

ABERDOUR and MOUNT MONSTER CONSERVATION PARKS, DESERT CAMP CONSERVATION RESERVE and POOCHER SWAMP GAME RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

South East

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DENR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



**This plan of management has been prepared and
adopted in pursuance of section 38 of the
National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972-81**

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Natural Resources Group
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Foreword

This document has been prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. It relates to four parks in the south east of South Australia, namely:

- Aberdour Conservation Park
- Desert Camp Conservation Reserve
- Mount Monster Conservation Park
- Poocher Swamp Game Reserve

The number of reserves controlled by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) increased dramatically in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These reserves were dedicated for a variety of purposes including biological conservation, protection of historic relics, scenic values and recreational purposes. Today there are more than 250 reserves under the control of DENR. To conduct detailed surveys of these parks prior to providing guidance for their management is not only a formidable task but frequently an unnecessary one. This is not to say that such surveys are not of value, nor that they should not be undertaken in the longer term.

In order to address the dual tasks of ensuring optimal public input into the management of reserves and providing immediate guidance for park managers, DENR has taken the initiative of preparing a single planning document for several reserves which share similar management requirements. It is recognised that this approach will not be appropriate in all instances, particularly for reserves which have high visitor pressure and complex management problems. However, it is considered that this planning approach will be useful, not only in guiding the interim management of these reserves but also in highlighting areas where further research and investigation is required. These plans will ultimately be amended in accordance with such research findings.

The plans outline proposals to effectively balance recreational use of the parks with the conservation of habitat and surrounding ecosystems. The Naracoorte and Mount Gambier offices of DENR maintain records and resource information on these parks which can be accessed by the general public.

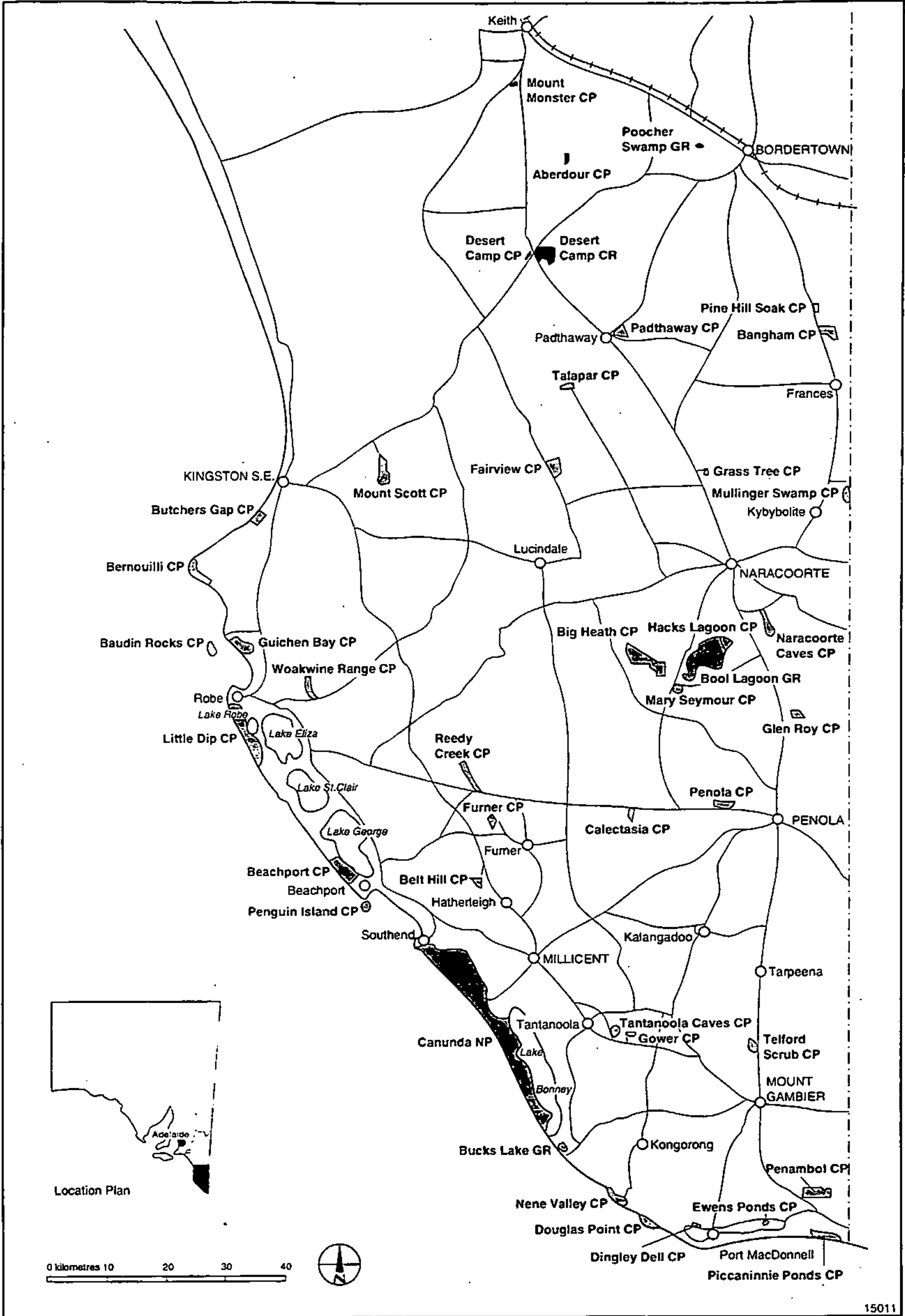
Hon David Wotton MP
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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- Parks covered by this document
- Other Parks of the South East
- CP Reserves under NPW Act
- NP National Park
- GR Reserves under Crown Lands Act
- RR Reserves under Crown Lands Act
- CR Reserves under Crown Lands Act

Figure 1
Small Parks of the South East

Introduction

1.1 Planning Process

Section 38 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* stipulates the preparation of a management plan for each reserve constituted under the Act. Such plans set forth proposals to manage and improve reserves and the means by which the objectives of the Act will be accomplished. A management plan provides the framework for management of a park by stating the philosophy on which its management should be based, and by setting out objectives and actions for management. The objectives related to management of conservation parks and game reserves are stated in Section 37 of the Act as:

- preservation and management of wildlife;
- preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves;
- preservation of features of geological, natural or scenic interest;
- destruction of dangerous weeds and the eradication of disease of animals and vegetation;
- prevention and suppression of bush fires and other hazards;
- encouragement of public use and enjoyment of reserves and education in, and a proper understanding and recognition of their purpose and significance; and
- generally, the promotion of the public interest.

