



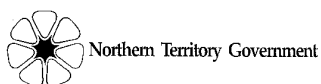
# **DULCIE RANGE NATIONAL PARK**

## **DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

**May 2001**



**PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**



Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory  
P.O. Box 1046  
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Dulcie Range National Park  
Draft Plan of Management

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## **Foreword**

This Draft Plan sets guidelines for the future planning and management of the Dulcie Range National Park and aims to conserve the Park's natural and cultural resources. During the life of this Plan visitation to the Park will not be encouraged or promoted

Major management objectives for the Park are:

- Appropriate management of the Park's natural and cultural resources.
- Development and formalization of public access roads to the Park through neighboring pastoral leases.
- Rehabilitation and prevention of soil erosion.
- Fencing sections of the southern boundary to prevent cattle from further degrading areas of the Park and damaging Aboriginal archaeological sites.
- Investigate future extensions to the existing Park area.

## **Acknowledgments**

The Parks and Wildlife Commission's Strategic Planning & Development Unit, Southern Regional Office, Alice Springs have prepared this Draft Plan of Management.

Special acknowledgments for assistance in preparation of the Plan are due to the Dulcie Range National Park Planning Team:

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN**

### **1.1 Background**

**The Dulcie Range National Park** (NT Portion 2455) is located in the Dulcie Range approximately 220 kilometres north east of Alice Springs. The Park, with an area of 190.9 square kilometres, takes in the southwestern section of the Dulcie Range, the total area of which is approximately 2,000 square kilometres. The Range is predominantly a sandstone plateau and elevated rugged hill country, which rises between 50 to 150 metres above the surrounding plain.

The Park, although not strictly representative of, is contained wholly within the Burt Bioregion and significantly, as at December 2000 is the only major protected area within this Bioregion.

Access to the area from Alice Springs is north via the Stuart Highway then east along the Plenty Highway. The Park is then accessed via private station tracks from both the Explorer Territory 4WD Route and from the Plenty Highway at the Huckitta Station Homestead turnoff (see Figure 1).

Title to the Park (NT Portion 2455) was issued to the Conservation Land Corporation on March 23 1988. The Park area was excised from what is now Huckitta Station and adjoins Huckitta, Arapunya, Jinka and Old MacDonald Downs pastoral leases (see Figure 2). The area was declared a Park under section 12(1) and in accordance with section 14(1) of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* (NT Government Gazette No. G10, 13 March 1991). The then, Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory was approved by the Administrator on 1 March 1991 to operate the Park and perform its functions within the Park while a Plan of Management was under preparation (section 17(5) of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*).

The Southern section of the Park is currently partly covered by mining exploration licence EL 8127, held by Roebuck Resources. This application was granted on 29 January 1996 for a period of 6 years, expiry date 29 January 2002. Two separate reservations from mining occupation have been applied for by the PWCNT covering the Old Huckitta Homestead and Mt Ultim areas.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission recognises the long affiliation of Aboriginal people with the Dulcie Range area. The Aboriginal custodians have expressed a strong interest in the area and the Commission has sought, and will continue to seek, effective participation of the Aboriginal custodians in Park management.

The Central Land Council has submitted a Land Claim (LC 209) under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* over the area on behalf of Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to the area. This claim was lodged on 4 June 1997 and to this stage (December 2000) the claim has not been resolved.

### **1.2 The purpose of this Plan**

The purpose of this Plan is to provide direction for future management of the Dulcie Range National Park consistent with relevant legislation, policies and the wishes of the Aboriginal custodians.

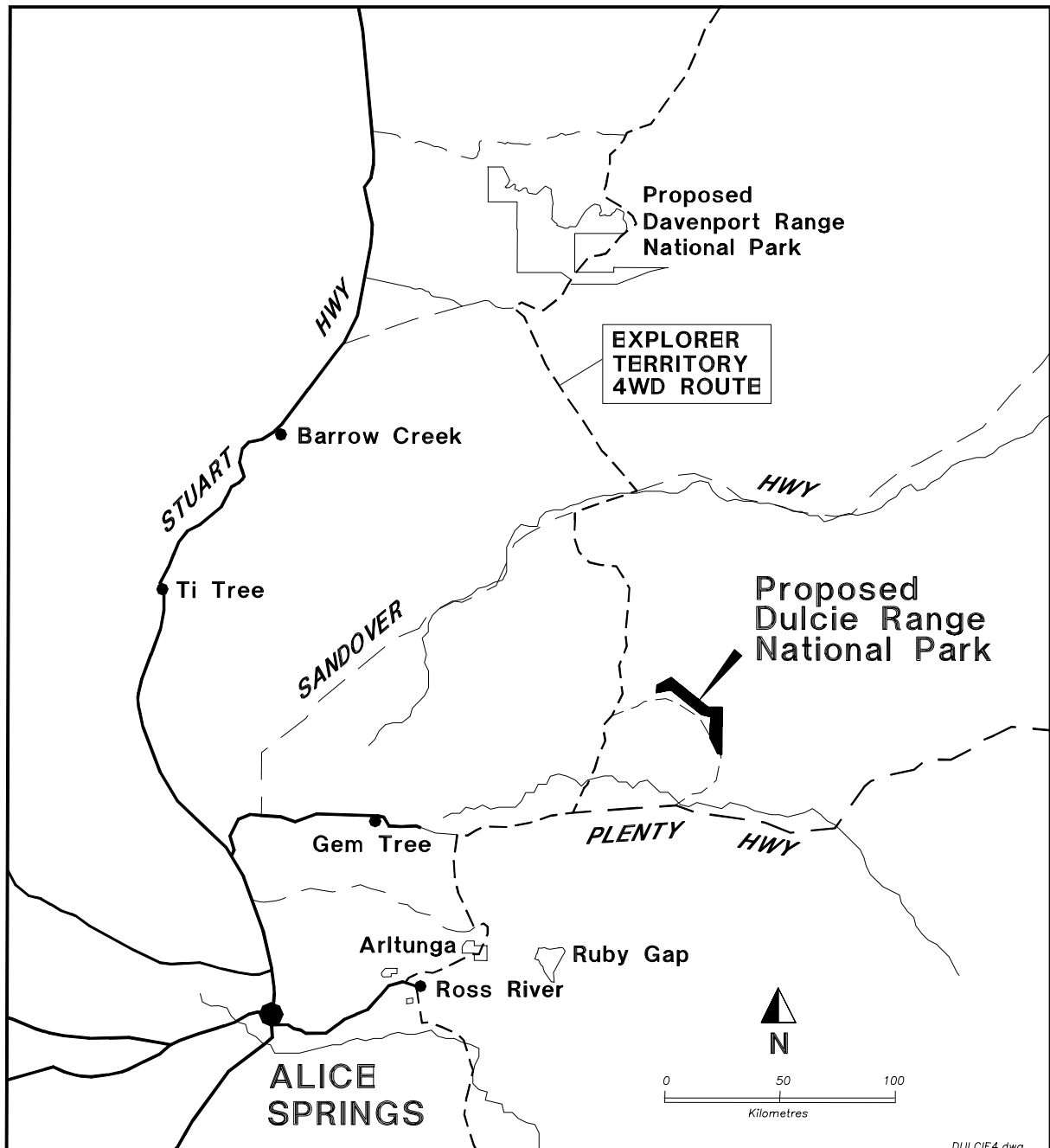
The Plan states the intent of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) with respect to the management and conservation of the Dulcie Range National Park. It also provides management objectives and proposes appropriate measures to guide future management of the Park. It has been prepared by the PWCNT in consultation with Aboriginal custodians, surrounding landholders, industry groups and interested parties.

