

# **GOLDFIELDS WOODLAND NATIONAL PARK**

## **OFFICIAL DECLARATION AND OPENING** **BOONDI ROCK** **SUNDAY 16 JULY**

### **PROGRAM**

- 9.15 am Arrive Kalgoorlie Airport – met by Dr Wally Cox; Jim Sharp, Director Parks and Visitor Services, CALM; Ian Kealley, CALM Goldfields Region Manager.
- 9.30 am Depart for Boondi in CALM vehicles – party includes Hon Premier, Hon Minister for the Environment, Justine Whittome, Steve Manchee, Kaye Verboon, Channel 9 journalist, Channel 9 camera operator, Dr Cox, Jim Sharp.
- 10.50 am Arrive Boondi, morning tea and introductions
- 11.00 am Official launch (program attached)
- 11.25 am Walk around the historic catchment and dam
- 11.40 am Morning tea; depart for Kalgoorlie at Premier's convenience

### **PROGRAM FOR THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH**

- 11.00 am Welcome to the region by Ian Kealley and introduction of Dr Wally Cox
- 11.02 am Introduction of the Minister by Dr Cox
- 11.04 am Minister makes a short address and introduces the Premier
- 11.07 am Address by the Hon Premier to declare the park open
- 11.17 am Dr Wally Cox thanks Hon Premier and invites the Aboriginal participants to welcome people to the land.
- 11.25 am Dr Cox thanks the Aboriginal people and invites people to have another cuppa, snack, talk to the CALM staff, view the display or a short guided walk (500 metres) to the dam, historic catchment, rock and fringing vegetation.

## **KEY CONTACT NUMBERS**

Digital and CDMA (analogue) phones do not work in the park. Digital and CDMA work in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie.

CALM has arranged contact by satellite phone. Key numbers are:

Nigel Higgs, CALM Corporate Relations – 0404 820 737

Boondi Dam site CALM Goldfields staff – 761 333 177

CALM Goldfields mobile for when in Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie 0417 917 612

The conservation reserve system in the Goldfields has been bolstered with the declaration of a new 64,600 hectare national park west of Coolgardie.

Premier Richard Court today said the Goldfields Woodland National Park would provide a further attraction to a region that was synonymous with Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The new park is part of a new conservation reserve network extending over almost 152,500 hectares that straddle the Great Eastern Highway between Coolgardie and Southern Cross. A further 150,000 hectares has been earmarked to be added to the network to create a series of conservation lands totalling more than 300,000 hectares.

"The Goldfields are an indelible part of Western Australia's history in terms of their contribution to the development of the State since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century," he said.

"The discovery of gold in Coolgardie in 1892 and in Kalgoorlie the following year was probably the single biggest stimulus to the growth of Western Australia in terms of building infrastructure such as the port of Fremantle, the Mundaring to Kalgoorlie pipeline and a network of railways."

Mr Court said the new national park in many respects was a microcosm of the Eastern Goldfields.

"Within the parks boundaries, you can find an amazing range of the various ecosystems of the region including granite outcrops, natural salt lakes, sandplain heaths and eucalypt woodlands," he said.

"The park also is particularly significant in that it contains the richest array of dragon lizards found in the region.

"The area contains a wide variety of eucalypts including original stands and regrowth areas of salmon gum, gimlet, ribbon-barked gum, mallees, red morrel, redwood, and woodline mallee. There also is a range of acacias, banksias, callistemons, hakeas, melaleucas, sandalwood and an undescribed species of grasstree.

"Fauna surveys during the biological survey of the Eastern Goldfields and the Department of Conservation and Land Management for the reserves and neighbouring Boorabbin National Park (26,000 ha) have revealed 17 species of native mammals, four frogs, 52 reptiles and 51 bird species.

"Mammals include the wongai ningui, a small nocturnal marsupial that preys on insects and several species of dunnarts (another small insect-preying marsupial weighing less than 15 grams when fully grown), as well as bats and native rodents."

Mr Court said the eucalypts of the Goldfields attracted international attention because they are unique, species diverse and it was the only place in the world where so many tall trees grew in such an arid environment.

"Land management people from countries such as China, Africa, Israel and other Mediterranean countries are now using Goldfields eucalypts for re-forestation and rehabilitation projects in their arid zones," he said.

