

Yoorrooyang Dawang Proposed Conservation Parks

Draft Management Plan 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation



Conservation
Commission
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

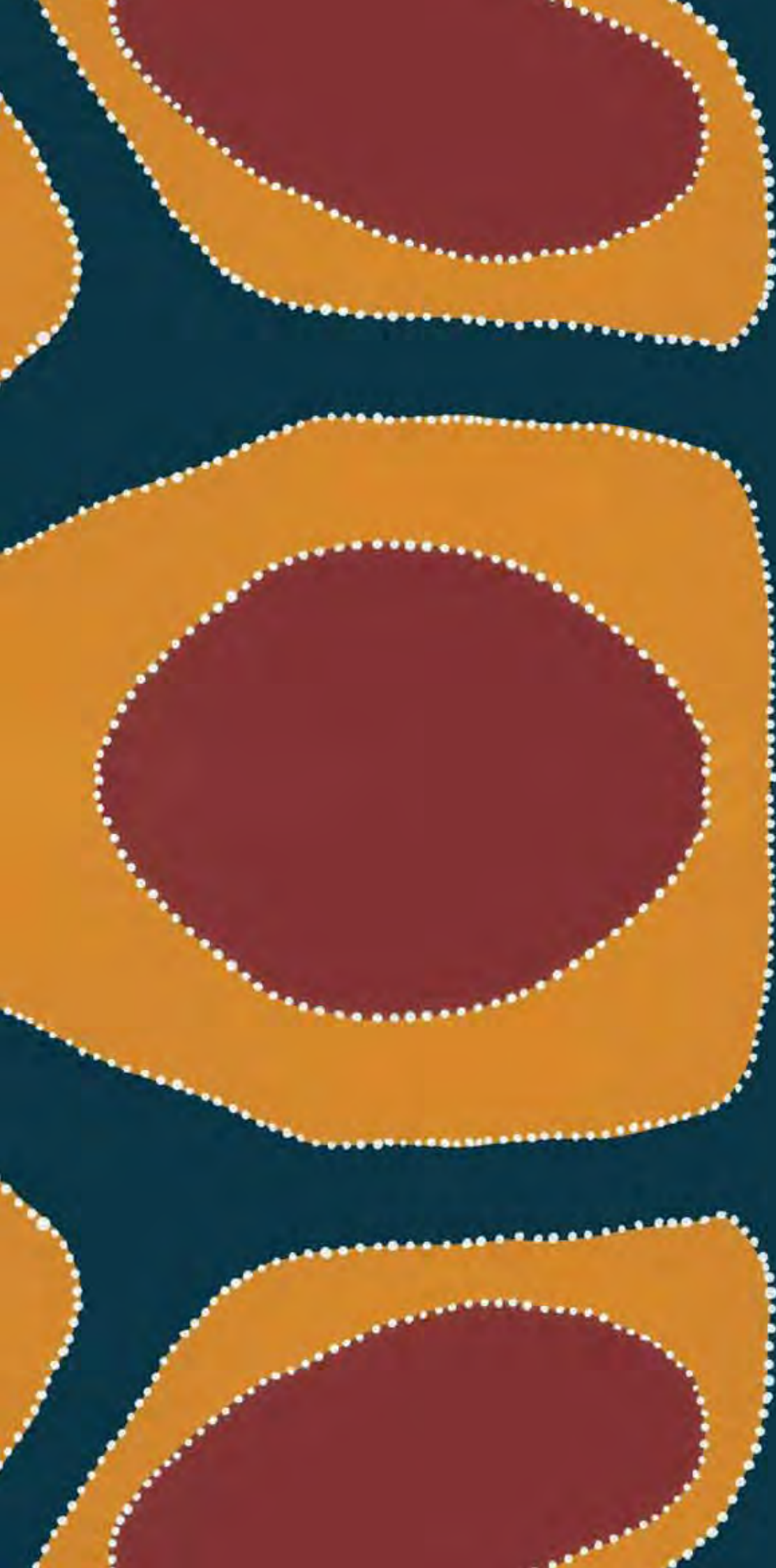


Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks



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Draft Management Plan 2011



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Gajerrong Yirgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation

Dedication

We, the Miriuwung and Gajerrong people, have been living on this land for a long time. We have been looking after it and the country has given us food and water. We know each place by name since creation time, which we call *Ngarranggarni*.

It is good to be out on the land, young and old people together, so we can teach them about language, Law and culture. This knowledge was passed on to us by our ancestors and we must now pass it on to the young. Men teach men and women teach women.

Working together with the Department of Environment and Conservation has been good. This way we can manage the land in partnership and help each other. We want to keep our traditions alongside with *gardiya* law as we look after this country together.

We have now made this management plan to explain where we want to work and what we want to happen on the land. People should read this plan and we can discuss what they think about it, to make it a good plan for the next generations.

Approved as strong words by Button Jones, 11 March 2010



Button Jones, June 2008

Invitation to comment

This plan is an opportunity to provide information and for you to express your opinion, suggest alternatives and have your say on how the Yoorrooyang Dawang proposed conservation parks will be managed over the next 10 years.

Make your comments count

How to make effective comments

It is important to indicate those strategies and recommendations you agree with as well as those with which you disagree. Each submission is important, but those that give reasons for concerns, give support where appropriate and offer information and constructive suggestions are most useful.

If you prefer not to write your own submission you could make a joint submission with others. To ensure your submission is as effective as possible:

- make it clear and concise
- list your points according to the subject sections and page numbers in the plan
- describe briefly each subject or issue you wish to discuss
- say whether you agree or disagree with any or all of the aims or strategies within each subject or just those of specific interest to you—clearly state your reasons (particularly if you disagree) and provide supportive information where possible
- suggest alternatives to deal with issues with which you disagree.

Where to send your comments

Submissions are welcome for two months after the release date of the draft management plan and can be made online at www.dec.wa.gov.au/haveyoursay or by writing to:

Planning Coordinator
Yoorrooyang Dawang Proposed Conservation Parks Draft Management Plan 2011
Department of Environment and Conservation
Locked Bag 104
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983

Submissions can also be emailed to planning@dec.wa.gov.au.

How your comments will be considered

All submissions will be summarised according to topics discussed. The management plan will then be reviewed in the light of submissions, according to the criteria below:

1. The draft management plan will be amended if a submission:
 - (a) provides additional information of direct relevance to management
 - (b) provides additional information on affected user groups of direct relevance to management
 - (c) indicates a change in (or clarifies) Government legislation, management commitment or management policy
 - (d) proposes strategies that would better achieve management objectives
 - (e) indicates omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.

2. The draft management plan will not be amended if a submission:
 - (a) clearly supports proposals in the plan
 - (b) makes general statements and no change is sought
 - (c) makes statements already in the plan or were considered during the plan preparation
 - (d) addresses issues beyond the scope of the plan
 - (e) is one amongst several widely divergent viewpoints received on the topic but the text/strategies in the plan are still considered the preferred option
 - (f) contributes options that are not feasible (generally due to conflict with existing legislation, Government policy, lack of resource capacity or lack of research knowledge to make decisions)
 - (g) is based on unclear, factually incorrect information
 - (h) provides details that are not appropriate or necessary for inclusion in a document aimed at providing management direction over the long term.

A summary of the submissions will be prepared along with the final management plan, including an indication of how the plan was amended or not amended in response to the submissions.

Acknowledgments

This draft plan has been prepared to guide the joint management of the proposed Goomig, Barrbem, Ngamoowalem, Mijing, Jemarnde-wooningim and Darram conservation parks.

Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples, staff of the DEC and the Conservation Commission contributed their time and energy throughout the planning process and to prepare this draft plan.

Garrayilng and members of the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council have contributed their advice, expertise and traditional knowledge about caring for country.

Staff of the Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation provided invaluable support for the planning process, organising Dawang meetings and making sure the planning process followed cultural protocols.

DEC staff, including the Miriuwung and Gajerrong rangers, provided vital assistance for the field work, workshops and meetings associated with the planning process.

Dr Rosemary Hill (consultant, CSIRO) was integral to the success of the new approach to planning for joint management through her leading role in participatory planning and research for the development of the two documents that preceded this draft plan—*Miriuwung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework* (Hill *et al.* 2008) and *Yoorrooyang Dawang Joint Planning Guidelines* (Hill *et al.* 2009). This plan contains excerpts from the Cultural Planning Framework on Miriuwung Gajerrong culture and history.

Photographs by Scott Goodson. The photographs that appear in this management plan have been approved for inclusion by Dawawang.

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Use of the Yoorrooyang Dawang Proposed Conservation Parks Draft Management Plan 2011

‘Cultural information’ means any information on language structure, traditional customs or other culture-related aspects.

All cultural information in this document remains the intellectual property of Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples and Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgab Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation.

Abbreviations

AH Act	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>
Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission of Western Australia
CALM Act	<i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i>
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
MATES	Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme
MG	the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples
MG Corporation	Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgab Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation
NT	Northern Territory
OFA	Ord Final Agreement
The ‘parks’	the proposed Goomig, Barrbem, Ngamoowalem, Mijing, Jemarnde-wooningim and Darram conservation parks
The ‘park’	refers to the proposed conservation park that is the subject of that sub-plan
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
WA	Western Australia

Glossary

Spelling is based on the advice of Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre, except where alternative spelling has been adopted in Miriuwung Gajerrong Corporation names and names for community living areas (including the words Miriuwung and Gajerrong).

Where appropriate, Miriuwung and Gajerrong place names and names for plants and animals are included in the plan. All Miriuwung and Gajerrong words are italicised, with the exception of place names and traditional owner group names. It should be noted that Miriuwung and Gajerrong language can be spelt in alternative ways.

Bandaba	Place name, Valentine Springs
Barrbem	Place near Zimmerman Range. Also the name of the proposed conservation park in that area
Darram	Place name, Bandicoot Bar. Also the name of the proposed conservation park at Packsaddle Swamp
Dawang	Particular tract of traditional country and the traditional owners who are connected to it
Daegeng	Particular tract of traditional country and the traditional owners who are connected to it (Gajerrong word)
Dawawang	People who are traditional owners of a particular tract of country
Gajirrabeng	Gajerrong
Ganngooning	Red water lily
Gardiya	European people
Galamanda	Area name, Goose Hill station and surrounding area including Parry's Creek. Also name of the Dawang group associated with this country. Also name of a particular hill in this area
Galjiba	Place name, Molly Springs
Garrayilng	Elders
Garn-Garnbe	Place name, Barbeque Hill

Gija	Group to the south of Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples
Goolalawa	Name for the Incorporated Goose Hill Community, and also the name for a place on the Ord River near Galamanda
Goomig	Cave Springs. Also the name of the proposed conservation park in that area
Goorboome	Kumbarumba outstation
Jaiying	Place name, Bubble Springs
Jamood	Bush turkey
Jemarnde-wooningim	Weaber Range. Also the name for the proposed conservation park in that area
Jendooboogeng	Wallaby-rat
Mayiba	Place name, Middle Springs
Mijing	Limestone. Also the name for Ningbing Range and the proposed conservation park in that area
Ngamoowalem	Place name for Livistona Range and proposed conservation park; also the name for Cycas species
Niligem	Milligan's Lagoon
Niyini	Gouldian finch
Thegooyeng	Place name, Black Rock Fall
Wardanybeng	Traditional owner group associated with the proposed Mijing Conservation Park; Wawoolem place name, Packsaddle Creek. Also the name of the proposed conservation park in that area
Wiram	Traditional owner group associated with proposed Barrbem Conservation Park
Wirrijlwarim	Name of community living area near Molly Springs
Wirriylbem	Place name, area on the Keep River
Worrawoorrem	Community near Packsaddle
Yirralalem	Place name, Packsaddle Springs. Also the name of the nearby community living area

Pronunciation guide

Note that some letters in English have multiple pronunciations. In Miriuwung, there is only one possible pronunciation for each letter or pair of letters. The “not as in ...” examples provide clarification this as these are common ‘traps’ for English speakers.

a	as in ‘after’, ‘cut’ (not as in ‘cat’)
b	as in ‘best’, ‘bin’
d	as in ‘deep’, ‘dark’
e	a relaxed sound as the final sound in ‘father’, ‘butter’ (not as in ‘me’)
g	as in ‘good’, ‘get’ (not as in ‘gender’)
i	as in ‘fit’, ‘wind’ (not as in ‘fine’)
iyi	long ‘i’ as in ‘feed’, ‘see’
j	as in ‘juice’, ‘jet’
k	same as ‘g’ but used after ‘n’; as in ‘hunger’
l	similar to ‘l’ in ‘like’, ‘leave’
ly	as in Spanish ‘calle’ (try to produce an ‘l’, then retract the tongue a little and push its surface gently towards the top of the mouth)
m	as in ‘mother’, ‘miss’
n	as in ‘nice’, ‘no’

ng	as in 'hang', 'singer' (not as in 'finger')
nh	no equivalent in English, similar to n but with the tongue touching the teeth
ny	as in 'canyon', 'onion' (not as in 'bony')
oo	as in 'foot', 'pull' (not as in 'cool')
r	as in 'right', 'ring'
rd	as in American English 'word', 'yard', with the tongue tip slightly curled back
rl	as in American English 'girl', 'pearl', with the tongue tip slightly curled back
rn	as in American English 'barn', 'mourne', with the tongue tip slightly curled back
rr	rolled 'r' as in Spanish 'reloj' (the tip of the tongue vibrates; keep the tongue relaxed while trying)
th	similar to 'th' as in 'that', 'though' (the front section of the tongue touches the ridge behind the upper teeth) (not as in 'thumb')
w	as in 'what', 'water'
y	as in 'yes', 'young' (not as in 'busy')

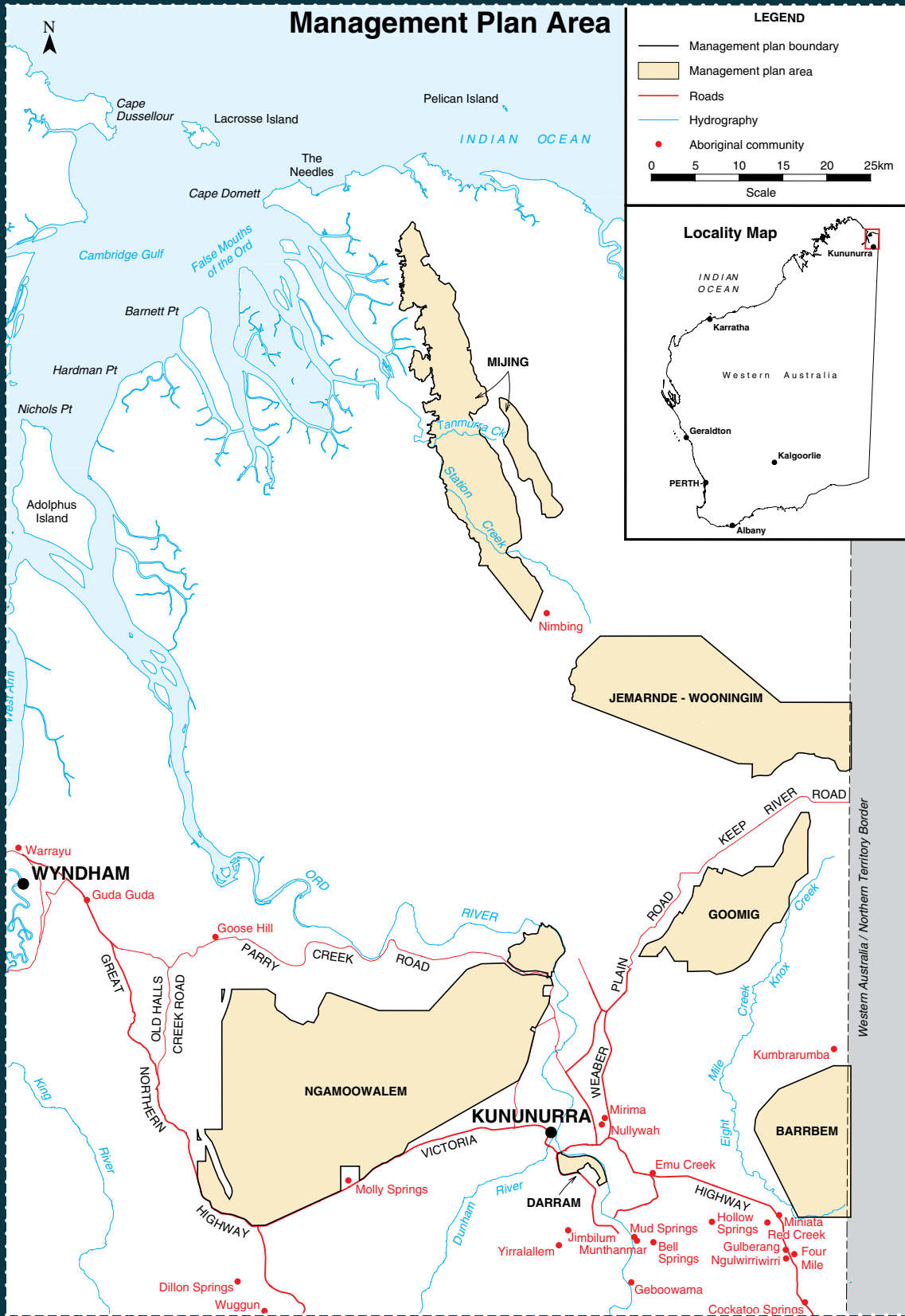


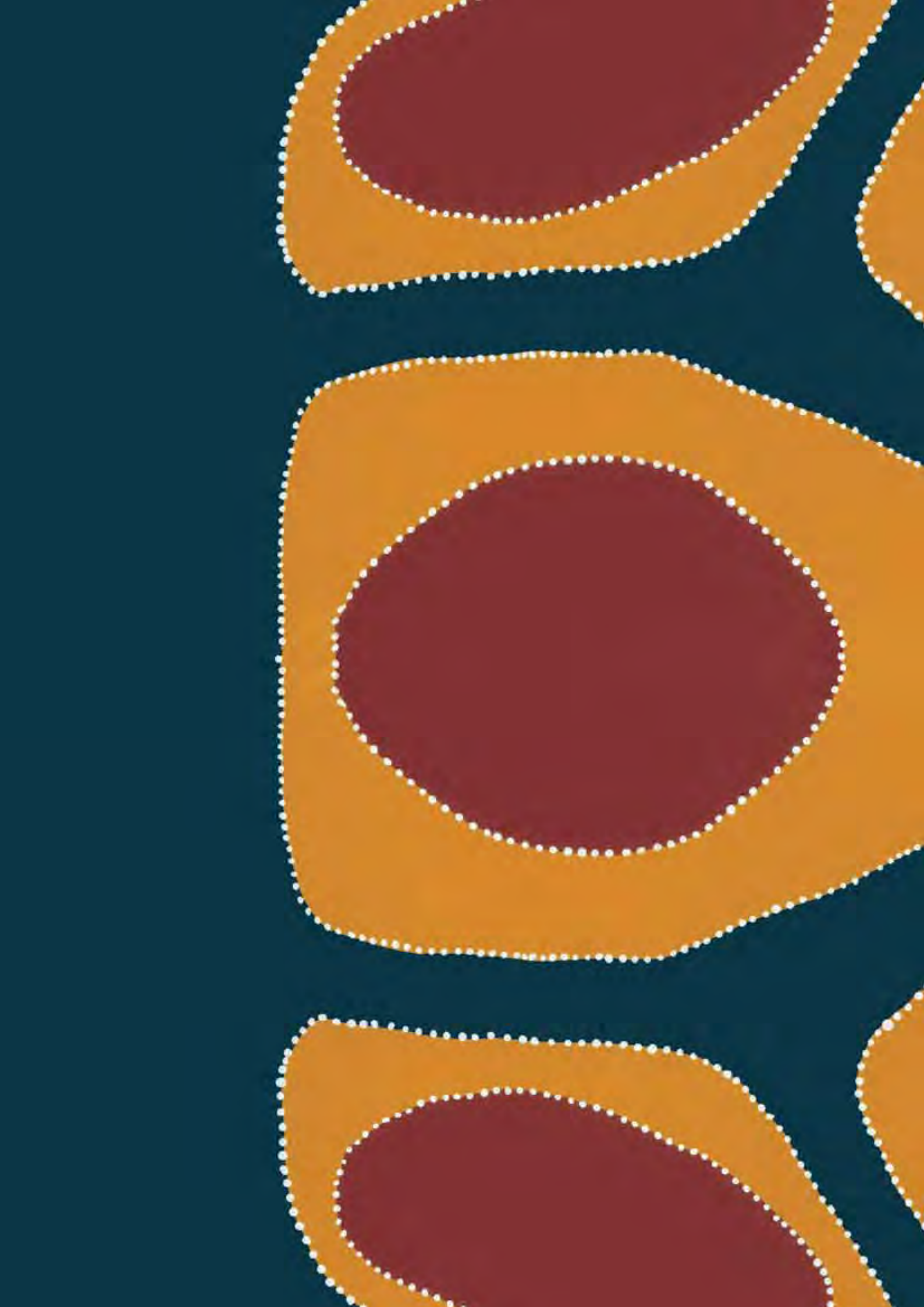
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Introduction

Located in WA's Eastern Kimberley, the proposed Goomig, Barrbem, Ngamoowalem, Mijing, Jemarnde-wooningim and Darram conservation parks will be freehold land held by Miriuwung-Gajerrong Trustees Pty Ltd and leased to the State for joint management by Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation (MG Corporation) and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (see map—*Management Plan Area*).

The proposed creation of these parks on part of the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' traditional country is a result of the Ord Final Agreement (OFA) between the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples and the State that was concluded in October 2005.

While the land will remain freehold, the areas will also be managed as conservation parks under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). This has been achieved through a management agreement between the MG Corporation and the Director General of DEC, which was negotiated between the traditional owners and the State as a component of the OFA.

Under the OFA, DEC and the MG Corporation are responsible for ensuring the development of a joint management plan for the conservation parks, and for administering the management through the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council (YDRPC).

At present, the land subject to this management plan is jointly vested in the Conservation Commission and MG Corporation as section 5(1)(h) reserves for the purpose of 'Conservation and Aboriginal Uses'. This is an interim arrangement before proposed changes to the CALM Act enable the joint management of the land as conservation parks. This plan has been written to take this change into account.

Although this management plan is for the proposed conservation parks, protection of the parks' cultural and natural values will be affected by what happens in the adjacent land and water. Working together with neighbouring land managers, sharing resources and integrating management efforts in the context of the wider landscape will be important for the sustainable long-term management of the proposed parks.



Workshopping the draft management plan in Kununurra, December 2009

Miriuwung Gajerrong culture

The following is an excerpt from *Miriuwung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework* (Hill *et al.* 2008 pp. 12–15)

Our ancestors created Miriuwung and Gajerrong country in the *Ngarranggarni*, the Dreaming. At the dawn of time our land was covered by the water of an enormous flood. The water eventually receded, placing some of the Dreamings, the ancestral beings, on the landscape. Other Dreamings roamed the land, creating creeks, billabongs, hills and escarpments on tracks through our country (Barber and Rumley 2002). They created the different soils, plants and animals, and all the seasons of our country – *ying-geng* (the wet season), *gerloong* (big storm), *barndinyirriny* (dry season) and *wan-gang* (cold weather) (Shaw 1986). During these sagas of journey and creation, our ancestral beings, who were simultaneously human and animal, also established the all-encompassing moral and practical rules by which succeeding generations of Aboriginal people have lived for thousands of years—our Law, languages and ceremonies (La Fontaine 2006).

Our Dreamings became different features of our landscape, and are still present in our country today. Every part of our country has a song. Our Dreamings make connections between our people, plants, animals and parts of our country like water holes, creeks, hills, mountains and tracks through our country. *Yarndungarll* (dingo), *lemoogeng* (blue-tongue lizard), *diwanang* and *jalareng* (wedge-tailed eagle and egret), *bilbiljing* (grass-hopper) *goorrgoorrrjing* (tawny frog-mouth owl) and *gerdan* (frill-necked lizard) are some of the Dreaming stories and places on our country (see box).

Yarndungarll Dreaming

The Yarndungarll Dreaming is up there in the hill. Those dingoes travelled from this way down Ningbing. They came through there. Moolali turned off that way, what they call Therrin-gin... The dingoes made a way through the gap then to come through and go out see.

Part of the Yarndungarll Dreaming as told by Bulla Bilinggin to Bruce Shaw (1986).

Jigoomirri and Boolgoomirri Dreaming

Jigoomirri (False House Roof Hill) and Boolgoomirri (House Roof Hill) were two brothers who were made by that large Rainbow Snake with the big head from the salt water. It spat them out in the same way it made those other animals. From the saltwater part they came and sat down at Reedy Creek, Moolali, in Carlton country... They say if you put your foot in the wrong place there you come out in boils.

Part of the Jigoomirri and Boolgoomirri Dreaming as told by Grant Ngabidj to Bruce Shaw (1981).

Jigoomirri and Boolgoomirri Dreaming

There is a Dream for boils, Jawin, in those two stone Boolgoomirri and Jigoomirri. When you climb to the top of the hill you get all the sores right up all around. That comes through the Dreaming, those two stones now. The people used to hunt the sores away with mud, and they told me the two stones were hunted from the sea by a devil. Jigoomirri and Boolgoomirri were two brothers who came from the salt water coast.

Part of the Jigoomirri and Boolgoomirri Dreaming as told by Mandi to Bruce Shaw (1986).

We also classify different parts of our country according to differences in the soil—*jawinkam* is black-soil plain; *badadang* is red-soil plain; *wirrjininy* is sand country; *jibgang* is jungle and *jiyilng* refers to springs.

