Fauna'. It was vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority on 28 August 1970.

2. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Reserve No. 10991 is rectangular in shape with an area of 22.6624 hectares and a perimeter of ca. 2 km. Its longer axis lies north and south. The area is dominated by a large granite rock hillside which occupies the northern half of the Reserve. A well defined soak located at the southern edge of this rock formation is the source of a small seasonal watercourse which drains out of the Reserve in a southerly direction. The altitude varies from 280 metres in the south-eastern corner of the Reserve to just over 300 metres near the northern boundary.

The surrounding country is undulating cleared farmland. A small portion bordering the Reserve to the south-east still retains an open Jam woodland upperstorey over grazed grassland. The Reserve is fenced along the southern and eastern sides but not along the northern and western sides. This effectively means that the Reserve forms part of Location 20954.

The best route of access is from the west through private farmland. There is an unformed road marked on the 1:50 000 litho along the southern side of Location 20954.

3. SOILS AND VEGETATION

Soils on the Reserve are sandy loams, with some accumulations of pure washed sand around the base of the rocks.

The vegetation falls into four distinct categories, all of which have been severely affected by stock. Open Jam woodlands are prevalent, especially in the south-eastern part of the Reserve. On the rocky slopes Acacia lasiocalyx and Santalum spicatum are conspicuous species, with a few examples of Kunzea pulchella growing from cracks in the exposed granite surfaces. A low woodland and thicket association occupies the area around the soak. The remainder of the Reserve supports a Tamma dominated association, densest in the lower south west corner, and extending up onto the rocky slopes where sufficient soil exists.

AREA 1.

Tamma 'Thicket'

Casuarina campestris ^{Scrub} ~~Thicket~~, ca. 2 to 3 metres in height, over dry 'Low Grass'.

AREA 2.

Jam 'Open Low Woodland A'

Jam, Acacia acuminata Open Low Woodland, ca. 8 to 10 metres in height, over dry 'Low Grass'.

AREA 3. (Soak)

York Gum/Jam 'Low Woodland A'

York Gum, Eucalyptus loxophleba and Jam, Acacia acuminata Low Woodland, ca. 10 to 14 metres, over 'Thicket'/'Dense Thicket' to ca. 4 metres composed of Leptospermum erubescens, Casuarina acutivalvis and Casuarina campestris.

AREA 4. (Granite rock complex)

Open expanses of granite sheet and granite boulders. Acacia lasiocalyx, Casuarina campestris and Santalum spicatum are sporadically distributed around the rock. Kunzea pulchella to 2 metres occurs on the open granite surfaces.

4. FAUNA

Birds: (List follows those names recommended by the R.A.O.U.)

Little Button-quail
Crested Pigeon
Galah
Port Lincoln Ringneck
Tree Martin
Richard's Pipit

Red-capped Robin
Crested Bellbird
Willie Wagtail
Brown Songlark
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Yellow-throated Miner
Singing Honeyeater
White-fronted Honeyeater
Crimson Chat
Zebra Finch
Black-faced Woodswallow

7/7/83: Aust. Magpie
Corvid

Birds previously recorded on Reserve

Brown Falcon
Banded Lapwing
Mulga Parrot
Pallid Cuckoo
Rufous Whistler
Grey Fantail
~~Western~~
~~Grey~~ Shrike-thrush
White-browed Babbler
Weebill
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
White-fronted Chat

Mammals

Native species - none recorded.

Exotic species:

Rabbit - Warren around soak.
Sheep - Seen grazing throughout.

5. PAST MANAGEMENT, USE AND FIRE HISTORY

This Reserve has suffered in the past from excessive stock abuse. Since 1973 the owner of the adjoining property has been asked by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to fence his property. This has not been done despite his verbal agreement to do so. Stock has therefore had a very considerable impact on the Reserve. The native understorey plant species have virtually disappeared being replaced by grasses.* The granite rock has suffered from constant hoof traffic, with resultant damage to the reptile habitat. A dam has also been constructed on the Reserve in the open Jam woodland near the southern border. Timber, in the form of Jam trees for fencing, has also been removed though signs of this are not recent.

Peripheral firebreaks are maintained around the Reserve and examination of 1972 aerial photography shows no discernable fire scars. There is, however, a report on Departmental file from the Fauna Warden, dated 5 July 1962, in which he states ... "The private land adjoining this reserve has been recently cleared. Apparently the persons that cleared the land camped at the soak, and had their camp burnt out, and approximately 10 acres of the reserve was partly burnt."