Mr Court said the area also had much to offer for recreation and tourism, with the potential to develop a number of recreation and camping sites within the park and along the Great Eastern Highway and provide a tourist route to incorporate and interpret different biological and historical features.

These included distinctive rock catchments along the historical Goldfields railway and pipeline next to the Great Eastern Highway and the heritage trail from York to the Goldfields. The famous and historic Holland Track from Broomehill to Coolgardie crossed the park from Diamond Rock through Thursday Rock and Victoria Rock to Coolgardie. This route was now developing as a popular outback four-wheel-drive track.

Remnants of the historic Kalgoorlie woodlines in the western part of the reserves generate much interest. These woodlines were narrow gauge railway lines used to haul timber into Kalgoorlie and Boulder for the mines and boilers following the discovery of gold.

Timber cut from the arid inland forests also was used as fuel in the pumping stations along the Goldfields water pipeline between Mundaring and Kalgoorlie, which was completed in 1903. The last of wood-fired boilers and pumping stations swung over to diesel in 1960 and by 1965 the Goldfields woodlines and timber-fuelled pump stations had been consigned to history.

Mr Court said the declaration of the park was part of the Government's commitment to conservation of the State's natural environment and to create opportunities for nature-based tourism activities in regional Western Australia.

"The Government also is strongly committed to achieving a balance by creating a comprehensive conservation reserve network while at the same time appreciating the various competing land uses in the Goldfields," he said.

"We also are committed to encouraging a conservation ethic that recognises the rights of future generations, and the responsibilities of the present one, to manage natural resources so that the opportunities, the environmental quality and natural values we enjoy, remain for future generations as well."

Media contact: Casey Cahill 9222 9475

Dr Wally Cox, Executive Director of  
The Department of Conservation and Land Management  
cordially invites

to the Official Opening of the  
**Goldfields Woodland National Park**

by the  
Premier of Western Australia the  
Honorable Richard Court, B.Com, MLA

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2000

at 11.00am in the National Park at Boondi Rock,  
the turnoff on the Great Eastern Highway 51km west of Bullabulling  
will be signposted.

Morning Tea will be provided

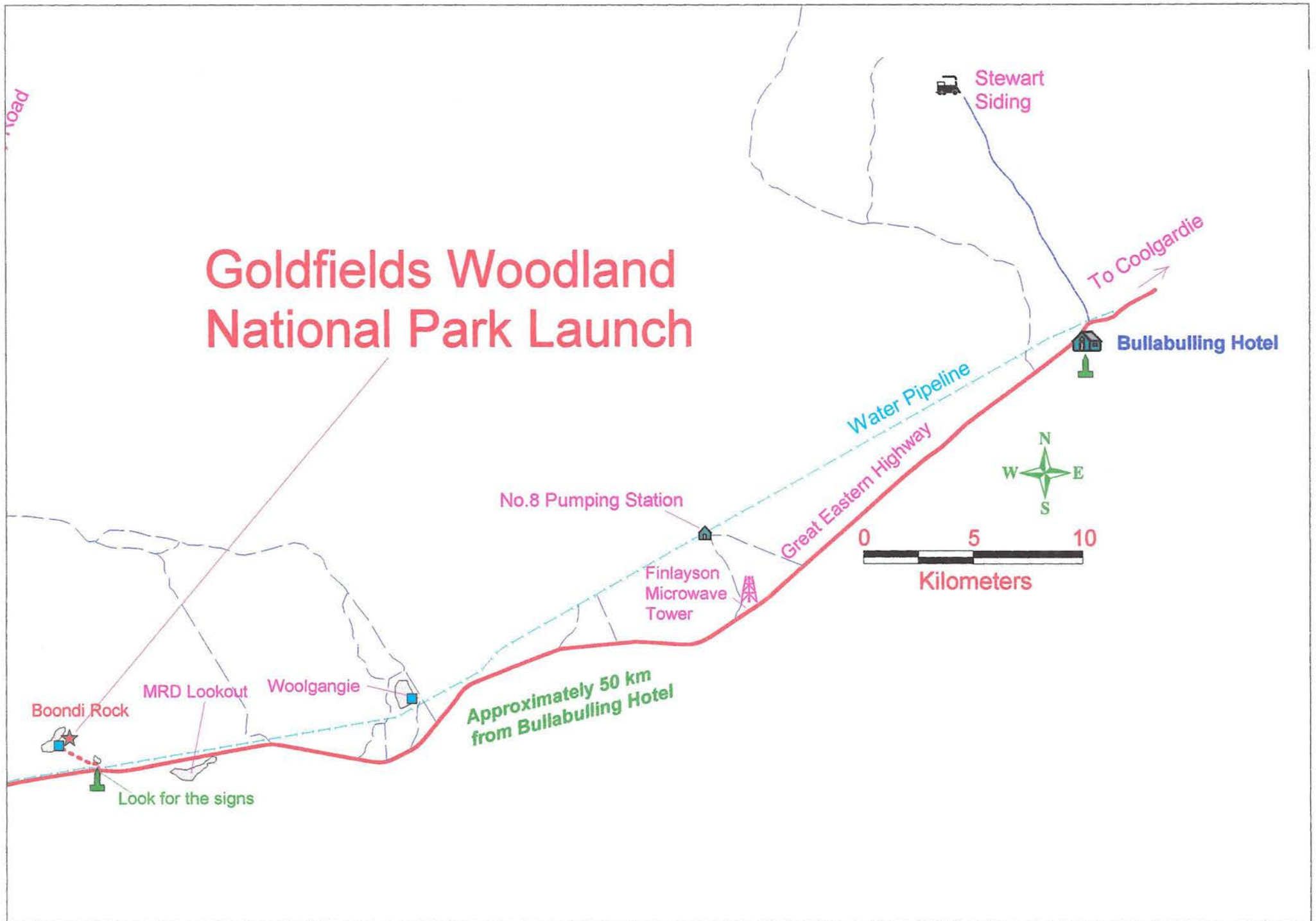
Bus transport is available to depart from the Kalgoorlie Tourist Bureau at  
8.30am and Coolgardie Shire office at 9.00am sharp.  
Returning by 1.30pm.