Once a draft management plan has been prepared, an announcement is made in the *Government Gazette* and the plan is placed on public exhibition for at least three months. Any person may make submissions in relation to the plan.

The plan and submissions are then referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Council who may make further comments or recommendations.

The Minister, after considering all representations, may then adopt the plan with or without alterations. Notice of adoption is published in the *Government Gazette* and copies of the plan are made available to the public.

A similar process applies for any amendment proposed to a management plan. Once a plan is adopted, its provisions must be carried out in relation to the reserve in question, and no operation may be undertaken unless it is in accordance with the management plan.

1.2 Conservation Parks and Game Reserves

The classification which a reserve receives on being dedicated under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* is a general statement of the purpose for which that area was acquired. Conservation parks protect wildlife and natural or cultural features which they contain, and the development of visitor facilities in conservation parks tends to be kept to a minimum. Game reserves are established to conserve wildlife and manage game species. They have an important conservation role and may be declared open at prescribed times for strictly controlled hunting.

1.3 Regional Management Considerations

1.3.1 Conservation Value

This document contains management plans for four small parks in the south east of South Australia. The principle value of these parks lies in the conservation of vegetation types otherwise unrepresented in the parks system. Each of the parks in this document have been dedicated to conserve representative examples of vegetation types found in the region.

Due to extensive land clearance, these parks have become islands of native vegetation surrounded by cleared grazing land. As a result of their isolation, the parks are extremely vulnerable to the effects of fire, invasion by weeds and vermin, visitor use and the effects of neighbouring farming practices such as fertiliser application and pesticide spraying. The continued viability of the parks is dependent not only on the careful management of the parks themselves, but also on the existence of any other areas of native vegetation and the corridors that may link them together (such as roadside reserves, etc.).

1.3.2 Fire Management

Fire management in parks is based on the guidelines and objectives contained in the *Fire Management and Protection Manual (1989)* which outlines the objectives of fire management and DENR's fire policy and guidelines. The objectives of the fire management as stated in the Manual are to:

- protect human life and the assets of properties adjacent to parks;
- foster sound land use planning in relation to fire hazards;
- maintain diversity of native plant and animal communities;
- protect special features of reserves including cultural sites and built facilities; and
- manage fire, thus protecting land from degradation by erosion and subsequent invasion by weeds.

In addition to the guidelines set out in the Manual, DENR has prepared fire prevention plans for individual parks within the state. A fire prevention plan provides an inventory of existing and future strategies for fire prevention. It provides important logistic and historic information on the location and nature of resources both within and outside the park.

1.3.3 Visitor Use

To ensure a consistent and balanced approach, the management of the parks covered by this document will be considered in the context of managing all parks in the region.

Tourism in South Australia is being widely encouraged on both a state and regional level as a means of stimulating economic activity and to provide local employment. It is important in the promotion of tourism that visitor use of the parks is directed to those parks which have some focus of interest and which can be adequately managed to both satisfy visitor demand and ensure that the parks' conservation values are not compromised. Consultation with Tourism SA, local tourism associations and tour operators will ensure that there is an integrated approach to tourism planning in the region and that their policies and practices are consistent with DENR policies on the recreational use of parks.

Parks not only attract visitors from outside the region, they frequently serve the recreational needs of local communities. It is not expected that the patterns of local visitor use in the South East region will change significantly.

1.3.4 Interpretation

Peoples' appreciation of parks is enriched through effective interpretation of the parks and their resources. The availability of information before people visit parks allows them to make informed decisions about which parks to visit, how long to spend there, what to find in the park, and how best to utilise time spent in the park.

Many of the small parks in the South East are conveniently located for educational use by local schools, and there is potential for the further development of environmental education by local schools using the parks as a major resource.

1.3.5 Cultural Heritage

The South East exhibits an assortment of important sites which relate to Aboriginal occupation and early European settlement. However the cultural relevance of these sites to local people has not been fully documented.

1.3.6 Commercial Activities

In parks where DENR has not been able to provide the services required by visitors, concessions may be made available under strictly controlled leasing arrangements which are in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the Policy Document (SANPWS, 1988).

1.3.7 Staffing

The four parks in this document are managed by the Upper South East District of the South East region of DENR. Rangers responsible for the management of these parks are supported by other regional management, administrative and works staff. Additional project staff may be employed to support existing staff in implementation of these plans.

1.3.8 Land Acquisition

DENR will give consideration to the acquisition of available land for addition to the parks if it is likely to enhance the conservation or recreation values of those parks, or assist in their management. Management of additions will be subject to an amendment of the relevant plan, including the release of draft amendments for public comment.

Aberdour Conservation Park

This is the management plan for the Aberdour Conservation Park, prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Park Description

Aberdour Conservation Park lies approximately 35 kilometres south of Keith on the eastern side of the Naracoorte/Keith road. It occupies an area of 133 hectares in Section 7 of the Hundred of Willalooka. It was dedicated as a Conservation Park in February 1991, and was a gift from the Nankivell family.

Immediately to the south of the park is a Stone Reserve (Section 80, Hundred of Willalooka). This section is uncleared native vegetation and is controlled by the District Council of Tatiara.

The park preserves an area of remnant vegetation typical of undulating dune and limestone country. Due to the extensive clearance in the surrounding area, the park provides an important habitat and stepping stone for many fauna species, particularly birds.

Aberdour Conservation Park is dominated by three main landforms, each with a distinctive vegetation community.

- *Eucalyptus diversifolia*/*Eucalyptus leptophylla* Open Scrub: This community occurs on the rocky calcrete, north-south ridge through the park. Other dominant species include Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*), Slaty sheoak (*Allocasuarina muelleriana*), and Silver broombush (*Baeckea behrii*).
- *Eucalyptus incrassata* Open Scrub: Located along a small strip adjacent to the northern boundary, this community is associated with sandy soil. Other dominant species include Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*), Slaty sheoak (*Allocasuarina muelleriana*), and Silver broombush (*Baeckea behrii*). The major difference between this community and the previous one is the presence of the canopy species *E. incrassata* and the scattering throughout the community of the Dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*).
- *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* Woodland Plain: This community occurs along the eastern boundary of the park. It has a very diverse understory and groundcover.

