

INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

PROPOSED CASHMERE - BULGA

AND

IDA VALLEY RESERVES
(Former Pastoral Leases)

2006 - 2011

Department of Conservation and Land Management

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of the staff from the CALM Goldfields Region contributed to the preparation of these Interim Management Guidelines.

1. PURPOSE OF INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES (IMG's)

Interim Management Guidelines (IMGs) are required for planning purposes so that certain operations can be carried out in an orderly fashion in the absence of an approved management plan. The operational activities described in the guidelines are defined as those actions necessary for the preservation or protection of persons, property, land, flora and fauna.

This IMG has been prepared in accordance with Departmental policy (Administrative Instruction No. 23) and to fulfil the requirements of Environment Australia under the National Reserve System project.

1.1 Principal Management Directions

These guidelines cover the major management issues including:

- The conservation of biological, physical, cultural and landscape resources.
- The facilitation of recreation in a safe and appropriate form in relation to the physical and climatic conditions of the area and the conservation objectives.
- To seek a better understanding of the natural and cultural environment and the impacts of a range of management activities.

1.2 Area Description

This IMG has been prepared for the Bulga/Cashmere Downs and Ida Valley/Mt Forrest proposed reserves. These proposed reserves were purchased by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) between March and May 2002 for conservation purposes under the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy. This IMG will provide direction for the management of these proposed Reserves until an area management plan is prepared.

This IMG applies to the western portion of Bulga and Cashmere Pastoral Leases (to be referred to as Cashmere - Bulga Reserve) and the eastern block of Bulga Downs that was originally the western part of the old Ida Valley Pastoral Lease (to be referred to as Ida Valley Reserve). The central portion of Bulga Downs and eastern part of Cashmere Downs, (now incorporated into Bulga Downs lease) are still active pastoral leases.

The proposed Cashmere - Bulga Reserve and the proposed Ida Valley Reserve are located approximately 200 kilometres northwest of Menzies and are two distinct parcels of land separated by the active Bulga Downs pastoral lease (see Map 1). The proposed Cashmere - Bulga Reserve is comprised of the undeveloped sections of Bulga Downs (28 952 Ha) and Cashmere Downs (51 673 Ha) to give a combined total area of 80 625ha. The proposed Ida Valley Reserve incorporates the eastern block of Bulga Downs (76 906 Ha), the former Ida Valley lease and an area known as the Mt Forrest block (6 432 Ha) on the south-eastern corner of Bulga Downs pastoral lease. The proposed Ida Valley Reserve has a total area of approximately 83 338ha.

Both the proposed reserves lie within the Murchison Biogeographical Region as described in "An Interim Biogeographical Regionalisation for Australia" (Thackway et. al, 1995).

2. MANAGEMENT FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

2.1 Geology and Landforms

The landform of the proposed Cashmere – Bulga Reserve is dominated by gently undulating sandplains with a strip of small breakaways on laterite and granite through the centre of the area.

The proposed Ida Valley Reserve contains ten land systems different to those on the west. The predominant systems are Bullimore sandplains and Sherwood breakaways. There are some hills, domes and tor fields on granite with occasional quartz dykes. Also occurring are wash plains on hardpan with mulgas; wash plains and sandy tracts on hardpan; mulga shrublands and wanderrie grasses and plains on deeper soils supporting acacia shrublands with occasional mallees and wanderrie grasses. The Mt Forrest area in the proposed Ida Valley Reserve has a banded ironstone ridge forming its dominant feature. Within the hills surrounding are several permanent springs. The landforms in the area include low hills and rises with limonitic duricrust and stony plains, ridges of banded ironstone, ridges and rounded hills of basalt, dolerite, jasperlite and greenstones with some undulating plains with stony and gravely mantles.

Action

- On an as needs basis, provide interpretive material to explain the geology, landforms and soils of the area for visitors.