*(We would appreciate it if private transport could be limited and use of the buses maximised)*

RSVP Wednesday, July 12, 2000  
(attendance and bus transport)

Phone: 9021 2677

# Goldfields Woodland National Park Launch



**ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER  
FOR THE DECLARATION OF  
THE GOLDFIELDS WOODLAND  
NATIONAL PARK  
SUNDAY 16 JULY 2000**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Cheryl Edwardes MLA; Elders and the Aboriginal people of the Goldfields; Dr Wally Cox; Mrs Marion Blackwell, Deputy Chair of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority; representatives of local government; ladies and gentlemen. (Others to be confirmed later from RSVP and on the day)

Thank you Cheryl. A little over five years ago CALM's Goldfields Regional Management Plan was released following a process that began five years previously and involved extensive public consultation on a wide range of issues such as extending the conservation reserve system, management of flora and fauna, recreation and tourism, mining on reserves and community involvement.

One of the aspects about the final plan was that it drew together all the various factors in such a way so that the ultimate outcome was a series of integrated components, which formed an overall strategy.

And the key word here is 'integrated'. It means that we can look at all the various land uses, and the cultural and heritage aspects of the land, and then devise plans to manage the land so that as far as possible we can meet the needs and aspirations of all the various players, including the traditional owners, the mining industry, tourism and, of course, the overall need to conserve the nature conservation values for future generations.

The converse, of course, is to take a 'compartmentalised' approach whereby we look at each issue in isolation, and put them in little boxes and then try to manage each one interdependent of each other. It is a recipe for confrontation and ultimately, environmental mis-management.

The new Goldfields Woodland National Park reflects this integrated approach, as it is part of a network of conservation reserves that ultimately will cover more than 310,000 hectares.

Today, we are celebrating the declaration of the first stage of the park, which extends over 64,600 hectares. In addition to this, there are a further 88,000 hectares of Conservation Park and special management areas, which join the park to the east and south-east.

The creation of these parks and reserves increases the conservation lands in the western portion of the Goldfields to more than 1 million hectares. To the north of here, CALM is managing areas such as the Mt Elvire and Jaurdi pastoral leases and the Mt Manning Nature Reserve while to the west we have the Boorabbin National Park and to the south-west the Jilbadji Nature Reserve.