The endangered Jumping jack wattle (*Acacia enterocarpa*) occurs in the park. Although some work has been carried out on the biota of the park, detailed records do not exist.

Two main tracks pass through the park. Both follow power lines and can only be negotiated with a four-wheel drive vehicle. A number of smaller tracks are scattered through the park. They are heavily overgrown and are virtually impassable. Four and a half kilometres of fire access track follow the fence line along the western and northern boundaries. These tracks and two signs naming the conservation park are the only visitor infrastructure in place.

Visitation is mainly by local school groups who use the park for environmental education. The "Friends of Upper South East Parks" carry out pest plant and vermin control.

European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Bridal creeper (*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*) are present in the park. The extent of the rabbit problem is undetermined, but Bridal creeper infestation is extensive. A disused quarry is situated mid-way along the eastern boundary. Rubbish has been dumped on the western boundary.

Management Prescription

Management of the Aberdour Conservation Park will be best achieved by following these objectives and actions.

Preserve the ecological integrity of the park.

- Fence the presently unfenced eastern and southern boundaries of the park.
- Maintain boundary fences of the park.
- Maintain boundary fire access tracks.
- Allow gas fires only in the park.
- Rehabilitate any degraded areas.
- Control exotic weeds and vermin.
- Remove rubbish from western boundary.
- Consult with the District Council of Tatiara about adding the Stone Reserve to the park. Additions will be managed in accordance with this plan.

Improve knowledge of the park which contributes to the management of the park's resources.

- Encourage and assist research where appropriate into the natural resources of the park, and implement appropriate management programmes to conserve these resources.
- Encourage and support research to determine the management needs of *Acacia enterocarpa*.
- Provide resources and advice where appropriate and available.

Enhance visitor use and enjoyment and protect natural resources of the park.

- Erect signs which proclaim the area as the Aberdour Conservation Park.

- Provide appropriate visitor facilities such as car parks and picnic facilities at an appropriate site if a need is demonstrated.
- Maintain visitor infrastructure in good condition, particularly signs which indicate the presence and name of the park.
- Provide interpretative material where appropriate.
- Liaise with local user groups to determine their needs.

Increase public understanding of the park's purposes and significance.

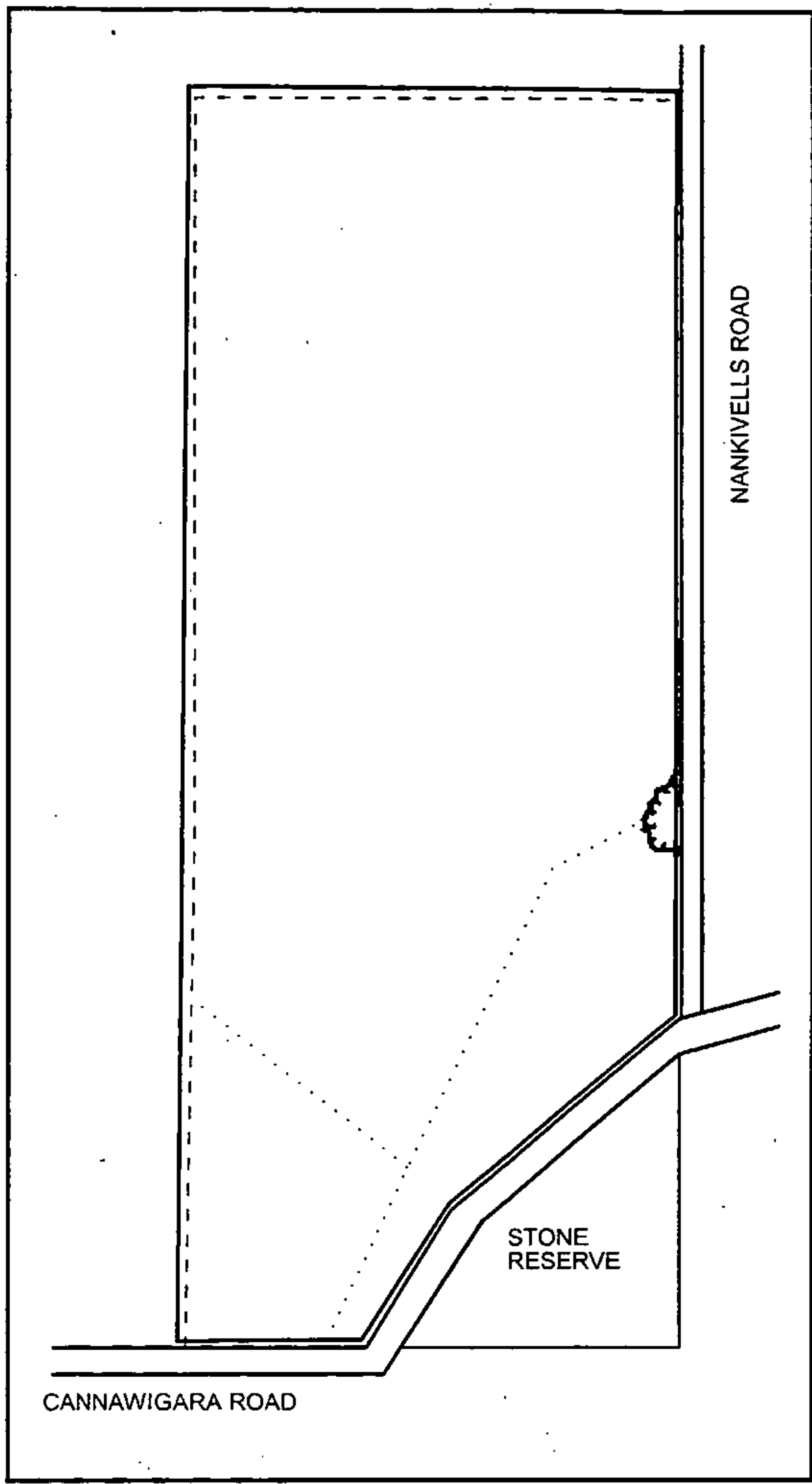
- Encourage local schools to use the park as an environmental education resource and to liaise with DENR staff when preparing curricula and field classes.

To provide for the protection of life, property and conservation values of the park from wildfire.


- Adopt objectives and policies of the Fire Management and Protection Manual.
- Prepare a Fire Prevention Plan for the park.


Document where appropriate the cultural history of the park.