2.2 Vegetation Associations, Flora and Land Systems

The proposed Cashmere – Bulga Reserve contains ten vegetation associations and the proposed Ida Valley Reserve contains five vegetation associations according to the vegetation mapping at the 1:250,000 scale by JS Beard. These vegetations associations are:

Cashmere - Bulga Reserve:

Vegetation code No 18	a ₁ Li, Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>)
Vegetation code No 125	s ₁ , Bare and poorly vegetated areas; salt lakes, lagoons and claypans
Vegetation code No 128	r, Bare and poorly vegetated area; rock outcrops
Vegetation code No 202	a _{1,14} Si, Shrublands; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) and <i>A. quadrimarginea</i> scrub
Vegetation code No 389	a ₁ Lrk ₁ Ci, Succulent steppe with open low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) over saltbush
Vegetation code No 420	a _{9,19} Si, Shrublands; bowgada (<i>A. ramulosa-A. linophylla</i>) and jam (<i>A. acuminata</i>)
Vegetation code No 485	e ₂₂ Lrt ₂ HixZp, Hummock grassland, mixed sandplain – scattered low trees over sparse dwarf shrubs with Spinifex; red mallee (<i>E. oleosa</i> group) over mixed dwarf shrubs with <i>T. basedowii</i> .
Vegetation code No 533	a ₁ cLi, Low woodland ;mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) and

Vegetation code No 676 cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*)
 k₃Ci, Succulent steppe; samphire
 Vegetation code No 865 e₂₂Lrt_{8,13}HixZp, Hummock grasslands,
 mixed sandplain – scattered low trees over sparse
 dwarf shrubs with Spinifex; red mallee (*E.oleosa* group)
 over mixed dwarf shrubs with *T. scariosa* and *Triodia*.
 sp.

Ida Valley Reserve:

Vegetation code No 18 a₁Li, Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*)
 Vegetation code No 202 a_{1,14}Si, Shrublands; mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and
A. quadrimarginea scrub
 Vegetation code No 207 Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe, red
 mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa* group) over hard Spinifex.
 Vegetation code No 483 Hummock grasslands, mixed sandplain – open mallee
 over sparse dwarf shrubs with Spinifex; red mallee
 (*E. oleosa* group) mallee and mixed dwarf shrubs.
 Vegetation code No 863 Hummock grasslands, mixed sandplain – sparse low
 trees over sparse dwarf shrubs with Spinifex; red mallee
 (*E. oleosa* group) mallee and mixed dwarf shrubs.

Action

- Carry out detailed flora and vegetation association surveys and mapping (biological survey).
- Conduct surveys for the presence of threatened and priority flora, or geographically restricted species and determine appropriate management.

2.3 Introduced Plant Species

The limited development of the western portions of Bulga and Cashmere Downs has resulted in very limited invasion of weed species into the area. The only area known to have the presence of weeds on the proposed Cashmere – Bulga Reserve is in the area surrounding Jay’s Well and the creek system leading south east to Lake Barlee. The weed Double Gee has been recorded in the area.

On the proposed Ida Valley Reserve Double Gees are known to occur on the floodout sandplains south east of Bullock Spring in the Mt Forrest area and are likely to occur at the old bore and mill sites and around natural soak areas where there has been feral herbivore activity.

Action

- Conduct a weed survey of the proposed reserves focussing initially on the old watering points and natural soak areas as the most likely location of significant weed invasion. Management of weeds to be carried out via manual extraction and spraying of larger infestations. Opportunistic removal to be carried out during visits to the area as required.
- Inspect and control known infestations.

2.4 Native Fauna

To date there have been no formal biological surveys conducted in the area.

From the Museum and CALM records the general region of Bulga and Cashmere Downs may support as many as 27 species of mammal including 4 species of rodent, 3 species of kangaroo, 9 dasyurids, 8 bats and one monotreme - the Echidna. An additional six mammal species are thought to be locally extinct. Given the diversity of habitat across the two proposed reserves it is reasonable to presume the majority of extant mammal species will be present on either one or both areas.

The semi arid and arid areas of Western Australia are particularly rich in herpetofauna with this area being no exception. A total of 76 species of reptiles and amphibians are expected to occur there comprising of 6 varanids, 4 pygopods, 20 skinks, 12 geckos, 10 dragons, 15 snakes and 9 frogs. Again, as for the mammals, the two proposed reserves would be expected to support the majority of these species.

Action

- Conduct a full biological survey following the de-stocking of the proposed reserves.

2.5 Introduced Animals

Low numbers of foxes, feral cats and rabbits occur across the two proposed reserves. Goats are present in various areas throughout both the proposed reserves, predominantly in breakaway areas and in the banded ironstone ranges associated with Mt Forrest. Feral goats will be trapped and removed along with feral cattle in the proposed Ida Valley Reserve under an arrangement with the owners of the active Bulga Downs lease. Goat numbers will require monitoring in the proposed Cashmere-Bulga Reserve.