This Plan has been prepared in pursuance of sections 18 and 19 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and will fulfil the function of a Plan of Management.

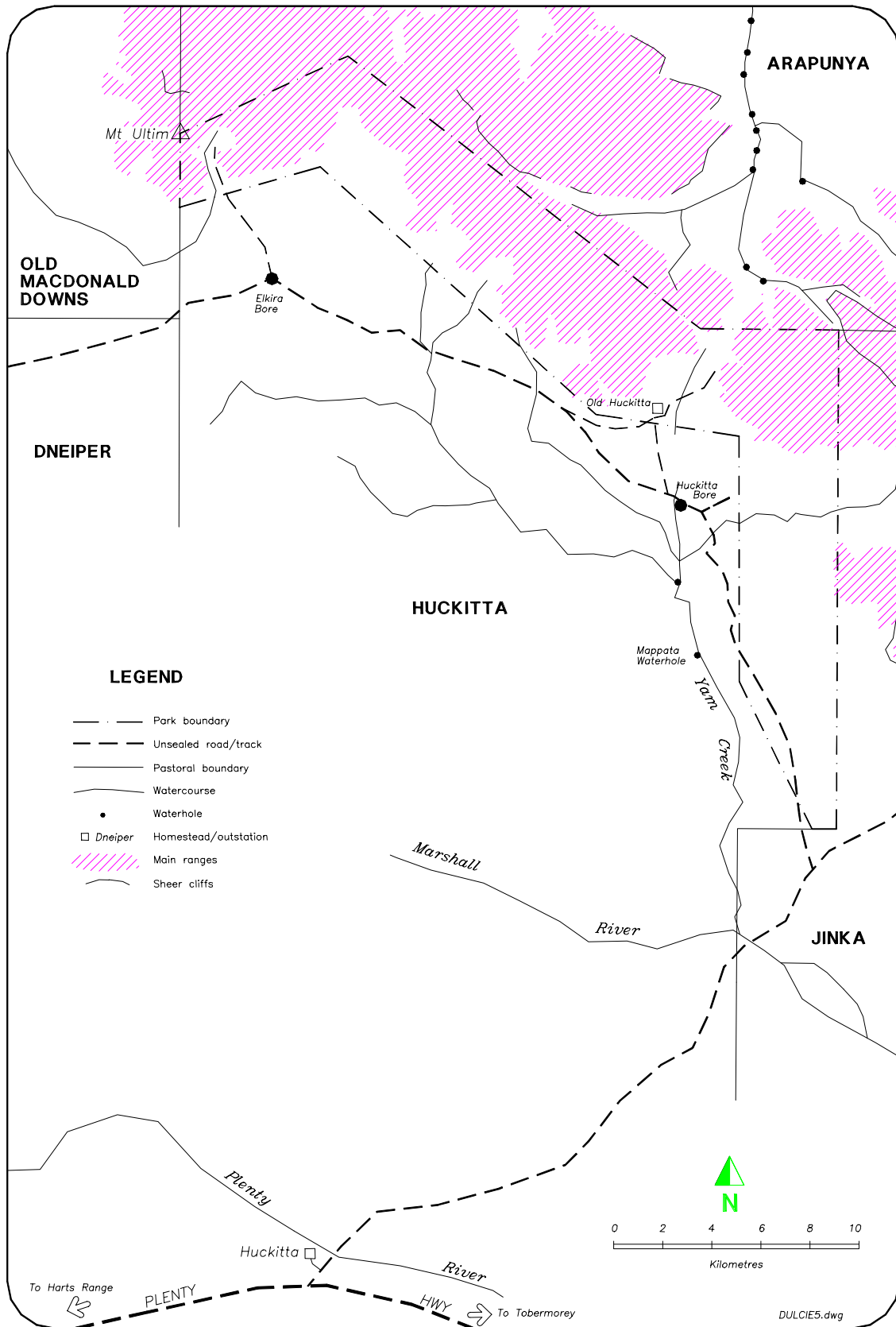
The PWCNT is obliged under section 21 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to manage the Park in accordance with this Plan once it has come into operation.

The Plan will be in force for a minimum of five years and a maximum of ten years, unless revoked by a new plan, or amended in accordance with section 20 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

**Figure 1. Locality of the Park**



**Figure 2. Dulcie Range National Park**



## **2.0 PARK VALUES**

### **2.1 Natural Values**

The natural values of the Park are primarily related to the section of the Dulcie Range within the Park boundary and the native flora, fauna and geology associated with this part of the Range.

### **2.2 Historical Values**

Charles Winnecke, in 1878, was the first recorded European to visit the Dulcie Range area. Later visitors to the area included the South Australian Government Geologist H.Y.L. Brown in 1896 and the Barclay-MacPherson Expedition in 1912. In 1916, T.E. Day, Chief Surveyor of the Northern Territory, surveyed and named the Dulcie Range after his second eldest daughter Edith Dulcie Coates (nee Day). Most early explorers left only sparse accounts of the area.