- Consult with, and involve, Aboriginal people in site documentation, management and interpretation, implement management actions as appropriate.
- Encourage research into the cultural history of the park.
- Remove and dispose of any structures or materials which have no historic, cultural or management value.
- Erect information and interpretation signs at appropriate sites in the park.
- Take appropriate measures to protect significant sites.



————— Park boundary
 - - - - - Access track
 Powerline access track

 Disused Quarry



0 200 400 600
 —————
 Metres

Figure 2
 ABERDOUR CONSERVATION PARK

Desert Camp Conservation Reserve

Desert Camp Conservation Reserve is not covered by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. However, due to its ecological significance, a management plan has been written as a management guide.

Park Description

The Desert Camp Conservation Reserve lies 65 kilometres north west of Naracoorte, on the eastern side of the Naracoorte/Keith road. It covers an area of 893.1 hectares (Section 55, Hundred of Marcollat). On the western side of the road lies the Desert Camp Conservation Park.

The reserve is the largest block of remnant vegetation in the Hundred of Marcollat. It accounts for over half of the remaining native vegetation in blocks greater than 25 hectares in that Hundred.

Eight distinct vegetation associations can be identified within the reserve:

1. Brown stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) Low Woodland.
2. Pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) Woodland over a Mixed Heath.
3. Pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) Low Woodland over a Desert banksia (*Banksia ornata*)/Heath yacca (*Xanthorrhoea caespitosa*)/Heath tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*) Open Heath.
4. South Australian blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) Woodland.
5. Dwarf hakea (*Hakea rugosa*)/Dwarf sheok (*Allocasuarina pusilla*)/Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*) Heath.
6. Coastal white mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*) Open Scrub.
7. Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*)/Silver broombush (*Baeckea behrii*) Open Heath.
8. Mixed Herbland.

Within these eight associations, 248 native plants have been recorded (incomplete record). Of these, 17 are considered rare or threatened in the south east, and 10 are either threatened or rare in South Australia. One species, the Metallic sun-orchid (*Thelymitra epipactoides*) is considered endangered nationally.

Sixteen bird species of high conservation significance inhabit the reserve, including the rare Black-chinned honeyeater (*Melithreptus gularis*). The Eastern yellow robin (*Eopsaltria australis*) and the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) are rated as vulnerable in South Australia.

The reserve is rarely used by park visitors. There are no signs proclaiming it a conservation reserve, and it has no visitor infrastructure. The most common visitors are field naturalists and bird watchers who use the disused limestone quarry as a parking bay/picnic area.

A fire access track follows the fenced boundary around the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the park. The boundary along the Naracoorte/Keith road is not fenced.

Exotic plants are not a significant problem in the park. Some Bridal creeper (*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*) and a single stand of Flinders range wattle (*Acacia iteaphylla*) occur along the eastern boundary. European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are also found in the park.

A Department of Road Transport gravel stockpile is located in the north-western corner of the park. This section of the park is unfenced. There is no clear park boundary between the gravel stockpile area and the park. A small infestation of weeds also occurs along this boundary. The "Friends of Upper South East Parks" undertake work in this park.

Management Prescription

Successful management of the Desert Camp Conservation Reserve will be best achieved by following these objectives and actions.

Preserve the ecological integrity of the reserve.

- Fence the presently unfenced western and south western boundaries of the reserve.
- Maintain boundary fences of the reserve.
- Maintain boundary fire access tracks.
- Allow gas fires only in the reserve.
- Rehabilitate any degraded areas.
- Control exotic weeds and vermin.
- Control access in quarry area to allow natural revegetation.

Improve knowledge of the reserve which contributes to the management of the reserve's resources.

- Encourage and assist research where appropriate into the natural resources of the reserve, and implement appropriate management programmes to conserve these resources.
- Provide resources and advice where appropriate and available.

Enhance visitor use and enjoyment and protect natural resources of the reserve.

- Erect signs which proclaim the area as the Desert Camp Conservation Reserve.
- Provide appropriate visitor facilities such as access, car parks and picnic facilities in the northern quarry if a need is demonstrated.
- Maintain visitor infrastructure in good condition, particularly signs which indicate the presence and name of the reserve.
- Provide interpretative material where appropriate.
- Liaise with local user groups to determine their needs.

- Provide concessions for commercial activities within the reserve which do not compromise the ecological integrity of the reserve, and for which a need has been demonstrated.

Increase public understanding of the reserve's purposes and significance.

