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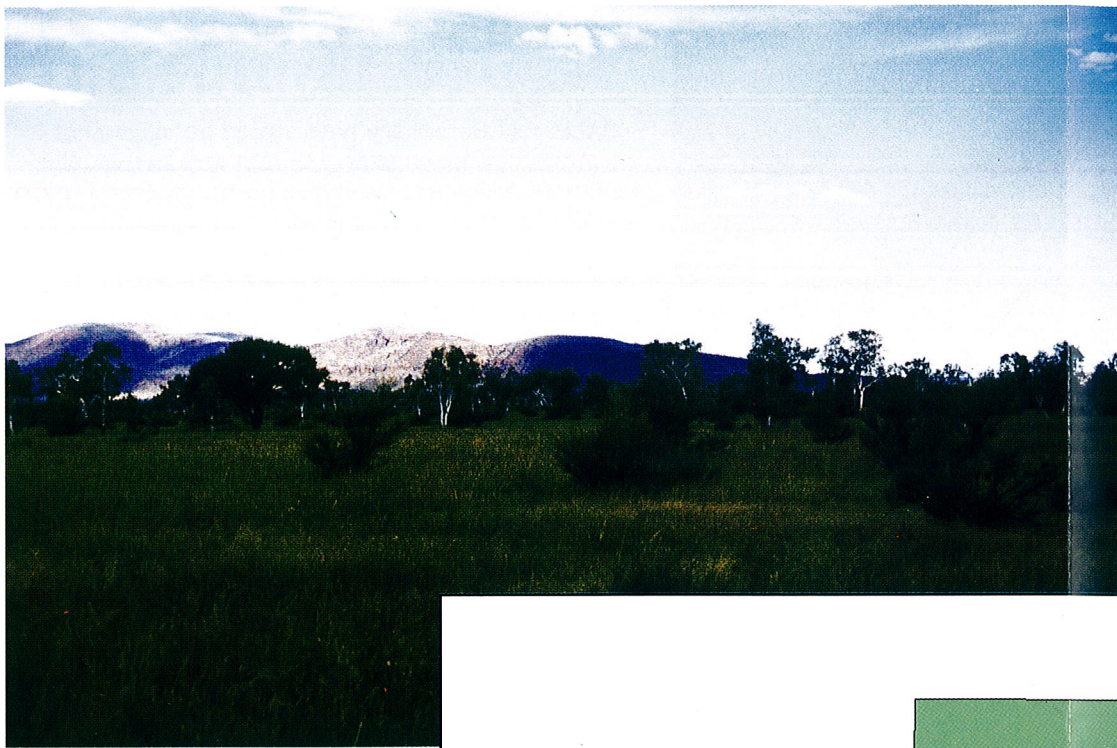
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A UNIQUE APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