The Park's historical values are related to the evidence of early pastoral activity in the area and the ruins of Old Huckitta Station homestead that was established c. 1920. Principal structural remains comprise the remains of a homestead, wagon shed, blacksmith's shop, horse yard and stockyard (see sections 6.9 and 6.10).

### **2.3 Aboriginal Cultural Values**

The Dulcie Range is principally within the traditional estate of the Atnewale clan of the Akarre Arrernte people (Gunn 1989a, Blackwood 1987a). The Range would have traditionally been of considerable importance to Aboriginal people offering many reliable waterholes and springs, abundant shelter as well as considerable animal and plant resources. Historical records attest to a sizeable Aboriginal population in the area (Low 1985, Low 1986).

The Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory (CCNT) undertook a broad resource survey of the Dulcie Range in 1989. One of the objectives of that survey was to record Aboriginal sites (Gibson et. al. 1989). The survey recorded 100 rock art sites, 49 archaeological sites and 5 Aboriginal "Dreaming" sites. A major art and engravings site within the Park (Ataperraperre) is centred around Mount Ultim and has been registered as a Sacred Site (P97-037). A Sacred Site has also been registered close to the Old Huckitta Homestead ruins (Atnwarle P91-116).

### **2.4 Recreation and Tourism Values**

The wider Dulcie Range has potential as a remote recreation and tourism area north east of Alice Springs. The Range's principal attractions are sheltered gorges with permanent rockholes and areas of scenic rock outcrops with numerous Aboriginal art sites. Currently the existing Park has limitations as a destination for visitors as the majority of Range's attractions such as gorges and scenic waterholes are outside the Park boundary. To reach the Park visitors have to travel considerable distances on private, unmarked rough tracks to reach areas without facilities and having limited scenic qualities. If in the future the Park is to be promoted as a tourist destination additional scenic areas bordering the Park should be considered for inclusion.

Considerable potential exists to establish activities such as 4 wheel driving, basic bush camping, bushwalking, backpacking and Aboriginal cultural appreciation within the Dulcie Range.

### **3. ZONING SCHEME**

A Zoning Scheme is an important tool in pursuing the intent of a Plan of Management. The scheme provides the basis for appropriate management of the Park's resources.

During the life of this Plan visitation to the Park will not be encouraged or promoted. Visitation to the Park may be restricted if it is seen to be having a deleterious effect on the values of the Park.

Any future developments within the Park will be carried out with a minimum of interference to the natural environment and according to the requirements of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*, the *Heritage Conservation Act*, the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and other relevant legislation.

#### **3.1 Outline of the Zoning Scheme**

The following two zones have been identified to assist in future management of the Park.

- Natural Zone
- Special Protection Zone

The purpose of each zone is outlined below having been determined on the basis of the values occurring in the specified areas.

#### **3.2 Natural Zone**

The primary aim of management in this zone is to provide protection to the Park's natural and cultural resources including flora, fauna, Aboriginal art and archaeological sites.

Only research and educational activities that do not require the development of facilities will be allowed in this zone. Stock control fencing (on boundary where possible) will be permitted. Management vehicles will be permitted in this zone and where possible will use existing tracks.

#### **3.3 Special Protection Zone**

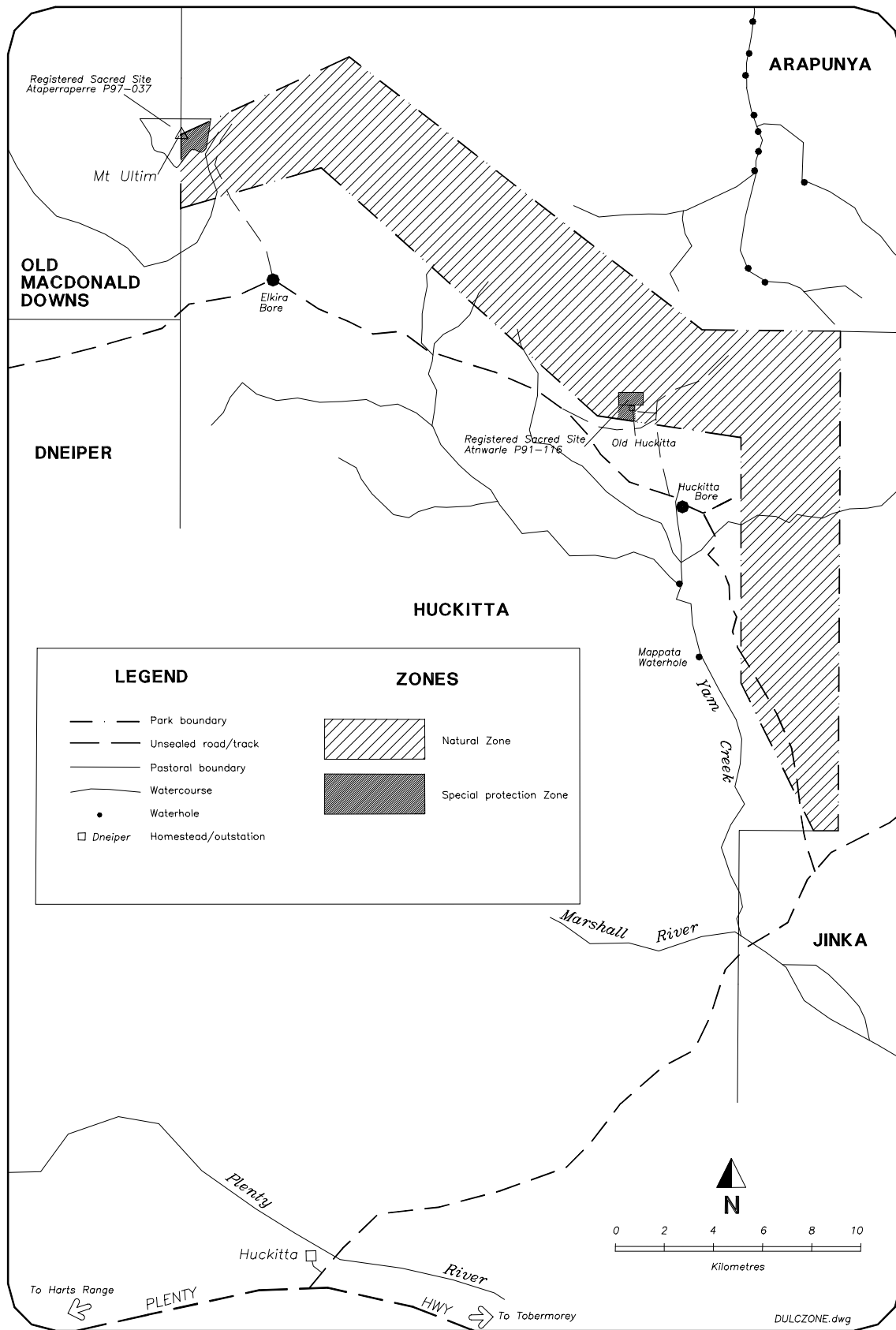
This zone emphasises the importance of the Sacred Sites Ataperraperre and Atnwarle and also the remains of the Old Huckitta homestead.