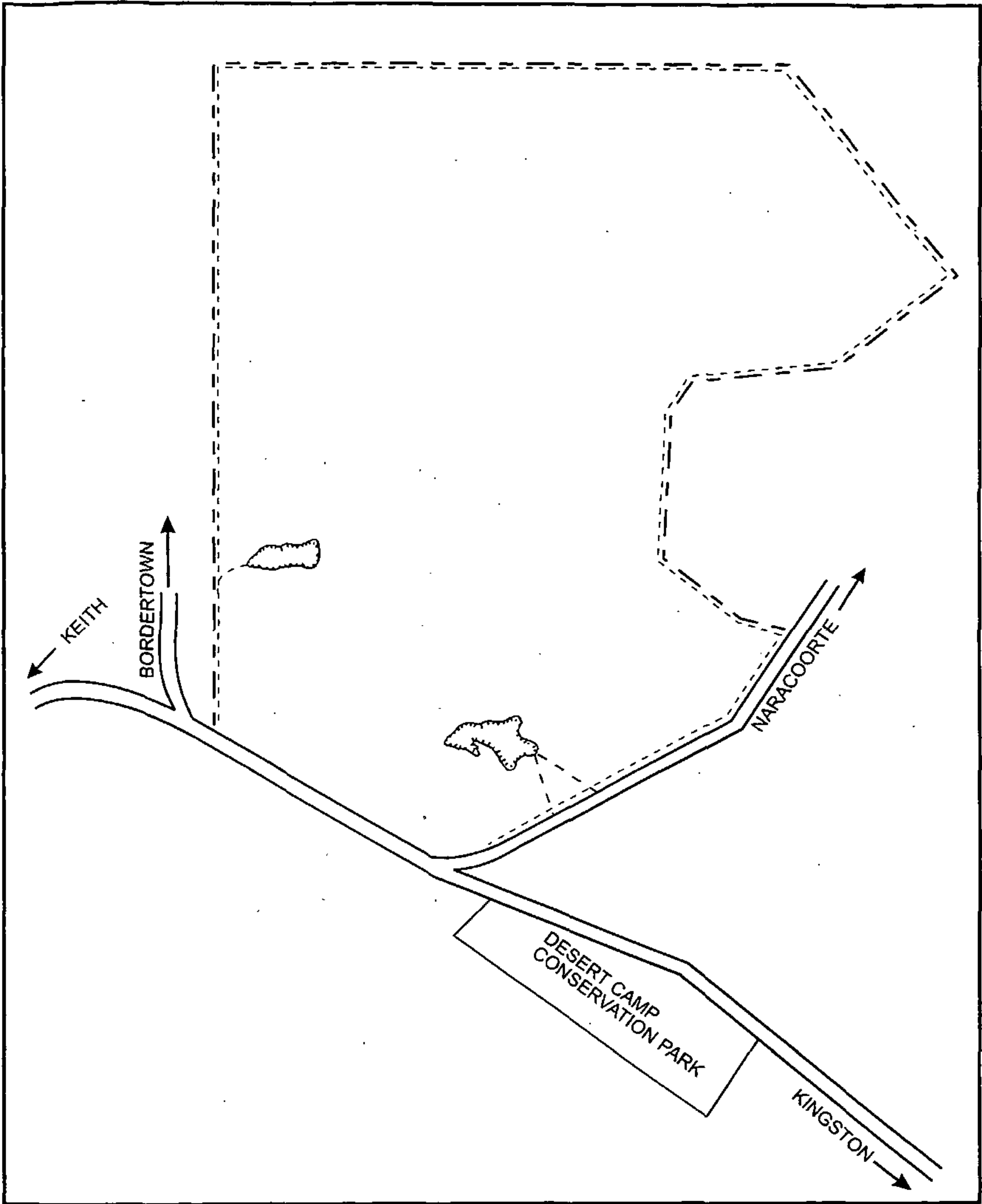
- Encourage local schools to use the reserve as an environmental education resource and to liaise with DENR staff when preparing curricula and field classes.

To provide for the protection of life, property and conservation values of the reserve from wildfire.

- Adopt objectives and policies of the Fire Management and Protection Manual.
- Prepare a Fire Prevention Plan for the reserve.

Document where appropriate the cultural history of the reserve.

- Consult with, and involve, Aboriginal people in site documentation, management and interpretation, implement management actions as appropriate.
- Encourage research into the cultural history of the reserve.
- Remove and dispose of any structures or materials which have no historic, cultural or management value.
- Erect information and interpretation signs at appropriate sites in the reserve.
- Take appropriate measures to protect significant sites.



- Reserve Boundary
- Access Track
- Park Boundary



Disused Quarry



0 300 600 900
Metres

Figure 3

DESERT CAMP CONSERVATION RESERVE

Mount Monster Conservation Park

This is the management plan for Mount Monster Conservation Park, prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Park Description

Mount Monster Conservation Park lies approximately 12 kilometres south of Keith on the western side of the Naracoorte/Keith road. It occupies an area of 93 hectares in Section 178 of the Hundred of Stirling. It was dedicated as a Conservation Park in September 1976 as a gift from three surrounding land owners.

Immediately to the north of the park is a Water and Stone Reserve (Section 11, Hundred of Stirling) controlled by the District Council of Tatiara. Presently it is used extensively by the local community as a focus for recreational activities such as trail-bike riding and swimming in summer. Located on the eastern edge of the park (Section 9, Hundred Stirling) is an area of private land containing uncleared native vegetation. Except for these Sections, the park is completely surrounded by cultivated land.

Topography of the park is dominated by steep rocky outcrops separated by narrow, deep gullies, producing a wide range of gradients and a number of sheer cliff faces. The rocky outcrops are dominated by an unusual granite (found in only one other location in South Australia) and some small outcroppings of tertiary limestone. A mosaic of soil patterns surround the outcrops, ranging from deep sands and shallow stony soils to dark brown loams.

Eight different vegetation associations consisting of at least 176 different plant species have been identified, 30 of those are orchids. One species Cradle of incense (*Prostanthera eurybioides*) is considered endangered nationally.

The eight associations are:

- Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*)/Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*)/Dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) Association: This association is widespread throughout the park, but the mix of these three species varies considerably throughout the park, depending mostly on soil type.
- Hedge wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*)/Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*)/ Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*)/Dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) Association: Only on the rocky porphoritic outcrops, this association is also dominated by Spoon-leaved spyridium (*Spyridium spathulatum*) and isolated individuals of Drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*).

- Pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*)/Desert banksia (*Banksia ornata*)/Silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) Association: This association is very restricted, occurring only along the edge of the unsealed road on the northern boundary. It has the most diverse understorey of all the associations in Mount Monster, and includes Beaked hakea (*Hakea rostrata*), Heath tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*), Prickly tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*), and Austral grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*).
- Yellow mallee (*Eucalyptus incrassata*)/ Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*)/Dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) Association: This association occurs away from the porphoritic outcrops over shallow soils. It has a reasonably diverse and dense understorey, including species such as Beaked hakea (*Hakea rostrata*), Broom ballart (*Exocarpus sparteus*), Drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), and Austral grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*).
- Pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*)/Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)/Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*)/Dryland tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) Association: Occurring on the deep alluvial soils, this association has a dense and diverse understorey including Beaked hakea (*Hakea rostrata*), Broom ballart (*Exocarpos sparteus*), Drooping sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), and Austral grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*).
- Peppermint box (*Eucalyptus odorata*)/White mallee (*Eucalyptus gracilis*) Association: With emergent Pink gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*) and Golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*). It is the most wide-spread association in the park, and consequently the species mix varies greatly. It has a very limited, sparse understorey.
- Peppermint box (*Eucalyptus odorata*)/South Australian coastal mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*) Association: This association is only found along the south-eastern boundary of the park. The understorey is very limited and very sparse consisting mostly of Austral grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) and Honey myrtle (*Melaleuca brevifolia*). South Australian coastal mallee also occurs in isolated pockets throughout the park, but not often enough to warrant a separate association.
- Blue gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*)/Peppermint box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Association: This association occurs in the deep alluvial soils between the porphoritic outcrops. The trees are mature, well spaced and have no understorey or juvenile trees.

Extensive revegetation has been carried out in the park. Tubestock, direct seeding and natural regeneration have been used to rehabilitate areas of extensive erosion.