Wild dogs occur in both the proposed reserves. CALM is part of the local Declared Animal Group (DAG) which looks at methods of controlling wild dog numbers. CALM also provides funding to assist with baiting programs. Long-term management of wild dogs will require continual consultation with neighbours.

Donkeys and horses are known to occur in the area and will be controlled.

A number of artificial watering points occur across the proposed reserves. These watering points will need to be decommissioned in order to deny water to introduced animals and restore the natural balance of native fauna. The decommissioning of water points should occur when animal populations are naturally dispersed as sudden denial of water from artificial sources is undesirable. Most sources have been decommissioned since purchase in 2002 and can now be removed.

Once the proposed reserves have been de-stocked, domestic animals (other than guide dogs) will not be permitted. Pets disturb wildlife, can introduce disease, foul recreation areas and water holes, and can interrupt native fauna activity. Once the

reserves have been declared, signage will be installed to advise the public that pets are not permitted within the reserves.

Action

- Continue contributing to the Regional wild dog/ feral predator control program including aerial and ground baiting as required.
- Monitor feral animal populations (ie. horses and donkeys) and initiate control programs as appropriate.
- Systematically decommission all artificial water points. Initiate a monitoring program to assess the effect of this on native fauna.
- In liaison with neighbours, coordinate the trapping of feral cattle and goats from the proposed Ida Valley Reserve.
- Discourage visitors from taking domestic animals into the reserves through installing signage once the proposed reserves have been declared.

2.6 Aboriginal Heritage

Advice from the Department of Indigenous Affairs indicates there are no registered Aboriginal sites on Bulga or Cashmere Downs leases, listed in the Aboriginal Sites Register. It is highly likely that sites of Aboriginal significance are present within the proposed reserves however are not recorded or entered into the register.

The potential for the proposed reserves to become jointly managed with the Aboriginal traditional owners for the area will be considered with the change of land tenure.

Action

- Liaise with native title claimants, traditional owners and representative organisations to confirm the status of native title claims for the area and expectations relating to management and joint management.
- Consult with indigenous organisations and individuals to determine native title implications, cultural values and interests and to document sites.
- Accommodate and protect sites, cultural values and interests during the planning and management of the reserves.
- In accordance with Department and Government policy, progress joint management of the reserves with Aboriginal traditional owners

2.7 European History

The explorer John Forrest travelled through the area in 1869 searching for signs of Ludwig Leichhardt. Forrest travelled from Perth to the area now known as Laverton and during this expedition named Mt Forrest and Depot Springs on the proposed Ida Valley Reserve. Depot Springs was the first good spring found since leaving the settled areas and as such was used as a base camp during this expedition.

During Forrest's expedition he attempted to cross Lake Barlee however the team became bogged in the mud. Forrest and his crew made it to an island where they were forced to camp for the night. The following day they lead the horses back across the

Lake to a camp that Forrest named Retreat Rock (Forrest J. 1969). From Forrest's expedition through the Sandstone area he reported that the country was worthless for pastoralism however had the potential for gold.

The area was used for pastoralism when Bulga Downs Station was taken up around 1920 and stocked with horses. In 1924 the station changed hands and was stocked with sheep. After this time the average stocking level was approximately 3 000 head of sheep. Ida Valley Station was stocked with sheep in the 1970's (pers comm. D. McQuie, 2005).

Cashmere Downs was taken up as a pastoral lease by Dalgety and Co. Ltd around 1902, however was not developed until the 1920s. It was abandoned in 1945 after which the lease was uninhabited until some time between 1952 and 1955 (Senior S. 1995). Phillip Lefroy took up the lease in 1961 and worked the property until CALM purchased a section of it under a voluntary lease adjustment deal with Bulga Downs in April 2002.

2.8 Landscape

The term landscape is used to describe the visual image of an area. In many places the natural landscape has been modified by the activities of man to become the cultural landscape; the landscape has already undergone modifications and will continue to change. It is the rate of change and degree of impact, which are important to management of the landscape.

The objective of CALMs Visual Resource Management Policy is to ensure that all lands are managed in ways that sustain the beauty of the natural environment.

Action

- Ensure development proposals are managed to minimise impact on the landscape, in accordance with CALMs Visual Resource Management guidelines (Policy Statement No. 34).