We keep our *Ngarranggarni* strong through story, painting, song, dance, and through visiting our country, our Dreaming places and tracks. Our Dreaming tracks link us up to each other and to other Aboriginal groups through *wirnan*, our ceremonial exchange cycle and trade system (Akerman 1979). Law lines also extend across the Kimberley through the country of other Aboriginal people, and our traditional governance system in the Kimberley includes a network of collaborative and intricately overlapping leadership responsibilities (La Fontaine 2006 p. 20). Our Miriuwung and Gajerrong languages were placed into the landscape of our country by our Dreamings. Miriuwung and Gajerrong are closely related, but still different, languages. They are part of a group of languages called Jerrag by linguists (Akerman 1979).

Our old people used to follow our custom of changing to a different language when travelling in the country to which that language belongs. Today we still sing songs to our country, and talk to our ancestors on our country when we visit. Some ancestors sing back to us in the form of a bird.

Our country is connected to us through our kinship system, and our totems. All Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples have a skin name, which means they belong to one of 16 different skin groups in our kinship system. Within our skin system, clearly defined roles and obligations are accorded to different skin relations, whether or not the individuals are related by blood (La Fontaine 2006). Mutual obligations of ritual, emotional, educational and economic accountability also come from our skin relationships. We like to give skin names to people who work closely with us so we can fit them into our system, and know how to relate to them. Animals, plants, waterholes, Dreaming ancestors, spirits and areas of country all have their own place in the skin system, often referred to as totems.

Within our culture, Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples inherit specific group and personal relationships, as well as rights and responsibilities to particular tracts of country known as Dawang. Dawawang are the people within a group who can speak for that part of our country, that Dawang. Our Dawang groups are responsible for the upkeep of the land and for protection of sites of cultural significance for the community according to traditional Laws and customs handed down from the *Ngarranggarni*. Sometimes anthropologists call our Dawang groups clans or estate groups. Here are the Dawang groups for the different parts of our country in the proposed conservation parks:

Proposed conservation park	Also known as	Dawang group
Mijing	Ningbing Range	Wardanybeng
Jemarnde-wooningim	Weaber Range	Wardanybeng
Goomig	Pincombe Range, Cave Springs Range	Bigainbang
Barrbem	Zimmerman Range	Wiram
Ngamoowalem	Livistonia Range	Jigoomirri, Galamanda
Darram	Packsaddle Springs	Yirralalem, Balaboorr

Our Elders have an important role in our culture. Only old people understand the Law in its totality, and senior cultural leaders are the key players and executive decision-makers within our contemporary Aboriginal politics, community development and cultural affairs in the region (La Fontaine 2006). In Miriuwung and Gajerrong culture, senior men and women have a responsibility for different aspects of our Law and culture. We have a Women's Law Ground near Kununurra where we gather for cultural meetings during the cold time. Women are the custodians of their own Dreaming stories, sacred sites, song cycles, dances, paintings and ceremonies. Men's Law is defined by the ceremonies, song cycles Dreaming stories and dances that detail the exclusive responsibility of initiated men, most of which is stringently withheld from others. Men and women are prohibited from coming in contact with the sacred sites and ceremonies of the other gender at various times and places. Men and women often need to travel independently from one another when visiting different parts of our country. Some important aspects of our culture can only be discussed between men, or only between women.

Miriuwung Gajerrong history

The following is an excerpt from *Miriuwung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework* (Hill *et al.* 2008 pp. 15–19).

Miriwun Rock Shelter, which is now under water in Lake Argyle, shows we have been present on our country for at least 18,000 years. The archaeologists tell us that excavations showed that our people have been hunting and gathering the same type of food in that area for more than 18,000 years, including wallabies, possums, bandicoots, lizards, rodents, molluscs, reptiles, catfish and eggs.

Although some *gardiya* (European) explorers passed through our land and sea country in the 19th century, the first settlers did not arrive until after 1880 (Akerman 1979). The first station founded and stocked was Ord River—more than one million hectares that was taken up in 1884. Invanhoe, Rosewood, Lissadel, Argyle and Carlton Hill leases were all taken up and stocked by 1893 by groups of pastoralists including the Durack, Hart, Kilfoyle and other families. Wyndham, the first and only town in the area for a long time, was established in 1886.

Our people suffered greatly during the first 50 years of *gardiya* occupation of our country. We mounted resistance against European intrusions in the form of raids on stations, cattle spearing, and physical retreat to less accessible locales such as the rugged sandstone country. We call this period the ‘shooting time’ when many of our people in the East Kimberley were killed by settlers and others. Others were taken away to prisons, for use as divers in the pearling industry, and to ration stations at Moola Bulla and Violet Valley. Historical records show that at least 20 multiple killings of Aboriginal people occurred in the East Kimberley between 1884 and 1926, not including killings that were carried out between 1886 and 1892 relating to the Kimberley goldfields and those massacres where no official record was made. The Forrest River massacre in 1926 killed large numbers of our people (Shaw 1991, Green 1995). Many places where these massacres occurred are on or near our proposed conservation parks.

Ningbing massacres

Soon after Grant was able to walk and run about, William Weaber a German station manager together with his brother and a number of white and Aboriginal station people from Queensland took up Ningbing Station, in 1907–08. Grant witnessed these persons round up many of his local group, most of whom were shot subsequently after he, his sister and their mother were removed from the scene.

Grant Ngabidj story as told to Bruce Shaw (1981).

Our country also suffered greatly from the start of the pastoral industry. Most of the East Kimberley has very low carrying capacity for cattle (more than 125 hectares per head). Land used for pastoral leases has been degraded by the impact of cattle on the soil and pasture, and by high rates of soil erosion (Graham-Taylor 1982).

Pastoral industry changes on our country in the early days

James Isdell in 1909 described how the pastoral industry affected our country

“In the early days before stocking, all the best pastoral country was full of game of all descriptions, numerous varieties of ground game, rats and bandicoots, opossums everywhere in the timber, emus in large mobs of 50 to 100, native companions in flocks, duck and flock pigeon in hundreds of thousands. In those days both Kimberleys were a paradise for natives all varieties of meat could be caught with little labour... All this is now changed, stocking up the country has completely destroyed and hunted all the ground game. You can travel for weeks without seeing a sign of emus, native companions or plain pigeons. Opossums have totally disappeared. Only a few ducks and kangaroos can occasionally be seen. Natives have no meat, so is it any wonder that they have taken to cattle killing to feed their women and children. Years ago, during the wet season you could get hundreds of different varieties of herbs and vegetables, which were the yearly medicine for the Aborigines that kept their bodily system in good health. Stock have eaten out and killed all the native vegetables.” (Ward v Western Australia 1998)

Many Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples lived and worked on the Ivanhoe, Carlton and other cattle stations until the 'Pastoral Award' was introduced in 1968. We call this period 'station time' (La Fontaine 2006). Although the pastoral industry depended heavily on our labour during this period, our living and working conditions were terrible. Aboriginal employees on pastoral leases received little more than rations, and some wages were withheld in trust accounts that were never paid to us. The Government did not require that wages be paid to us on the cattle stations, and used police resources to enforce the employment permits and indentures held by pastoralists, apprehending and returning Aborigines to pastoral stations they had left (Ward v Western Australia 1998). Our accommodation on these stations was grossly inadequate—for example at Ivanhoe in 1961 nearly 90 Aboriginal people were crowded into three two-roomed huts, and one hut with five rooms (Kimberley Land Council 2004). Leprosy had a devastating effect on our people from the 1930s.

Nevertheless, living and working on these stations allowed us to keep our connections to our country strong, and to continue our 'bush life'. During station times, we came together for ceremonial, social and other business in the wet season, holiday season for the pastoralists. We visited our families who were living in the ranges and the bush away from the cattle station during the holiday season (Ward v Western Australia 1998). After the pastoral award was introduced in 1968, many of our workers and families were forced to leave the stations. We worked hard to find a way back to living on our country and were successful in gaining small leases from the pastoralists to establish some communities in the 1970s and 1980s: Yirralalem, Ningbing, Wirrijlwarim and Worrawoorrem are the ones near our parks. Dingo Springs, Yardungarll, was the first outstation won by Bulla in 1976 (Shaw 1986).

Our country attracted interest from Jewish people during the Nazi era. In 1939 the secretary and founder of the 'Freeland League for Jewish Territorial Colonisation' visited the Kimberley and the Jewish league became enthusiastic about the prospects of tropical irrigated agriculture in the Ord valley and produced the first plan to realise this scheme (Graham-Taylor 1982). The proposal was well received by the WA Government but not the Commonwealth, and so never eventuated.

Agriculture started in our country not long after, in 1941, when the Department of Agriculture began trial plots of irrigated pastures on the Ivanhoe Pastoral Lease, and subsequently established the Kimberley (agricultural) Research Station in 1945. Missionaries came into the East Kimberley in 1958. The Ord River Irrigation Project proposal was conceived in three stages: the first involving construction of the diversion dam near the Packsaddle and Ivanhoe Plains in 1962, irrigation of approximately 10,000 hectares of land and creation of the township of Kununurra.

The 'second stage' began with construction of the main dam in 1969 at a site approximately 50 kilometres up-stream from the diversion dam on the Argyle Downs pastoral lease and a small expansion of irrigated land on the Packsaddle and Ivanhoe Plains. The 'third stage' was construction of the hydro-electric power station on the main dam in 1996 and reticulation of power to Kununurra, Wyndham and the Argyle Diamond Mine south of Lake Argyle. The area of land now under irrigation is approximately 14,500 hectares.

The Ord irrigation scheme impacted heavily on our country, culture and our people. The diversion dam was built on Darram, an important story place. Impacts on the country included loss of the big floods that used to keep our country clean, changes to vegetation, siltation, increased sedimentation in the Cambridge Gulf, restrictions on fish movements in the river, and the spread of weeds (Vernes 2006). During the 1960s, our traditional connection to the land was denied under a racially discriminatory legislative and administrative regime in which Aboriginal people were governed without our consent. The Ord irrigation project was conceived and executed without reference to or recognition of the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in the region. No consultation occurred with traditional owners and apparently no thought was given to the impact that a development of this scale would have on the Aboriginal people. We suffered loss of our traditional land and sacred sites, as well as cultural and social loss. Some of these impacts are now being redressed through the OFA, negotiated as a result of the recognition of our native title rights and the Government's desire to expand the area of agriculture (see following sections).

Our current period of political and cultural renaissance really began in 1978 with the formation of the Kimberley Land Council, to take up the fight for recognition of our land and cultural rights. Disputes over proposed mines at Noonkanbah and on two important sites near Lake Argyle galvanised us to get organised. The Argyle Diamond Mine disturbed a woman's sacred site—the diamonds were the remnants of a Dreamtime Barramundi's fat, scales and eggs (La Fontaine 2006). Kimberley Aboriginal people held the Ngumpun Culture Festival in 1984, and from that started two new organisations to support Law and culture—the Kimberley Aboriginal Land and Culture Centre and the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. Many big cultural festivals have been held since then. In 1991, the Kimberley Land Council held a bush meeting at Crocodile Hole in the East Kimberley, which led to a significant report detailing our aspirations for cultural, social and economic development. In Kununurra we established the Mirima Dawang Woerlab-gerring Language and Cultural Centre to keep our language and culture strong. In 1992, the High Court in the case of *Mabo & Others v State of Queensland & Others (No. 2)* recognised that Indigenous people possess a form of native title defined by their traditional Laws and customs. We lodged the first claim for recognition of Miriuwung and Gajerrong native title rights in 1994.

Old people are the boss

Well the guddeeyu government gotta listen to us, he think he's know it all. Blackfella way, old people are the boss. They know the country, and they know the Law. That government there, they just talking from here, he never bin over there. He don't know the country, he just trying to destroy the country. They're fighting for their country in there, you know.

Oh, some place people feel let down, and they're crying till they get that country, and that station that they owned it. I think what I'm saying to you, (successful native title claimants in other areas) they got it because they're very strong over there. And we should really, we're coming to it too.

Button Jones, Miriuwung Traditional Owner 2004 (La Fontaine et al. 2006)

Native title

The native title claims (Miriuwung Gajerrong #1 and Miriuwung Gajerrong #4) lodged by Miriuwung, Gajerrong and Gija peoples in 1994 was the catalyst for 12 years of negotiations that ultimately resulted in consent determinations over large parts of the north-east Kimberley. The determinations recognise the rights and interests of Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples based on continuing connection to country associated with the preservation of traditional Laws and customs.

The native title rights and interests of Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples has been acknowledged over five of the parks—Goomig, Barrbem, Ngamoowalem, Mijing and Jemarnde-wooningim. Native title has been extinguished over Darram because it was an existing reserve, not part of a pastoral lease.

The shared native title rights and interests include:

- (a) the right to access and move about the land
- (b) the right to hunt and fish, to gather and use the resources of the land and water such as food and medicinal plants and trees, timber, charcoal, ochre, stone and wax, and to have access to and use of water on or in the land and water
- (c) the right to live—being to enter and remain on the land, to camp and erect temporary shelters and other structures for that purpose—and to travel over and visit any part of the land and water
- (d) the right to light camp fires

- (e) the right to do the following activities:
 - (i) engage in cultural activities on the land
 - (ii) conduct ceremonies
 - (iii) hold meetings
 - (iv) teach the physical and spiritual attributes of places and areas of importance on or in the land and water
 - (v) participate in cultural practices relating to birth and death, including burial rights
 - (vi) record, conserve, maintain and curate sites and activities arising in sub-paragraphs (i) to (v) above
- (f) the right to have access to, maintain and protect places and areas of importance on or in the land and water, including rock art, engraving sites and stone arrangements
- (g) the right to make decisions about the use and enjoyment of the land and water by the Native Title Holders
- (h) the right to share or exchange subsistence and other traditional resources obtained on or from the land and water.

In relation to flowing, tidal and underground water, native title holders have non-exclusive rights to:

- (a) hunt, gather and fish on, in and from the flowing, tidal and underground water for personal, domestic, social, cultural, religious, spiritual, ceremonial or communal needs but not for commercial purposes
- (b) take, use and enjoy the flowing, tidal and underground water and natural resources and fish in such water for personal, domestic, social, cultural, religious, spiritual, ceremonial or communal needs but not for commercial purposes.

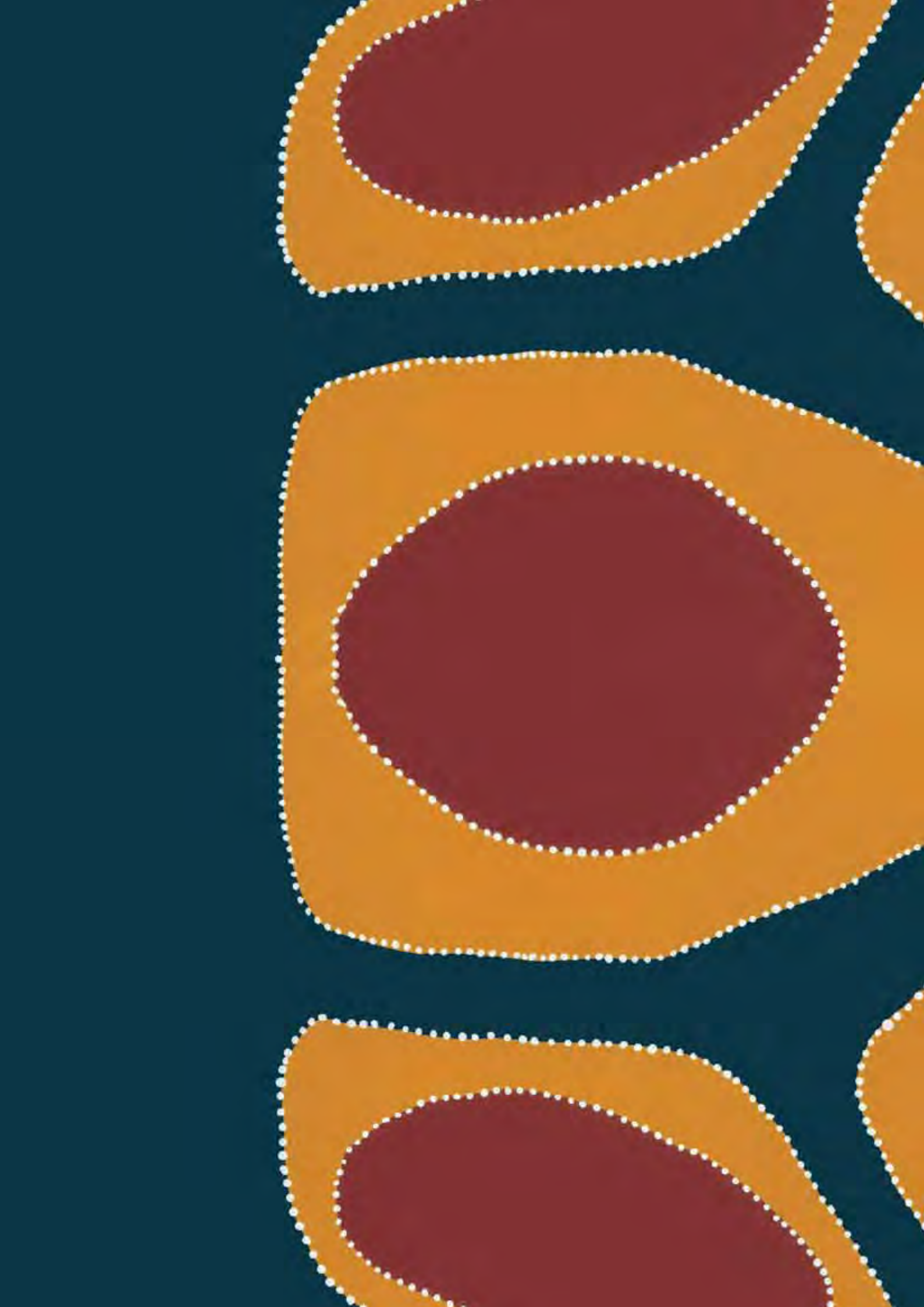
Native title rights have been extinguished over some leases for gravel and for grazing, and over Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve (adjacent to proposed Ngamoowalem Conservation Park) and Point Spring Nature Reserve (adjacent to proposed Jemarnde-wooningim Conservation Park). Native title has also been extinguished over Mirima National Park and proposed Darram Conservation Park. There is no native title right to hunt fauna or gather plants within 800 metres of Lake Kununurra or Lake Argyle.

The Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples respect the court's decision that historical tenure changes have meant that native title rights in those areas cannot be recognised. However, connection to all country remains strong through traditional Laws and customs and working in partnership with others will make sure that country and culture is protected, regardless of tenure.

Two Prescribed Bodies Corporate—Miriuwung Gajerrong Prescribed Body Corporate #1 and Miriuwung Gajerrong Prescribed Body Corporate #4—were established to represent the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' native title interests.



Mirima dancers performing as part of NAIDOC week, July 2009



Joint management

The proposed conservation parks will be owned by Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples and leased to the State to be jointly managed in accordance with the management agreement and this management plan.

This involves working together, solving problems together, sharing decision-making responsibilities and exchanging knowledge, skills and information. The joint management arrangements will protect and promote Miriuwung and Gajerrong traditional Law, cultural values and natural values, and provide for managed access and recreation.

Important objectives of joint management are to make sure that traditional skills and knowledge associated with looking after culture and country and Dawang cultural rules about how decisions should be made continue to be respected and maintained. It is also important that contemporary park management skills are available to enable the joint management partners to look after the proposed conservation parks in line with current best management practices. The long-term objective is that the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples will wholly manage the parks.

Ord Final Agreement

The Ord Final Agreement (OFA), signed between the Government of Western Australia, Miriuwung Gajerrong traditional owners and private sector interests in 2005, is a broad package of measures that provides a platform for partnerships between these parties for the benefit of the wider community and the region. The OFA was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal as an Indigenous Land Use Agreement in 2006. A copy of the OFA is available from the Office of Native Title's website (www.ont.dotag.wa.gov.au).

The OFA recognises the injustices of the past, while empowering the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' social, economic and political position for the future. This is enabled through benefits, including the creation of the resourced MG Corporation, a long-term investment trust, community and commercial land, the opportunity for joint management of the proposed conservation parks and a range of social and economic development programs.

The OFA provides compensation to the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples in recognition of the impacts of the 1960s Ord River Scheme Stage 1 that flooded parts of traditional land to create Lake Argyle. The compensation arrangement also provides for the acquisition, extinguishment and impairment of native title over land required to develop the second stage (Ord Stage 2) of the project which will significantly expand the area under irrigated agriculture.

Also under the OFA compensation measures, the parties agreed to the transfer of freehold title of six new reserves to MG Corporation to be leased to the State and jointly managed as conservation parks. DEC and MG Corporation will also work together to manage other new parks created in the future, as well as the five existing parks or reserves that are vested in the Conservation Commission and are part of the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' traditional country when resources become available (clause 36.1 of the OFA).

The OFA provides for the establishment of a regional park council—Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council—and park sub-councils for each of the six proposed conservation parks. The management of the land is to be administered by the Director General of DEC, jointly with the MG Corporation, through the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council.

Under the OFA:

- \$1 million is provided to set up the joint management arrangements and develop a plan of management
- \$1 million will be available for infrastructure in the six new parks
- \$4 million will be provided over four years to operate the parks, with a funding review after four years
- employment and training will be available for the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples with a goal of 50 per cent of parks jobs to be held by the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples within 10 years
- the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples have right of access to the parks for cultural purposes
- leases to the State will be for 200 years with peppercorn rental
- joint management arrangements and leases will be reviewed every 10 years.

Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation

The MG Corporation was incorporated in 2006 as a provision of the OFA to receive and manage the benefits and responsibilities to be transferred to the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples under the agreement.

The MG Corporation acts on behalf of the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples and has established a representative governance structure to recognise traditional Law, through which the 16 Dawang groups with customary Law responsibility oversee all operations. The 32-member governing committee is comprised of two representatives from each of these 16 Dawang. The benefits are to be shared by all Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples for community purposes—no individual payments can be made.

In addition to the MG Corporation, there are three trustee subsidiary companies that will hold in trust the benefits of OFA. One of these, Miriuwung-Gajerrong Trustees Pty Ltd, will hold the title for the land that will form the conservation parks.

The proposed Goomig, Barrbem, Ngamoowalem, Mijing, Jemarnde-wooningim and Darram conservation parks are currently section 5(1)(h) reserves jointly vested in the Conservation Commission and MG Corporation for the purpose of 'Conservation and Traditional Aboriginal Uses'. After the title for the land is transferred to the MG Corporation, the Conservation Commission's statutory role for these areas will be in accordance with the provisions of the management agreement.

Aside from meeting its obligations under the OFA, the MG Corporation's mission is to improve the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples.

Management agreement

The OFA requires the MG Corporation, the State, the Conservation Commission and DEC to execute a management agreement—Schedule 8 of the OFA—when the proposed conservation parks are created. Pending granting of freehold, the proposed conservation parks are managed under an interim management agreement—Schedule 6 of the OFA.

The management agreement provides that the proposed conservation parks are to be managed through a formal partnership between the Director General of DEC and the MG Corporation in accordance with the management agreement, the management plan and the CALM Act.

The management agreement outlines decision-making processes and a structure through which decisions consistent with the management plan can be made. It assigns the responsibility for decision-making to the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council and park sub-councils and establishes processes for holding meetings, making appointments to the park councils, quorums and voting arrangements.

Management principles

The parks are managed according to the management principles that are set out in the management agreement. Clause 4(a) states that the new conservation areas should be jointly managed by MG Corporation and DEC for the purpose of conservation parks, consistent with section 56 of the CALM Act and for the following objectives:

- 4(a)
- (i) the preservation and promotion of the Aboriginal cultural and heritage values of the land
 - (ii) the preservation and promotion of the natural and environmental values of the land, including indigenous flora and fauna
 - (iii) the preservation and promotion of the archaeological values of the land
 - (iv) the provision of recreational facilities and facilitation of recreational activities on the land, including the regulation of public access to the land to fulfil so much of the demand for recreation by members of the public as is fitting having regard to the matter set out in clauses 4(a)(i), 4(a)(ii), 4(a)(iii) and 4(a)(v)
 - (v) access to and use of the land by the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples from time to time in accordance with Miriuwung and Gajerrong culture
 - (vi) the use of the land by the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples from time to time consistent with the matters set out in clauses 4(a)(i), 4(a)(ii), 4(a)(iii) and 4(a)(v)
 - (vii) employment, service provision and training opportunities for the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples in the administration, management and control of the land from time to time in accordance with Schedule 2
 - (viii) commercial opportunities for the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples and the MG Corporation consistent with the management of the land for the purposes of 'conservation park'
 - (ix) the implementation, monitoring, assessment and audit of the effectiveness of the management plan
 - (x) the provision, construction, repair, maintenance and replacement of buildings and infrastructure on the land for any of the foregoing purposes.

According to Schedule 8, Clause 4(b) of the Ord Final Agreement, the need for the following will be considered in managing the proposed conservation parks:

- 4(b)
- (i) provision of fencing
 - (ii) creation of vehicular tracks and roads, and walking and cycling trails and pathways
 - (iii) provision of firebreaks, fire control and carrying out of prescribed burning
 - (iv) erection of signage
 - (v) construction of public conveniences and other public facilities
 - (vi) weed and feral animal control
 - (vii) restriction or prohibition of access for protection of culturally significant sites, or for safety, cultural or conservation purposes.

Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council and park sub-councils

The establishment of the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council and park sub-councils—one for each of the proposed conservation parks—is a provision of the management agreement.

The overarching council is comprised of two Dawang representative members from each of the park sub-councils and up to three DEC representatives nominated by the Director General of DEC. The Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council is the principal administrative and management body responsible for the parks overall. Its primary role is to:

- prepare management plans and related policies for the management of the parks
- make decisions consistent with the management plan
- monitor the management of the parks including the implementation of the management plan
- give advice to DEC and the Conservation Commission on all aspects of the use, management and development of the parks
- determine priorities for any matters required to be done in accordance with or in maintenance of the management plan.