I would like to emphasise that the Government is committed to extending conservation initiatives so that CALM, as the land manager, Aboriginal people and neighbouring landholders work together to promote nature conservation initiatives over a much broader area.

This concept of conservation measures on lands outside the formal reserve system offers great opportunities for the future of the Goldfields environment and further illustrates the benefit of taking an integrated approach to land management and conservation.

This new national park in many respects is a microcosm of the Eastern Goldfields ecosystems.

Within the park's boundaries, you can find an amazing range of the various ecosystems of the region including granite outcrops, natural salt lakes, sandplain heaths and eucalypt woodlands. The park also is particularly significant in that it contains the richest array of dragon lizards found in the region and a diversity of mammal species. This offers the opportunity to extend the highly successful *Western Shield* fauna recovery project and mammal reintroduction program to areas east of the Wheatbelt.

The area has a wide variety of eucalypts including original stands and regrowth areas, and there is a range of acacias, banksias, callistemons, hakeas, melaleucas, sandalwood and an undescribed species of grasstree. The eucalypt woodlands are the signature landscape of the Goldfields with the salmon gum and gimlet woodland and their understorey of bluebush one of Western Australia's endearing landscapes.

The park has a particular international significance, as not only are the eucalypts of the Goldfields rich in diversity, this is the only place in the world where so many tall trees grow in such an arid environment.

It's little wonder then that land management people from countries such as China, Africa, Israel and other Mediterranean countries are now using Goldfields eucalypts for re-afforestation and rehabilitation projects in their arid zones.

The area also has much to offer for recreation and tourism, with the potential to develop a number of recreation and camping sites within the park and along the Great Eastern Highway and provide a tourist route to incorporate and interpret different biological and historical features.

These include distinctive rock catchments along the Goldfields railway and pipeline next to the Highway, and the heritage trail from York to the Goldfields. The famous and historic Holland Track from Broomehill to Coolgardie crosses the reserves from Diamond Rock through Thursday Rock and Victoria Rock to Coolgardie. This route is now developing as a popular outback four-wheel-drive adventure.

Remnants of the historic Kalgoorlie woodlines in the western part of the reserves generate much interest. These woodlines were narrow gauge railway lines used to haul timber into Kalgoorlie and Boulder for the mines and boilers following the discovery of gold. Timber cut from the arid inland forests also was used as fuel in the pumping stations along the Goldfields water pipeline up until 1960. In fact much of the new national park is a former pump station firewood reserve.

And in respect of the pipeline, I'd like to give a special mention to the Golden Pipeline Project. This is an initiative of the National Trust to conserve and interpret the heritage of the Goldfields and Agricultural Areas Water Supply Scheme. It is being sponsored by the State Government, the Water Corporation and the Federal Government through the Centenary of Federation program. It is something that has the strong support of the 11 shires through which the pipeline passes.

I am sure that the creation of this new national park will offer co-operative interpretation opportunities and play a significant role in the Golden Pipeline celebrations when they are held in 2003.

So there is no doubt that the park will not only be a place where people can experience the distinctive nature of these arid woodlands, they can learn about not just the European settlement of the region, but the culture and heritage of the traditional owners.

The declaration of this park is part of the Government's commitment to conserving the nature of WA and to create opportunities for nature-based tourism activities in regional Western Australia.

We also are strongly committed to achieving a balance by creating a comprehensive conservation reserve network while at the same time appreciating the various competing land uses in the Goldfields.

However, perhaps most important is that all Western Australians work together and encourage a conservation ethic that recognises the rights of future generations, and the responsibilities of the present one, to manage natural resources so that the opportunities, the environmental quality and natural values we enjoy, remain for future generations as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure of officially declare the Goldfields Woodland National Park open.

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Last printed 12/07/00 11:08

## GOLDFIELDS WOODLAND NATIONAL PARK

Goldfields Woodland National Park straddles the Great Eastern Highway about 75 km west of Coolgardie. The park is part of a **conservation reserve network** that includes Boorabbin National Park to the west, a conservation park to the east and south-east, and Victoria Rock Nature Reserve and a special management area to the south and east. These reserves add to a linear network of other conservation reserves 400 km long from Jilbadgi Nature Reserve in the south to the CALM managed Mt Elvire and Jaurdi stations and Mt Manning Nature Reserve to the north. They form an important part of the **conservation estate east of the Wheatbelt**.