Regular monitoring of these areas will continue and restrictions or solutions will be implemented should impacts be shown to be having a detrimental effect on the values of these sites. Stock control fencing to protect sites will be allowed within this zone. Management of Sacred Sites will be in accordance with the *Northern Territory Sacred Sites Act*.

The condition of Old Huckitta Homestead and infrastructure will be assessed on a regular basis. Any protective or restorative works done to the Homestead should be consistent with the guidelines of the ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter.

Currently there are two special protection zones in the Park (see Figure 3) however other areas could be included in this zone. Other areas needing protection may be included if deemed necessary eg if nominated by the Aboriginal custodians as culturally sensitive or areas are found containing rare flora or fauna within the Park.

**Figure 3. Zoning Scheme**



## **4.0 MANAGEMENT OF THE PARK'S RESOURCES**

### **4.1 Objectives**

- To protect and maintain the biodiversity of the Park's natural resources including native plants and animals, habitats and ecological processes, soil and water resources.
- To collect, record and manage information about the cultural resources of the Park.
- To minimise impacts on the Park's resources by introduced plants and animals, visitors and existing and proposed developments.
- To prevent soil erosion within the Park and to undertake rehabilitation work.
- To maintain the majority of the Park in as natural and undisturbed state as possible.
- To implement appropriate fire management for the Park.

### **4.2 Biogeographical Context**

An "Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia" was produced in 1995 (edited by Thackaway and Creswell) in cooperation with the States and Territories providing a foundation for assessment of conservation values, reservation status of those values, and subsequent land use and management planning throughout Australia. This Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia has established the Dulcie Range National Park within the Burt Plain Bioregion.

The Burt Plain Bioregion is described as; undulating plains of the Burt Plain are broken by a number of rugged rocky outcrops and crossed by broad sandy watercourses. Extensive mulga shrublands occur on the plains with patches of mallee eucalypt open woodland and spinifex grassland. The watercourses are lined with river red gums. Almost the whole of the Burt Bioregion is used for pastoral purposes principally utilising the richer alluvial soils of the mulga shrublands.

The Burt Plain Bioregion is a complex of uplands and extensive plains with several separate internal drainage units. The uplands, which include the Dulcie Range, consist of numerous outcrops and ranges of low relief.

The Dulcie Range in the northeast of the region is part of the Arunta Inlier. It consists primarily of Dulcie Sandstone (350million years old) and is of low relief (50-200m above the plain). Extensive jointing has led to the formation of gorges and waterholes. The basic topographic units are rocky hills, foothills and watercourses.

The total area protected within the Burt Plain Bioregion is 192.09 km<sup>2</sup>, or 0.3% of the total Bioregion area. The Dulcie Range National Park contributes the majority of this area with three other small reserves contributing a total area of less than 1 km<sup>2</sup> (98.79ha).

### **4.3 Geology and Land Systems**

The geology of the region has been described and mapped in detail by numerous authors eg. Freeman, 1986. In general, the Dulcie Range occurs within the Georgina Basin, a large sedimentary basin found in the Northern Territory and Queensland. The Park lies toward the southeastern edge of this basin. The main rock type is Dulcie Sandstone, which is separated from the Tomahawk beds by a disconformity. Dulcie Sandstone consists primarily of quartz arenite while the Tomahawk beds consist of a sequence of sandstone, siltstone, dolostone and

limestone. The younger Dulcie Sandstone belong to the Devonian Period while the older Tomahawk beds range in age from the late Cambrian to early Ordovician.

The land systems of the Park described by Perry (1962) as; The northern section of the Park is within the Krichauff land system which is characterised by an extensive plateau with relief up to 150 metres often showing a series of parallel joints, steep sided cliffs, scree slopes and deep sheltered gorges. Rocky watercourses are commonly found. The southern section is within the Tomahawk land system which is characterised by dissected plateaux with regionally sloping summits, with relief up to 50 metres and having some very stony and coarse soils. Other land systems that protrude into the park area are Alcoota, Huckitta and Ambalindum.

Aesthetic values of the Park and adjoining areas must be protected against adverse impact of mineral exploration or extraction activities.

Operations for the exploration and recovery of minerals may be permitted in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation. These include the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, the *Mining Act*, the *Petroleum Act*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and in accordance with the administrative arrangements set in place by the Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Department of Mines and Energy.

## **Management Actions**

**4.3.1** *The Parks and Wildlife Commission will seek to provide environmental advice for mining operations undertaken in areas adjoining the Park. This is to ensure that activities that may adversely affect the Park and its resources are avoided or minimised*

## **4.4 Soils**

The Park's soil types vary from relatively stable stony soils to highly erodable red earths. The dominant soils and land units of the Park can be summarised as follows:

### Bold and dissected plateaux

Stony to sandy or coarse soils, sparse shrub and low trees over spinifex or sparse grass.

### Mountain Range with rounded foothills and spurs

Low relief, shallow stony or absent soils, spinifex or sparse grass.

### Granite or sandy plains

Red clayey sands to sandy red earths open to sparse low trees over short grass.

The Commission has a responsibility to demonstrate good practice with regard to soil conservation. Due care will be exercised in the planning and design of all facilities and access routes as many old tracks in the area have eroded badly due to poor siting and constant movement of cattle.