Each park sub-council is comprised of two representatives from the Dawang of that park and one DEC representative. The park sub-councils provide advice and recommendations to the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council and are responsible for the development and review of the management sub-plan and policies for their proposed conservation park. The park sub-councils are also responsible for the establishment of, and appropriate protection and access regimes for, any areas of cultural or historical significance to the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples with their proposed conservation park.

Garrayilng

Garrayilng are the senior Miriuwung and Gajerrong elders who make recommendations and provide guidance to the MG Corporation on subjects such as traditional Law and culture, native title, heritage, language, and caring for country.

DEC

DEC is responsible for ensuring the State's commitments under the management agreement are carried out. DEC will be the lessee of the areas once they are owned by the MG Corporation. DEC is responsible for undertaking day-to-day joint management and implementation of this management plan under the guidance and direction of the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council. It also provides administrative support for the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council and park sub-councils.

DEC receives funding through the OFA for the purposes outlined in the management agreement, including joint management of the park; preparation and implementation of this management plan; resources; and staffing. DEC plays a significant role in training and supporting the Miriuwung and Gajerrong rangers and assisting the Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' participation in management of the parks.

DEC is required to consult with the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council in relation to budgets for the management plan, and to provide annual reports on the implementation and operation of the management plan.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission of WA is the vesting body for conservation reserves in WA. In the East Kimberley area, reserves solely vested in the Conservation Commission include:

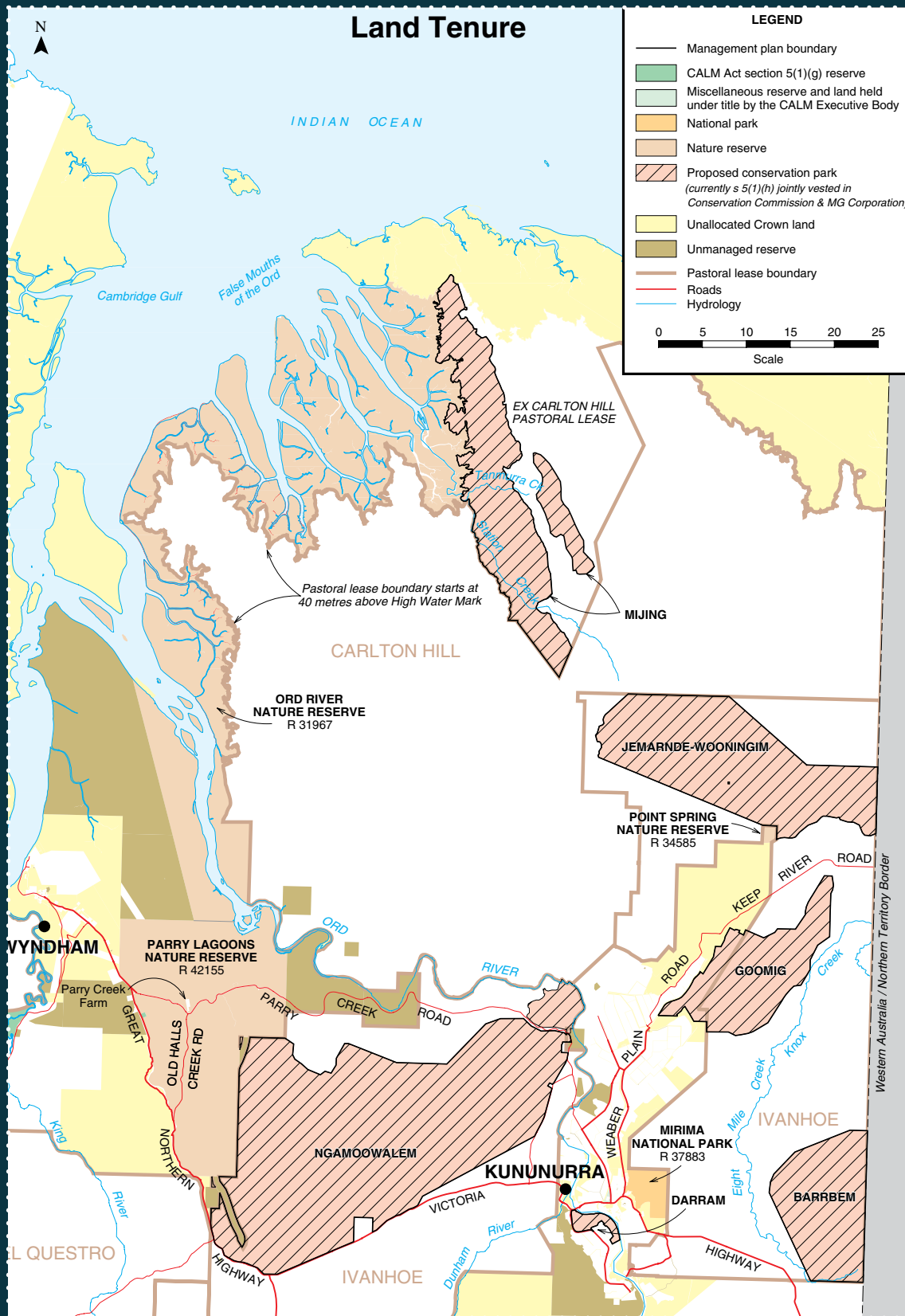
- Ord River Nature Reserve (adjacent to proposed Mijing Conservation Park)
- Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve (adjacent to proposed Ngamoowalem Conservation Park)
- Point Spring Nature Reserve (adjacent to proposed Jemarnde-wooningim Conservation Park)
- Mirima National Park (see map – *Land Tenure*).

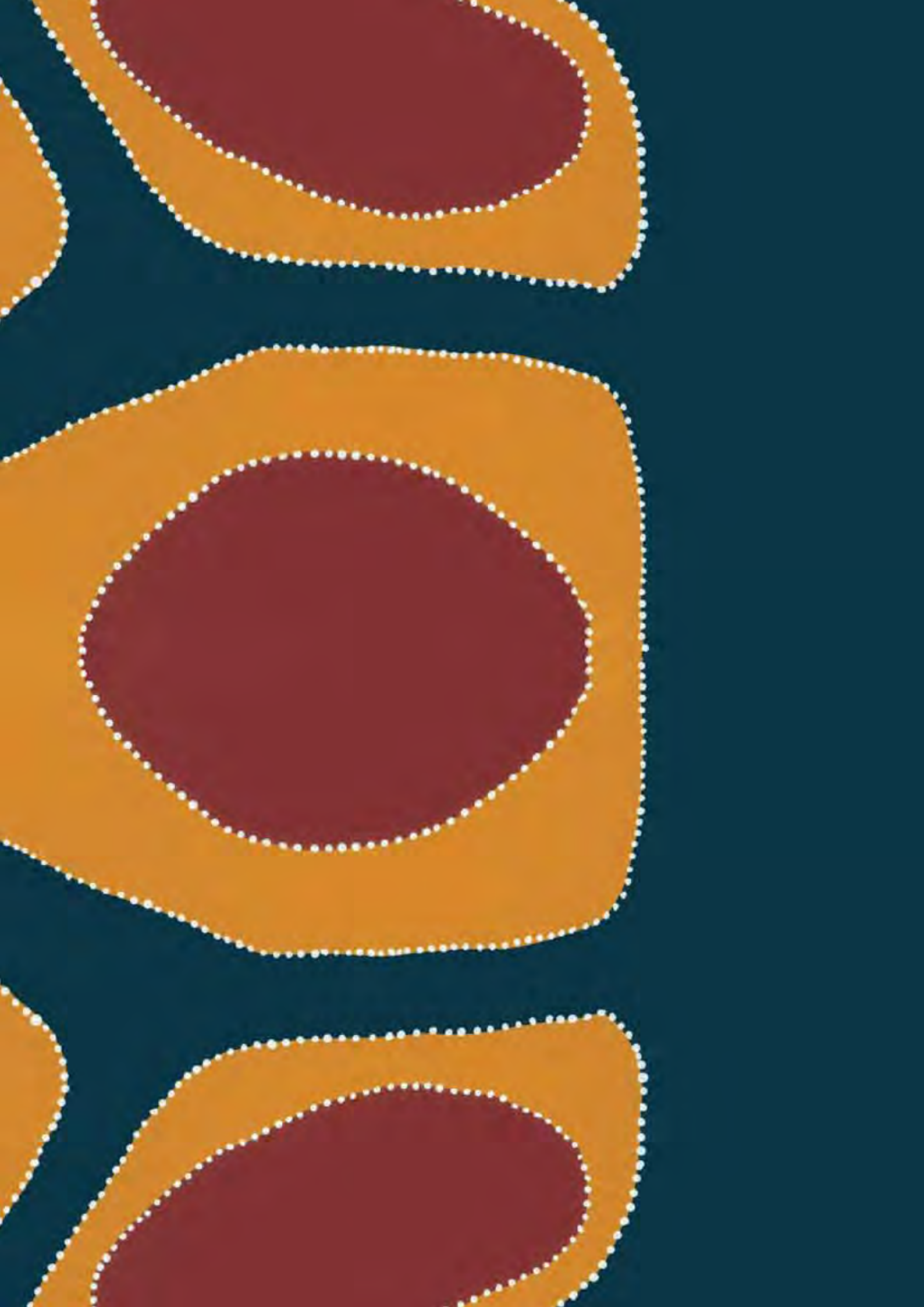
Under clause 36.1 of the OFA, these existing conservation reserves will be jointly managed under a management agreement (Schedule 10 of the OFA) between the MG Corporation, the State, the Conservation Commission and DEC. This is dependant upon the availability of sufficient funding to enable joint management.

The functions of the Conservation Commission under section 19 of the CALM Act include to:

- be an advisory and policy development body to the Minister for Environment
- submit management plans for vested land to the Minister
- develop policies to protect the State's natural environment and for the appreciation and enjoyment of that environment by the community
- promote and facilitate community involvement
- advise the Minister on the management of flora and fauna.

The proposed Goomig, Barrbem, Ngamoowalem, Mijing, Jemarnde-wooningim and Darram conservation parks are currently section 5(1)(h) reserves jointly vested in the Conservation Commission and MG Corporation for the purpose of 'Conservation and Traditional Aboriginal Uses'. After the proposed conservation parks are created, the Conservation Commission will no longer have a statutory role for these areas.





Developing this joint management plan

The management planning process

This development of this management plan is the final stage of planning for joint management of the six proposed conservation parks, resulting from the OFA. Planning for joint management began with the preparation of a cultural planning framework (Hill *et al.* 2008) and joint planning guidelines (Hill *et al.* 2009).

Miriuwung-Gajerrong cultural planning framework



Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council members at the release of the Cultural Planning Framework, October 2008

The *Miriuwung-Gajerrong Cultural Planning Framework* (Hill *et al.* 2008) describes Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' traditional Law, custom and cultural requirements for looking after country. As a component of this, the cultural planning framework explains Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples' values, visions and policy directions for managing the parks.

Development of the cultural planning framework centered on participatory planning and research activities including:

- bush trips to talk on-country about issues and directions
- photographic and audio recording of important connections between people and place
- analysis of interviews and notes to identify key themes
- review and revision of drafts of policies with separate Dawang
- workshop with combined Dawang to review and revise the draft cultural planning framework.

Yoorrooyang Dawang joint planning guidelines

Building on the cultural planning framework, the *Yoorrooyang Dawang Joint Planning Guidelines* (Hill *et al.* 2009) presents the overall combined Miriuwung and Gajerrong peoples', DEC and Conservation Commission approach to joint management. The joint planning guidelines also records the issues that were discussed by the Dawang for each park during preparation of the guidelines. Ultimately, the document provides the joint planning guidelines for managing the parks and is the foundation for developing the draft management plan.

Management plan



Merle Carter and Scott Goodson (DEC) discussing Jemarnde-wooningim at the management planning workshop, December 2009

Under Miriuwung-Gajerrong Law and culture, Dawang have responsibility to speak for and make decisions about their own traditional country. In recognition of this, the management plan consists of background contextual information and six sub-plans—one for each of the proposed conservation parks. Development of separate sub-plans is also a requirement of the management agreement (OFA Schedule 8, 9(d)).

This draft plan was prepared with direction from the cultural planning framework and the joint planning guidelines, as well as legislation and policy (see *CALM Act and Other Legislation*). The plan was approved by Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council and endorsed by *Garrayilng*, the MG Corporation, DEC and the Conservation Commission.

Once approved, the final management plan will guide joint management of the parks for 10 years unless amended or replaced by a new plan.

In addition to this joint management plan, management of the proposed conservation parks at operational level will require the preparation of subsidiary management documents such as fire plans, weed and feral animal control plans and recreation site development plans.

Tenure

The land subject to this management plan is currently six section 5(1)(h) reserves jointly vested in the Conservation Commission and MG Corporation for the purpose of 'Conservation and Aboriginal Uses' (see table below and map – *Land Tenure*). This is an interim arrangement before proposed changes to the CALM Act enable the joint management of the land as conservation parks. This plan has been written to take this change into account.

Proposed conservation park	Reserve number	Area (ha)
Mijing	49691	25,529.00
Jemarnde-wooningim	49696	29,120.96
Goomig	49697	14,164.61
Barrbem	49694	14,327.78
Ngamoowalem	49678	70,310.87
Darram	50438	896.00

Areas of land identified as potential additions to the proposed conservation parks are discussed in the relevant sub-plans. Additions to the proposed conservation parks that are identified in the sub-plans will be pursued over the life of the plan and, if required, will be managed in accordance with this plan.

Performance assessment

In accordance with the management agreement, monitoring the management of the parks and the implementation of this management plan is a function of the Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council. DEC is responsible for providing annual reports to the council on the implementation and operation of the management plan. This information will enable the evaluation of the park's management. The evaluation could include an assessment of how the strategies of the plan have achieved the stated objectives and whether new or modified strategies are required.

CALM Act and other legislation

According to the management agreement (Schedule 8 of the OFA), management of the parks must be consistent with the CALM Act and CALM Regulations 2002.

The CALM Act governs the declaration and management of protected areas and in the process imposes certain obligations relating to management planning of these areas. Sections 54–56 of the Act specify that a management plan must contain a statement of policies or guidelines to be followed in the management of the area, and a summary of the operations proposed to be taken over the life of the plan. It also describes the management objectives for various categories of land, including conservation park, which is to “... fulfil so much of the demand for recreation by members of the public as is consistent with the proper maintenance and restoration of the natural environment, the protection of indigenous flora and fauna and the preservation of any feature of archaeological, historic or scientific interest” [section 56(1)(c)].

There are a number of other laws that affect management of the parks, including:

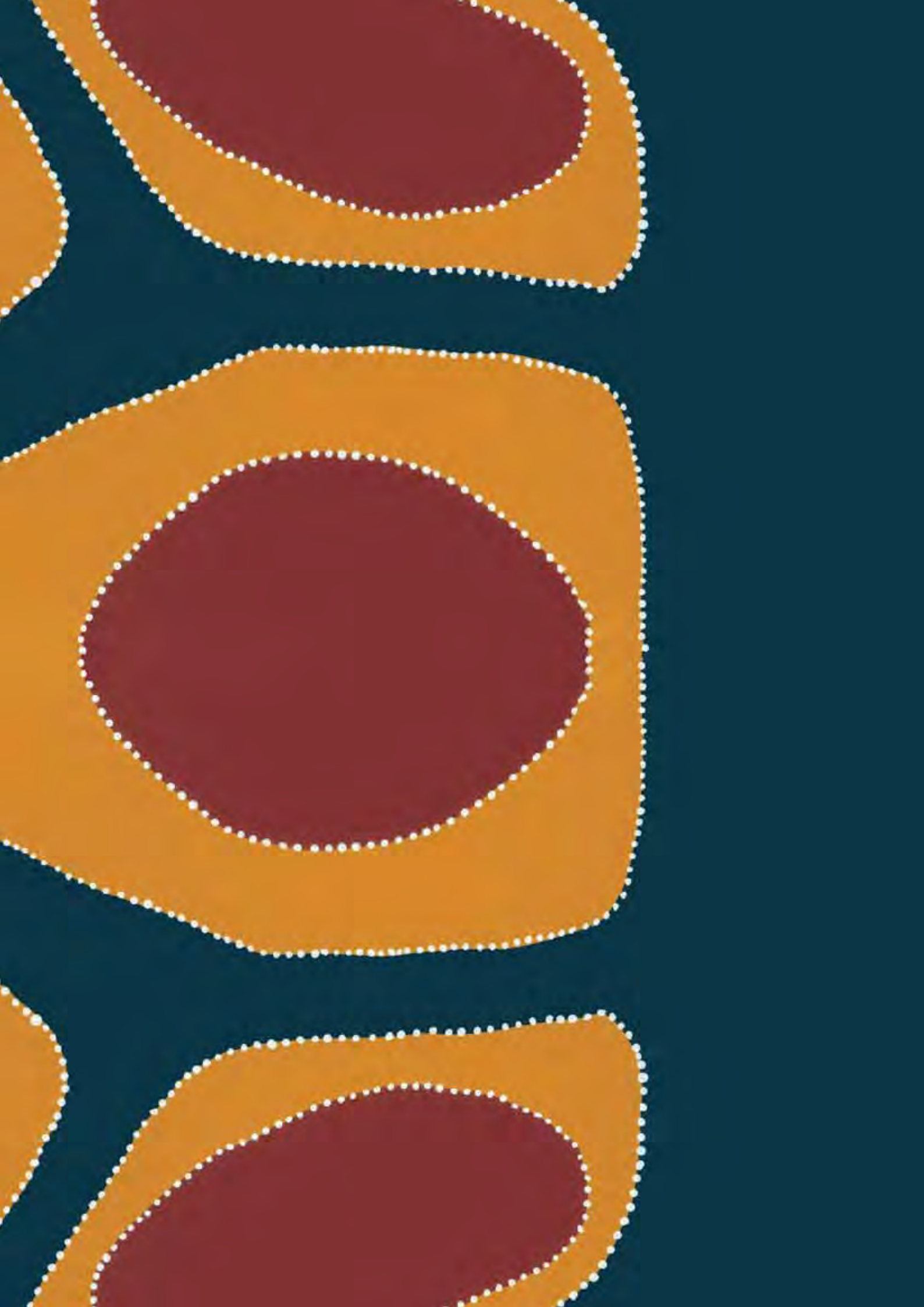
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*—and associated regulations for the conservation and protection of indigenous flora and fauna on all land and water within the State.
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AH Act)—requires that Aboriginal heritage sites are reported and ensures that sites are protected.
- *Bush Fires Act 1954*—requires management plans to demonstrate that adequate fire protection will be provided in the parks.
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (Commonwealth, EP Act)—provides for protection of the environment across the State via assessment of development proposals and planning schemes for potential environmental impacts. Significant development proposals may be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under this Act.
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)—contains provisions for the protection of nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities, listing of key threatening processes, heritage protection and areas listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (proposed Darram Conservation Park).
- *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*—provides for the registration and protection of places of historic interest on land as ‘heritage places’.

The *Mining Act 1978*, *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* or any other Act relating to minerals or petroleum generally take precedence over this management plan (see section 4 of the CALM Act).

Australia is a participant or signatory to a number of important international conservation agreements some of which influence management of the Yoorrooyang Dawang proposed conservation parks (such as Ramsar Convention, JAMBA, CAMBA, ROKAMBA, Bonn Convention and Burra Charter).

State and Commonwealth agencies collaborate in providing the legislative and policy framework for management and reporting of wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention. The *Australian Ramsar Management Principles* (Regulation 10.02 of the EPBC Act) outline general standards for Ramsar wetlands in Australia, including requirements for management, planning, and environmental impact assessment and approval.

Proposed Darram Conservation Park forms part of the 117,495-hectare Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra Ramsar site, while proposed Ngamoowalem Conservation Park borders the Ord River Floodplain Ramsar site. Where appropriate, provisions are included for the management of these areas to meet the management criteria of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



Proposed Mijing Conservation Park

Draft Management Sub-Plan 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation

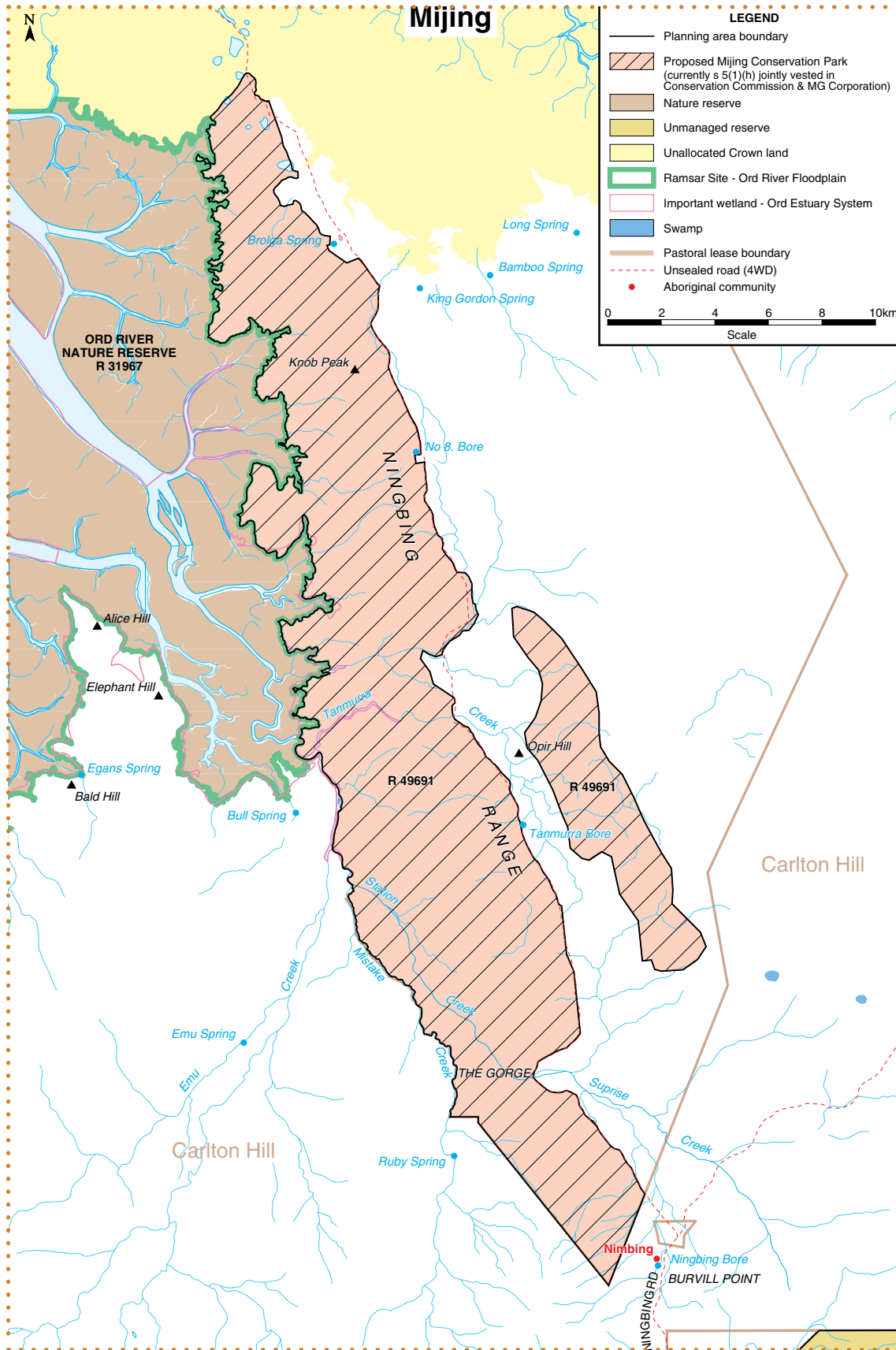


Conservation
Commission
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks





Overview

The 25,529-hectare proposed Mijing Conservation Park is located about 60 kilometres north of Kununurra and access is via the Carlton Hill pastoral lease access track (locally called the Ningbing Track). The area adjoins the Carlton Hill pastoral lease to the north, east and south. To the west it adjoins Ord River Nature Reserve. The Ningbing Track leads to Cape Domett and there are short tracks into Utting Gorge and The Gorge (see Mijing map).

Mijing is an important cultural heritage area with the many caves and hills associated with traditional stories (Hill *et al.* 2008). There are many registered sites including mythological places, ceremonial sites, quarry, artefacts/scatter, midden/scatter, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.

Mijing's defining landscape feature is the Ningbing Range, consisting of limestone that was formed as part of an ancient (Devonian) barrier reef system and contains large deposits of marine fossils. The limestone range and its karst outcrops are surrounded by dense, low deciduous vine thickets. The vine thicket assemblage of the Ningbing Range is uniquely diverse and species rich in comparison to similar occurrences in the North and East Kimberley (Graham and White 1999).

Ningbing Range has unique fauna representatives and its topography provides important habitat and refuge from fire. Studies of land snail populations and distributions in Mijing have identified the significance of the Devonian limestone outcrops in providing critical habitat for the greatest concentration of short-range restricted endemic species found anywhere in the world (Graham and White 1999). The genera *Turgenitubulus*, *Cristilabrum*, and *Ningbingia* are specially protected and only found in the Ningbing Ranges and Jeremiah Hills to the south of Mijing (Solem 1988).

The sandstone range immediately east of the Ningbing Range partly overlies the Devonian limestone and supports distinctly different vegetation dominated by savanna eucalypts over spinifex hummock grasses. Localised patches of fan palms (*Livistona lorophylla*) and the fire-sensitive Arnhem cypress pine (*Callitris intratropica*) also occur in the sandstone range. Despite their proximity, the sandstone range doesn't support any of the threatened species of land snail.