This large new **conservation network** extends over 152,500 hectares. An additional area of 142,140 hectares to the south is **proposed** to be added to the new park and a further 10,000 hectares to the other conservation reserves, that will create an overall new conservation reserve network of more than 311,000 hectares.

The area has very significant **conservation values**. It includes a diversity of landforms and vegetation types including sandplains, freshwater swamps, salt lakes and saltbush surrounds of salt lakes, uncut and regrowth eucalypt woodlands and granite complexes. Biological surveys recorded the richest array of dragon lizards for the Eastern Goldfields (in the western part of the new reserve), as well as 14 species of native mammal (in the southern part).

The area contains a wide variety of **original stands** and regrowth areas of eucalypts including salmon gum, gimlet, ribbon-barked gum, mallees, red morrel, redwood and woodline mallee. There also is a range of other native **flora** wattles, banksia, bottlebrush, hakeas, melaleucas, sheoaks, sandalwood and an **undescribed** species of grasstree.

Fauna surveys for the area, including the neighbouring 26,000 ha Boorabbin National Park, have revealed 17 species of native mammals, four frogs, 52 reptiles and 51 bird species.

Mammals include the wongai ningui, a small nocturnal marsupial that preys on insects, and several species of dunnart (another **small** insect-preying marsupial weighing less than 15 grams when fully grown) as well as bats and native rodents.

The park and associated **conservation reserves** also are significant in that they provide visitors travelling by road from the east with their first views of the State's spectacular spring and summer wildflower displays of the **kwongan sandplain heaths**.

The reserves are within the Coolgardie biogeographic region. They complete the comprehensive adequate and representative (CAR) **network** of conservation reserves for the Boorabbin vegetation system within the Coolgardie bioregion.

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The area also has much to offer for recreation and tourism, with the potential to develop a number of recreation and camping sites within the park and along the Highway and provide a tourist route to incorporate different biological and historical features. These include distinctive rock catchments along the historical Goldfields railway and pipeline next to the Great Eastern Highway and heritage trail from York to the Goldfields.

The famous and historic Holland Track from Broomehill to Coolgardie crosses the park from Diamond Rock through Thursday Rock and Victoria Rock to Coolgardie. This route is now becoming a popular outback four-wheel-drive track and will continue to be managed for this use.

Remnants of the historic Kalgoorlie woodlines in the western part of the reserves generate much interest. These woodlines were narrow gauge railway lines used to haul timber into Kalgoorlie-Boulder for the mines and boilers. They developed around 1900 following the discovery of gold in Coolgardie in 1892 and in Kalgoorlie the following year.

Timber cut from the arid inland forests was also used as fuel in the pumping stations along the Goldfields water pipeline between Mundaring and Kalgoorlie, which was completed in 1903. The last of wood-fired boilers and pumping stations swung over to diesel in 1960. By 1965, the Goldfields woodlines and timber-fuelled pump stations had been consigned to history.

Many tourists have a strong interest in the history of the pipeline, woodlines and historic aspects of the access tracks that serviced the Goldfields. The National Park will enable development and interpretation of these features.

*July 2000*

# FROM: GOLD FIELDS REGIONAL PLAN

## 1. GOLDFIELDS WOODLAND NATIONAL PARK

This large conservation area has just been created as an integrated National Park, Conservation Park and CALM Act S33 (2) area. Additional detailed information will be provided for a possible launch by the Premier or Minister.

### Background.

One of the recommendations in the approved Regional Management Plan (1994-2004) for the Goldfields Region of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) was for the creation of a 'Goldfields Woodlands National Park', south-west of Coolgardie. This is proposed as an extension to Boorabbin National park (see map), and would create Western Australia's only substantial national park in the Goldfields woodlands and Goldfields Region. The area proposed to be set aside for conservation is 311,000 hectares, of which 26,000 hectares is the existing Boorabbin National Park. (Copy of Goldfields Region Management Plan Section 11.8 attached).