## **Management Actions**

**4.4.1** *Appropriate measures will be undertaken (subject to the availability of funds) to prevent or limit accelerated soil erosion on the Park as far as practicable. Such measures may include fencing to prevent further plant degradation by stock, maintenance of vegetation cover, particularly grasses and other ground cover species and wise fire management.*

**4.4.2** *All designated 4WD tracks and other areas will be monitored for unacceptable impacts such as excessive soil erosion or damage or loss of vegetation that assists soil stability.*

**4.4.3** *Due care will be taken to ensure minimum disturbance to natural run off characteristics during planning, design, siting and construction of tracks, roads and facilities.*

**4.4.4** *Advice will be sought from the Land Resource Assessment Unit, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment regarding siting and design of all facilities, tracks and roads.*

#### **4.5 Native Flora**

Wildfires and grazing by cattle have degraded the native vegetation in the Dulcie Range area. Plant communities that have capitalised following fires dominate much of the area. Most of these communities do not contain a distribution of age classes. From the perspective of conservation values, grazing pressures have degraded all grasslands, most waterholes and the vegetation surrounding these waterholes.

Surveys conducted in 1983 and 1989 by the CCNT recorded a total of 65 plant families containing 335 plant species for the Park and surrounding Dulcie Range.

Of the 355 species recorded throughout the Dulcie Range, 21 are rare or relict species and three species are of national significance with listings as rare plants. They are *Samolus eremaeus*, *Stylidium inaequipetalum* and *Chremnothamnus thomsonii*, all of which occur in rocky gorges. Species especially significant on a regional level as relict plants are *Imperata cylindrica*, *Psilotum nudum* and *Schoenus falcatus*. Although well represented outside central Australia, the populations of these species are small, vulnerable and not extensive in central Australia.

Management must aim at maintaining (and restoring) biodiversity of the Park, particularly as this is the only major protected area within the Burt Bioregion. Further research and survey of the Park's flora is desirable to ascertain a more accurate indication of abundance of rare or relict species and further occurrence of tropical and more southern arid species. The identification of fire sensitive plant communities and significant individual plants is essential to management of those communities.

Management attention needs to be directed to protection of vegetation within areas of sensitive soils.

The relative inaccessibility of much of the Park by vehicle and difficulties of establishing and maintaining fence lines over much of the range country must be taken into account in planning the management of flora resources.

Unchecked fire and introduced animal activity represent the major threats to the biodiversity of the Park and as such need to be addressed in management of the Park.

#### **Management Actions**

**4.5.1** *PWCNT will undertake the most appropriate measures to ensure the maintenance of the Park's biodiversity.*

**4.5.2** *The Parks and Wildlife Commission will undertake further vegetation surveys as required. These surveys will be focussed on gaining a greater appreciation of the natural flora values of the Park.*

**4.5.3** *Undertake survey work to assist in further identifying fire sensitive communities within the Park. The Park's Annual Fire Action Plan aims to protect fire sensitive plant communities, reduce fuel loads and maintain vegetation diversity within the Park. (See Section 6.8 Fire Management).*

**4.5.4** *Ongoing assessment will be undertaken by management staff to determine impacts of fire, introduced animals and other significant threats to biodiversity. (See Section 7.4 Research and Monitoring). The Fire and Feral Animal Strategies will be further developed and used to assist in establishing assessment programs and strategies for dealing with these issues.*

## **4.6 Native Fauna**

### **Mammals**

A total of 17 native mammal species and 5 introduced species have been recorded from the Dulcie Range area. Evidence has also been found for the past existence of two species now thought to be extinct in the area. These were the Ghost Bat *Macroderma gigas* and the Pale Field Rat *Rattus tunneyi*. It is likely that all medium-sized mammals such as possums and bandicoots have also disappeared. The following species were recorded in the 1989 survey and their known distribution extended,

<i>Planigale ingrami</i>	Long-tailed Planigale, distribution extended 430km southwards.
<i>Chalinolobus morio</i>	Chocolate Wattled bat, distribution extended northeast 150km.
<i>Hipposideros ater</i>	Dusky Horseshoe-bat, distribution extended 900km southwards.

### **Birds**

With a total of 105 bird species recorded, the Dulcie Range compares favourably with Watarrka National Park and the proposed Davenport Range National Park in the number of bird species found. The high numbers found in the Dulcie Range were the result of a greater number of waterbirds, waders and shore foragers. Bird life in the Dulcie Range appears to have a close affinity with that of the Davenport Range. Several seldom seen species for the Dulcie Range are,

<i>Eremiornis carteri</i>	Spinifexbird,
<i>Amytornis purnelli</i>	Dusky Grasswren
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon and
<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	Emu

### **Reptiles**

32 reptile species have been recorded for the Dulcie Range area including 8 geckoes, 11 skink lizards, 5 dragon lizards and 4 goannas.

### **Frogs**

2 frog species have been recorded in the Dulcie Range, they are the Desert Tree Frog *Litoria rubella* and *Limnodynastes spenceri*.

### **Fish**

Cattle have degraded most of the large waterholes in the Dulcie Range and this has probably led to the disappearance of some species of fish. 3 species of fish have been recorded from the Dulcie Range. The Spotted Grunter *Leiopotherapon unicolor*, was the most common being found in nearly all watercourses and waterholes. This species appears to tolerate waterholes that have become polluted by cattle activity. The Rainbow Fish, *Melanotaenia splendida*, is common in some waterholes.

## Crustaceans

*Holthuisana transversa*, a small amphibious freshwater crab is found in or near waterholes throughout the Dulcie Range.

Threats to fauna populations and habitats in the Park are likely to result from uncontrolled fire, feral animal and weed infestation, and the activities of visitors.

Further research and survey of the Park's fauna may be undertaken to ascertain a more accurate indication of abundance of fauna species, particularly those at the limit of their range. Surveys are required across a full range of seasonal conditions to gain a true indication of the flora and fauna of the Park.

Management of native fauna may be improved by increasing research and monitoring to identify specific habitat requirements.

The Park's semi-permanent and permanent waterholes may require management to maintain their natural and cultural values. These springs and waterholes require particular attention in further surveys to assess the significance of the Parks aquatic fauna.

Threats to native fauna need to be carefully identified and quantified to determine appropriate remedial action.