The riparian vegetation associated with westward-flowing Tanmurra and Surprise creeks and freshwater pools at The Gorge provide vital habitat for bird species. In particular, the permanent water at The Gorge supports rich and abundant species such as the Nankeen night heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*), brush cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*) and banded honeyeater (*Certhionyx pectoralis*).

Further information is detailed in Graham and White (1999).

Working together

Consultation and joint decision-making

- According to traditional Law and custom, Daengeng are responsible for making the decisions about how Mijing should be managed.
- DEC is also responsible for making decisions about managing Mijing.
- Decisions about Mijing management need to be consistent with the OFA.
- Protocols for roles, responsibilities, meetings and consultation will guide joint decision-making.

The objective is to manage Mijing through effective joint decision-making where everyone with responsibility can participate.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols that will guide joint decision-making for Mijing
- making sure that the protocols are consistent with the requirements of the OFA and associated Management Agreement, and include such topics as:
 - roles and responsibilities of the key decision-making bodies
 - conflict resolution
 - code of conduct
 - financial decision-making
 - use of committees for decision-making
 - requirements for consulting *garrayilng* and Daengeng
- regularly evaluating and reviewing the joint decision-making protocols.

Research



Senior men discussing cultural boundaries for Mijing, September 2008

- Daeng knowledge of Mijing is an essential component of research and monitoring.
- Baseline biological research was carried out in Mijing during 2009.

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of Mijing to enable effective management.

This will be done by:

- developing a research and monitoring plan that identifies knowledge gaps, prioritises research based on management requirements and includes cultural management requirements
- ensuring that Daeng know about and understand the need for all research in Mijing before it commences
- ensuring that on-country access for research has been approved by Daeng
- developing protocols, if required, to guide how research will be conducted
- increasing the capacity of Daeng and rangers to participate in and conduct research in Mijing
- presenting all research proposals and outcomes to the Park Council
- ensuring that research and monitoring activities do not adversely impact on the values of Mijing.

Park boundaries and linkages



Miriuwung Gajerrong ranger, Jerimiah Hester, talks about his country to WA Chief Scientist, Lyn Beazley, August 2009

- Mijing is bordered by Ord River Nature Reserve (Reserve 31967), unallocated Crown land and Carlton Hill Pastoral Lease.
- Daeng would like the boundaries of Mijing and Jemarnde-wooningim to be connected. Ancestors walked between these parks, and this connection should be maintained.

The objective is to jointly manage cross-boundary issues to ensure effective, integrated and cooperative management of Mijing with adjacent land, particularly Ord River Nature Reserve.

This will be done by:

- working with neighbouring land managers to ensure compatible management across park boundaries. This might include access, fire, problem animal and weed management
- seeking additions to Mijing wherever possible
- managing any new additions of land to Mijing according to this plan.

On-country management

Access



Merle Carter, Nareen Morton, Margaret Bradden and Thelma Birch at Mijing as part of an on-country trip, June 2009

- Vehicle access into Mijing is via unsealed tracks and is restricted to the dry season.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study provides options for future development.
- Managing access within Mijing may require, for example, the introduction of a permit system; visitors being accompanied by a guide; and closing areas to the public for cultural or environmental reasons.

The objective is to jointly manage access to Mijing for Daegeng to help look after country and to protect natural and cultural values.

This will be done by preparing an access plan for Mijing that considers:

- recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- current and future use of the area by Daeng and visitors
- protecting and managing natural and cultural values of Mijing—this may include the need to restrict public access to culturally sensitive areas
- making sure that Daeng have access to look after country and keep traditional laws and customs strong.

Living areas

- Nimbing community living area is located in the southern part of Mijing.
- Management of Mijing could be assisted by establishing a ranger station at Nimbing.

The objective is to support Nimbing community living area so that Daeng can live on country.

This will be done by:

- working together with Daeng, the community at Nimbing and DEC so that Nimbing and Mijing are managed compatibly
- helping to maintain the facilities at Nimbing so it can be also used as a base camp for management of Mijing, including the possibility of a ranger station there.

Bush camps and trips

- Bush camps and trips are important for everyone to spend time on country together, pass on knowledge to younger generations and keep traditional Law and custom strong.
- They are also good for building understanding and a good partnership between Daeng and DEC.
- Bush camps and trips conducted for park management by, for example, rangers and researchers, provide opportunities for *Garrayilng* and young people to spend time on-country and share their knowledge of Mijing.



Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers, Jerimiah Hester and Andy Reid, with senior elder Button Jones on a men's business trip to Mijing, September 2008

The objectives are to conduct bush camps and trips to:

- keep traditional links to country strong
- continue building the strong joint management relationship between Daengeng and DEC.

This will be done by:

- going out on trips with rangers and other staff to spend time on country together and share knowledge about Mijing
- going on bush camps and trips when specific management issues need to be discussed
- maintaining the buildings and facilities at Nimbing community living area so that regular bush camps and trips can be planned using the area as a base.

Fire management

- Fire is traditionally used by *Daengeng* to manage country. It is important that each Daengeng burns on their own country.
- DEC must also manage fire on land it manages.
- There are too many large fires occurring at the end of the dry season. This changes the structure and composition of vegetation and distribution, diversity and abundance of animals found there.
- Putting out bushfires can be very difficult due to the intense heat of spinifex fires and limited access to the area.

The objectives are to jointly manage fire to:

- maintain Daengeng cultural responsibilities
- protect people and community assets
- protect and promote biodiversity by establishing and maintaining a mosaic of small, cooler fires.

This will be done by:

- implementing a prescribed burning program for Mijing that considers Daengeng and DEC fire knowledge and responsibilities
- monitoring the effectiveness of the prescribed burning program to make sure it is good for country and altering it when necessary
- increasing the capacity of Daengeng to manage fire to assist in the removal of long grass and other fuels around cultural assets and living areas
- sharing information and learning from each another's approach to fire management
- working with pastoralists, Nimbing and DEC to look after country with fire.

Rangers

- Rangers are jointly selected by Daeng and DEC.
- Rangers are very important for management of Mijing.
- Rangers are responsible for looking after country using cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge, and for mentoring younger generations.
- The possibility of locating a ranger station at Ningbing community and a ranger outstation or camp in the north of Mijing has been discussed.



Miriuwung Gajerrong ranger, Leslie Moore, collecting fauna as part of a fauna survey at Mijing, August 2009

The objective is to employ rangers with appropriate cultural connections to assist in the joint management of Mijing.

This will be done by:

- continuing to employ rangers to manage Mijing who are part of the Daeng for that area
- continuing to provide the necessary training and development for rangers to fulfil their duties. This will be achieved through a combination of:
 - formal training such as Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and through DEC's Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES)
 - on-country and on-the-job training that incorporates traditional cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge
- encouraging rangers to share knowledge and carry out cross-boundary management activities with neighbouring land managers
- investigating the possibility for providing a ranger station at Nimbing and in the northern part of Mijing.

Weeds and problem animals



Miriwung Gajerrong rangers in weed identification training at Charles Darwin University, February 2009

- Common weeds currently known in Mijing are also widely distributed across the East Kimberley, and include rubber tree (*Calotropis procera*) and wild passionfruit (*Passiflora foetida*).
- Weeds are usually more common in disturbed areas and many of the weeds found in Mijing are the result of the area's pastoral activities.
- Problem animals currently known in the area are cats (*Felis catus*), donkeys (*Equus asinus*), horses (*Equus caballus*), dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and cattle (*Bos taurus*).
- Cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) crossed the WA–NT border in early 2009 and will most likely reach Mijing in the near future. Cane toads can have a big impact on bush tucker, particularly goannas, snakes and crocodiles.
- The rangers assisted in biological surveys prior to cane toads arriving in Mijing.
- Cane toad research may provide new control options in the future.

The objective is to jointly manage weeds and problem animals so that the values of Mijing are protected.

This will be done by:

- preparing and carrying out a control program for weeds and problem animals that:
 - prioritises the control of weeds and problem animals in the context of the wider region to make sure that limited resources are used wisely
 - considers impacts on key values
 - removes new weeds and problem animals before they become established.

- making sure that control techniques are culturally appropriate
- cooperating with neighbouring land managers to ensure cross-boundary management of weeds and problem animals
- notifying pastoralists when cattle are in Mijing, allowing the mustering of stray cattle and removing any stock remaining after mustering
- providing appropriate information for visitors to increase their understanding of the impacts of weeds and pests
- continuing to monitor native animal populations in Mijing as cane toads move through
- undertaking cane toad control where practicable and assisting with any new control initiatives.

Visitor management and tourism

Visitor management

- Daengeng are responsible for looking after country and any people visiting on their country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on-country with the *garrayilng* for Mijing.
- As the joint managers, MG Corporation and DEC have a legal responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of visitors to Mijing.
- Possible visitor and recreation sites will be investigated as part of a recreation planning process.
- It may be necessary to restrict visitation to parts of Mijing for cultural and conservation reasons.



The objective is to develop a range of visitor experiences across the proposed conservation parks while protecting key values and minimising the risks to visitors.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the recreation planning process
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about visitor management approvals in protocols that are developed for Mijing (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)

- directing visitors away from culturally and environmentally sensitive areas of Mijing, such as the cave areas
- developing a visitor risk management plan that identifies and assesses the risks associated with recreation sites and visitor facilities, and incorporates cultural knowledge
- providing information to visitors about Mijing to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's values, as well as encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour and safety precautions.

Tourism businesses



Discussing tourism development aspirations at The Gorge, August 2009

- All tourism business needs to be consistent with protecting the values of Mijing. This means protecting conservation and culture as well as helping visitors to understand country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on-country with the *garrayilng* for Mijing.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study recognised fishing, environmental interpretation and the historical and cultural significance of the Mijing as tourism opportunities.

The objective is to jointly manage any tourism business ventures to ensure they:

- are compatible with other management objectives (natural, cultural) for Mijing
- provide employment and training opportunities for Daengeng
- are coordinated with other Daengeng across the other proposed conservation parks.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about tourism business approvals in protocols that are developed for Mijing (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- continuing to work with Tourism WA to make sure that tourism projects are properly planned and designed to minimise impact on country and have long-term community benefits
- building partnerships for sustainable economic enterprises on country and the capacity of Daengeng so they can independently run tourism businesses in Mijing in the longer term
- ensuring all leased or licensed commercial operations do so with appropriate conditions that require the business to be consistent with other management objectives for Mijing
- requiring that tourism businesses incorporate information to facilitate cross-cultural awareness and encourage visitors to look after Mijing.

Natural and cultural resources

Cultural recording and education

- Daengeng have a major responsibility to keep traditional knowledge of culture, Law and customs strong to look after country.
- It is important that this knowledge is recorded and shared between generations.
- Trips on country are essential for cultural recording and education.
- Where culturally appropriate, this knowledge can be shared with visitors to Mijing to encourage them to respect and look after the area.
- Gajerrong language needs to be used in the management of Mijing, which is on Gajerrong country. There is a Gajerrong dictionary that can assist this.



Kim Aldus describes how some of his people died during a massacre in the early days, September 2008

The objective is to ensure Daengeng retain control of their cultural knowledge and have opportunities to share that knowledge.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols for the recording, storage and use of cultural information
- organising trips on country for cultural recording and education
- building a cultural recording system and collating information in a database that is under Daengeng custodianship
- incorporating existing cultural records from organisations like the Kimberley Land Council into the cultural recording system
- protecting intellectual property rights of Daengeng
- keeping the cultural site information up-to-date
- incorporating cultural knowledge into the management of Mijing
- using Gajerrong language in the management of Mijing
- promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Mijing's cultural values.

Natural and cultural resources management

- Descriptions of Mijing's natural values are detailed in Graham and White (1999).
- Mijing's defining landscape feature is the Ningbing Range, consisting of limestone that was formed as part of an ancient (Devonian) barrier reef system.
- This limestone contains vast deposits of marine fossils and is associated with dense vine thicket vegetation.
- As well as the eucalypt woodlands that are common to the area, Mijing supports palm groves of *Livistonia lorophylla*.
- The Gorge's permanent freshwater pools provide vital habitat for many bird species. Several creeks also flow across Mijing.
- A large number of significant fauna are associated with Ningbing Range including land snails which are only found in the ranges.
- Daengeng are responsible for looking after all the bush tucker, bush medicine and all the important places for these.
- Mijing Daengeng may hunt animals, fish, gather plants and collect natural resources.
- A biological survey of Mijing was conducted in 2009. This information will be used for monitoring and guide management decisions.

The objective is to jointly manage Mijing's natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection and enable the maintenance of cultural practices through the sustainable use of these resources.

This will be done by:

- collecting information about the area's values that contributes to effective management of Mijing and is prioritised as part of the research and monitoring plan

- using baseline data about key native animals' numbers and distribution to develop monitoring projects that detect change and can inform management decisions
- using traditional knowledge to support the management of natural and cultural resources
- identifying and protecting plants and animals rare, threatened or in need of special protection
- protecting native animals from problem animals and other threatening processes through control programs
- maintaining the diversity of vegetation and animal habitats within Mijing by managing threatening processes like fire and grazing by cattle
- liaising with neighbouring land managers to promote compatible management on adjoining land
- ensuring that the traditional Dawawang use of natural and cultural resources is sustainable.

Cultural site management

- Knowledge of cultural sites and responsibility for protection and management comes through Daeng connection to country.
- DEC respects the authority of Daeng in relation to cultural matters and has a responsibility not to damage cultural sites under law—Aboriginal Heritage Act.
- Sites registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act in Mijing include mythological places, ceremonial sites, quarry, artefacts/scatter, midden/scatter, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.
- All cultural sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, regardless of whether they are recorded or not.



Kim Aldus provides a traditional *munthas* for Jeremiah Hester and Steve Vigilante, visitors to country, to ensure they are safe during their stay. The Gorge, August 2009

The objective is to identify, protect and maintain cultural sites in Mijing.

This will be done by:

- identifying and recording cultural sites according to the protocols and processes that are developed as a result of the strategies in the *Cultural recording and education* section
- protecting cultural sites from threatening process (like fire, weeds and animals) and visitor activities (this may include restricting access or temporarily closing parts of Mijing)
- ensuring that management of Mijing considers the responsibilities of Daeng to look after country (e.g. improving access to areas of cultural significance)
- making sure that developments and management activities do not disturb or damage cultural sites
- training staff working in Mijing how to recognise and report cultural sites
- restoring cultural sites if appropriate
- providing culturally appropriate information and interpretation on Mijing's cultural sites so that they are valued and looked after by visitors.

Mineral and petroleum exploration and development

- The Department of Mines and Petroleum administers the Mining Act and is responsible for the granting of tenements including prospecting and exploration licences, permits and mining leases for the development of minerals.
- Mijing is partially covered by two mineral exploration licences and bordered by a further one.
- A petroleum exploration permit entirely covers Mijing.

The objective is to minimise the impacts of mineral and petroleum exploration and development, including basic raw material extraction and development activities, on the values of Mijing.

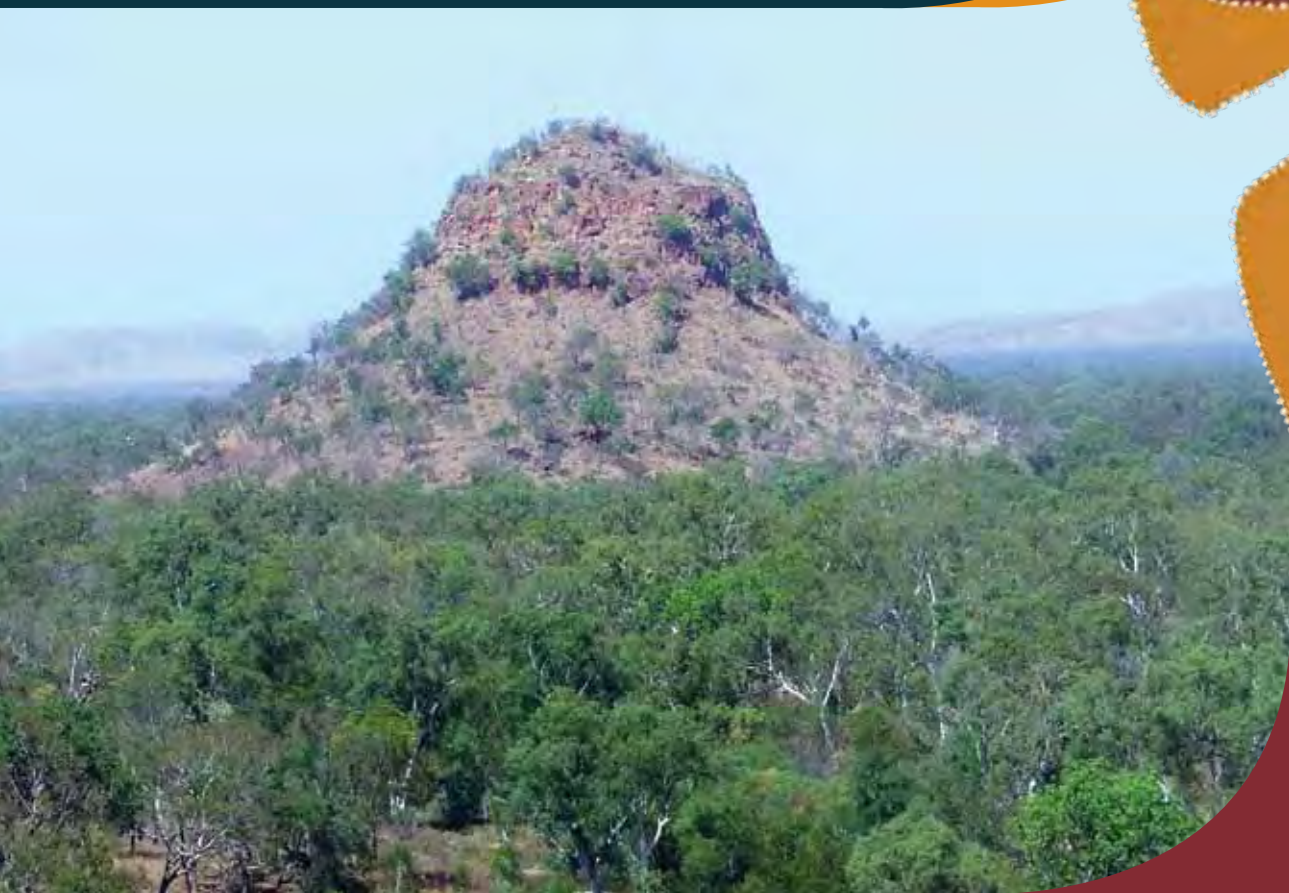
This will be done by:

- making sure that all consultation and negotiation with Daeng about mining happens through the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- referring proposals that may impact Mijing to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration of assessment under the Environmental Protection Act
- referring proposals to the Conservation Commission to provide advice to the Minister for Environment
- allowing access to basic raw materials for use within Mijing when the material is not available from outside the park.



Proposed Jemarnde-wooningim Conservation Park

Draft Management Sub-Plan 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation

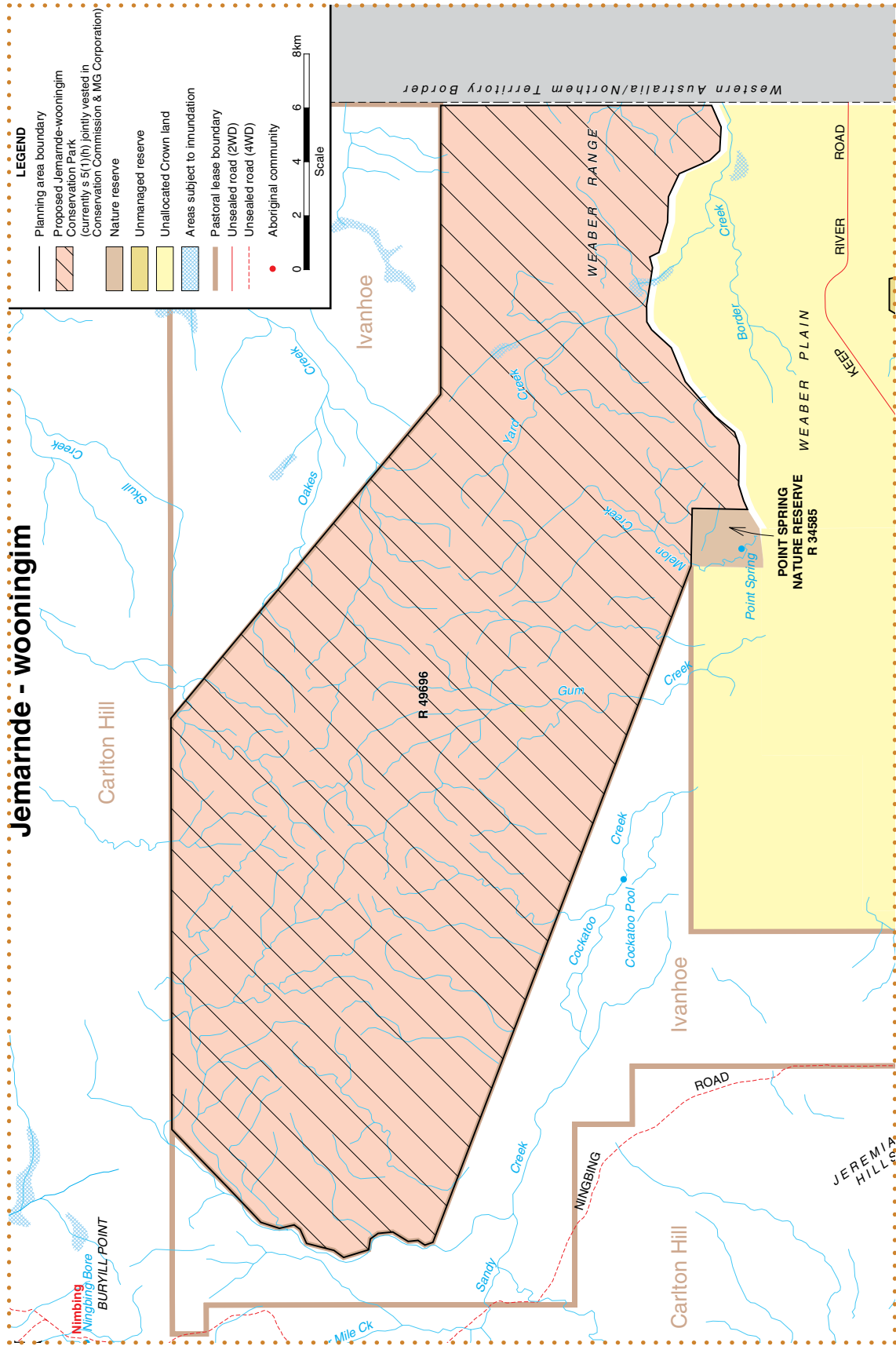


Conservation
Commission
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks





Overview

The 29,121-hectare proposed Jemarnde-wooningim Conservation Park is located about 44 kilometres north of Kununurra and extends to the Northern Territory border. Access is via the Spirit Hills/Legune Road or alternatively via the Ningbing Track. The area is mostly surrounded by the Ivanhoe pastoral lease and adjoins Carlton Hill pastoral lease in the north. Point Springs Nature Reserve adjoins the southern boundary.

Jemarnde-wooningim is an important cultural heritage area with the many caves and hills associated with traditional stories (Hill *et al.* 2008). There are many registered sites including midden scatters, mythological places, artefact/scatters, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.

The landscape of Jemarnde-wooningim is dominated by the sandstone hills of the Weaber Range and surrounding Weaber Plain. The vegetation is characterised by eucalypt woodlands over spinifex grasslands with scree thickets on the south facing slopes. Patches of remnant rainforest in the sheltered valleys and cliffs provide refuge for many bird species (Graham and White 1999). The sedges and paperbarks surrounding the seasonal swamps of the Yard Creek drainage system provide important wetland habitat as does the vegetation associated with the permanent spring at the adjoining Point Springs Nature Reserve.

Further information is detailed in Graham and White (1999).

Working together

Consultation and joint decision-making

- According to traditional Law and custom, Daengeng are responsible for making the decisions about how Jemarnde-wooningim should be managed.
- DEC is also responsible for making decisions about managing Jemarnde-wooningim.
- Decisions about Jemarnde-wooningim management need to be consistent with the OFA.
- Protocols for roles, responsibilities, meetings and consultation will guide joint decision-making.

The objective is to manage Jemarnde-wooningim through effective joint decision-making where everyone with responsibility can take part.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols that will guide joint decision-making for Jemarnde-wooningim
- making sure that the protocols are consistent with the requirements of the OFA and associated management agreement, and include such topics as:
 - roles and responsibilities of the key decision-making bodies
 - conflict resolution
 - code of conduct
 - financial decision-making
 - use of committees for decision-making
 - requirements for consulting *garrayilng* and Daengeng
- regularly evaluating and reviewing the joint decision-making protocols.

Research



Emily Hester and Merle Carter talking to Dr Rosemary Hill (CSIRO) about research protocols as part of the development of the joint planning guidelines at Point Springs Nature Reserve, adjacent to Jemarnde-wooningim, September 2008

- Daeng knowledge of Jemarnde-wooningim is an essential component of research and monitoring.
- Baseline biological research was carried out in Jemarnde-wooningim during 2009.

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of Jemarnde-wooningim to enable effective management.

This will be done by:

- developing a research and monitoring plan that identifies knowledge gaps, prioritises research based on management requirements and includes cultural management requirements
- ensuring that Daeng know about and understand the need for all research in Jemarnde-wooningim before it commences
- ensuring that on-country access for research has been approved by Daeng
- developing protocols, if required, to guide how research will be conducted
- increasing the capacity of Daeng and rangers to participate in and conduct research in Jemarnde-wooningim
- presenting all research proposals and outcomes to the park council
- ensuring that research and monitoring activities do not adversely impact on the values of Jemarnde-wooningim.