2.9 Erosion, Mining and Rehabilitation

Localised active track erosion has occurred on some tracks where overland water flow has been intercepted by these alignments. Repair and rehabilitation work is required.

The main area of interest for mining activity on the reserves is within the banded ironstone range of the Mt Forrest area with active exploration occurring.

Action

- Any future mining tenements will be granted in accordance with conditions agreed to between CALM and the Department of Industry Resources (DOIR). Prior to any ground disturbing activity a detailed program will be prepared by the proponent and referred to CALM. This program will also address rehabilitation requirements.

- Government legislative requirements for clearing controls apply and will be enforced.
- Map and inspect all exploration activity. Liaise with tenement holders.
- Carry out erosion control and rehabilitation work along eroded tracks. Assess all tracks and complete work on a priority basis.

2.10 Fire

Fire management considerations include the protection of persons, property and conservation values. Fire is a major ecological process in mallee, heath and spinifex communities, which burn readily and are adapted to fire. In these communities fire is a major determining factor for ecological diversity. Mulga communities and most of the other vegetation associations on the reserves are fire sensitive. A program of protection and strategic prescribed burning for biodiversity protection will be required.

Action

- Use historical data and survey to map fire history, impacts and prescribed burning needs. Interpret, through biological survey and mapping vegetation associations, the fire susceptible areas requiring management and protection.
- Prior to any prescribed burning being undertaken, a fire management plan for the reserves will be developed.
- Undertake ground and aerial prescribed burning in accordance with the fire management plan.
- Develop and grade strategic access tracks and firebreaks

2.11 Land Tenure, Boundary and Internal Fences

Parts of Bulga Downs and Cashmere Downs Pastoral Leases were purchased by CALM in March to May 2002. Both the proposed reserves became Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), managed by CALM under section 33(2) of the *CALM Act* as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding between CALM and the Department of Land Administration (DOLA), pending action to create the areas as Conservation Parks vested with the Conservation Commission and consistent with Native Title and Joint Management requirements. Prior to reservation it will be necessary to liaise with all stakeholders including Aboriginal groups, the Shires of Sandstone, Leonora and Menzies and the Department of Industry and Resources (DOIR).

The proposed Ida Valley Reserve, from the north west corner in a clockwise direction, has common boundaries with;

- Dandaraga Pastoral Lease which has been fenced 6km to the Pinnacles Station boundary fence;
- Pinnacles Pastoral Lease which has been fenced for 42kms. This new boundary fencing also incorporates Kurrajong Range into the proposed Reserve;
- Sturt Meadows Pastoral Lease which includes 25kms of boundary with no effective fence. Malcolms Bore is owned by Bulga Downs and will be dismantled;

- Perrinvale Pastoral Lease includes 33kms of boundary with no effective fence in some parts and a salvageable fence in the rest. A section of new fencing has been completed and a section of old fences is currently being repaired;
- Bulga Downs Pastoral Lease includes 42kms of boundary with good fencing for sheep and cattle and was upgraded in 2002/03.

The proposed Cashmere-Bulga Reserve, commencing from the north east corner and travelling in a clockwise direction has common boundaries with;

- Bulga Downs Pastoral Lease which includes 20km of boundary. Currently this boundary has no fencing however fencing material has been supplied. Awaiting CALM vegetative clearance and Native Title clearance for the alignment fence;
- Cashmere Downs Pastoral Lease includes 22km of boundary with a non functional fence. The fencing material has been supplied however the new fence has not yet been built and requires clearing of alignment and construction;
- The remaining neighbours include Lake Barlee Pastoral Lease, Unallocated Crown Land and Yuinmery Pastoral Lease. Currently there is no fencing along any of these boundaries and there are no fencing agreements in place.

Boundary fencing will be upgraded, monitored and maintained in co-operation with neighbours where grazing is occurring adjacent to the proposed reserves.

Stock movements are limited by the availability of natural or artificial waters and the type of country, especially where spinifex vegetation occurs adjacent to the boundary. As some of the artificial waters have already been closed down, entry and grazing by neighbouring stock will be very limited when seasonal conditions provide surface water.

There is approximately 150km of internal sheep fencing in various states of repair from good, through poor to virtually non-existent. The majority of this is located on the proposed Ida Valley Reserve and in places is in good condition and should be salvaged and used to strengthen the boundary fence where required. Some of these internal fences restrict access, interfere with water flow and creeks, are dangerous to wildlife and should all be removed. The removal of these internal fences will be done in close consultation with the owner of Bulga Downs Station.