## Management Actions

**4.6.1** *Further surveys will be conducted as required by PWCNT to refine knowledge of the Park's fauna and to monitor the effectiveness of management practices.*

**4.6.2** *The distribution and abundance of introduced animals and plants will be monitored by management staff. Perceived impacts on native fauna and their habitats will be addressed through the development of an introduced animal management strategy, a weeds management strategy and a fire management strategy.*

## 4.7 Introduced Plants and Animals

Five introduced plant species have been recorded for the Dulcie Range area, *Conyza bonariensis* (Tall Fleabane), *Sonchus oleraceus* (Milk Thistle), *Citrullus colocynthis* (Bitter Paddy Melon), *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Parkinsonia) and *Citrullus lanatus* (Camel melon). *Acacia farnesiana* (Prickly Mimosa) also grows in the Park. This species is found in subtropical and tropical America, Africa and Asia, widely introduced in the tropics often becoming naturalised. It is not certain whether this plant species is indigenous to Australia, or has been introduced (Whibley 1992). *Acacia farnesiana* has the ability to spread especially to disturbed areas and can become a management problem.

Introduced animals include horses, cattle, mice, rabbits, and cats. A skull and very old faecal pellets from a feral goat were found in the Mt Ultim area however goats are no longer considered to be in the Dulcie Range. Cattle and horses have degraded all grasslands, most waterholes and the vegetation surrounding these waterholes within the Dulcie Range.

In accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* By Law 22 animals will only be permitted within the Park with the written approval of the Commission or if they are seeing and hearing guide dogs.

If introduced animals are left unchecked they will continue to have an adverse impact on the conservation integrity of plant and animal populations. Horses, cattle and donkeys can contribute to soil erosion, spread of introduced plants and damage native vegetation.

One of the major contributions to the spread of introduced plants is by introduced animals. Control of introduced animals and plants must be undertaken in a coordinated manner.

Feral cats occupy a wide habitat range and are known to have significant impacts on some native species, particularly those with small disjunct populations. Their secretive, nocturnal nature makes them difficult to survey and obtain accurate population estimates. There is currently no known effective control of these animals.

Fencing of the Park along the northern boundary will be extremely difficult given the rugged nature of the terrain. Fencing is essential to stock proof any Park which is adjacent to pastoral land and, once constructed, the integrity of this fencing must be maintained. Achievement of secure fencing to the Park will necessitate negotiation and joint management agreements being made between PWCNT and neighbouring landholders. Some fencelines may have to be mutually agreed along alignments that are practical to fence and not necessarily along cadastral boundaries. Fencing of the entire Park boundary is not likely to be necessary as check fencing of main stock access points should achieve adequate stock control.

A recommendation from the rock art survey surrounding the Mt Ultim area, (Taperraperre) (Gunn 1997) was that a stock proof fence be erected to prevent stock from entering Aknanthele Gorge and damaging the archaeological sites around its mouth. Approximately 6 to 8 kilometres of stock fence would protect this site and the sites at Irrkare to the north.

## **Management Actions**

- 4.7.1** *A feral animal strategy will be developed for the Park that will integrate introduced plant and animal management.*
- 4.7.2** *Control of cattle and horses is a priority for management of the Park and will be undertaken as part of the introduced animal management strategy. Control of these particular animals requires exclusion fencing, mustering and may require shooting from helicopters to mop up individual animals.*
- 4.7.3** *The PWCNT will undertake negotiations regarding fencing sections of the southern boundary of the Park with Huckitta Station. The appropriate clearances for alignments will be sought under relevant legislation.*
- 4.7.4** *Future vegetation surveys conducted by PWCNT will also include introduced plants in and around the Park area. These surveys will assist in monitoring changes and with identifying introduced plant threats.*
- 4.7.5** *A weed control strategy will be developed for the Park in association with suitably qualified and experienced staff from PWCNT and DPI&F.*
- 4.7.6** *The PWCNT will investigate joint funding with relevant groups for protective fencing of Aboriginal rock art and archaeological sites in the Mt Ultim area as recommended by Gunn 1997.*

## **4.8 Fire Management**

Aboriginal people have traditionally used fire as a tool during hunting and gathering. These fires have shaped vegetation and faunal patterns across central Australia. The advent of pastoralism brought new approaches regarding fire use resulting in fewer but larger fires initiated during the warmer seasons.

The Park area has the potential for severe, widespread wildfire due to the predominance of spinifex dominated communities and management access is difficult in the rugged hill terrain, placing a large reliance on aircraft access. Traditional Aboriginal burning practices in the

region have been restricted since the coming of pastoralism and the move away from the traditional hunter, gatherer lifestyle of Aboriginal people.

The use of fire as a management tool, if properly used within the Park, can enhance habitat and species diversity, limit the extent of wildfires, and protect important plant communities, infrastructure and lives.

Many plant and most animal species are susceptible to the effects of fire and are unlikely to be found in areas that are frequently burnt. This can lead to landscape and habitat uniformity and has the effect of lowering biodiversity.

A Fire Management Strategy has been prepared for the Park which provides broad aims for fire management within the Park and its vicinity for the next three to five years.

## **Management Actions**

**4.8.1** *An annual Fire Action Plan will be further developed for the Park. This Plan should consider:*

- *seasonal conditions*
- *fuel loads*
- *personnel and resource requirements and availability*
- *fire history*
- *liaison and participation of others*
- *fire activities, timing and locations for prescribed burns*
- *the need to contain fires within the Park area.*

**4.8.2** *Surveys will be undertaken which may determine the occurrence of fire sensitive vegetation communities and important fauna refuge areas. These areas will be incorporated in the Fire Management Strategy and Annual Fire Action Plans for protection from wildfire and the effects of prescribed burns. A major objective of fire management will be to increase biodiversity within the Park's widespread spinifex communities through gradual development of a mosaic fire history pattern.*

**4.8.3** *Fire restrictions may be applied in times of high to extreme fire risk or in accordance with the Bushfires Act.*

## **4.9 Scenic Resources and Landforms**

The Dulcie Range's principal attractions are sheltered gorges, many of which contain permanent rockholes and springs and areas of scenic rock outcrops. These features are limited in extent and occur in a landscape which otherwise is of only moderate scenic value. However, the area's sense of remoteness is an important intangible attraction.

The Range's rich Aboriginal resources are of considerable tourism value, and would most likely be of interest to interstate and overseas visitors. The Old Huckitta Homestead is a European heritage site of moderate interest to visitors.