Park boundaries and linkages

- Jemarnde-wooningim is bordered by Carlton Hill and Ivanhoe pastoral leases and Point Spring Nature Reserve (A Class Reserve No. 34585).
- Daeng would like the boundaries of Jemarnde-wooningim and Mijing to be connected. Ancestors walked between these parks, and this connection should be maintained.

The objective is to jointly manage park boundaries and linkages to ensure effective, integrated and cooperative management of Jemarnde-wooningim with adjacent land, particularly Point Spring Nature Reserve.

This will be done by:

- working with neighbouring land managers to ensure compatible management across park boundaries. This might include access, fire, problem animal and weed management
- seeking additions to Jemarnde-wooningim wherever possible
- managing any new additions of land to Jemarnde-wooningim according to this plan.

On-country management

Access

- Vehicle access into Jemarnde-wooningim is via unsealed tracks and is restricted to the dry season.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study provides options for future development.
- Managing access within Jemarnde-wooningim may require, for example, the introduction of a permit system; that visitors must be accompanied by a guide; and areas may be closed to the public for cultural or environmental reasons.

The objective is to jointly manage access to Jemarnde-wooningim for Daeng to help look after country and to protect natural and cultural values.

This will be done by preparing an access plan for Jemarnde-wooningim that considers:

- recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- current and future use of the area by Daeng and visitors
- the proposed irrigation development (Ord Stage 2)
- protecting and managing natural and cultural values of Jemarnde-wooningim—this may include the need to restrict public access to culturally sensitive areas
- making sure that Daeng have access to look after country and keep traditional Laws and customs strong.

Living areas

- There are no community living areas in Jemarnde-wooningim or immediately adjoining.
- The development of a living area in Jemarnde-wooningim is necessary so that Daegeng can live on traditional land.
- In the meantime, temporary camps could be used for on-country trips during the dry season.

The objective is to provide the opportunity for Daegeng to live on country.

This will be done by:

- continuing discussions about providing a living area on Jemarnde-wooningim
- until a living area is established, simple structures and facilities could be provided so that camping on country is possible
- making sure that the new living area is managed compatibly with Jemarnde-wooningim's management objectives.

Bush camps and trips



Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council meeting with the Kakadu Board of Management as part of a familiarisation trip, June 2007

- Bush camps and trips are important for everyone to spend time on country together, pass on knowledge to younger generations and keep traditional Law and custom strong.
- They are also good for building understanding and a good partnership between Daegeng and DEC.
- Bush camps and trips conducted for park management by, for example, rangers and researchers, provide opportunities for *Garrayilng* and young people to spend time on country and share their knowledge of Jemarnde-wooningim.

The objectives are to conduct bush camps and trips to:

- keep traditional links to country strong
- continue building the strong joint management relationship between Daengeng and DEC.

This will be done by:

- going out on trips with rangers and other staff to spend time on country together and share knowledge about Jemarnde-wooningim
- going on bush camps and trips when specific management issues need to be discussed
- constructing facilities that would make overnight or longer camps on Jemarnde-wooningim possible.

Fire management

- Fire is traditionally used by Daengeng to manage country. It is important that each Daengeng burns on their own country.
- DEC must also manage fire on land it manages.
- There are too many large fires occurring at the end of dry season. This changes the structure and composition of vegetation and distribution, diversity and abundance of animals found there.
- Putting out bushfires can be very difficult due to the intense heat of spinifex fires and the terrain of the ranges.

The objectives are to jointly manage fire to:

- maintain Daengeng cultural responsibilities
- protect people and community assets
- protect and promote biodiversity by establishing and maintaining a mosaic of small, cooler fires.

This will be done by:

- implementing a prescribed burning program for Jemarnde-wooningim that considers Daengeng and DEC fire knowledge and responsibilities
- monitoring the effectiveness of the prescribed burning program to make sure it is good for country and altering it when necessary
- increasing the capacity of Daengeng to manage fire to assist in the removal of long grass and other fuels around cultural assets and living areas
- sharing information and learning from each another's approach to fire management
- working with pastoralists, DEC and rangers to look after country with fire.

Rangers



Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers, Leslie Moore and Jerrimah Hester, assisting DEC Wildlife Officer, Luke Bentley, with a crocodile patrol on Lake Kununurra, June 2008

- Rangers are jointly selected by Daeng and DEC.
- Rangers are very important for management of Jemarnde-wooningim.
- Rangers are responsible for looking after country using cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge, and for mentoring younger generations.

The objective is to employ rangers with appropriate cultural connections to assist in the joint management of Jemarnde-wooningim.

This will be done by:

- continuing to employ rangers to manage Jemarnde-wooningim who are part of the Daeng for that area
- continuing to provide the necessary training and development for rangers to fulfil their duties. This will be achieved through a combination of:
 - formal training (e.g. TAFE, MATES, cultural training through the Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre)
 - on-country and on-the-job training that incorporates traditional cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge
- encouraging rangers to share knowledge and carry out cross-boundary management activities with neighbouring land managers.

Weeds and problem animals



Scott Goodson (DEC) identifying weed species at Point Springs Nature Reserve as part of the development of the Joint Planning Guidelines, October 2008

- Common weeds currently known in Jemarnde-wooningim include rubber tree and Mossman River grass (*Cenchrus echinatus*).
- Weeds are usually more common in disturbed areas—problem animals can cause this disturbance.
- Problem animals currently known are cattle and feral cats and donkeys.
- Cane toads crossed the WA–NT border in early 2009 and will most likely reach Jemarnde-wooningim in 2010. Cane toads can have a big impact on bush tucker, particularly goannas, snakes and crocodiles.
- The rangers assisted in biological surveys prior to cane toads arriving in Jemarnde-wooningim.
- Continuing cane toad research may provide new control options in the future.

The objective is to jointly manage weeds and problem animals so that the values of Jemarnde-wooningim are protected.

This will be done by:

- preparing and carrying out a control program for weeds and problem animals that:
 - prioritises the control of weeds and problem animals in the context of the wider region to make sure that limited resources are used wisely
 - considers impacts on key values
 - removes new weeds and problem animals before they become established
- making sure that control techniques are culturally appropriate

- cooperating with neighbouring land managers to ensure cross-boundary management of weeds and problem animals
- notifying pastoralists when cattle are in Jemarnde-wooningim, allowing the mustering of stray cattle and removing any stock remaining after mustering
- providing appropriate information for visitors to increase their understanding of the impacts of weeds and pests
- continuing to monitor native animal populations in Jemarnde-wooningim as cane toads move through
- undertaking cane toad control where practicable and assisting with any new control initiatives.

Visitor management and tourism

Visitor management

- Daeng are responsible for looking after country and any people visiting on their country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on-country with the *garrayilng* for Jemarnde-wooningim.
- As the joint managers, the MG Corporation and DEC have a legal responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of visitors to Jemarnde-wooningim.
- Possible visitor and recreation sites will be investigated as part of a recreation planning process.

The objective is to develop a range of visitor experiences across the proposed conservation parks while protecting key values and minimising the risks to visitors.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the recreation planning process
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about visitor management approvals in protocols that are developed for Jemarnde-wooningim (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- directing visitors away from culturally and environmentally sensitive areas of Jemarnde-wooningim, such as places where access may need to be restricted
- developing a visitor risk management plan that identifies and assesses the risks associated with recreation sites and visitor facilities, and incorporates cultural knowledge
- providing information to visitors about Jemarnde-wooningim to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's values, as well as encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour and safety precautions.

Tourism businesses



Steve Vigilante (DEC), Neil McGilp (consultant) and Gary Taylor (Tourism WA), talking with Wardanybeng about aspirations for tourism as part of a tourism recreation study, August 2009

- The tourism study completed in 2010 recognised unique landforms, bird viewing and remnant rainforest as providing tourism opportunities for Jemarnde-wooningim.
- All tourism business needs to be consistent with protecting the values of Jemarnde-wooningim. This means protecting conservation and culture as well as helping visitors to understand country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on-country with the *garrayilng* for Jemarnde-wooningim.

The objective is to jointly manage any tourism business ventures to ensure they:

- are compatible with other management objectives (natural, cultural) for Jemarnde-wooningim
- provide employment and training opportunities for Daegeng
- are coordinated with other Daegeng across the other proposed conservation parks.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about tourism business approvals in protocols that are developed for Jemarnde-wooningim (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- continuing to work with Tourism WA to make sure that tourism projects are properly planned and designed to minimise impact on country and have long-term community benefits

- building partnerships for sustainable economic enterprises on country and the capacity of Daeng so they can independently run tourism businesses in Jemarnde-wooningim in the longer term
- ensuring all leased or licensed commercial operations do so with appropriate conditions that require the business to be consistent with other management objectives for Jemarnde-wooningim
- requiring that tourism businesses incorporate information to facilitate cross-cultural awareness and encourage visitors to look after Jemarnde-wooningim.

Natural and cultural resources

Cultural recording and education

- Daeng have a major responsibility to keep traditional knowledge of culture, Law and customs strong to look after country.
- It is important that this knowledge is recorded and shared between generations.
- Trips on country are essential for cultural recording and education.
- Where culturally appropriate, this knowledge can be shared with visitors to Jemarnde-wooningim to encourage them to respect and look after the area.
- Gajerrong language needs to be used in the management of Jemarnde-wooningim, which is on Gajerrong country. There is a Gajerrong dictionary that can assist with this.

The objective is to ensure Daeng retain control of their cultural knowledge and have opportunities to share that knowledge.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols for the recording, storage and use of cultural information
- organising trips on country for cultural recording and education
- building a cultural recording system and collating information in a database that is under Daeng custodianship
- incorporating existing cultural records from organisations like the Kimberley Land Council into the cultural recording system
- protecting intellectual property rights of Daeng
- keeping the cultural site information up-to-date
- incorporating cultural knowledge into the management of Jemarnde-wooningim
- using Gajerrong language in the management of Jemarnde-wooningim
- promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Jemarnde-wooningim's cultural values.

Natural and cultural resources management

- Descriptions of Jemarnde-wooningim's natural values are detailed in Graham and White (1999).
- The sandstone hills of the Weaber Range and surrounding Weaber Plain are the defining landscape features of Jemarnde-wooningim.
- Eucalypt woodlands over spinifex grasses cover much of Jemarnde-wooningim.
- Patches of rainforest are found in sheltered valleys and under cliff lines.
- Seasonal swamps are characterised by sedges and paperbarks. These wet areas provide for the many birds that are found.
- Daengeng are responsible for looking after all the bush tucker, bush medicine and all the important places for these.
- Jemarnde-wooningim Daengeng may hunt animals, fish, gather plants and collect natural resources.
- A biological survey of Jemarnde-wooningim was conducted in 2009. This information will be used for monitoring and guide management decisions.



Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers, Jerimiah Hester and Chris Retsas, repairing the boundary fence of Point Springs Nature Reserve, adjacent to Jemarnde-wooningim, September 2008

The objective is to jointly manage Jemarnde-wooningim's natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection and enable the maintenance of cultural practices through the sustainable use of these resources.

This will be done by:

- collecting information about the area's values that contributes to effective management of Jemarnde-wooningim and is prioritised as part of the research and monitoring plan
- using traditional knowledge to support the management of natural and cultural resources
- using baseline data about key native animals' numbers and distribution to develop monitoring projects that detect change and can inform management decisions
- identifying and protecting plants and animals rare, threatened or in need of special protection

- protecting native animals from problem animals and other threatening processes through control programs
- maintaining the diversity of vegetation and animal habitats within Jemarnde-wooningim by managing threatening processes like fire and grazing by cattle
- liaising with neighbouring land managers to promote compatible management on adjoining land
- ensuring that the traditional Dawawang use of natural and cultural resources is sustainable.

Cultural site management



Talking at Lookout Springs on a field trip as part of the development of the cultural planning framework, 2007

- Knowledge of cultural sites and responsibility for protection and management comes through Daegeng connection to country.
- DEC respects the authority of Daegeng in relation to cultural matters and has a responsibility not to damage cultural sites under law—Aboriginal Heritage Act.
- Jemarnde-wooningim contains varied sites registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. These include, for example, midden scatters, mythological places, artefact/scatters, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.
- All cultural sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, regardless of whether they are recorded or not.

The objective is to identify, protect and maintain cultural sites in Jemarnde-wooningim.

This will be done by:

- identifying and recording cultural sites according to the protocols and

processes that are developed as a result of the strategies in the *Cultural recording and education* section

- protecting cultural sites from threatening process (like fire, weeds and animals) and visitor activities (this may include restricting access or temporarily closing parts of Jemarnde-wooningim)
- ensuring that management of Jemarnde-wooningim considers the responsibilities of Daengeng to look after country (e.g. improving access to areas of cultural significance)
- making sure that developments and management activities do not disturb or damage cultural sites
- training staff working in Jemarnde-wooningim how to recognise and report cultural sites
- restoring cultural sites if appropriate
- providing culturally appropriate information and interpretation on Jemarnde-wooningim's cultural sites so that they are valued and looked after by visitors.

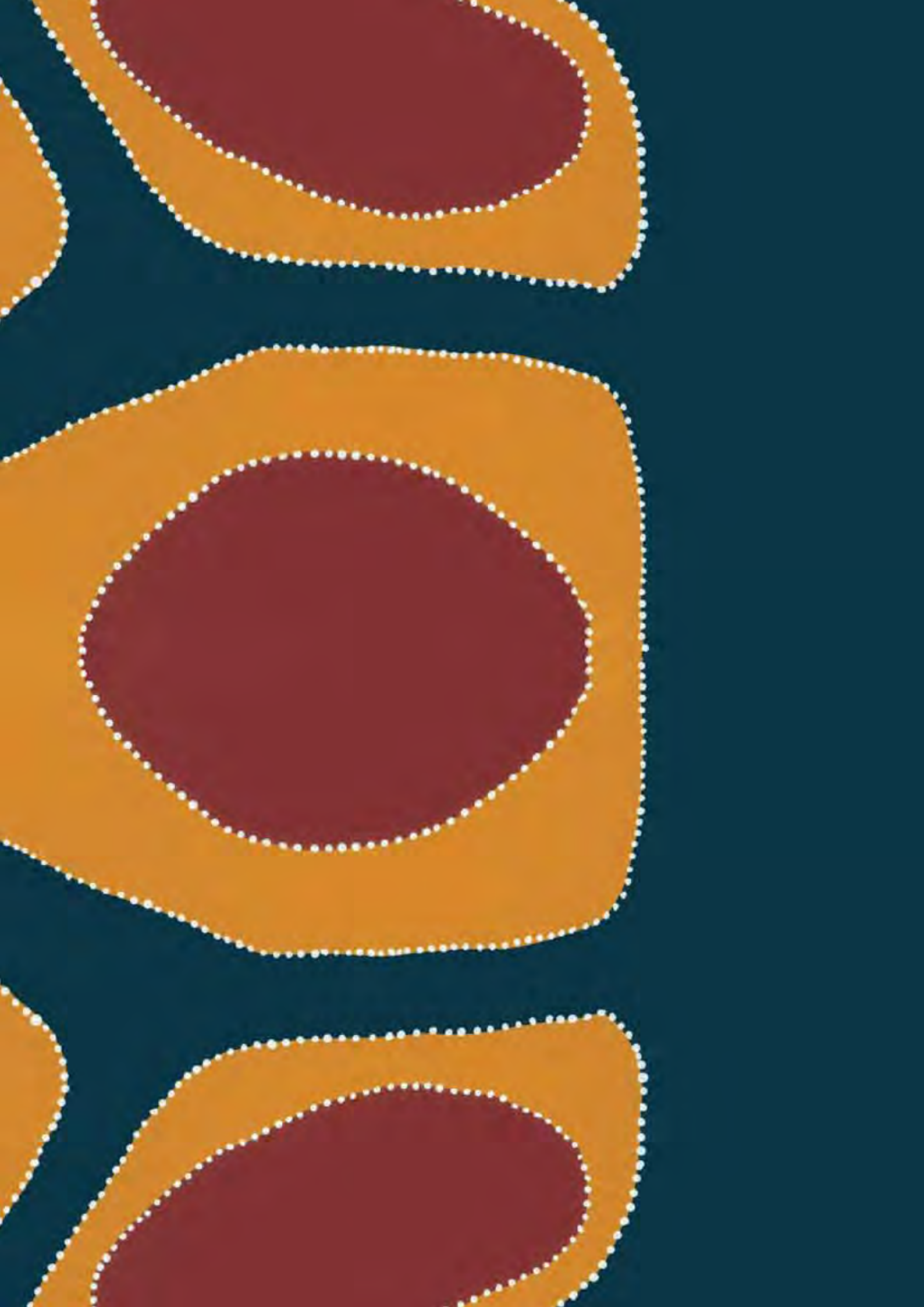
Mineral and petroleum exploration and development

- The Department of Mines and Petroleum administers the Mining Act and the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act and is responsible for the granting of tenements including prospecting and exploration licences, permits and mining leases for the development of minerals.
- There are currently two mineral exploration licences partially over Jemarnde-wooningim and another on the western border.
- A petroleum exploration permit entirely covers Jemarnde-wooningim.

The objective is to minimise the impacts of mineral and petroleum exploration and development, including basic raw material extraction and development activities, on the values of Jemarnde-wooningim.

This will be done by:

- making sure that all consultation and negotiation with Daengeng about mining happens through the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- referring proposals that may impact Jemarnde-wooningim to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration of assessment under the Environmental Protection Act
- referring proposals to the Conservation Commission so they provide advice to the Minister for Environment
- allowing access to basic raw materials for use within Jemarnde-wooningim when the material is not available from outside the park.



Proposed Goomig Conservation Park

Draft Management Sub-Plan 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation

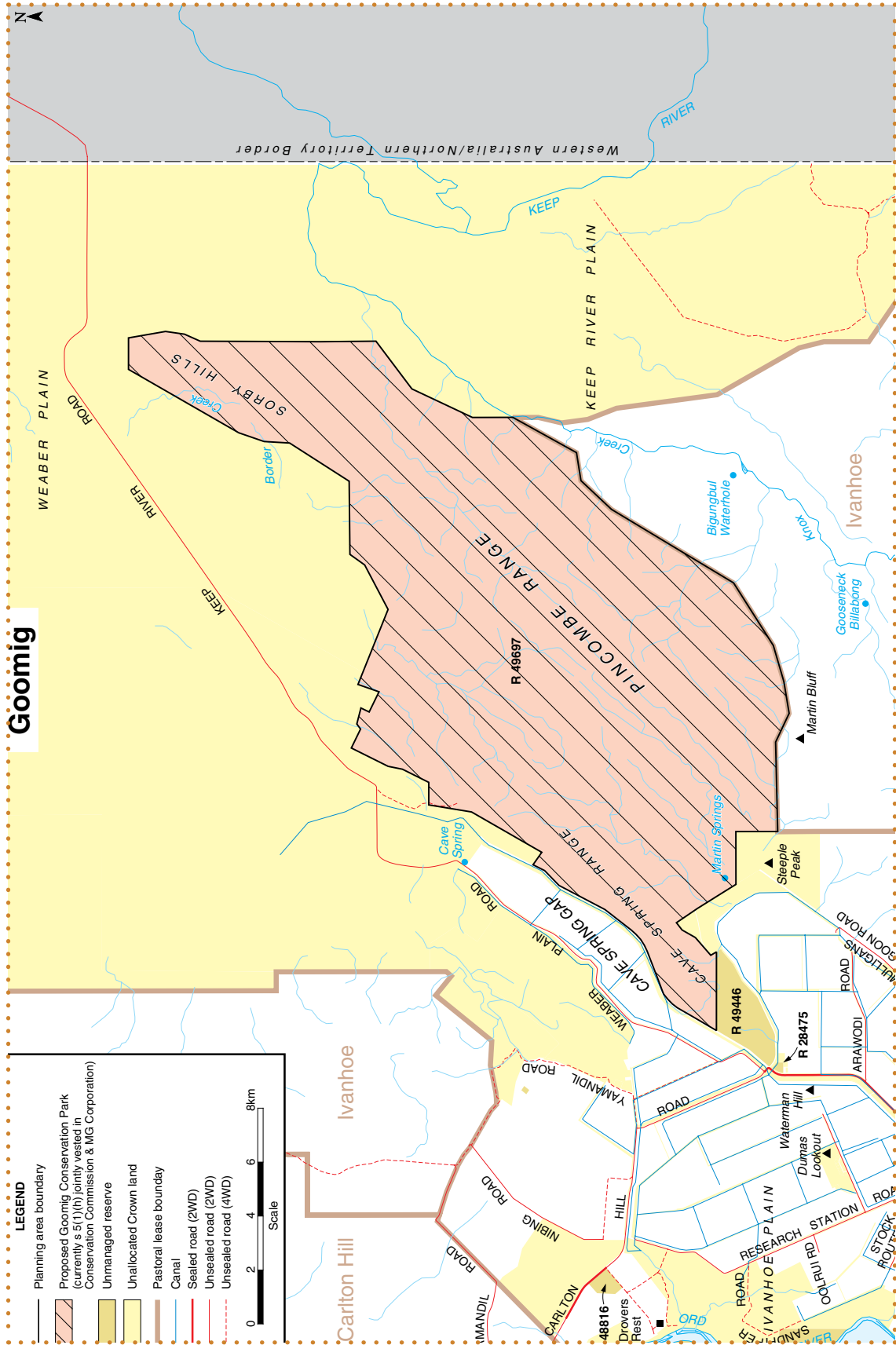


Conservation
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Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks





Overview

The 14,165-hectare proposed Goomig Conservation Park is located about 27 kilometres north-east of Kununurra and access is via the Weaber Plain Road–Keep River Road. The area is mostly surrounded by the Ivanhoe pastoral lease with unallocated Crown land to the south-west.

Goomig is an important cultural heritage area with three registered sites including paintings, mythological places, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.

The dominant geological features in Goomig are the sandstone Pincombe and Cave Springs Ranges and the marine limestone Sorby Hills. The vegetation on the stony soils of the ranges is characterised by eucalypt woodlands over spinifex hummock grasslands. The dominant eucalypts are bloodwood (*Eucalyptus drysdalensis*), Kimberley gum (*E. confluens*) and roughleaf range gum (*E. aspera*). The vegetation of the lower hill slopes is influenced by the geology, with thickets of *Calytrix* spp. and whitewood (*Atalaya hemiglauca*) (Graham and White 1999).

The low, rocky limestone of Sorby Hills in the northeast of Goomig support a small, thicket of rainforest species, including whitewood (*Celtis philippensis*), and strychnine bush (*Strychnos lucida*) (Graham and White 1999). The limestone karst terrain provides natural fire protection for these rainforest thickets. There is a seasonal swamp south of the Sorby Hills that is characterised by paperbark communities, particularly *Melaleuca minutifolia*.

Cave Springs—the only permanent, fresh water in Goomig—is surrounded by ferns, palms and rainforest plants, and the cave itself is home to bat species such as the western cave bat (*Vespadelus caurinus*), common sheath-tailed bat (*Taphozous georgianus*) and the northern leaf-nosed bat (*Hipposideros stenotis*). Other mammals found within Goomig include Ningbing pseudantechinus (*Pseudantechinus ningbing*) and long-haired rat (*Rattus villosissimus*), while some of the large number of reptiles include Mitchell's water monitor (*Varanus mitchelli*), Bynoe's gecko (*Heteronotia binoei*), *Ctenotus inornatus*, and *C. pantherinus*. (Graham and White 1999).

Further information is detailed in Graham and White (1999).

Working together

Consultation and joint decision-making

- According to traditional Law and custom, Dawawang are responsible for making the decisions about how Goomig should be managed.
- DEC is also responsible for making decisions about managing Goomig.
- Decisions about Goomig management need to be consistent with the OFA.
- Protocols for roles, responsibilities, meetings and consultation will guide joint decision-making.

The objective is to manage Goomig through effective joint decision-making where everyone with responsibility can take part.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols that will guide joint decision-making for Goomig
- making sure that the protocols are consistent with the requirements of the OFA and associated Management Agreement, and include such topics as:
 - roles and responsibilities of the key decision-making bodies
 - conflict resolution
 - code of conduct
 - financial decision-making
 - use of committees for decision-making
 - requirements for consulting *garrayilng* and Dawawang
- regularly evaluating and reviewing the joint decision-making protocols.

Research

- Dawawang knowledge of Goomig is an essential component of research and monitoring.
- Baseline biological research was carried out in Goomig in early 2010.

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of Goomig to enable effective management.

This will be done by:

- developing a research and monitoring plan that identifies knowledge gaps, prioritises research based on management requirements and includes cultural management requirements
- ensuring that Dawawang know about and understand the need for all research in Goomig before it commences
- ensuring that on-country access for research has been approved by Dawawang
- developing protocols, if required, to guide how research will be conducted
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang and rangers to participate in and conduct research in Goomig

- presenting all research proposals and outcomes to the Park Council
- ensuring that research and monitoring activities do not adversely impact on the values of Goomig.

Park boundaries and linkages



Alice and Stephanie Boombi expressing concerns about Goomig's eastern boundary being half way up the hill, July 2008

- Goomig is bordered by Ivanhoe pastoral lease and unallocated Crown land.
- Unallocated Crown land provides a buffer from the agricultural area to the south-west of Goomig.
- Martin's Gap and the ranges of Martin's Bluff—south of Goomig's border—contain rock art and are important bird habitat.
- Flat areas of country are needed within Goomig so that Dawawang can go on bush camps and conduct cultural business.
- Extension of Goomig's eastern boundary to the WA-NT border would enable the possibility of linking up with Keep River National Park in the Northern Territory.

The objective is to jointly manage cross-boundary issues to ensure effective, integrated and cooperative management of Goomig with adjacent land.