Action

- Remove internal fencing on a priority basis especially sections of internal fences which cross creeks or impact on access, landscape and tourism management. Fences to be removed in consultation with owner of Bulga Downs.
- Commence the process of changing the tenure to a CALM managed conservation park under relevant legislation. Joint Management of the proposed reserves will be considered with the change of tenure.
- Monitor entry of neighbouring stock, assess their impact, and develop control measures by fencing where necessary, in consultation with neighbours.
- Once reserve vesting is finalised, undertake statutory management planning.
- Establish a boundary track, in liaison with neighbours, where required, to demarcate the reserve and facilitate fence, fire and stock management.

2.12 Artificial Waters

Artificial waters support inflated population levels of animals, concentrated in areas surrounding those waters. Most of the artificial waters have been systematically closed down as seasonal conditions allowed. This has been done when existing native animal populations were naturally dispersed as sudden denial of water from artificial sources is undesirable.

Where neighbouring properties have water points close to the boundary, arrangements will need to be made to move the water away from the boundary to alleviate pressure on the fence by congregations of stock watering and camping on the boundary.

Action

- Liaise with neighbours where water points are located on the boundary to develop a suitable arrangement to move the water off the boundary fence. CALM will supply the necessary materials and the neighbour will carry out the work.
- All decommissioned windmills will be removed through liaison with the owners.

3. MANAGEMENT FOR PARKS AND VISITOR SERVICES

3.1 Access and Roads

The only formal public access road within the proposed reserves is a track running east-west through the proposed Cashmere-Bulga Reserve between the Cashmere and Yuinmery homesteads.

There is a network of boundary and internal former station tracks throughout the proposed Cashmere-Bulga Reserve in various states of repair that will be assessed and upgraded as required to provide a series of strategic access tracks through the proposed reserve. The boundary and internal access tracks within the proposed Ida Valley Reserve have already been upgraded.

Action

- Develop an access and road plan for the proposed reserves.
- Assess the need to maintain, upgrade, close or rehabilitate access roads and tracks.

3.2 Tourism and Visitor Safety

Currently the number of visitors accessing the proposed reserves is very low if any at all. Some through traffic does occur in the proposed Cashmere-Bulga Reserve between the Cashmere and Yuinmery homesteads.

In the proposed Ida Valley Reserve there is currently limited visitor access into the Depot Spring and Forrest's Camp areas and Mount Forrest. There is also limited

access into Retreat Rocks along a track from Jays Bore following the edge of Lake Barlee. The Mount Forrest area has future potential as a significant visitation site due to the scenery, permanent natural spring and the interesting geology of the banded ironstone ridge that forms Mount Forrest.

As the proposed reserves have not been declared, there are currently no location or directional signs on the proposed reserves other than on the main road. There are visitor risk management issues associated with this.

The extent and type of visitor use of the area requires assessing and management.

Action

- Conduct a visitor risk analysis.
- Review PVS output demands and needs. Develop an access and site management plan for the reserves as demand dictates.
- Establish strategic direction and orientation signs throughout the reserves in areas accessed by visitors.
- Advise visitors of hazards through signage or brochures. Liaise with commercial tour operators and issue licences.

3.3 Infrastructure and Facilities

The proposed reserves were purchased because of their high nature conservation values. The areas were relatively undeveloped in a pastoral sense and have been subject to limited grazing over the years. There is no major infrastructure in the form of homesteads, shearing sheds or machinery sheds on the leases. The main infrastructure includes windmills, tanks, troughs and fences.

For ongoing management and protection of the proposed reserves, some infrastructure in the way of access tracks, fire breaks and boundary fencing will be maintained. There is a Telstra communication tower on Kurrajong Range in the northern part of the proposed Ida Valley Reserve.

Action

- Review the ongoing need for fences and tracks throughout the proposed reserves on a regular basis and upgrade and remove as required.
- Liaise with Telstra regarding ongoing access and management of the communications tower and track.

3.4 Information and Interpretation

A well informed and supportive public can greatly assist the Department with the management of remote areas such as these proposed reserves. Information and interpretative display boards at key recreation, historical and cultural locations provide an important avenue for communicating with visitors.

Staff contact on site is also an effective means of communicating information. The remoteness of this area restricts regular CALM staff visits. The appointment of

Honorary CALM Officers may provide opportunities for the transfer of information and assist with management activities.