*Teamwork
in the
Pilbara*





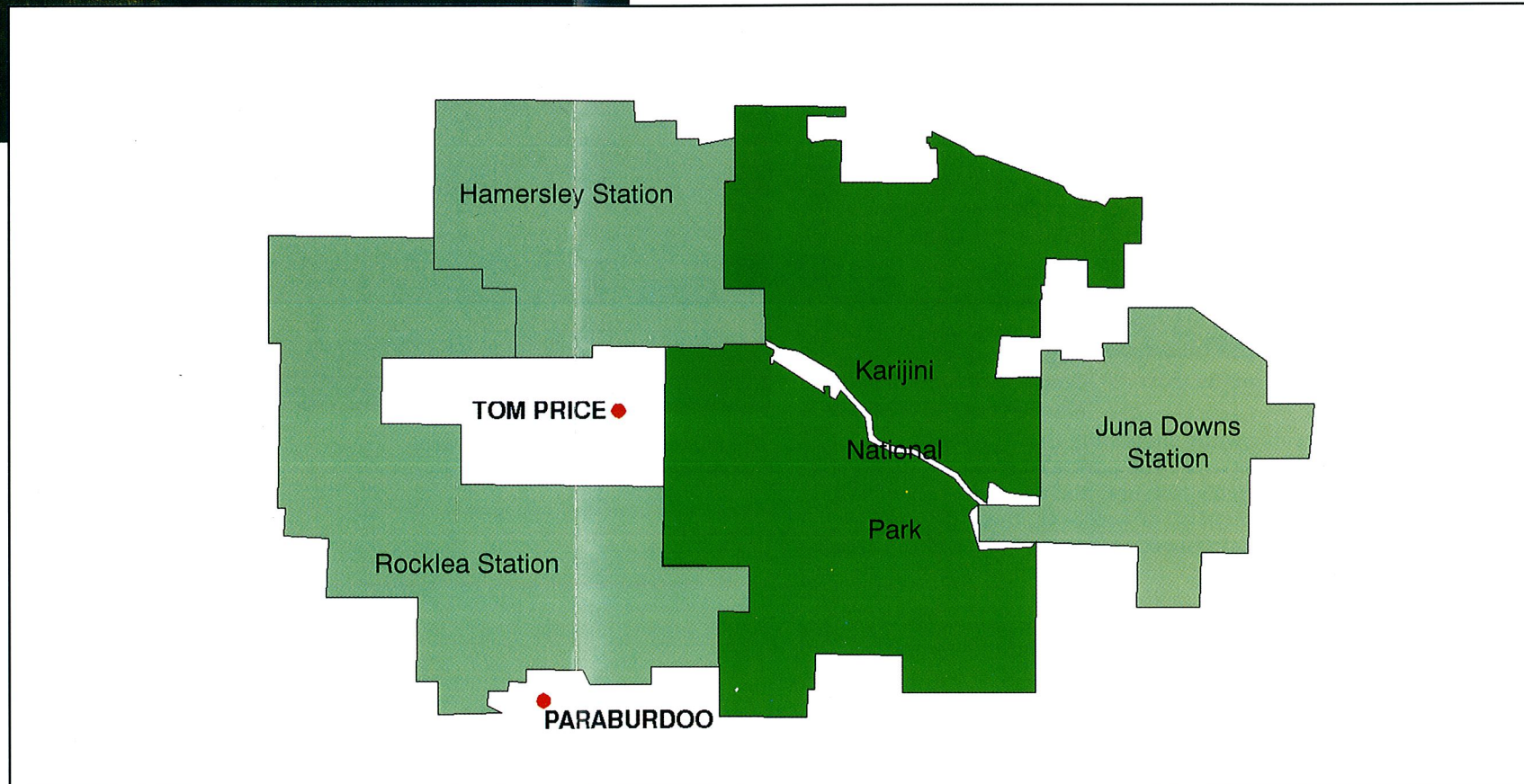
Good pastoral practice is evident in this scene on a Hamersley property close to the ranges in the Karijini National Park.

The concept

Western Australia's Department of Conservation and Land Management and Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited, Australia's largest iron ore exporter, have joined forces in a unique approach to environmental management of one of Australia's largest and most fascinating national parks.

The concept is focused on the giant Karijini National Park located in the Pilbara region of the state's north-west. Sections of the park share common boundaries with Hamersley's pastoral properties. These areas encompass some of the most diverse and spellbinding landscapes in Australia.

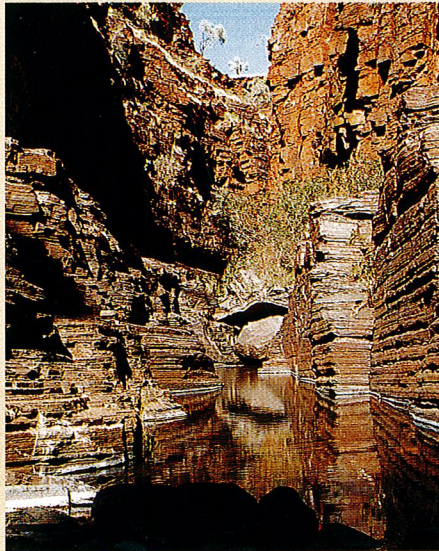
The management concept is based on strong mutual commitment. It will bring benefits to both the participating partners as well as the growing number of Australians who pursue recreational, educational or cultural interests in this magnificent region.



The Karijini National Park showing the size and proximity of the adjoining Hamersley pastoral stations.

The Karijini National Park

The Karijini National Park is the second largest national park in Western Australia, covering more than 600,000 ha and encompassing a diverse range of the arid ecosystems comprising the Hamersley Range. Its primary conservation significance lies in its ability to represent many of the distinctive geological and landscape features of the Hamersley Range and their associated animal and plant communities.