This will be done by:

- working with neighbouring land managers to ensure compatible management across park boundaries. This might include access, fire, problem animal and weed management
- seeking to add the Martin's Gap and Martin's Bluff areas to Goomig
- investigating possibilities for the addition of flat areas (suitable for camping and cultural business) into Goomig and extending the reserve's eastern border to link up with Keep River National Park
- managing any new additions of land to Goomig according to this plan.

On-country management

Access

- Vehicle access into Goomig is via a firebreak track east of Cave Spring and several other unsealed tracks such as Martin's Gap Road on the southern edge.
- It may be necessary to re-align the track near Cave Springs so that it's not so close to the rock hole.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study provides options for future development. For example, a fire break on the eastern side of Cave Springs Range might give access to some suitable country for camping.
- Managing access within Goomig may require, for example, the introduction of a permit system; that visitors must be accompanied by a guide; and areas may be closed to the public for cultural or environmental reasons.

The objective is to jointly manage access to Goomig for Dawawang to help look after country and to protect natural and cultural values.

This will be done by preparing an access plan for Goomig that considers:

- recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study, which may consider re-aligning the track near Cave Springs
- current and future use of the area by Dawawang and visitors
- protecting and managing natural and cultural values of Goomig—this may include the need to restrict public access to culturally sensitive areas
- making sure that Dawawang have access to look after country and keep traditional Laws and customs strong.

Living areas

- There are currently no community living areas within or adjoining Goomig.
- There is currently no need for a living area in Goomig.

The objective is to support nearby community living areas so that Dawawang can live on country.

This will be done by:

- participating in discussions and planning for living areas across the proposed conservation parks.

Bush camps and trips

- Bush camps and trips are important for everyone to spend time on country together, pass on knowledge to younger generations and keep traditional Law and custom strong.
- They are also good for building understanding and a good partnership between Dawawang and DEC.
- The boundary of Goomig may need to be investigated to ensure that there is flat land suitable for camping.
- Bush camps and trips conducted for park management by, for example, rangers and researchers, provide opportunities for *garrayilng* and young people to spend time on country and share their knowledge of Goomig.

The objectives are to conduct bush camps and trips to:

- keep traditional links to country strong
- continue building the strong joint management relationship between Dawawang and DEC.

This will be done by:

- going out on trips with rangers and other staff to spend time on country together and share knowledge about Goomig
- going on bush camps and trips when specific management issues need to be discussed.

Fire management

- Fire is traditionally used by Dawawang to manage country. It is important that each Dawawang burns on their own country.
- DEC must also manage fire on land it manages.
- There are too many large fires occurring at the end of dry season. This changes the structure and composition of vegetation and diversity, distribution and abundance of animals found there.
- Putting out bushfires can be very difficult due to the intense heat of spinifex fires and the terrain of Goomig.

The objectives are to jointly manage fire to:

- maintain Dawawang cultural responsibilities
- protect people and community assets
- protect and promote biodiversity by establishing and maintaining a mosaic of small, cooler fires.

This will be done by:

- implementing a prescribed burning program for Goomig that considers Dawawang and DEC fire knowledge and responsibilities

- monitoring the effectiveness of the prescribed burning program to make sure it is good for country and altering it when necessary
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang to manage fire to assist in the removal of long grass and other fuels around cultural assets and living areas
- sharing information and learning from each another's approach to fire management
- working with pastoralists and agriculturalists to look after country with fire.

Rangers



Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers, Leslie Moore and Julian Williams, providing logistical support for on-country planning, July 2008

- Rangers are jointly selected by Dawawang and DEC.
- Rangers are very important for management of Goomig.
- Rangers are responsible for looking after country using cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge, and for mentoring younger generations.

The objective is to employ rangers with appropriate cultural connections to assist in the joint management of Goomig.

This will be done by:

- continuing to employ rangers to manage Goomig who are part of the Dawawang for that area
- continuing to provide the necessary training and development for rangers to fulfil their duties. This will be achieved through a combination of:
 - formal training (e.g. TAFE, MATES)
 - on-country and on-the-job training that incorporates traditional cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge
- encouraging rangers to share knowledge and carry out cross-boundary management activities with neighbouring land managers.

Weeds and problem animals

- Common weeds currently known in Goomig include buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), common lantana (*Lantana camara*) and kapok bush (*Aerva javanica*).
- Weeds are usually more common in disturbed areas and Goomig's location near irrigated agricultural land means that more weed invasions are probable.
- Problem animals currently known in the area are cats, donkeys and cattle.
- Cane toads crossed the WA–NT border in early 2009 and are most likely in Goomig now. Cane toads can have a big impact on bush tucker, particularly goannas, snakes and crocodiles.
- The rangers assisted in biological surveys prior to cane toads arriving in Goomig.
- Continuing cane toad research may provide new control options in the future.

The objective is to jointly manage weeds and problem animals so that the values of Goomig are protected.

This will be done by:

- preparing and carrying out a control program for weeds and problem animals that:
 - prioritises the control of weeds and problem animals in the context of the wider region to make sure that limited resources are used wisely
 - considers impacts on key values
 - removes new weeds and problem animals before they become established.
- making sure that control techniques are culturally appropriate
- cooperating with neighbouring land managers to ensure cross-boundary management of weeds and problem animals
- notifying pastoralists when cattle are in Goomig, allowing the mustering of stray cattle and removing any stock remaining after mustering
- providing appropriate information for visitors to increase their understanding of the impacts of weeds and pests
- continuing to monitor native animal populations in Goomig as cane toads move through
- undertaking cane toad control where practicable and assisting with any new control initiatives.

Visitor management and tourism

Visitor management



Sandra Boombi preparing to board the helicopter as part of an aerial survey for the tourism and recreation study, August 2009

- Dawawang are responsible for looking after country and any people visiting on their country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with the *garrayilng* for Goomig.
- As the joint managers, the MG Corporation and DEC have a legal responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of visitors to Goomig.
- Cave Springs could be a good location for a camping area and recreation site.
- Dawawang would like a lookout constructed that provides views from the ranges across to Barrbem.
- Possible visitor and recreation sites will be investigated as part of a recreation planning process.

The objective is to develop a range of visitor experiences across the proposed conservation parks while protecting key values and minimising the risks to visitors.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the recreation planning process. This may include the construction of a lookout to Barrbem and the focus of camping and recreation at Cave Springs
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about visitor management approvals in protocols that are developed for Goomig (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- directing visitors away from culturally and environmentally sensitive areas of Goomig, such as gender restrictions to access Martin's Gap

- developing a visitor risk management plan that identifies and assesses the risks associated with recreation sites and visitor facilities, and incorporates cultural knowledge
- providing information to visitors about Goomig to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's values, as well as encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour and safety precautions.

Tourism businesses

- The tourism study completed in 2010 recognised day use and camping options as well as recreation and trekking activities as providing tourism opportunities for Goomig.
- All tourism business needs to be consistent with protecting the values of Goomig. This means protecting conservation and culture as well as helping visitors to understand country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with the *garrayilng* for Goomig.

The objective is to jointly manage any tourism business ventures to ensure that they:

- are compatible with other management objectives (natural, cultural) for Goomig
- provide employment and training opportunities for Dawawang
- are coordinated with other Dawawang across the other proposed conservation parks.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about tourism business approvals in protocols that are developed for Goomig (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- continuing to work with Tourism WA to make sure that tourism projects are properly planned and designed to minimise impact on country and have long-term community benefits
- building partnerships for sustainable economic enterprises on country and the capacity of Dawawang so they can independently run tourism businesses in Goomig in the longer term
- ensuring all leased or licensed commercial operations do so with appropriate conditions that require the business to be consistent with other management objectives for Goomig
- requiring that tourism businesses incorporate information to facilitate cross-cultural awareness and encourage visitors to look after Goomig.

Natural and cultural resources

Cultural recording and education

- Dawawang have a major responsibility to keep traditional knowledge of culture, Law and customs strong to look after country.
- It is important that this knowledge is recorded and shared between generations.
- Trips on country are essential for cultural recording and education.
- Where culturally appropriate, this knowledge can be shared with visitors to Goomig to encourage them to respect and look after the area.

The objective is to ensure Dawawang retain control of their cultural knowledge and have opportunities to share that knowledge.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols for the recording, storage and use of cultural information
- organising trips on country for cultural recording and education
- building a cultural recording system and collating information in a database that is under Dawawang custodianship
- incorporating existing cultural records from organisations like the Kimberley Land Council into the cultural recording system
- protecting intellectual property rights of Dawawang
- keeping the cultural site information up-to-date
- incorporating cultural knowledge into the management of Goomig
- promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Goomig's cultural values.

Natural and cultural resources management

- Descriptions of Goomig's natural values are detailed in Graham and White (1999).
- The dominant geological features in Goomig are the Pincombe Range, Cave Springs Range and Sorby Hills.
- Cave Springs—the only permanent fresh water in Goomig—is surrounded by ferns, palms and rainforest plants. The cave itself is home to bat species.
- Vegetation on the ranges is sparse eucalypt woodlands over spinifex.
- Dawawang are responsible for looking after all the bush tucker, bush medicine and all the important places for these.
- Goomig Dawawang may hunt animals, fish, gather plants and collect natural resources.
- A biological survey of Goomig was conducted in 2010. This information will be used for monitoring and guide management decisions.

The objective is to jointly manage Goomig's natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection and enable the maintenance of cultural practices through the sustainable use of these resources.

This will be done by:

- collecting information about the area's values that contributes to effective management of Goomig and is prioritised as part of the research and monitoring plan
- using traditional knowledge to support the management of natural and cultural resources
- using baseline data about key native animals' numbers and distribution to develop monitoring projects that detect change and can inform management decisions
- identifying and protecting plants and animals rare, threatened or in need of special protection
- protecting native animals from problem animals and other threatening processes through control programs
- maintaining the diversity of vegetation and animal habitats within Goomig by managing threatening processes like fire
- liaising with neighbouring land managers to promote compatible management on adjoining land
- ensuring that the traditional Dawawang use of natural and cultural resources is sustainable.

Cultural site management

- Knowledge of cultural sites and responsibility for protection and management comes through Dawawang connection to country.
- DEC respects the authority of Dawawang in relation to cultural matters and has a responsibility not to damage cultural sites under law—Aboriginal Heritage Act.
- Three sites in Goomig are registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. These include mythological places, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.
- All cultural sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, regardless of whether they are recorded or not.

The objective is to identify, protect and maintain cultural sites in Goomig.

This will be done by:

- identifying and recording cultural sites according to the protocols and processes that are developed as a result of the strategies in the *Cultural recording and education* section

- protecting cultural sites from threatening process (like fire, weeds and animals) and visitor activities (this may include restricting access or temporarily closing parts of Goomig)
- ensuring that management of Goomig considers the responsibilities of Dawawang to look after country (e.g. improving access to areas of cultural significance)
- making sure that developments and management activities do not disturb or damage cultural sites
- training staff working in Goomig how to recognise and report cultural sites
- restoring cultural sites if appropriate
- providing culturally appropriate information and interpretation on Goomig's cultural sites so that they are valued and looked after by visitors.

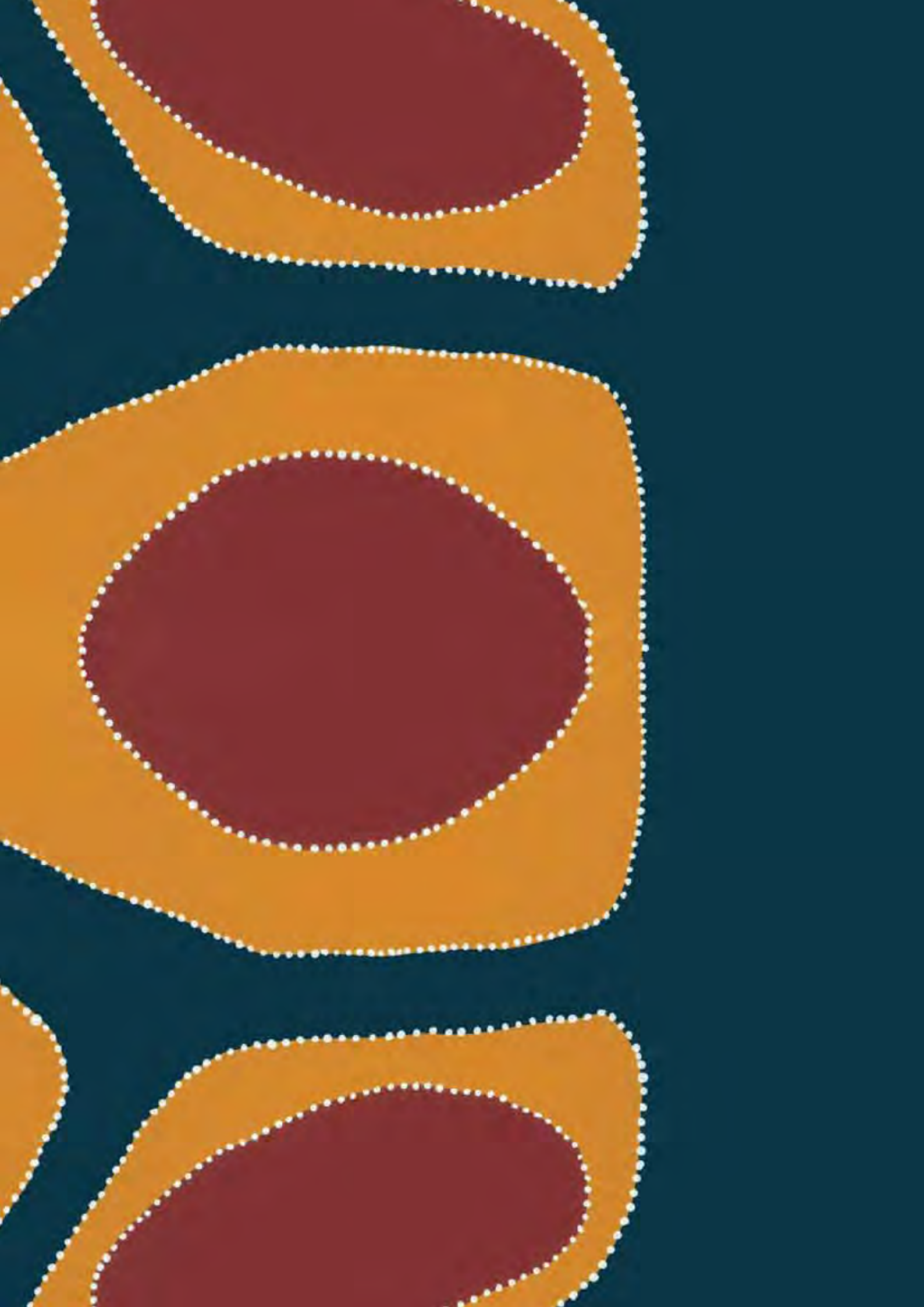
Mineral and petroleum exploration and development

- The Department of Mines and Petroleum administers the Mining Act and Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act and is responsible for the granting of tenements including prospecting and exploration licences, permits and mining leases for the development of minerals.
- There is currently one mineral exploration license partially over the south and two mining leases bordering the eastern boundary limits of Goomig.
- A petroleum exploration permit covers a large proportion of Goomig's eastern side.

The objective is to minimise the impacts of mineral and petroleum exploration and development, including basic raw material extraction and development activities, on the values of Goomig.

This will be done by:

- making sure that all consultation and negotiation with Dawawang about mining happens through the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- referring proposals that may impact Goomig to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration of assessment under the Environmental Protection Act
- referring proposals to the Conservation Commission so they provide advice to the Minister for Environment
- allowing access to basic raw materials for use within Goomig when the material is not available from outside the park.



Proposed Barrbem Conservation Park

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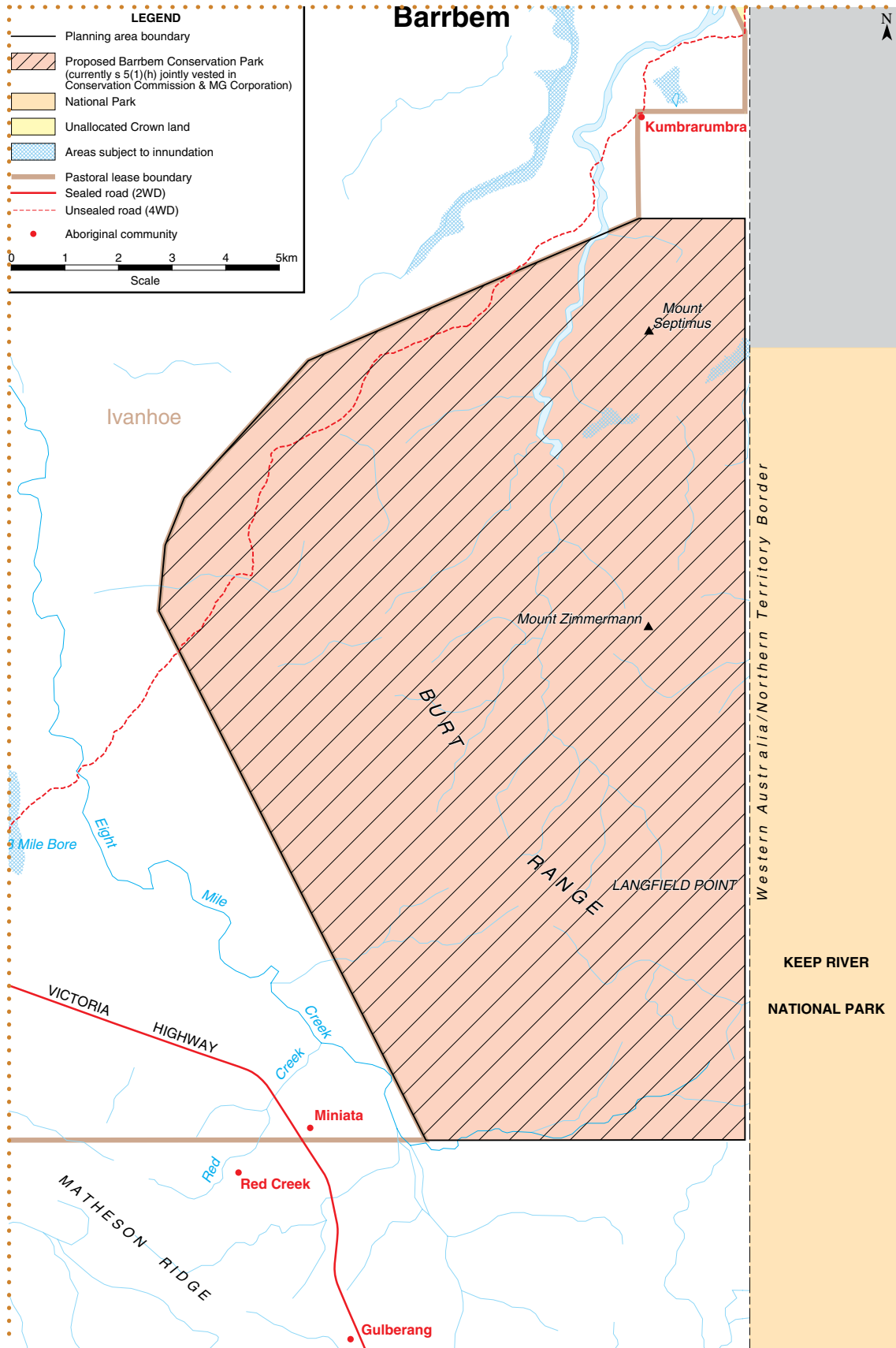


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Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks





Overview

The 14,328-hectare proposed Barrbem Conservation Park is located 22 kilometres east of Kununurra and access is via the Victoria Highway or a track to the Kumbrarumba community just to the north of the area. The area is located within the Ivanhoe pastoral lease and adjoins the Northern Territory to the east.

Barrbem is an important cultural heritage area for sugar-bag and *lemoogeng* (blue-tongue lizard) Dreaming (Hill *et al.* 2008) with three registered sites including mythological places, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.

Barrbem's defining landscape feature is the 350-million-year-old Burt Range, which extends across the border into the Northern Territory and consists of fossiliferous limestone and sandstone. The area is characterised by the sandstone cliffs of Mount Zimmerman (339 metres) and Mount Septimus (325 metres).

The vegetation is characterised by sparse open woodlands over spinifex grasslands on the ranges, thickets on the scree slopes, palm groves perched on cliff lines and open woodlands on the surrounding alluvial plains (Graham and White 1999).

The area contains locally important rainforest thickets and palm groves (*Livistona victoriae*) on the lower slopes of Burt Range where they are protected from fire. A creek with riparian plant communities (paperbark, gums and pandanus) flows northward between the Burt Range and the mounts Zimmerman and Septimus.

The endangered Gouldian finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*) has been recorded and the common wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*), agile wallaby (*M. agilis*), short beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and common sheath-tailed bat (*Taphozous georgianus*) are known from the area.

Further information is detailed in Graham and White (1999).

Working together

Consultation and joint decision-making



Miriwung Gajerrong rangers assisting Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service officers in furling a bird net as part of the annual avian influenza monitoring project in Kununurra, September 2009

- According to traditional Law and custom, Dawawang are responsible for making the decisions about how Barrbem should be managed.
- DEC is also responsible for making decisions about managing Barrbem.
- Decisions about Barrbem management need to be consistent with the OFA.
- Protocols for roles, responsibilities, meetings and consultation will guide joint decision-making.

The objective is to manage Barrbem through effective joint decision-making where everyone with responsibility can take part.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols that will guide joint decision-making for Barrbem
- making sure that the protocols are consistent with the requirements of the OFA and associated Management Agreement, and include such topics as:
 - roles and responsibilities of the key decision-making bodies
 - conflict resolution
 - code of conduct
 - financial decision-making
 - use of committees for decision-making
 - requirements for consulting *garrayilng* and Dawawang
- regularly evaluating and reviewing the joint decision-making protocols.

Research

- Dawawang knowledge of Barrbem is an essential component of research and monitoring.
- Baseline biological research was carried out in Barrbem during 2009.

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of Barrbem to enable effective management.

This will be done by:

- developing a research and monitoring plan that identifies gaps in our knowledge, prioritises research based on management requirements and includes cultural management requirements
- ensuring that Dawawang know about and understand the need for all research in Barrbem before it commences
- ensuring that on-country access for research has been approved by Dawawang
- developing protocols, if required, to guide how research will be conducted
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang and rangers to participate in and conduct research in Barrbem
- presenting all research proposals and outcomes to the Park Council
- ensuring that research and monitoring activities do not adversely impact on the values of Barrbem.

Park boundaries and linkages



Senior elder for Barrbem, Toby Banmar, reviewing the park boundaries and linkages poster at the joint planning guidelines workshop, May 2009

- Barrbem is bordered by the Goorrboome (Kumburumba) living area, Ivanhoe pastoral lease and Keep River National Park in the Northern Territory.
- Recent biological surveys have identified a wetland area to north of Barrbem (adjacent to Goorrboome) as having significant conservation value.

The objective is to jointly manage cross-boundary issues to ensure effective, integrated and cooperative management of Barrbem with adjacent land.

This will be done by:

- working with neighbouring land managers to ensure compatible management across park boundaries. This might include access, fire, problem animal and weed management
- investigating the possibility of working together to upgrade Goorrboome facilities for the benefit of the community and management of Barrbem
- seeking to add the wetland area adjacent to Goorrboome to Barrbem
- managing any new additions of land to Barrbem according to this plan.

On-country management

Access

- Vehicle access into Barrbem is via an unsealed track off Victoria Highway; parts of this track to Goorrboome could be fixed up to provide better access.
- Access to Goorrboome and Barrbem might be better through the north-western part of Keep River National Park.
- Parts of the track from Kununurra to Goorrboome could be fixed up to give improved access.
- A long walking trail could be appropriate at Barrbem, possibly linking in with the walk trails in Keep River National Park.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study provides options for future development.
- Managing access within Barrbem may require, for example, the introduction of a permit system; that visitors must be accompanied by a guide; and areas may be closed to the public for cultural or environmental reasons.

The objective is to jointly manage access to Barrbem for Dawawang to help look after country and to protect natural and cultural values.

This will be done by preparing an access plan for Barrbem that considers:

- recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- current and future use of the area by Dawawang and visitors
- possible joint access initiatives with the managers of Keep River National Park such as cross-border walk tracks and access to Goorrboome

- better access from the Victoria Highway
- protecting and managing natural and cultural values of Barrbem—this may include the need to restrict public access to culturally sensitive areas
- making sure that Dawawang have access to look after country and keep traditional Laws and customs strong.

Living areas



Aerial view of the swamp near Goorrboome community living area, January 2005

- The Goorrboome community living area borders the northern boundary of Barrbem.
- Management of Barrbem and other conservation reserves could be assisted by establishing a base camp at Goorrboome.

The objective is to support Goorrboome so that Dawawang can live on country.

This will be done by:

- working together with Dawawang, the community at Goorrboome and DEC so that Goorrboome and Barrbem are managed compatibly
- helping to maintain the buildings at Goorrboome so it can be also used as a base camp for management of Barrbem.

Bush camps and trips

- Bush camps and trips are important for everyone to spend time on country together, pass on knowledge to younger generations and keep traditional Law and custom strong.
- They are also good for building understanding and a good partnership between Dawawang and DEC.

- Bush camps and trips conducted for park management by, for example, rangers and researchers, provide opportunities for *garrayilng* and young people to spend time on country and share their knowledge of Barrbem.

The objectives are to conduct bush camps and trips to:

- keep traditional links to country strong
- continue building the strong joint management relationship between Dawawang and DEC.

This will be done by:

- going out on trips with rangers and other staff to spend time on country together and share knowledge about Barrbem
- going on bush camps and trips when specific management issues need to be discussed
- maintaining the buildings and facilities at Goorrboome so that regular bush camps and trips can be planned.