Action

- Identify key locations for the provision of suitable interpretative material.
- Install boundary signs.
- Prepare information about the proposed reserves for distribution on site, regionally and through the local shire office.
- Provide interpretative displays in accordance with existing standards.
- Liaise with neighbouring land managers about assistance and honorary CALM officer roles.
- Investigate use of volunteer and community groups to assist with surveys, management of the reserve and values.

4. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

4.1 Nature Conservation

Effective conservation management requires adequate knowledge of flora, fauna and natural processes within the landscape, including baseline condition and changes associated with management, natural events and climate. Survey, research and monitoring provide long term information on trends.

Action

- Carry out detailed flora and fauna surveys (biological survey) to document baseline condition, locate threatened or priority species of flora and fauna and document vegetation associations including any unique assemblages.
- Monitor feral animal and weed populations and control through appropriate management.
- Monitor the recovery and succession trends following removal of grazing pressure, particularly around former artificial water points.
- Identify and monitor degraded areas to prevent further degradation and damage.

4.2 Social

Visitor numbers to the area are expected to increase once the area is gazetted as a conservation reserve.

To assist in the development of interpretative information and other facilities, regional staff will need to gather information about the number of visitors, their expectations and reasons for travelling in this area. Visitor surveys will provide information about patterns of use and the need for the provision of facilities and information.

Action

- Conduct appropriate visitor surveys.
- Monitor visitor impacts to the area.

- If required, install a vehicle counter (VISTAT) at a suitable location within the reserves.

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND WORKS PROGRAM

The implementation of these guidelines will be undertaken within the annual works program developed by Goldfields regional staff. Implementation activities will also be subject to broader regional priorities and will depend on the availability of staff and other resources.

These guidelines may be amended as new information becomes available or major development (such as mining activities) occurs.

High Priority activities are programmed for completion in 2005/2006.

Medium Priority activities are programmed for completion in 2006/2007.

Low Priority activities are programmed for completion as resources permit.

6. REFERENCES

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Table 1: Implementation and Works Program

ACTION	PRIORITY H,M,L	COMPLETION DATE	COMMENTS
2.1 Geology and Landforms			
On an as needs basis, provide interpretive material to explain the geology, landforms and soils of the area for visitors.	L		
2.2 Vegetation Associations, Flora and Land Systems			
Carry out detailed flora and vegetation association surveys and mapping (biological surveys).	M		Some completed by Outback Ecology in the Mt Forrest area – associated with mineral exploration.
Conduct surveys for the presence of threatened and priority flora, or geographically restricted species and determine appropriate management.	M		Some completed by Outback Ecology in the Mt Forrest area – associated with mineral exploration.
2.3 Introduced Plant Species			
Conduct a weed survey of the proposed reserves focussing initially on the old watering points and natural soak areas as the most likely location of significant weed invasion. Management of weeds to be carried out via manual extraction and spraying of larger infestations. Opportunistic removal to be carried out during visits to the area as required.	M		
Inspect and control known infestations.	H		Ongoing
2.4 Native Fauna			
Conduct a full biological survey following the de-stocking of the proposed reserves.	L		
2.5 Introduced Animals			
Continue contributing to the Regional wild dog/ feral predator control program including aerial and ground baiting as required.	H		Ongoing
Monitor feral animal populations (i.e horses and donkeys) and initiate control programs as appropriate.	H		Commenced in 2004/2005 Ongoing
Systematically decommission all artificial water points. Initiate a monitoring program to assess the effect of this on native fauna.	H	2003/2004	Completed – some approvals given to re-open to aid in feral animal control/ trapping program.
In liaison with neighbours, coordinate the trapping of feral cattle and goats from the proposed Ida Valley Reserve.	H		Ongoing – fencing/ trapping material supplied and commenced in 2004/ 2005.
Discourage visitors from taking domestic animals into the reserve through installing signage once the reserves have been declared.	L		
2.6 Aboriginal Heritage			
Liaise with native title claimants, traditional owners and representative	H		Commenced in 2005/2006