The entrance to the park is from a point approximately 2 kilometres along an unsealed public road which joins the Naracoorte/Keith road. Entrance into the park is via a gravel surfaced one-way road. The road travels for approximately 1 kilometre before turning into a formal car park/picnic area. It continues again on the western side of the car park/picnic area and turns north through the disused quarry. It joins the unsurfaced public road approximately 1 kilometre west of the entrance.

Visitors using the car park/picnic area are provided with picnic tables, camp fire sites and an information board describing the park and its infrastructure. Two walking trails leave the car park. One trail travels north to the disused quarry. The second travels south and divides to the west to the obelisk, and to the east toward the trig point. Along the western track, a self-guided nature walk branches off and meanders around the base of the mountain.

The park is used regularly by local residents for picnics, bushwalking and bird watching. It is also a popular destination for bushwalkers and field naturalists. The "Friends of Upper South East Parks" undertake weed, vermin and other work in this park.

The uncleared portions of the Water and Stone Reserve support a small population of Cradle of incense (*Prostanthera eurybioides*). The reserve is under the care and control of the District Council of Tatiara, who are negotiating park boundary options with DENR.

Management Prescription

Management of the Mount Monster Conservation Park will be best achieved by following these objectives and actions.

Preserve the ecological integrity of the park.

- Fence the presently unfenced western and south western boundaries of the park.
- Maintain boundary fences of the park.
- Maintain boundary fire access tracks.
- Allow gas fires only in the park.
- Rehabilitate any degraded areas.
- Control exotic weeds and vermin, in particular rabbits.
- Continue liaison with the Tatiara and Lacepede Pest Plant and Animal Boards to ensure that strategies to control pests are in keeping with regional strategies.
- In consultation with Black Hill Flora Centre implement management measures which aid the long term survival of *Prostanthera eurybioides*.
- Provide management advice and assistance on native vegetation management where appropriate for adjacent landowners. Any advice given should be in line with the management objectives of the park, so the entire area of remnant vegetation is managed as a continuous unit.

- Continue negotiations with the District Council of Tatiara to resolve park boundary issues relating to the protection of endangered and rare species.
- Consult with District Council of Tatiara over adding the Trig-Point Reserve and unmade road reserve to the park.

Improve knowledge of the park which contributes to the management of the park's resources.

- Encourage and assist research where appropriate into the natural resources of the park, and implement appropriate management programmes to conserve these resources.
- Provide assistance and advice where appropriate to assist with the monitoring of the threatened species *Prostanthera eurybioides*.

Enhance visitor use and enjoyment and protect natural resources of the park.

- Erect signs which proclaim the area as the Mount Monster Conservation Park.
- Provide appropriate visitor facilities such as toilets if a need is demonstrated.
- Maintain visitor infrastructure in good condition, particularly signs which indicate the presence and name of the park.
- Provide interpretative material where appropriate.
- Liaise with local user groups to determine their needs.

Increase public understanding of the park's purposes and significance.

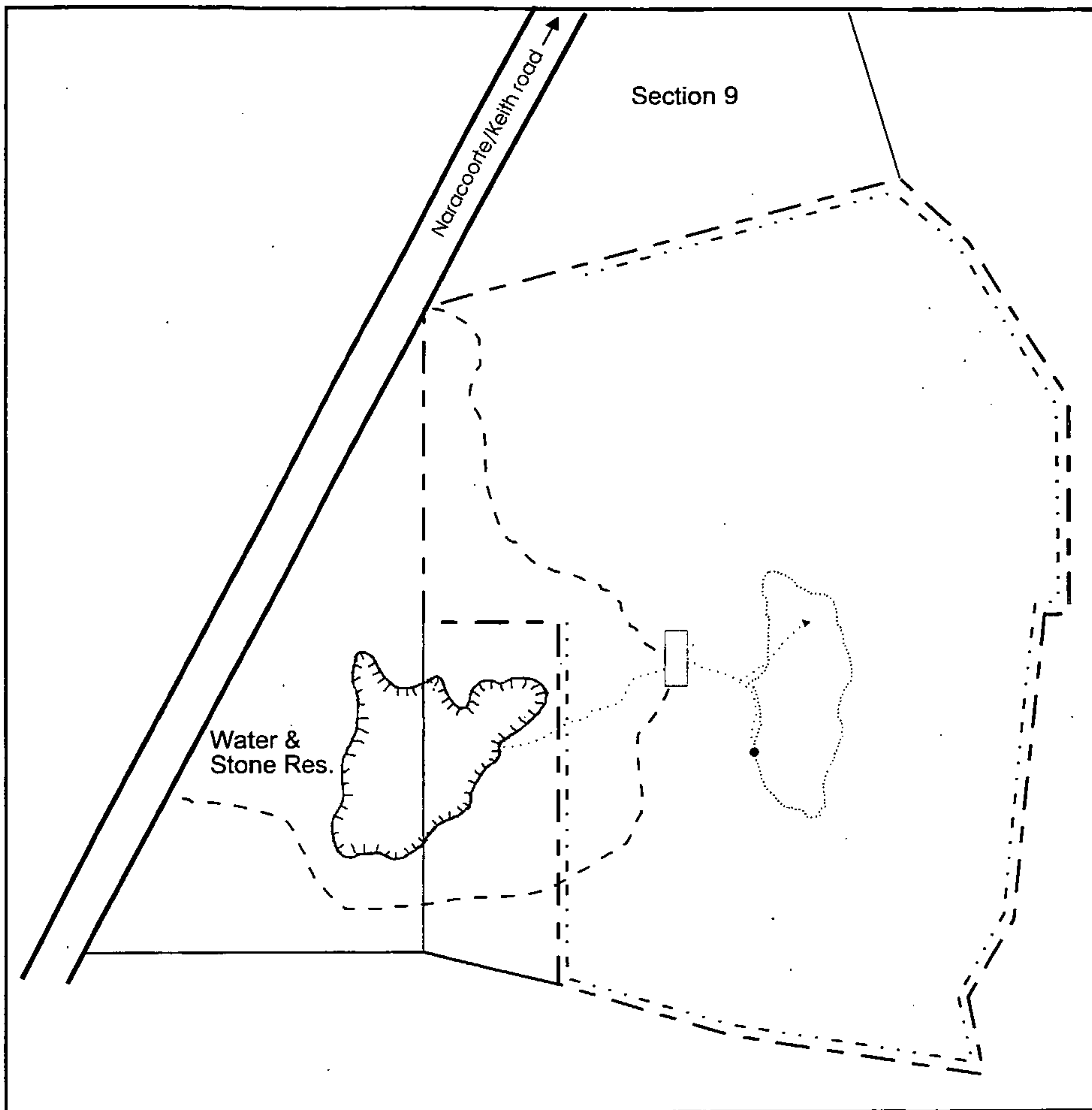
- Encourage local schools to use the park as an environmental education resource and to liaise with DENR staff when preparing curricula and field classes.