Fire management



Margaret Moore and Daryl Moncrieff (DEC) presenting the Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers with their certificates after completing the basic fire awareness course, May 2009

- Fire is traditionally used by Dawawang to manage country. It is important that each Dawawang burns on their own country.
- DEC must also manage fire on land it manages.
- There are too many large fires occurring at the end of dry season. This changes the structure and composition of vegetation and diversity, distribution and abundance of animals found there.
- Putting out bushfires can be very difficult due to the intense heat of spinifex fires.

The objectives are to jointly manage fire to:

- maintain Dawawang cultural responsibilities
- protect people and community assets
- protect and promote biodiversity by establishing and maintaining a mosaic of small, cooler fires.

This will be done by:

- implementing a prescribed burning program for Barrbem that considers Dawawang and DEC fire knowledge and responsibilities
- monitoring the effectiveness of the prescribed burning program to make sure it is good for country and altering it when necessary
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang to manage fire to assist in the removal of long grass and other fuels around cultural assets and living areas
- sharing information and learning from each another's approach to fire management
- working with pastoralists, Goorrboome community and Keep River National Park rangers to look after country with fire.

Rangers



Chris Retsas, Miriuwung Gajerrong ranger for Barrbem, collecting a keelback snake (*Tropidonophis mairii*) at Goorrboome as part of a fauna survey at Barrbem, July 2009

- Rangers are jointly selected by Dawawang and DEC.
- Rangers are very important for management of Barrbem.
- Rangers are responsible for looking after country using cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge, and for mentoring younger generations.

The objective is to employ rangers with appropriate cultural connections to assist in the joint management of Barrbem.

This will be done by:

- continuing to employ rangers to manage Barrbem who are part of the Dawawang for that area
- continuing to provide the necessary training and development for rangers to fulfil their duties. This will be achieved through a combination of:
 - formal training (e.g. TAFE, MATES)
 - on-country and on-the-job training that incorporates traditional cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge
- encouraging rangers to share knowledge and carry out cross-boundary management activities with neighbouring land managers.

Weeds and problem animals

- Common weeds currently known in Barrbem are rubber tree, tridax daisy (*Tridax procumbens*) and the herb *Melochia pyramidata*.
- Problem animals currently known in the area are donkeys, cats, horses and cattle.
- Cane toads crossed the WA–NT border in early 2009 and are most likely in Barrbem now. Cane toads can have a big impact on bush tucker, particularly goannas, snakes and crocodiles.
- The rangers assisted in biological surveys prior to cane toads arriving in Barrbem. Continuing cane toad research may provide new control options in the future.
- Weeds are usually more common in disturbed areas—problem animals like cattle cause this disturbance.

The objective is to jointly manage weeds and problem animals so that the values of Barrbem are protected.

This will be done by:

- preparing and carrying out a control program for weeds and problem animals that:
 - prioritises the control of weeds and problem animals in the context of the wider region to make sure that limited resources are used wisely
 - considers impacts on key values
 - removes new weeds and problem animals before they become established
- making sure that control techniques are culturally appropriate
- cooperating with neighbouring land managers to ensure cross-boundary management of weeds and problem animals
- notifying pastoralists when cattle are in Barrbem, allowing the mustering of stray cattle and removing any stock remaining after mustering
- providing appropriate information for visitors to increase their understanding of the impacts of weeds and pests

- continuing to monitor native animal populations in Barrbem as cane toads move through
- undertaking cane toad control where practicable and assisting with any new control initiatives.

Visitor management and tourism

Visitor management

- Dawawang are responsible for looking after country and any people visiting on their country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on-country planning trip with the *garrayilng* for Barrbem.
- As the joint managers, MG Corporation and DEC have a legal responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of visitors to Barrbem.
- Visitors should be allowed to bring their dogs into Barrbem to help keep them safe from dingoes.
- Walking tracks need to be clearly marked so visitors don't get lost.
- Possible visitor and recreation sites will be investigated as part of a recreation planning process.



Andy Wilson holding his son Potay Wilson during on-country on Barrbem as part of the tourism opportunities study, August 2009

The objective is to develop a range of visitor experiences across the proposed conservation parks while protecting key values and minimising the risks to visitors.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the recreation planning process
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about visitor management approvals in protocols that are developed for Barrbem (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- directing visitors away from culturally and environmentally sensitive areas of Barrbem
- developing well-defined walking trails in Barrbem if appropriate and possibly in conjunction with the managers of Keep River National Park

- developing a visitor risk management plan that identifies and assesses the risks associated with recreation sites and visitor facilities, and incorporates cultural knowledge
- providing information to visitors about Barrbem to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's values, as well as encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour and safety precautions
- alerting visitors to the existence of dingos in Barrbem and allow them to bring their dogs for protection.

Tourism businesses

- The tourism study completed in 2010 recognised cultural interpretation as well as strategic links to the Northern Territory as providing tourism opportunities for Barrbem.
- All tourism business needs to be consistent with protecting the values of Barrbem. This means protecting conservation and culture as well as helping visitors to understand country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with the *garrayilng* for Barrbem.
- The idea of developing a museum or interpretive centre for Barrbem has been raised.

The objective is to jointly manage any tourism business ventures to ensure that they:

- are compatible with other management objectives (natural, cultural) for Barrbem
- provide employment and training opportunities for Dawawang
- are coordinated with other Dawawang across the other proposed conservation parks.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about tourism business approvals in protocols that are developed for Barrbem (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- continuing to work with Tourism WA to make sure that tourism projects are properly planned and designed to minimise impact on country and have long-term community benefits
- discussing the possibilities for a museum or interpretive centre for Barrbem, including Goorrboome
- building partnerships for sustainable economic enterprises on country and the capacity of Dawawang so they can independently run tourism businesses in Barrbem in the longer term
- ensuring all leased or licensed commercial operations do so with appropriate conditions that require the business to be consistent with other management objectives for Barrbem

- requiring that tourism businesses incorporate information to facilitate cross-cultural awareness and encourage visitors to look after Barrbem.

Natural and cultural resources

Cultural recording and education

- Dawawang have a major responsibility to keep traditional knowledge of culture, Law and customs strong to look after country.
- It is important that this knowledge is recorded and shared between generations.
- Trips on country are essential for cultural recording and education.
- Where culturally appropriate, this knowledge can be shared with visitors to Barrbem to encourage them to respect and look after the area.



Blanche Flying Fox talking about the old days during an on-country planning trip, July 2008

The objective is to ensure Dawawang retain control of their cultural knowledge and have opportunities to share that knowledge.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols for the recording, storage and use of cultural information
- organising trips on country for cultural recording and education
- building a cultural recording system and collating information in a database that is under Dawawang custodianship
- incorporating existing cultural records from organisations like the Kimberley Land Council into the cultural recording system
- protecting intellectual property rights of Dawawang
- keeping the cultural site information up-to-date
- incorporating cultural knowledge into the management of Barrbem
- promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Barrbem's cultural values.

Natural and cultural resources management

- Descriptions of Barrbem's natural values are detailed in Graham and White (1999).
- Geological features in Barrbem are the Burt Range, Mount Zimmerman and Mount Septimus.
- The valley between the Burt Range and Mount Septimus contains a northward-flowing creek that is Barrbem's only watercourse.
- Vegetation in Barrbem ranges from open woodlands on flat areas to the locally important rainforest thickets and palm groves on the lower slopes of Burt Range.
- The endangered Gouldian finch has been recorded in Barrbem. Gouldian finches are grass-eating birds so the biggest threat to their survival is changes to their habitat from altered fire patterns and grazing.
- Dawawang are responsible for looking after all the bush tucker, bush medicine and all the important places for these.
- Barrbem Dawang may hunt animals, fish, gather plants and collect natural resources.
- A biological survey of Barrbem was conducted in 2009. This information will be used for monitoring and guide management decisions.

The objective is to jointly manage Barrbem's natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection and enable the maintenance of cultural practices through the sustainable use of these resources.

This will be done by:

- collecting information about the area's values that contributes to effective management of Barrbem and is prioritised as part of the research and monitoring plan
- using traditional knowledge to support the management of natural and cultural resources
- maintaining the diversity of vegetation and animal habitats within Barrbem by managing threatening processes, such as fire and cattle grazing
- identifying and protecting plants and animals rare, threatened or in need of special protection
- protecting native animals within Barrbem by managing threatening processes
- supporting the implementation of recovery plans for threatened fauna, like that for the Gouldian finch
- liaising with neighbouring land managers to promote compatible management on adjoining land
- ensuring that the traditional Dawawang use of natural and cultural resources is sustainable.

Cultural site management



Ju Ju Wilson talking on country about 'Sugar Bag Dreaming' art site to Gary Taylor (Tourism WA), Neil McGilp (consultant) and Steve Vigilante (DEC landscape architect) as part of a tourism recreation study, August 2009

- Knowledge of cultural sites and responsibility for protection and management comes through Dawawang connection to country.
- DEC respects the authority of Dawawang in relation to cultural matters and also has a responsibility not to damage cultural sites under law—Aboriginal Heritage Act.
- Three sites in Barrbem are registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. These include mythological places, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.
- All cultural sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, regardless of whether they are recorded or not.

The objective is to identify, protect and maintain cultural sites in Barrbem.

This will be done by:

- identifying and recording cultural sites according to the protocols and processes that are developed as a result of the strategies in the *Cultural recording and education* section
- protecting cultural sites from threatening process (like fire, weeds and animals) and visitor activities (this may include restricting access or temporarily closing parts of Barrbem)
- ensuring that management of Barrbem considers the responsibilities of Dawawang to look after country (e.g. improving access to areas of cultural significance)

- making sure that developments and management activities do not disturb or damage cultural sites
- training staff working in Barrbem how to recognise and report cultural sites
- restoring cultural sites if appropriate
- providing culturally appropriate information and interpretation on Barrbem's cultural sites so that they are valued and looked after by visitors.

Mineral and petroleum exploration and development

- The Department of Mines and Petroleum administers the Mining Act and is responsible for the granting of tenements including prospecting and exploration licences, permits and mining leases for the development of minerals.
- There are currently three mining tenements over Barrbem and no petroleum tenements.

The objective is to minimise the impacts of mineral and petroleum exploration and development, including basic raw material extraction and development activities, on the values of Barrbem.

This will be done by:

- making sure that all consultation and negotiation with Dawawang about mining happens through the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- referring proposals that may impact Barrbem to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration of assessment under the Environmental Protection Act
- referring proposals to the Conservation Commission so they provide advice to the Minister for Environment
- allowing access to basic raw materials for use within Barrbem when the material is not available from outside the park.



Proposed Darram Conservation Park

Draft Management Sub-Plan 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation

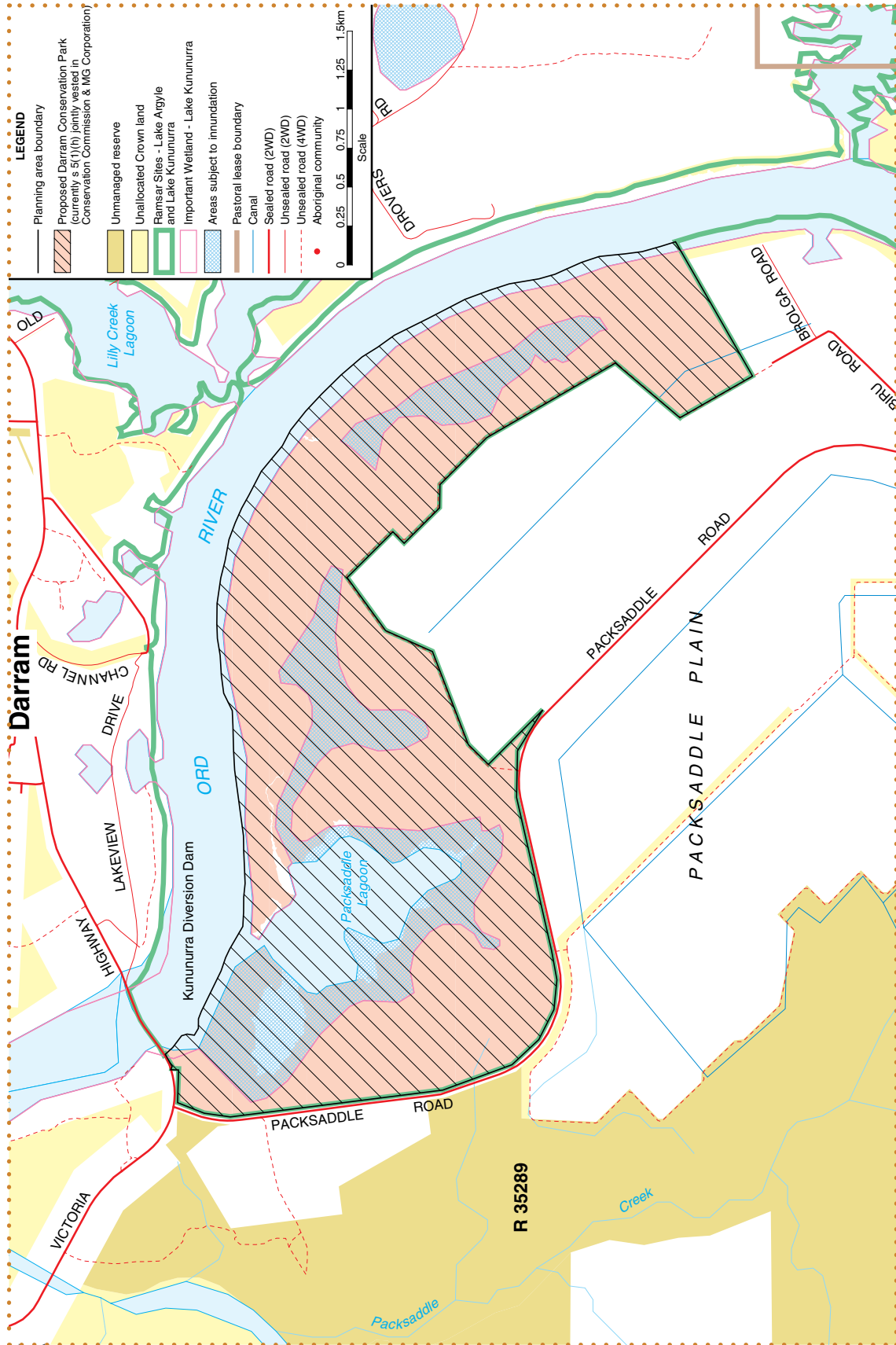


Conservation
Commission
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks





Overview

The 896-hectare proposed Darram Conservation Park is located adjacent to the south side of the townsite of Kununurra, bordering the Ord River and vehicle access is via Packsaddle Road.

Darram is an important cultural heritage area for sugar-bag and blue-tongue lizard Dreaming with three registered sites including mythological places, quarries, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.

Darram's defining landscape feature is the Packsaddle Lagoon and Swamp which forms part of the 117,495-hectare Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra Ramsar site. Darram is an important habitat and breeding area for waterbirds such as swamp-hens and magpie geese.

Further information is detailed in Graham and White (1999).



First on-country meeting of Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional Park Council at Yirralalem, June 2008

Working together

Consultation and joint decision-making

- According to traditional Law and custom, Dawawang are responsible for making the decisions about how Darram should be managed.
- DEC is also responsible for making decisions about managing Darram.
- Decisions about Darram management need to be consistent with the OFA.
- Protocols for roles, responsibilities, meetings and consultation will guide joint decision-making.



Mrs Hapke and Ed Hatherley (DEC) talking about fire management, June 2008

The objective is to manage Darram through effective joint decision-making where everyone with responsibility can participate.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols that will guide joint decision-making for Darram
- making sure that the protocols are consistent with the requirements of the OFA and associated Management Agreement, and include such topics as:
 - roles and responsibilities of the key decision-making bodies
 - conflict resolution
 - code of conduct
 - financial decision-making
 - use of committees for decision-making
 - requirements for consulting *garrayilng* and Dawawang
- regularly evaluating and reviewing the joint decision-making protocols.

Research

- Dawawang knowledge of Darram is an essential component of research and monitoring.
- Baseline biological research was carried out in Darram during 2009.

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of Darram to enable effective management.

This will be done by:

- developing a research and monitoring plan that identifies gaps in our knowledge, prioritises research based on management requirements and includes cultural management requirements
- ensuring that Dawawang know about and understand the need for all research in Darram before it commences
- ensuring that on-country access for research has been approved by Dawawang
- developing protocols, if required, to guide how research will be conducted
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang and rangers to participate in and conduct research in Darram
- presenting all research proposals and outcomes to the park council
- ensuring that research and monitoring activities do not adversely impact on the values of Darram.

Park boundaries and linkages



Mrs Hapke, Matthew Ningamarra, Nancy Dilyai, Scott Goodson (DEC) and Janelle Ningamarra discussing park boundaries, June 2007

- Darram is bordered by the Ord River, private property and an Unmanaged Reserve (35289).

The objective is to jointly manage cross-boundary issues to ensure effective, integrated and cooperative management of Darram with adjacent land and water.

This will be done by:

- working with neighbouring land managers to ensure compatible management across park boundaries. This might include access, fire, problem animal and weed management
- managing any new additions of land to Darram according to this plan.

On-country management

Access

- Vehicle access into Darram is via the Victoria Highway, Packsaddle Road and Jabiru Road. Boat access is also possible from the Ord River.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study provides options for future development.
- Managing access within Darram may require, for example, the introduction of a permit system; that visitors must be accompanied by a guide; and areas may be closed to the public for cultural or environmental reasons.

The objective is to jointly manage access to Darram for Dawawang to help look after country and to protect natural and cultural values.

This will be done by preparing an access plan for Darram that considers:

- recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- current and future use of the area by Dawawang and visitors
- protecting and managing natural and cultural values of Darram—this may include the need to restrict public access to culturally sensitive areas
- making sure that Dawawang have access to look after country and keep traditional Laws and customs strong.

Living areas

- There are no living areas in Darram or immediately adjoining, however nearby communities are Yirralalem, Jimbilem and Woorawoorem.

The objective is to support nearby community living areas so that Dawawang can live on country.

This will be done by:

- working together with Dawawang, the communities at Yirralalem, Jimbilem and Woorawoorem and DEC so that they are managed compatibly with adjacent conservation reserves (e.g. fire and weed management).

Bush camps and trips

- Bush camps and trips are important for everyone to spend time on country together, pass on knowledge to younger generations and keep traditional Law and custom strong.
- They are also good for building understanding and a good partnership between Dawawang and DEC.
- Bush camps and trips conducted for park management by, for example, rangers and researchers, provide opportunities for *Garrayilng* and young people to spend time on country and share their knowledge of Darram.

The objectives are to conduct bush camps and trips to:

- keep traditional links to country strong
- continue building the strong joint management relationship between Dawawang and DEC.

This will be done by:

- going out on trips with rangers and other staff to spend time on country together and share knowledge about Darram
- going on bush camps and trips when specific management issues need to be discussed.

Fire management



Miriuwung and Gajerrong rangers carrying out pre-season asset protection around Yirralalem community as part of a training exercise, April 2009

- Fire is traditionally used by Dawawang to manage country. It is important that each Dawawang burns on their own country.
- DEC must also manage fire on land it manages.

- Fire affects the vegetation of Darram and the significant habitat that it provides for waterbirds.
- Putting out bushfires in Darram can be very difficult due to the swamp vegetation and access.

The objectives are to jointly manage fire to:

- maintain Dawawang cultural responsibilities
- protect people and community assets
- protect and promote biodiversity by establishing and maintaining a mosaic of small, cooler fires.

This will be done by:

- implementing a prescribed burning program for Darram that considers Dawawang and DEC fire knowledge and responsibilities
- monitoring the effectiveness of the prescribed burning program to make sure it is good for country and altering it when necessary
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang to manage fire to assist in the removal of long grass and other fuels around cultural assets and living areas
- sharing information and learning from each another's approach to fire management
- assisting with fire management in nearby living areas
- working with neighbouring land managers to look after country with fire.

Rangers



Miriwung and Gajerrong rangers, Gordon Reid and Vincent Kennedy, attending a national cultural information management workshop in Cairns QLD, June 2008

- Rangers are jointly selected by Dawawang and DEC.
- Rangers are very important for management of Darram.
- Rangers are responsible for looking after country using cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge, and for mentoring younger generations.

The objective is to employ rangers with appropriate cultural connections to assist in the joint management of Darram.

This will be done by:

- continuing to employ rangers to manage Darram who are part of the Dawawang for that area
- continuing to provide the necessary training and development for rangers to fulfil their duties. This will be achieved through a combination of:
 - formal training (e.g. TAFE, MATES)
 - on-country and on-the-job training that incorporates traditional cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge
- encouraging rangers to share knowledge and carry out cross-boundary management activities with neighbouring land managers.

Weeds and problem animals

- Common weeds currently known in Darram include neem and wild passionfruit.
- Weeds are usually more common in disturbed areas—fire and problem animals can cause this disturbance.
- Cane toads crossed the WA–NT border in early 2009 and will most likely reach Darram in 2010. Cane toads can have a big impact on bush tucker, particularly goannas, snakes and crocodiles.
- The rangers assisted in biological surveys prior to cane toads arriving in Darram.
- Continuing cane toad research may provide new control options in the future.
- Wild pigs are present upstream of Darram along the Ord River.

The objective is to jointly manage weeds and problem animals so that the values of Darram are protected.

This will be done by:

- preparing and carrying out a control program for weeds and problem animals that:
 - prioritises the control of weeds and problem animals in the context of the wider region to make sure that limited resources are used wisely
 - considers impacts on key values
 - removes new weeds and problem animals before they become established
- making sure that control techniques are culturally appropriate
- cooperating with neighbouring land managers to ensure cross-boundary management of weeds and problem animals
- providing appropriate information for visitors to increase their understanding of the impacts of weeds and pests

- continuing to monitor native animal populations in Darram as cane toads move through
- undertaking cane toad control where practicable and assisting with any new control initiatives.

Visitor management and tourism

Visitor management

- Dawawang are responsible for looking after country and any people visiting on their country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with the *garrayilng* for Darram.
- As the joint managers, MG Corporation and DEC have a legal responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of visitors to Darram.
- Possible visitor and recreation sites will be investigated as part of a recreation planning process.
- Darram could be a good location for development as a birdwatching destination.

The objective is to develop a range of visitor experiences across the proposed conservation parks while protecting key values and minimising the risks to visitors.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the recreation planning process
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about visitor management approvals in protocols that are developed for Darram (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- directing visitors away from culturally and environmentally sensitive areas of Darram
- developing a visitor risk management plan that identifies and assesses the risks associated with recreation sites and visitor facilities, and incorporates cultural knowledge
- providing information to visitors about Darram to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's values, as well as encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour and safety precautions.

Tourism businesses



Gary Taylor (Tourism WA), Steve Vigilante (DEC), Mrs Hapke and Warren Gerrard during tourism site investigations at Darram, August 2009

- The Tourism Opportunities Study completed in 2010 recognised the environmental values of the lagoon as providing strong tourism appeal.
- All tourism business needs to be consistent with protecting the values of Darram. This means protecting conservation and culture as well as helping visitors to understand country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with *garrayilng* for Darram.
- Any tourism business developed at Darram will have to make sure that the important bird habitats are not disturbed.

The objective is to jointly manage any tourism business ventures to ensure that they:

- are compatible with other management objectives (natural, cultural) for Darram
- provide employment and training opportunities for Dawawang
- are coordinated with other Dawawang across the other proposed conservation parks.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about tourism business approvals in protocols that are developed for Darram (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- continuing to work with Tourism WA to make sure that tourism projects are properly planned and designed to minimise impact on country and have long-term community benefits

- building partnerships for sustainable economic enterprises on country and the capacity of Dawawang so they can independently run tourism businesses in Darram in the longer term
- ensuring all leased or licensed commercial operations do so with appropriate conditions that require the business to be consistent with other management objectives for Darram
- requiring that tourism businesses incorporate information to facilitate cross-cultural awareness and encourage visitors to look after Darram.

Natural and cultural resources

Cultural recording and education

- Dawawang have a major responsibility to keep traditional knowledge of culture, Law and customs strong to look after country.
- It is important that this knowledge is recorded and shared between generations.
- Trips on country are essential for cultural recording and education.
- Where culturally appropriate, this knowledge can be shared with visitors to Darram to encourage them to respect and look after the area.

The objective is to ensure Dawawang retain control of their cultural knowledge and have opportunities to share that knowledge.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols for the recording, storage and use of cultural information
- organising trips on country for cultural recording and education
- building a cultural recording system and collating information in a database that is under Dawawang custodianship
- incorporating existing cultural records from organisations like the Kimberley Land Council into the cultural recording system
- protecting intellectual property rights of Dawawang
- keeping the cultural site information up-to-date
- incorporating cultural knowledge into the management of Darram
- promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Darram's cultural values.

Natural and cultural resources management



Mrs Hapke talking to Ed Hatherley (DEC) regarding fire impacts on country as part of a fire workshop during development of the cultural planning framework, April 2008

- Descriptions of Darram's natural values are detailed in Graham and White (1999).
- Packsaddle Lagoon and Swamp in Darram form part of the 117,495-hectare Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra Ramsar site.
- Darram is an important habitat and breeding area for waterbirds like swamp-hens and magpie geese.
- Dawawang are responsible for looking after all the bush tucker, bush medicine and all the important places for these.
- A biological survey of Darram was conducted early in 2010. This information will be used for monitoring and guide management decisions.
- Water levels and quality of Packsaddle Lagoon may be impacted by the use of the Ord River for agricultural irrigation.

The objective is to jointly manage Darram's natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection and enable the maintenance of cultural practices through the sustainable use of these resources.