6. NATURE CONSERVATION VALUES

From the botanical standpoint the nature conservation value of this Reserve has been reduced by intensive grazing. However, the area still acts as a refuge for local birds

*Early reports on Departmental file mention Dryandra sp. and Calothamnus sp. These species are now absent.

and twenty-eight species have been recorded. On the most recent survey, (October 1981), Black-faced Woodswallows were seen nesting in the Sandalwood trees among the rocks, and Crimson Chats had fledgling young.

The Reserve is aesthetically pleasing, with commanding views of the surrounding countryside. Even though it has suffered stock degradation, it still protects an important, though temporary, source of water for native fauna. The Reserve is fortunately free of rubbish.

7. PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT - OBJECTIVES

The primary management objective for Carribin Rock Nature Reserve will be to maintain its remaining nature conservation values. A secondary objective will be to manage the Reserve for limited recreational use. The area has obvious potential as a picnic ground and the fact that stock damage has already severely reduced the flora values of the Reserve means that multiple purpose usage is acceptable in this case. It is therefore a proposal of this Plan to seek an amendment of Purpose to "Water, Flora and Fauna, and Picnic Ground".

7.1. RESERVE FENCING

To fence the Nature Reserve against further uncontrolled stock intrusion.

7.2. FIRE PROTECTION

This is to be consistent with the need to protect the assets of the adjoining landholder while at the same time maintaining the biological values of the Reserve.

7.3. USE OF RESERVE - RECREATION

The use of the Reserve for passive recreational activities including picnicking is encouraged. Provision is made in this Plan for periodic inspection of the area to ensure that these activities do not conflict with the primary objective of management - i.e. maintenance of the nature conservation values of the Reserve.

8. MANAGEMENT

8.1. CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER FENCES

The neighbouring landowner will be required to erect a stock-proof fence along the northern and western sides of the Reserve. This is a matter of primary importance.

8.2. FIRE PROTECTION - FIREBREAKS

Fire history records show a low incidence of fire on the Reserve. The peripheral breaks previously maintained by the neighbouring landowner are adequate, and no additional firebreak construction is envisaged. The rocky nature of much of the Reserve makes construction of internal breaks inappropriate.

8.3. FIRE PROTECTION - FUEL REDUCTION

The past practice of grazing stock on the Reserve has resulted in the replacement of native plant species by fast growing grasses which, if uncontrolled, could become a fire hazard. For this reason supervised limited grazing by sheep will be required to reduce the fuel load prior to periods of high fire danger.

Liaison between Department of Fisheries and Wildlife officers (or the resident Honorary Wildlife Officer) and the local property owner will be needed to implement this programme.

8.4. CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Two simple barbecues will be constructed close to the granite rock at the northern end of the Reserve. Rubbish disposal bins will also be provided. Maintenance and rubbish disposal must be carried out by the Local Authority. To safeguard the surrounding vegetation firewood will be supplied to the site from outside.

8.5. ACCESS TO THE RESERVE

The only route of access is through private land to the west of the Reserve. An access road is marked on the 1:50 000 lithograph along the southern border of Location 20954. This road has not yet been formed. Gates must be maintained at the south-western corner of Location No. 20954 and at the south-western corner of the Reserve.

8.6. NAMING

It is proposed that the name "Carribin Rock Nature Reserve" be submitted to the Nomenclature Advisory Committee of the Department of Lands and Surveys for adoption and gazettal as the official name for Reserve No. 10991.

8.7. SIGNS TO BE ERECTED

Signs identifying the Reserve will be erected at the south western corner of the Reserve at the point of access.

9. MANAGEMENT - GENERAL

During the currency of this Plan, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife may, with the approval of the Chairman of the Western Australian Wildlife Authority, undertake or authorise such other work and research as may be seen to be necessary or desirable to properly promote the stated objectives of management of the Nature Reserve.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In this report the vegetation descriptions follow B.G. Muir's key devised for Wheatbelt vegetation. Bird nomenclature follows those names recommended by the R.A.O.U. My personal thanks are due to Dr S.D. Hopper, Mr A.J.M. Hopkins, Ms Judith Brown of the W.A. Wildlife Research Centre and to Mr T.E.H. Aplin of the W.A. Herbarium for identifying plant specimens collected in the field.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- A. Casuarina campestris. Thicket. Open areas are heavily grazed.
- B. Open Jam woodland over Low grass.
- C. Exposed granite rock. Foreground shrub is Kunzea pulchella.
- D. Exposed granite rock. The soak is located in the dense vegetation behind.