To provide for the protection of life, property and conservation values of the park from wildfire.

- Adopt objectives and policies of the Fire Management and Protection Manual.
- Prepare a Fire Prevention Plan for the park.

Document where appropriate the cultural history of the park.

- Consult with, and involve, Aboriginal people in site documentation, management and interpretation, implement management actions as appropriate.
- Encourage research into the cultural history of the park.
- Remove and dispose of any structures or materials which have no historic, cultural or management value.
- Erect information and interpretation signs at appropriate sites in the park.
- Take appropriate measures to protect significant sites.



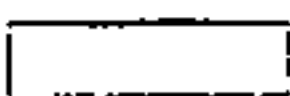


- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| ----- | Park Boundary |  | Car Park |
| - - - - - | Entrance/Exit Track |  | Disused Quarry |
| | Nature Trail | | |
| | Walking Track | | |
| - . - . - . | Boundary Access Track | | |
| ————— | Section Boundary | | |
- 
 0 100 400
 Metres

Figure 4

MOUNT MONSTER CONSERVATION PARK

Poocher Swamp Game Reserve

This is the management plan for the Poocher Swamp Game Reserve, prepared under the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Park Description

Poocher Swamp Game Reserve lies 8 kilometres west of Bordertown on the main Bordertown to Kongol Road. It covers an area of 77 hectares and comprises Sections 661, 12, and 662, Hundred of Wirrega. Proclaimed in November 1985, Poocher Swamp Game Reserve was dedicated to provide opportunities for hunting and other recreational activities.

In the late 1950s, a number of levee banks were constructed in the swamp to impound water and attract bird life. The swamp fills from Tatiara Creek. It is full about 3.5 years in 5. During low flows, the swamp is the terminus for Tatiara Creek. However during other flows, water fills the swamp and overflows the levee banks into the sink holes located on the northern perimeter of the swamp. Water also flows through the outlet channel and along the Tatiara Creek Channel to sink holes further west. The construction of the levee banks has altered the natural flow of the water, retaining deeper water for longer periods of time than would naturally occur. The impoundment of water over many years has caused the inundation of the River red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), and consequently many have died. Extensive regrowth of Red gums is occurring at the upper limits of the flood waters and at the entrance of Tatiara Creek to the swamp.

Understorey vegetation is mostly weed species. These are numerous, particularly in the muddy sections of the reserve. Aquatic species occur in the shallower sections of the reserve and are dominated by Ribbon weed (*Triglochin procerum*), Red water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum verrucosum*), Stonewort (*Nitella sp*), Swamp lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*), Azolla (*Azolla filiculoides*), and several rush species.

When water levels are high, the reserve is regularly visited by the local community for picnicing, duck hunting (during prescribed hunting times), yabbying, bird watching and canoeing. As the water level drops and the swamp dries out, the reserve becomes a popular destination for four wheel drives and trail-bike riders. As a result of these activities, the area is extensively degraded.

Very little visitor infrastructure exists in the reserve. There is an entrance sign naming the reserve, as well as a number of signs warning of deep holes. Several garbage bins are scattered around the western perimeter of the swamp. Entrance is via a Water and Stone reserve off the Kongol Road. Once the road enters the game reserve, the formal entrance track divides into numerous informal tracks that scatter in many directions.

The southern boundary of the reserve (the boundary between Sections 11 and 12) is currently unfenced. Except for a sign proclaiming the area as private property and a line of perma-pine posts, there is nothing to stop park users from entering private property. A fenceline has been constructed above the high water line on private land to stop stock entering the reserve. Currently park visitors are using the neighbouring property for recreational activities.

Due to the extensively cleared nature of the surrounding land, Poocher Swamp Game Reserve is an isolated island of modified swamp with the potential for nature-based recreational activities. Provision of infrastructure to encourage nature-based recreational activities sympathetic with the conservation objectives of the reserve will provide a greater range of opportunities for the local community and its visitors. The "Friends of Upper South East Parks" undertake work in this park.

Management Prescription

Management of the Poocher Swamp Game Reserve will be best achieved by following these objectives and actions.

Preserve the ecological integrity of the reserve.

- Maintain boundary fences of the reserve.
- Maintain boundary fire access tracks.
- Allow gas fires only in the reserve.
- Rehabilitate any degraded areas.
- Control exotic weeds and vermin.

Improve knowledge of the reserve which contributes to the management of the reserve's resources.

- Encourage and assist research where appropriate into the natural resources of the reserve, and implement appropriate management programmes to conserve these resources.
- Provide resources and advice where appropriate and available.

Enhance visitor use and enjoyment and protect natural resources of the reserve.

- Erect signs which proclaim the area as the Poocher Swamp Game Reserve.
- Provide appropriate visitor facilities such as car parks, ablution block and picnic facilities if a need is demonstrated.
- Maintain visitor infrastructure in good condition, particularly signs which indicate the presence and name of the reserve.
- Provide interpretative material where appropriate.
- Liaise with local user groups to determine their needs.

- Provide concessions for commercial activities within the reserve which do not compromise the ecological integrity of the reserve, and for which a need has been demonstrated.

Increase public understanding of the reserve's purposes and significance.

- Encourage local schools to use the reserve as an environmental education resource and to liaise with DENR staff when preparing curricula and field classes.

To provide for the protection of life, property and conservation values of the reserve from wildfire.

- Adopt objectives and policies of the Fire Management and Protection Manual.
- Prepare a Fire Prevention Plan for the reserve.

Document where appropriate the cultural history of the reserve.

- Consult with, and involve, Aboriginal people in site documentation, management and interpretation, implement management actions as appropriate.
- Encourage research into the cultural history of the reserve.
- Remove and dispose of any structures or materials which have no historic, cultural or management value.
- Erect information and interpretation signs at appropriate sites in the reserve.
- Take appropriate measures to protect significant sites.