The gorges of the Park are its most famous attraction.

Initially called the Hamersley Range National Park, the area was reserved to allow for conservation management of sensitive ecosystems which were suffering the effects of cattle grazing. The extent of the Park has been progressively increased to include more ecosystems and provide some buffering from surrounding land uses.

Present management of the park by the Department of Conservation and Land Management reflects the

need to cater for people while sustaining the long term conservation value of the area. The park also contains valuable mineral deposits, principally iron ore, and its management will ensure that any assessment of, or access to, these deposits is strictly managed to sustain the conservation values of the area.



The Pilbara's stark beauty attracts thousands of visitors.

The agreement

CALM and Hamersley have signed an agreement to integrate their management of this area in a similar way to the biosphere reserve concept developed under UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere Programme". This means co-operation under several headings to maintain the core (the Park) and buffer areas (the stations), co-ordinated by a joint advisory committee.

Common Goals

This management will support multiple uses, including conservation, pastoral production, mineral production, tourism, recreation and cultural activities. The priority of each use will vary, depending on its location in the management zone.

Management Plan

Plans will be drawn up for all components of the agreement with input from both parties to facilitate compatible management practices of the issues relating to cross-boundary effects, such as fire management, weed and feral animal control, and tourism.

Research

Research directed at understanding how the region's ecosystems function and respond to disturbance will be co-ordinated to maximise the benefits of resources expended by both CALM and Hamersley. Research into the effectiveness of management techniques will be a priority.

Education

The lessons learned in integrating conservation with a range of development and production activities will be of a wider interest and will be disseminated to a broad audience.



A Hamersley agricultural researcher checking pasture improvement at one of the many monitoring points near the Hamersley Ranges.

The benefits

A fundamental aim of this arrangement is to demonstrate that development and conservation are not necessarily mutually exclusive and that areas outside nature reservations can make an important contribution to conservation of biological diversity.

Immediate benefits of the arrangement are:

- provision of a buffer zone around the Park;
- more effective management of cross-boundary issues;
- efficient use of management resources, such as fire fighting equipment;
- improved ability to target joint research and share the results;
- alignment of management strategies to achieve common goals.

Progress

Management

A Management Advisory Group including representatives from both CALM and Hamersley Iron has been formed and meets regularly to discuss major items. More rapid communication lines have been established to deal with immediate issues.

Research

Hamersley has initiated an arrangement with the University of Western Australia's School of Agriculture to establish long term research into sustainable agriculture on Pilbara stations. This work will build on and interact closely with CALM's existing research programs on the region's natural ecosystems and Landcare programs. In particular, research will target assessment of the effectiveness of different management measures.

Projects already underway include investigation of the role of grazing and fire in controlling the abundance of woody shrubs and the nutrient requirements needed to support the rich grassland systems.

Education

Both CALM and Hamersley recognise the potential of this agreement as a model for future development and will be looking to engage the broader community (pastoralists, conservation groups, researchers, local community) through published information and practical demonstrations. This brochure is a start in this direction. Public input is encouraged.

The Hamersley Iron pastoral stations

Pastoralism has been the dominant land use in the Pilbara region since the mid-late 1800s.

The area that is now the Karijini National Park and the land surrounding it were opened to grazing in the early part of the 1900s, carrying a mixture of sheep, horses and cattle.

Herds were progressively turned over to cattle by the 1970s. Traditional land management techniques were not well suited to the unpredictable environment in this arid land and grazing during poor seasons led to degradation of some land systems.



A viable pastoral industry is growing from Hamersley's management practices.

Increased skills in the management of arid lands and changes in community expectations have resulted in efforts to restore the land to a more natural state while maintaining a viable pastoral industry. Hamersley's acquisition of stations in this region has seen the progression of these trends, with plans under development to ensure that future management sustains the underlying productivity of the land without compromising its broader long term conservation values.

The Future

Both CALM and Hamersley, through the management advisory group, will regularly review the value of this agreement and jointly seek continuous improvement.



Once thought to be endangered, the Pebble-mound Mouse has been the subject of extensive research by Hamersley. Its range and distribution are now known to be much wider than originally thought.

For more information

If you would like to know more about this project, please write or telephone these representatives of the partnership:

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