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| FENCING RESERVES |
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It has been suggested from time to time that the Government fence fauna and flora reserves.

The view has previously been taken that if flora and fauna reserves were fenced by the Government it would also have to accept responsibility for fencing all reserves, including National Parks and State Forests. The total of all reserved land has been said to be in excess of 80,000,000 acres and it will be readily seen that the fencing of fauna reserves would create a costly precedent.

This Department has pointed out -

- (a) that it is the responsibility of landholders to fence their land to stop their stock from straying;
- (b) most flora and fauna reserves abut alienated land that should have been fenced before the reserve was created;
- (c) a vermin proof fence erected by a landholder becomes an immediate taxation deduction, while the cost of a stock proof one may be spread over five years.

The Department has not fenced any fauna reserve outside the metropolitan area. The only fencing we have undertaken has been on the tortoise reserve where it was necessary to keep straying stock from trampling the limited habitat of this very rare species.