The Park could support low to moderate levels of use, for predominantly nature based activities. Appropriate activities include sightseeing, bush camping, exploring, bushwalking, extended backpacking and Aboriginal cultural appreciation.

Part of the 1989 resource survey conducted by the CCNT of the Dulcie Range included potential recreational sites for tourism. An expanded study to come from this survey was the report 'A Recreation Resource Evaluation of the Dulcie Range, Northern Territory (Ginns, 1989). Both reports highlight the fact that most of the scenically attractive and prime tourism sites lie outside the Park boundary. Two sites identified within the Park are the Mount Ultim and the Old Huckitta Homestead areas. These two sites were identified as having tourism potential, however these areas are covered by, or have registered sacred sites nearby. Before

any visitor activity or development could take place in these areas approvals have to be obtained from the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) and the Aboriginal custodians.

### **Mt. Ultim area (Ataperrapperre)**

The trig point at Mt Ultim marks the northwestern corner of the Park. Therefore some of the scenic attractions and Aboriginal art sites that surround Mt Ultim are outside the boundary of the Park.

The Mt Ultim area is an elevated area of striated sandstone outcrop covering discontinuously, more than 12 km<sup>2</sup>. It appears as a series of wide broken rocky benches at differing levels from which rise steep-sided rocky plateaus and dissected mazes of rounded domes or ridges. The benches and upstanding remnants have a layered “beehive” appearance caused by alternate bands of soft white/yellow/brown sandstone and harder dark brown material. Several associated features of interest are present including striated rock faces and steep rock slopes, cliffs, large overhangs and caves, rock pillars and arches. The area is sparsely vegetated, attractive stunted Ghost Gums dot the outcrop. The area contains by far the richest and most varied assemblage of Aboriginal art sites in the Range, including 14 shelters containing 1300 hand and artefact stencils and over 830 peckings (Gunn,1997). Mt Ultim itself provides a vantage point for views across the surrounding country.

Access to the area is by a 4WD track that turns off from Elkira Bore (NW Huckitta Station) then northwards for 6.5 km to the entrance of a gorge containing Elkira Spring. A clamber through this gorge leads to scenically spectacular country to the east of Mount Ultim with many unusual sandstone outcrops, many containing galleries of Aboriginal art and views of the surrounding range.

### **Old Huckitta Homestead area**

A 4WD track accesses the Old Huckitta Homestead (see section 6.10) and continues onwards for 4 km to a gorge with a chain of small waterholes. This site would be suitable for the development of a future camping area to access the Old Huckitta area of the Park. Some fencing is required to prevent stock from further degrading the waterholes and surrounding vegetation.

## **4.10 Historic Resources**

The Park contains evidence of early pastoral activity with the ruins of Old Huckitta Station Homestead and outbuildings established in about 1920. Principal structural remains comprise a homestead, wagon shed, blacksmith’s shop, horse yard and stockyard.

T & C Rome first acquired the Adnoyala Spring country of the Dulcie Range for speculative purposes about 1878. R. Lyons made a later application in 1881 however no attempt to develop or stock the lease was made by either party and the country was forfeited by the middle of the 1880’s.

The area was then taken up under a grazing licence by James and Hartley around 1910 and held to around 1916. It is likely that no more than a camp was established on the block during this time.

Between 1917 and 1920 the Adnoyala block was taken up and stocked by C.L.J. (Charles) Dubois, owner of neighbouring Huckitta station who is thought to have taken up the Huckitta lease from about 1908. Dubois established the present Adnoyala block homestead (now the Old Huckitta homestead) around 1920. Records show that he was running 2600 cattle and 220 horses in 1921. Dubois appointed W.(Bill) Madrill as manager in 1923 or 1924 who continued as manager for 20 to 25 years.

Charles Dubois won the 1922 Melbourne Cup with his horse 'King Ingoda' which was foaled on Huckitta Station and carried the LEL Huckitta stock brand.

Jim Laughton, who held a grazing lease over the present Indiana Pastoral Lease was buried at the foot of the range near the Old Huckitta homestead during the 1920s or 1930s. The date of his death has not been verified.

The station was purchased from Dubois by Sidney and Walter Kidman in 1928. Members of the Pastoral Lease Committee who inspected the lease in 1933 were critical of Kidman's lack of expenditure and Madrill's "don't care kind of management". The Old Huckitta homestead is thought to have been occupied until the mid 1940s. A new Huckitta homestead was established in a more convenient location at its present site on the Plenty River close to the Plenty Highway in the early 1950s.

### **Management Actions**

**4.10.1** *The condition of Old Huckitta Homestead and infrastructure will be assessed on a regular basis. Management options may include allowing the ruins to naturally decay or conservation measures could be undertaken as necessary to stabilise the remains to prevent further deterioration. Any protective or restorative works done to the Park's historic resources should be consistent with the guidelines of the ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter.*

**4.10.2** *The PWCNT will encourage further research to document the Park's historical use and historical cultural resources.*

## **5.0 MANAGEMENT OF ABORIGINAL SITES & INTERESTS**

### **5.1 Objectives**

- To record, manage and protect sites of spiritual or cultural significance, Aboriginal archaeological material and Aboriginal tradition in the Park area.
- To take account of the concerns of the Aboriginal custodians in Park management.

### **5.2 Sacred and Significant Sites**

The Dulcie Range and surrounding country in and around the Park contains numerous Sacred and significant sites, of which to date only two within the Park have been registered under the *Northern Territory Sacred Sites Act*.

The PWCNT recognises the sensitivity regarding information on Sacred Sites, in particular the location, meaning and strict confidentiality regarding information for some sites.

All archaeological sites and artifacts in the Northern Territory are protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* (administered by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, Darwin). All sites of significance according to Aboriginal tradition are protected under the *Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976* and the *Northern Territory Sacred Sites Act 1989*. At the request of the Aboriginal Community, emergency protection can be offered to threatened sites through the *Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act*.

#### **Management Actions**

- 5.2.1** *PWCNT management staff will work in association with senior Aboriginal custodians, AAPA and other interested parties to manage and protect sacred or significant sites.*

### **5.3 Aboriginal Archaeology**

The Park contains many archaeological sites which provide evidence of Aboriginal occupation (Gunn, 1997). These sites have been extensively surveyed and mapped by R.G. Gunn and a report submitted to AAPA. This report and others relating to location of art sites and artefacts are available only to PWCNT officers unless with the agreement of the Aboriginal custodians.