This will be done by:

- collecting information about the area's values that contributes to effective management of Darram and is prioritised as part of the research and monitoring plan
- using traditional knowledge to support the management of natural and cultural resources
- considering the Australian Ramsar management principles when making decisions about how Darram should be managed

- using baseline data about key native animals' numbers and distribution to develop monitoring projects that detect change and can inform management decisions
- identifying and protecting plants and animals rare, threatened or in need of special protection
- protecting native animals from problem animals and other threatening processes through control programs
- maintaining the diversity of vegetation and animal habitats within Barrbem by managing threatening processes such as fire
- working cooperatively with State and Commonwealth government authorities to maintain Ramsar values
- liaising with neighbouring land managers to promote compatible management on adjoining land and water
- providing information to visitors on the key values, management issues within Darram to encourage appropriate visitor activities and respectful behaviour.

Cultural site management

- Knowledge of cultural sites and responsibility for protection and management comes through Dawawang connection to country.
- DEC respects the authority of Dawawang in relation to cultural matters and has a responsibility not to damage cultural sites under law—Aboriginal Heritage Act.
- Darram and its surrounding landscape contain many sites that are registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. These include mythological places, quarries, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.
- All cultural sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, regardless of whether they are recorded or not.

The objective is to identify, protect and maintain cultural sites in Darram.

This will be done by:

- identifying and recording cultural sites according to the protocols and processes that are developed as a result of the strategies in the *Cultural recording and education* section
- protecting cultural sites from threatening process (like fire, weeds and animals) and visitor activities (this may include restricting access or temporarily closing parts of Darram)
- ensuring that management of Darram considers the responsibilities of Dawawang to look after country (e.g. improving access to areas of cultural significance)

- making sure that developments and management activities do not disturb or damage cultural sites
- training staff working in Darram how to recognise and report cultural sites
- restoring cultural sites if appropriate
- providing culturally appropriate information and interpretation on Darram's cultural sites so that they are valued and looked after by visitors.

Mineral and petroleum exploration and development

- The Department of Mines and Petroleum administers the Mining Act and is responsible for the granting of tenements including prospecting and exploration licences, permits and mining leases for the development of minerals.
- There are currently no mineral or petroleum tenements over Darram.

The objective is to minimise the impacts of mineral and petroleum exploration and development, including basic raw material extraction and development activities, on the values of Darram.

This will be done by:

- making sure that all consultation and negotiation with Dawawang about mining happens through the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- referring proposals that may impact Darram to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration of assessment under the Environmental Protection Act
- referring proposals to the Conservation Commission to provide advice to the Minister for Environment
- allowing access to basic raw materials for use within Darram when the material is not available from outside the park.



Proposed Ngamoowalem Conservation Park

Draft Management Sub-Plan 2011



Department of
Environment and Conservation

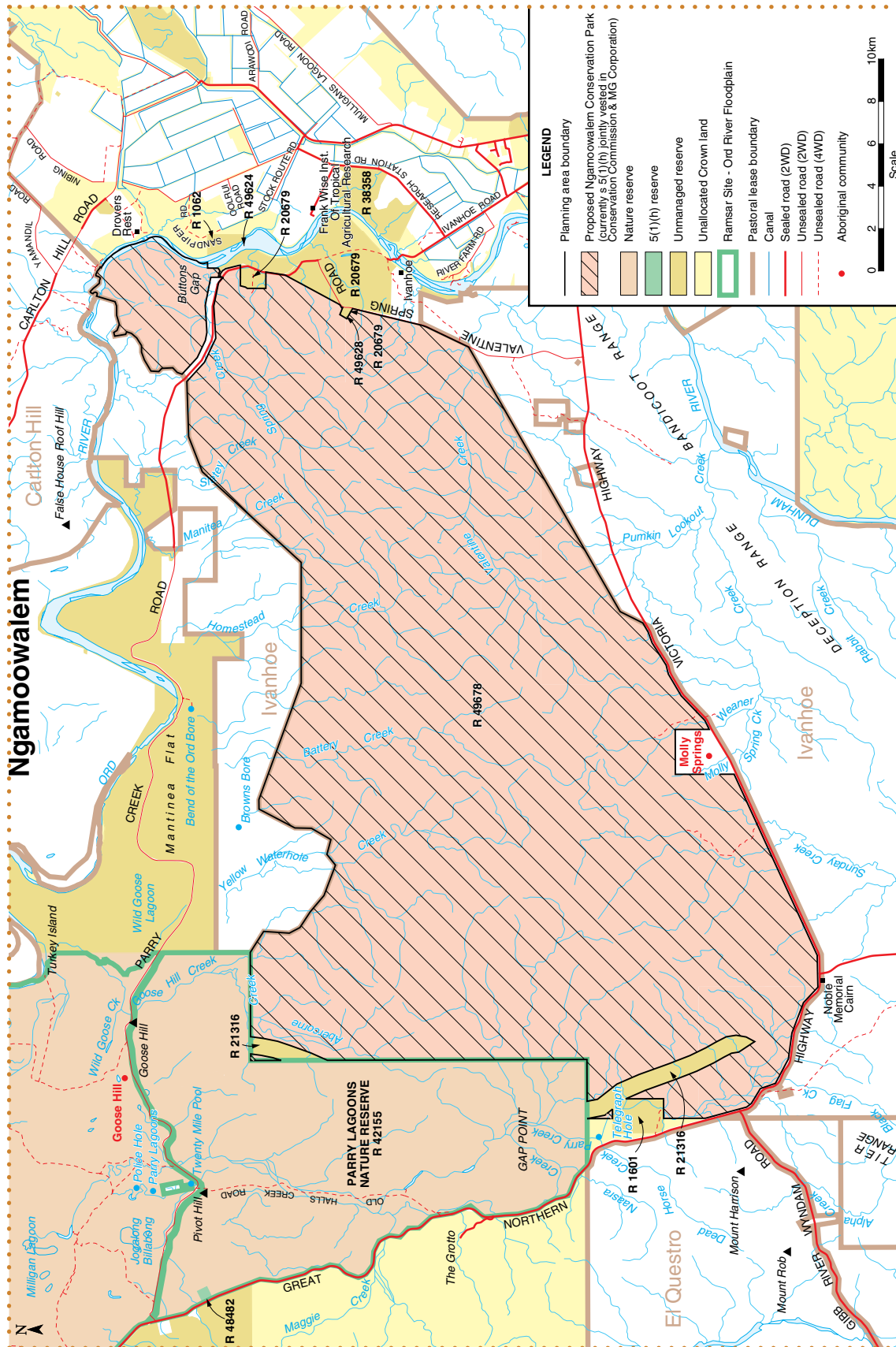


Conservation
Commission
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Yoorrooyang
Dawang
Regional Parks





Overview

The 70,311-hectare proposed Ngamoowalem Conservation Park is located adjacent and to the west of Kununurra and extends 45 kilometres south-west of the town between the Victoria Highway and Parry Creek Road. There are a number of access roads into the area including Valentine Spring Road and Parry Creek Road. The greater part of Ngamoowalem is surrounded by Ivanhoe pastoral lease. The western side adjoins Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.

Ngamoowalem is an important cultural heritage area for several registered sites, including mythological places, artefacts/scatter, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.

The dominant geological feature in the area is the Ngamoowalem sandstone range rising from the relatively flat surrounding land and containing many gorges, creeks, permanent freshwater pools and seasonal waterfalls. The range country contains two major watercourses—Spring and Valentine creeks—but also forms the headwaters for several other watercourses. The watercourses strongly influence the type of vegetation and include palm groves near the waterfalls to riparian species along the creeklines (Graham and White 1999).

Scattered populations of cycads (*Cycas pruinosa*) are concentrated along the slopes and scree of the escarpment between Button's Gap and Valentine Creek. Waterfalls around Spring Creek and gorges of the ranges are often associated with fan palms (*Livistona victoriae*) which grow to 15 metres. The steep-sided gorges provide

habitat to agile and nailtail wallabies and common wallaroo (Graham and White 1999). The permanent pools of Valentine Creek are a source of water for the endangered *Niyini* (Gouldian finch), green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*), Mitchell's water monitor (*Varanus mitchelli*) and black whip snake (*Demansia vestiata*).

Steep scree slopes of the escarpment are naturally fire-protected and support thicket vegetation communities. On the flats the surrounding the range country are savanna woodlands (Graham and White 1999).

Further information is detailed in Graham and White (1999).



Ngamoowalem, September 2009

Working together

Consultation and joint decision-making

- According to traditional Law and custom, Dawawang are responsible for making the decisions about how Ngamoowalem should be managed.
- DEC is also responsible for making decisions about managing Ngamoowalem.
- Decisions about Ngamoowalem management need to be consistent with the OFA.
- Protocols for roles, responsibilities, meetings and consultation will guide joint decision-making.

The objective is to manage Ngamoowalem through effective joint decision-making where everyone with responsibility can take part.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols that will guide joint decision-making for Ngamoowalem
- making sure that the protocols are consistent with the requirements of the OFA and associated management agreement, and include such topics as:
 - roles and responsibilities of the key decision-making bodies
 - conflict resolution
 - code of conduct
 - financial decision-making
 - use of committees for decision-making
 - requirements for consulting *garrayilng* and Dawawang
- regularly evaluating and reviewing the joint decision-making protocols.

Research



Pamela Simon and Molly Simon talking in language, while Miriuwung Gajerrong ranger, Vincent Kennedy, records animal data as part of a fauna survey on Ngamoowalem, July 2009

- Dawawang knowledge of Ngamoowalem is an essential component of research and monitoring.
- Baseline biological research was carried out in Ngamoowalem during 2009.

The objective is to increase knowledge and understanding of Ngamoowalem to enable effective management.

This will be done by:

- developing a research and monitoring plan that identifies knowledge gaps, prioritises research based on management requirements and includes cultural management requirements
- ensuring that Dawawang know about and understand the need for all research in Ngamoowalem before it commences
- ensuring that on-country access for research has been approved by Dawawang
- developing protocols, if required, to guide how research will be conducted
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang and rangers to take part in and conduct research in Ngamoowalem
- presenting all research proposals and outcomes to the park council
- ensuring that research and monitoring activities do not adversely impact on the values of Ngamoowalem.

Park boundaries and linkages

- Ngamoowalem is bordered by Wirrjilwarim (Molly Springs) community living area, Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve (Reserve No. 42155), Ivanhoe pastoral lease, unallocated Crown land, and unmanaged reserves.

The objective is to jointly manage cross-boundary issues to ensure effective, integrated and cooperative management of Ngamoowalem with adjacent land, particularly Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.

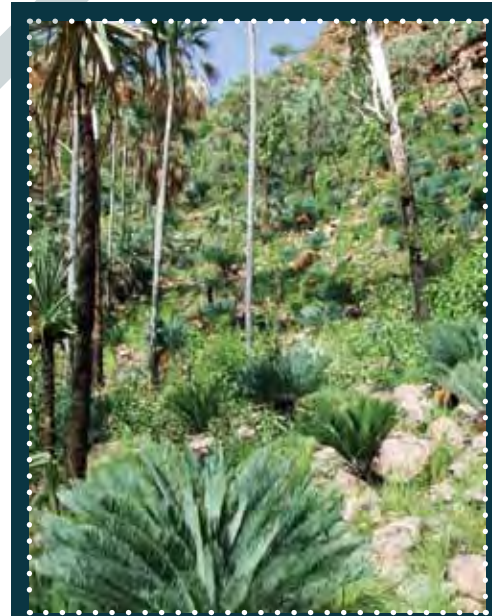
This will be done by:

- working with neighbouring land managers to ensure compatible management across park boundaries. This might include access, fire, problem animal and weed management
- ensuring the compatible management of cross-boundary issues between Ngamoowalem and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve
- managing any new additions of land to Ngamoowalem according to this plan.

On-country management

Access

- Victoria Highway and Great Northern Highway provide sealed access to the southern boundary of Ngamoowalem. Unsealed and informal tracks connect to these for access within the reserve.
- Informal tracks are only useable during the dry months.
- The Tourism Opportunities Study provides options for future development.
- Managing access within Ngamoowalem may require, for example, the introduction of a permit system; that visitors must be accompanied by a guide; and areas may be closed to the public for cultural or environmental reasons.



Ngamoowalem Range, January 2005

The objective is to jointly manage access to Ngamoowalem for Dawawang to help look after country and to protect natural and cultural values.

This will be done by preparing an access plan for Ngamoowalem that considers:

- recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- current and future use of the area by Dawawang and visitors
- wet season access requirements
- protecting and managing natural and cultural values of Ngamoowalem—this may include the need to restrict public access to culturally sensitive areas
- making sure that Dawawang have access to look after country and keep traditional Laws and customs strong.

Living areas

- Wirrijilwarim community (Molly Springs) living area is located on the southern boundary of Ngamoowalem.
- Goolalawa (Goose Hill) community living area is located north-west of Ngamoowalem.

The objective is to support Wirrijilwarim and Goolalawa so that Dawawang can live on country.

This will be done by:

- working together with Dawawang, the communities at Wirrijilwarim and Goolalawa, and DEC so that living areas and Ngamoowalem are managed compatibly (e.g. fire, weed and problem animal management).

Bush camps and trips



Des Hill, Margaret and Christopher with Rexalea and Barrahnina behind Goose Hill in Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve, adjacent to Ngamoowalem, February 2005

- Bush camps and trips are important for everyone to spend time on country together, pass on knowledge to younger generations and keep traditional Law and custom strong.
- They are also good for building understanding and a good partnership between Dawawang and DEC.
- Bush camps and trips conducted for park management by, for example, rangers and researchers, provide opportunities for *garrayilng* and young people to spend time on country and share their knowledge of Ngamoowalem.

The objectives are to conduct bush camps and trips to:

- keep traditional links to country strong
- continue building the strong joint management relationship between Dawawang and DEC.

This will be done by:

- going out on trips with rangers and other staff to spend time on country together and share knowledge about Ngamoowalem
- going on bush camps and trips when specific management issues need to be discussed
- maintaining the buildings and facilities at Wirrijilwarim so that regular bush camps and trips can be planned.

Fire management



Fire in Ngamoowalem during late dry season, 2009

- Fire is traditionally used by Dawawang to manage country. It is important that each Dawawang burns on their own country.
- DEC must also manage fire on land it manages.
- There are too many large fires occurring at the end of dry season. This changes the structure and composition of vegetation and diversity, distribution and abundance of animals found there.
- Putting out bushfires can be very difficult due to the intense heat of spinifex fires.

The objectives are to jointly manage fire to:

- maintain Dawawang cultural responsibilities
- protect people and community assets
- protect and promote biodiversity by establishing and maintaining a mosaic of small, cooler fires.

This will be done by:

- implementing a prescribed burning program for Ngamoowalem that considers Dawawang and DEC fire knowledge and responsibilities
- monitoring the effectiveness of the prescribed burning program to make sure it is good for country and altering it when necessary
- increasing the capacity of Dawawang to manage fire to assist in the removal of long grass and other fuels around cultural assets and living areas
- sharing information and learning from each another's approach to fire management working with pastoralists, Wirrjilwarim and other neighbours to look after country with fire.

Rangers



Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers preparing to carry out a fuel reduction burn at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve, March 2009

- Rangers are jointly selected by Dawawang and DEC.
- Rangers are very important for management of Ngamoowalem.
- Rangers are responsible for looking after country using cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge, and for mentoring younger generations.

The objective is to employ rangers with appropriate cultural connections to assist in the joint management of Ngamoowalem.

This will be done by:

- continuing to employ rangers to manage Ngamoowalem who are part of the Dawawang for that area
- continuing to provide the necessary training and development for rangers to fulfil their duties. This will be achieved through a combination of:
 - formal training (e.g. TAFE, MATES)
 - on-country and on-the-job training that incorporates traditional cultural knowledge and *gardiya* knowledge
- encouraging rangers to share knowledge and carry out cross-boundary management activities with neighbouring land managers.

Weeds and problem animals

- There are several common weeds known in Ngamoowalem, including rubber tree, wild passionfruit and grasses.
- Problem animals in Ngamoowalem are cattle and cats.
- Cane toads crossed the WA–NT border in early 2009 and will most likely be in Ngamoowalem soon. Cane toads can have a big impact on bush tucker, particularly goannas, snakes and crocodiles.
- The rangers assisted in biological surveys prior to cane toads arriving in Ngamoowalem.
- Continuing cane toad research may provide new control options in the future.
- Weeds are usually more common in disturbed areas—caused by problem animals like cattle and donkeys.

The objective is to jointly manage weeds and problem animals so that the values of Ngamoowalem are protected.

This will be done by:

- preparing and carrying out a control program for weeds and problem animals that:
 - prioritises the control of weeds and problem animals in the context of the wider region to make sure that limited resources are used wisely
 - considers impacts on key values
 - removes new weeds and problem animals before they become widespread
- making sure that control techniques are culturally appropriate
- cooperating with neighbouring land managers to ensure cross-boundary management of weeds and problem animals
- notifying pastoralists when cattle are in Ngamoowalem, allowing the mustering of stray cattle and removing any stock remaining after mustering
- providing appropriate information for visitors to increase their understanding of the impacts of weeds and pests
- continuing to monitor native animal populations in Ngamoowalem as cane toads move through
- undertaking cane toad control where practicable and assisting with any new control initiatives.

Visitor management and tourism

Visitor management



Existing interpretation sign using natural materials at Molly Springs, May 2009

- Dawawang are responsible for looking after country and any people visiting on their country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with the *garrayilng* for Ngamoowalem.
- As the joint managers, MG Corporation and DEC have a legal responsibility to consider the safety and welfare of visitors to Ngamoowalem.
- Possible visitor and recreation sites will be investigated as part of a recreation planning process.
- The idea of walking trails through the northern parts of Ngamoowalem and along one of the old stock routes has been raised.

The objective is to develop a range of visitor experiences across the proposed conservation parks while protecting key values and minimising the risks to visitors.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the recreation planning process
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about visitor management approvals in protocols that are developed for Ngamoowalem (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)
- directing visitors away from culturally and environmentally sensitive areas of Ngamoowalem
- developing walking trails in Ngamoowalem if appropriate
- developing a visitor risk management plan that identifies and assesses the risks associated with recreation sites and visitor facilities, and incorporates cultural knowledge

- providing information to visitors about Ngamoowalem to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of the park's values, as well as encouraging appropriate visitor behaviour and safety precautions.

Tourism businesses



Discussing site planning at Molly Springs as part of the tourism study, August 2009

- The Tourism Opportunities Study completed in 2010 identified a broad range of options in Ngamoowalem, including a potential trekking network for adventure travellers and locations for possible eco-tourism accommodation.
- All tourism business needs to be consistent with protecting the values of Ngamoowalem. This means protecting conservation and culture as well as helping visitors to understand country.
- It is important that all plans for recreation and tourism development are discussed on country with the *garrayilng* for Ngamoowalem.
- Visitor facilities and tourism business opportunities for Wirrijlwarim Dawang have been raised.

The objective is to jointly manage any tourism business ventures to ensure that they:

- are compatible with other management objectives (natural, cultural) for Ngamoowalem
- provide employment and training opportunities for Dawawang
- are coordinated with other Dawawang across the other proposed conservation parks.

This will be done by:

- considering the recommendations from the Tourism Opportunities Study
- incorporating guidance for joint decision-making about tourism business approvals in protocols that are developed for Ngamoowalem (see *Consultation and joint decision-making*)

- continuing to work with Tourism WA to make sure that tourism projects are properly planned and designed to minimise impact on country and have long-term community benefits
- discussing the possibilities for tourism businesses for the Wirrjilwarim community
- building partnerships for sustainable economic enterprises on country and the capacity of Dawawang so they can independently run tourism businesses in Ngamoowalem in the longer term
- ensuring all leased or licensed commercial operations do so with appropriate conditions that require the business to be consistent with other management objectives for Ngamoowalem
- requiring that tourism businesses incorporate information to facilitate cross-cultural awareness and encourage visitors to look after Ngamoowalem.

Natural and cultural resources

Cultural recording and education



Miriuwung Gajerrong rangers, Andy Reid and Vincent Kennedy, talking with Yalanji elder north of the Daintree River, Queensland, as part of a cultural information management workshop, June 2008

- Dawawang have a major responsibility to keep traditional knowledge of culture, Law and customs strong to look after country.
- It is important that this knowledge is recorded and shared between generations.
- Trips on country are essential for cultural recording and education.
- Where culturally appropriate, this knowledge can be shared with visitors to Ngamoowalem to encourage them to respect and look after the area.

The objective is to ensure Dawawang retain control of their cultural knowledge and have opportunities to share that knowledge.

This will be done by:

- developing protocols for the recording, storage and use of cultural information
- organising trips on country for cultural recording and education
- building a cultural recording system and collating information in a database that is under Dawawang custodianship
- incorporating existing cultural records from organisations like the Kimberley Land Council into the cultural recording system
- protecting intellectual property rights of Dawawang
- keeping the cultural site information up-to-date
- incorporating cultural knowledge into the management of Ngamoowalem
- promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Ngamoowalem's cultural values.

Natural and cultural resources management

- Descriptions of Ngamoowalem's natural values are detailed in Graham and White (1999).
- The Ngamoowalem landscape features sandstone ranges, gorges, creeks, freshwater pools and seasonal waterfalls.
- These features mean that Ngamoowalem has special vegetation patterns ranging from palm groves near the waterfalls to riparian species that are associated with the creeklines.
- The permanent pools of Valentine Creek provide water for the endangered *niyini* (Gouldian finch).
- Dawawang are responsible for looking after all the bush tucker, bush medicine and all the important places for these.
- Ngamoowalem Dawang may hunt animals, fish, gather plants and collect natural resources.
- A biological survey of Ngamoowalem was conducted in 2009. This information will be used for monitoring and guide management decisions.



Pamela Simon and grandchildren, Lavon and Richard, fishing on the banks of the Ord River, January 2005

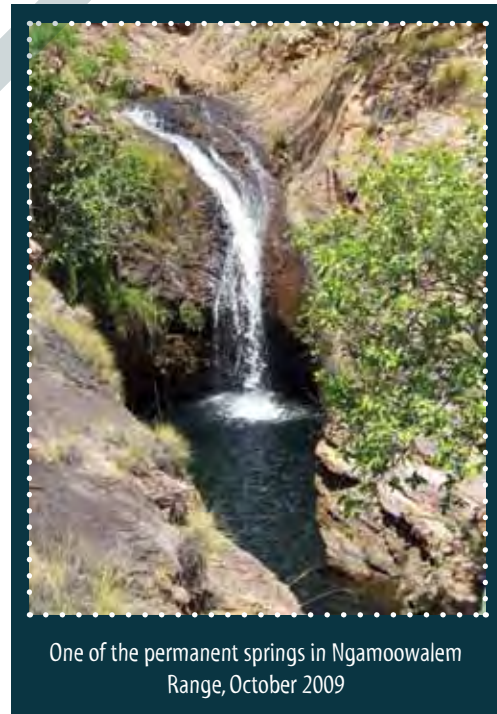
The objective is to jointly manage Ngamoowalem's natural and cultural resources to ensure their protection and enable the maintenance of cultural practices through the sustainable use of these resources.

This will be done by:

- collecting information about the area's values that contributes to effective management of Ngamoowalem and is prioritised as part of the research and monitoring plan
- using traditional knowledge to support the management of natural and cultural resources
- maintaining the diversity of vegetation and animal habitats within Ngamoowalem by managing threatening processes, such as fire and cattle grazing
- identifying and protecting plants and animals rare, threatened or in need of special protection
- protecting native animals within Ngamoowalem by managing threatening processes
- supporting the implementation of recovery plans for threatened flora and fauna, like the National Recovery Plan for the Gouldian finch
- liaising with neighbouring land managers to promote compatible management on adjoining land, especially Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve
- ensuring that the traditional Dawawang use of natural and cultural resources is sustainable.

Cultural site management

- Knowledge of cultural sites and responsibility for protection and management comes through Dawawang connection to country.
- DEC respects the authority of Dawawang in relation to cultural matters and has a responsibility not to damage cultural sites under law—Aboriginal Heritage Act.
- Sites within Ngamoowalem that are registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act include mythological places, artefacts/ scatter, ceremonial sites, paintings, grinding patches/grooves and engravings.
- All cultural sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, regardless of whether they are recorded or not.



One of the permanent springs in Ngamoowalem Range, October 2009

The objective is to identify, protect and maintain cultural sites in Ngamoowalem.

This will be done by:

- identifying and recording cultural sites according to the protocols and processes that are developed as a result of the strategies in the *Cultural recording and education* section
- protecting cultural sites from threatening process (like fire, weeds and animals) and visitor activities (this may include restricting access or temporarily closing parts of Ngamoowalem)
- ensuring that management of Ngamoowalem considers the responsibilities of Dawawang to look after country (e.g. improving access to areas of cultural significance)
- making sure that developments and management activities do not disturb or damage cultural sites
- training staff working in Ngamoowalem how to recognise and report cultural sites
- restoring cultural sites if appropriate
- providing culturally appropriate information and interpretation on Ngamoowalem's cultural sites so that they are valued and looked after by visitors.

Mineral and petroleum exploration and development



- The Department of Mines and Petroleum administers the Mining Act and is responsible for the granting of tenements including prospecting and exploration licences, permits and mining leases for the development of minerals.
- At present, Ngamoowalem is partially covered by a mineral exploration licence and a further two pending.
- There are no petroleum tenements currently over Ngamoowalem.
- There are gravel reserves to the south-east of Ngamoowalem.

The objective is to minimise the impacts of mineral and petroleum exploration and development, including basic raw material extraction and development activities, on the values of Ngamoowalem.

This will be done by:

- making sure that all consultation and negotiation with Dawawang about mining happens through the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- referring proposals that may impact Ngamoowalem to the Environmental Protection Authority for consideration of assessment under the Environmental Protection Act
- referring proposals to the Conservation Commission so they provide advice to the Minister for Environment
- allowing access to basic raw materials for use within Ngamoowalem when the material is not available from the existing gravel reserves.

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