organisations to confirm the status of native title claims for the area and expectations relating to management and joint management.			
Consult with indigenous organisations and individuals to determine native title implications, cultural values and interests and to document sites.	H		Commenced in 2005/2006
Accommodate and protect sites, cultural values and interests during the planning and management of the reserves.	H		Commenced in 2005/2006
In accordance with Department and Government policy, progress joint management of the reserves with the Aboriginal traditional owners.	L		
2.8 Landscape			
Ensure development proposals are managed to minimise impact of the landscape, in accordance with CALMs Visual Resource Management Guidelines (Policy Statement No. 34).	L		
2.9 Erosion, Mining and Rehabilitation			
Any future mining tenements will be granted in accordance with conditions agreed to between CALM and the Department of Industry Resources (DOIR). Prior to any ground disturbing activity a detailed program will be prepared by the proponent and referred to CALM. This program will also address rehabilitation requirements.	H		Active tenements in the Mt Forrest area. Ongoing management required.
Government legislative requirements for clearing controls apply and will be enforced.	H		Ongoing
Map and inspect all exploration activity. Liaise with tenement holders.	H		
Carry out erosion control and rehabilitation work along eroded tracks. Assess all tracks and complete work on a priority basis.	M		
2.10 Fire			
Use historical data and survey to map fire history, impacts and prescribed burning needs. Interpret, through biological survey and mapping vegetation associations, the fire susceptible areas requiring management and protection.	M		
Prior to any prescribed burning being undertaken, a fire management plan for the reserves will be developed.	M		
Undertake ground and aerial prescribed burning in accordance with the fire management plan.	L		
Develop and grade strategic access tracks and firebreaks.	H		Completed for the proposed Ida Valley Reserve.
2.11 Land Tenure, Boundary and Internal Fences			
Remove internal fencing on a priority basis especially sections of internal	L		

fences which cross creeks or impact on access, landscape and tourism management.			
Commence the process of changing tenure to a CALM management conservation park under relevant legislation.	H		Has commenced.
Monitor entry of neighbouring stock, assess their impact and develop control measures by fencing where necessary in conjunction with neighbours.	H		Some boundary fences have been completed and others are still to be installed. All materials have been supplied.
Once reserve vesting is finalised, undertake statutory management planning.	L		
Establish a boundary track, in liaison with neighbours, where required, to demarcate the reserve and facilitate fence, fire and stock management.	H		Mostly complete.
2.12 Artificial Waters			
Liaise with neighbours where water points are located on the boundary to develop a suitable arrangement to move the water off the boundary fence. CALM will supply the necessary materials and the neighbour will carry out the work.	L		
All decommissioned windmills will be removed through liaison with owners.	M		
3.1 Access and Roads			
Develop an access and road plan for the proposed reserves.	H		Completed
Assess the need to maintain, upgrade, close or rehabilitate access roads and tracks.	M		Rehabilitation of tracks
3.2 Tourism and Visitor Safety			
Conduct a Visitor Risk Analysis.	M		
Review Park Visitor Services output demands and needs. Develop an access and site management plan for the reserves as demand dictates.	L		
Establish strategic direction and orientation signs throughout the reserves in areas accessed by visitors.	L		
Advise visitors of hazards through signage or brochures. Liaise with commercial tour operators and issue licences.	L		
3.3 Infrastructure and Facilities			
Review the ongoing need for fences and tracks throughout the proposed reserve on a regular basis and upgrade and remove as required.	L		
Liaise with Telstra regarding ongoing access and management of the communications tower and track.	M		

3.4 Information and Interpretation			
Identify key locations for the provision of suitable interpretative material.	L		
Install boundary signs.	H		Signs have been purchased 2005/2006.
Prepare information about the proposed reserves for distribution on site, regionally and through local shire office.	L		
Provide interpretative displays in accordance with existing standards.	L		
Liaise with neighbouring land managers about assistance and honorary CALM officer roles.	L		
Investigate use of volunteers and community groups to assist with surveys, management of the reserve and values.	L		
4.1 Nature Conservation			
Carry out detailed flora and fauna (biological survey) surveys to document baseline condition, locate threatened or priority species of flora and fauna and document vegetation associations including any unique assemblages.	L		
Monitor feral animal and weed populations and control through appropriate management.	H		
Monitor the recovery and succession trends following removal of grazing pressure, particularly around former artificial water points.	M		
Identify and monitor degraded areas to prevent further degradation and damage.	M		
4.2 Social			
Conduct appropriate visitor surveys.	L		
Monitor visitor impacts to the area.	L		
If required, install a vehicle counter (VISTAT) at a suitable location within the reserves.	L		