Provide opportunities for recreational hunting in the reserve.

- Allow and manage hunting in the reserve on gazetted open days, and in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

Assist the South East Water Conservation and Drainage Board fulfil the objectives of the *South East Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992*.

- Provide access for the South East Water Conservation and Drainage Board to carry out on-going maintenance of the inlet and outlet channels and runaway holes.

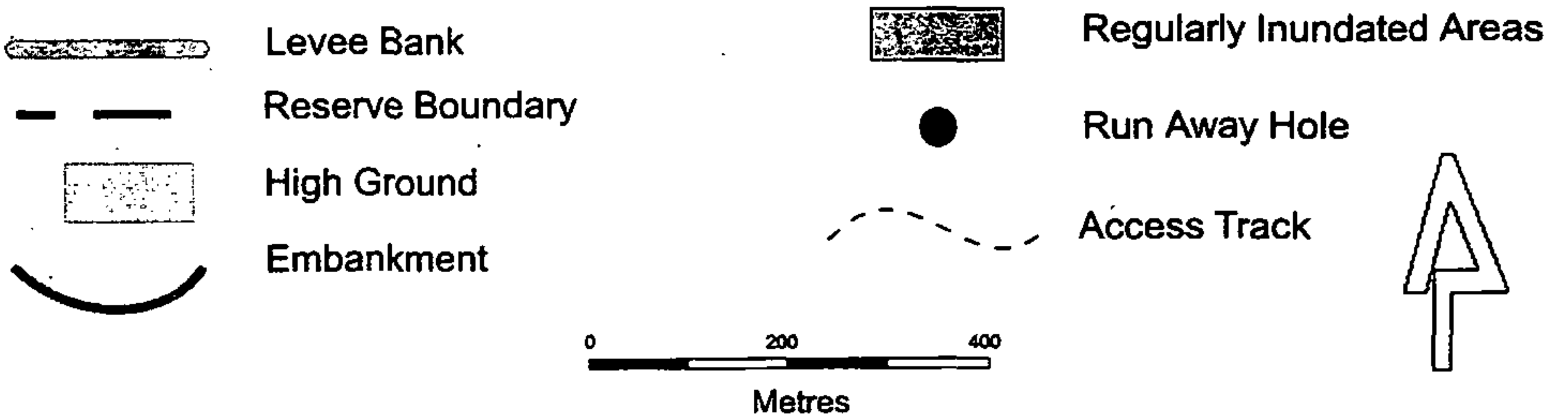
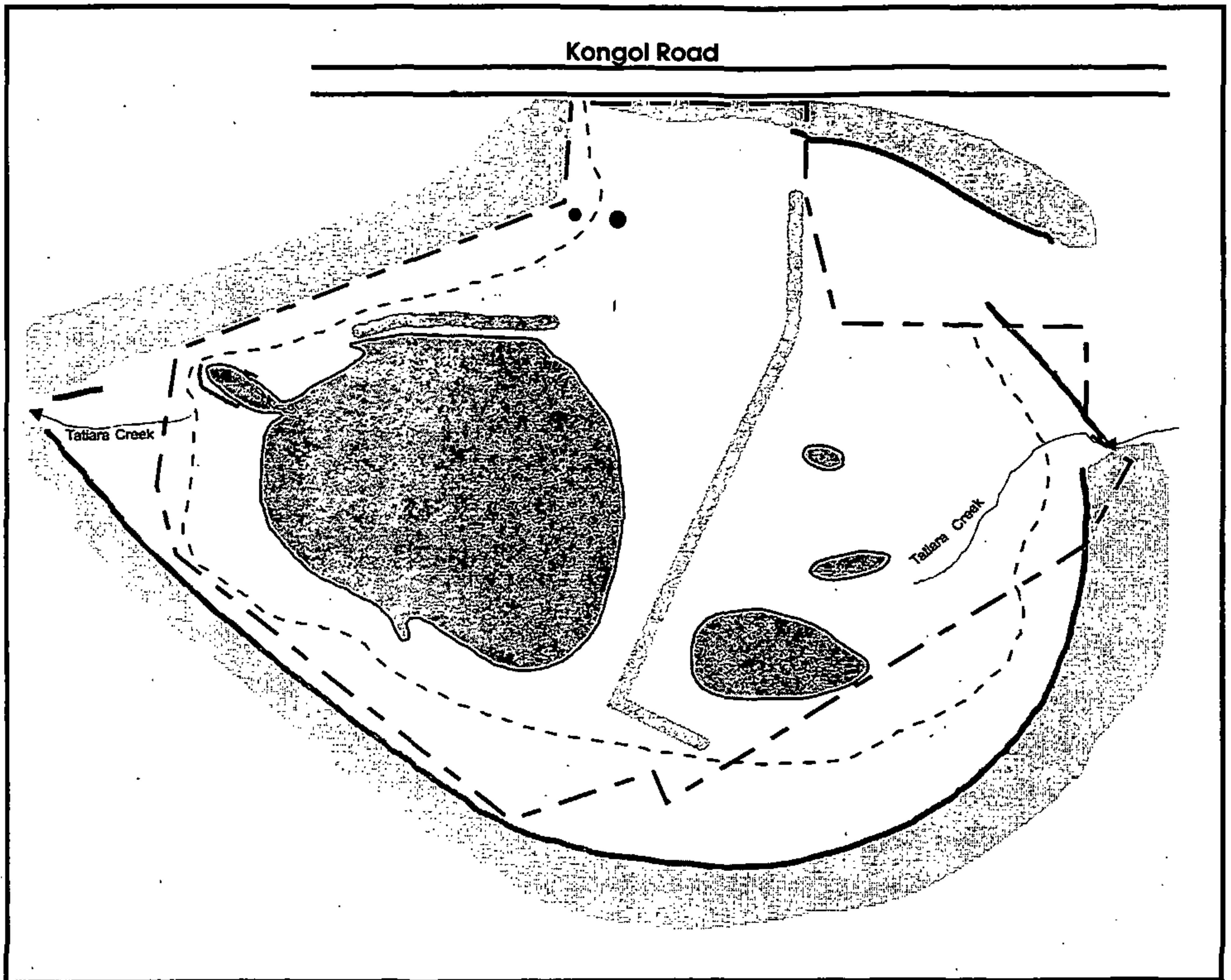


Figure 5

POOCHER SWAMP GAME RESERVE

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