The area is of very high significance to conservation. It includes a diversity of landforms and vegetation types including sandplains, saltbush surrounds of salt lakes, uncut and regrowth, eucalypt woodlands and granite complexes. Biological surveys recorded the richest assemblage of dragon lizards for the Eastern Goldfields (in the western part of the proposed area), as well as fourteen species of native mammal (in the southern part).

The reserves are located within the South-West Interzone, Coolgardie Biogeographic region. They complete the comprehensive adequate and representative (CAR) conservation reserve system for the Boorabbin vegetation system within the Coolgardie bioregion.

The area also has much to offer for recreation and tourism, with the potential to develop a number of recreation and camping sites and provide a tourist route to incorporate different biological and historical features. These include unique rock catchments along the historical Goldfields railway and pipeline adjacent to the Great Eastern Highway and heritage trail from York to the Goldfields. Also the famous and historic Holland Track from Broomehill to Coolgardie crosses the park from Diamond Rock through Thursday Rock and Victoria Rock to Coolgardie. This route is now developing as an outback 4WD track. Also historical remnants of the Kalgoorlie Woodlines occurring the western part of the reserves and generate much interest.

As a result of discussions and correspondence between the Ministers for the Environment and Mines, and between CALM and the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME), it was agreed that part of the area (238,000 ha) would be national park, with other parts to be set aside as a class C conservation park (40,000 ha) and a 'management area' (33,000 ha) (see map). The 'management area' corresponds to an area where active mineral exploration is taking place.

It was agreed that, for the time being, the 'management area' should remain as unallocated Crown land and be placed under the management of CALM under Section 33(2) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. This will allow CALM to manage this land in the same way as the surrounding areas of national park and conservation park, with mineral exploration or mining to occur under conditions similar to those for exploration or mining in State forests or timber reserves in the Goldfields. DME has advised CALM that it is prepared "to review its position in relation to the future status of the Section 33(2) area in due course".

## **BOONDI DAM HISTORY**

### **Information provided by the National Trust (Golden pipeline project)**

Boondi dam and catchment were built around 1894-95 the same time as the Southern Cross to Coolgardie narrow gauge rail line

The dam capacity is 4 845 000 gallons (4845 thousand Gallons on the plan). The rock catchment area is 72 acres with stone faced catchment walls 18 inches to 2 foot 6 inches high surrounding the rock.

There is 90 chain of 3 inch cast iron pipe to the Boondi siding.

The dam was apparently mainly used for the woodlines which ran to the north of the narrow gauge line, as well as the main railway where there would have been overhead tanks at Boondi siding.

Plan of the dam included.

Ian Kealley

**BOONDI – Reservoir for Eastern Goldfields Railway Water supply:**

Boondi Siding on the Southern Cross Coolgardie Railway line was set apart as a Public Reserve for Water in the Government Gazette of 28/7/99. (i.e. nearly 101 years ago to the date of the event!)

1899.

The details in the table below come from *List of Reservoirs for Railway Water Supply. (1900)* Perth Department of Railways Battye 625.161 LIS

COLUMN HEADING	DETAILS FOR BOONDI
Mileage of Station to which water is supplied:	322 m 40 ch
Name of Tank or Reservoir:	65 m Rocks
Capacity in Gallons:	4,845,000 Reservoir 25,000 Engine Tank
Head in feet above Engine Tank:	11 ft to 34 ft
Discharge in gallons per minute:	21 to 32
Source of Supply	Catchment
Distance of source from Main Line	90 chains (As a matter of interest, Karalee is 180)
Side on which source is located:	Down
Piping from source to tank and 6 inch piping from Tank to Water Column	90 chains length      3 inches diameter
Supplied by Pump or Gravitation:	Steam Pump
Catchment area in Acres:	72
Rain Gauge Equipment:	Yes

# BOONDI W.S.

PLAN  
OF  
CATCHMENT AREA  
Scale 1" = 800'  
Rev'd Dr. C.R.M.P. 2006 SA.1

Stone Facing  
12" High

Between A&B - Stone Faced  
Drain 12" High

Rock Catchment Area - 72 ACRES

Stone Facing  
18" High

Stone Facing  
2'0" High

2'6" High

Stone  
18"

Stone Fa  
2'6" High



Dam; Capacity 4845 th. G.