Management of the Park's archaeology should be consistent with the wishes of the Aboriginal custodians and all Aboriginal archaeological sites are automatically protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

#### **Management Actions**

- 5.3.1** *The PWCNT will endeavour to record Aboriginal archaeological materials on the Park. Where possible, archaeological materials will be left in situ. To prevent their unauthorised removal, the location of any significant unsecured artefacts will not be publicised. Where artefacts of value, importance or interest are at risk they may be salvaged for conservation, storage or display with the consent of the Aboriginal custodians and the Minister responsible for Heritage according to the *Heritage Conservation Act*.*

- 5.3.2** *Sites containing Aboriginal artefacts of significance will be monitored in accordance with the wishes of the Aboriginal custodians.*

## **5.4 Traditional Aboriginal Use of Resources**

Aboriginal people have in traditional times used the Range for hunting, food gathering and ceremonial purposes. Aboriginal people may again, at some time wish to use the Park for these traditional purposes. Section 122 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* provides for traditional use of land and water by Aboriginal people.

Excessive hunting of native wildlife and gathering of natural materials on the Park may have the potential to have impacts upon native vegetation and wildlife populations.

### **Management Actions**

**5.4.1** *If needed the PWCNT will liaise with the Aboriginal custodians to suggest areas where traditional hunting and gathering could be best conducted without significantly interfering with the viability of the Park's wildlife and vegetation communities.*

## **5.5 Aboriginal Living Areas**

After extensive consultation with the Aboriginal custodians for the area and the Central Land Council a living area was approved for the Cleary family by the Commission Board (December 1996) and the Conservation Land Corporation. This living area of 0.25km<sup>2</sup> was to be located near Huckitta Spring close to the Old Huckitta homestead.

Following the death of Mr Cleary in April 1997 and his burial at the site many of the custodians felt that this site was now not appropriate and a larger area in a new location was needed. The Central Land Council proposed an area of approximately 2.5km<sup>2</sup> which would cover the original living area and also include the Old Huckitta homestead. However before negotiations could proceed, the Central Land Council, on 4 June 1997 submitted a Land Claim over the entire Park. This claim (LC 209) under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* was lodged on behalf of Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to the area.

Section 67A of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act, 1976*, (Estates or interests not to be granted while land subject to traditional land claim) does not allow the application for the proposed living area to be progressed while the land is under claim.

### **Management Actions**

**5.5.1** *Following the resolution of the Land Claim over the Park, the PWCNT will progress negotiation of the Living Area application by the Cleary family if still required.*

## **6.0 INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER PARTIES**

### **6.1 Involvement of the Surrounding Community.**

One of the corporate goals of the PWCNT is to promote community participation in the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of our Parks.

The PWCNT acknowledges the skills, sense of regional history and energy that exists amongst the wider community surrounding the Park.

There is a strong cultural attachment of Aboriginal custodians to the land covered by the Park and it is the Parks and Wildlife Commission's intention to build on the partnership which already exists with the Aboriginal community. This will ensure that management takes proper account of Aboriginal perspectives and the conservation needs of cultural sites and areas.

This partnership has the potential to enhance the Park by providing opportunities for custodians to contribute to Park management, to present Aboriginal culture as integral to the Park's values through interpretation and to provide opportunities for custodians to operate commercial concessions in association with the Park.

The following approaches to management strategies apply to the Park:

- When developing the Park the Commission takes account of Aboriginal perspectives and the conservation needs for cultural sites and areas. This can add to the intrinsic value of the Park from a visitor perspective. It enhances the Park's value with the addition of a strong cultural element and may provide opportunities for visitors to learn of contemporary Aboriginal culture in relation to land management.
- The outcomes meet common goals in relation to management particularly with respect to fire, weeds and feral animal control, biological surveys, cultural interpretation and visitor management.
- The Commission recognises that it is important that the Aboriginal custodians maintain their cultural responsibilities in relation to sites within the Park.
- Opportunities for tourism industry ventures operating in or adjacent to the Park could provide future business opportunities for local operators including Aboriginal people. Such enterprises should be sustainable and provide a consistent high quality product.

## **7.0 PARK ADMINISTRATION AND RESEARCH**

### **7.1 Objectives**

- To ensure that management procedures and practices achieve the objectives of this Plan by following the Management Actions.
- To administer the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and By-laws, any management agreements in place and other relevant legislation in relation to the Park.
- To provide staff, resources and facilities adequate for the efficient management of the Park.
- To cooperate with neighboring landholders and Aboriginal custodians regarding management of the Park.
- To encourage appropriate research and monitoring programs into the natural environmental and cultural aspects of the Park.
- To make adequate safety provisions for the Park.

### **7.2 Park Administration**

The Park is managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. Rangers based in the East MacDonnell District are responsible for management operations and conduct patrols to key areas on a regular basis.

Likely increases in Park visitor numbers, in addition to increased management responsibilities in the District, will eventually lead to demands for increased management presence in the Park. There are currently no plans to establish Ranger facilities on the Park

Regular monitoring and maintenance of management facilities as well as the natural and cultural resources is critical to sound Park and visitor management.

The independent review of Parks and Reserves conducted in 1999 recommended that the Proposed Dulcie Range Park be managed with the minimum of resources as a low profile conservation area.

#### **Management Actions**

- 7.2.1** *Demands on staff resources will be monitored by the Chief District Ranger (Central / East), and the Regional Parks Manager (S).*
- 7.2.2** *Rangers from the East MacDonnell District will continue to patrol the Park, and liaise regularly with all interest groups including the pastoralists, Aboriginal custodians and the Tourism Industry.*

### **7.3 Liaison with Neighbours**

Huckitta, Jinka, Arapunya and Old MacDonald Downs pastoral leases border the Park. Access from the 'Explorer Territory 4WD Route' is through Dneiper, Old MacDonald Downs and Huckitta pastoral leases. This access track may need to be re-routed as it is badly eroded and passes through two bores/stockyards. Access from the Plenty Highway to the Park is through the Huckitta and Jinka Pastoral leases.

Effective Park management is dependent on good liaison and cooperation with neighboring landholders. In particular, issues such as fencing, fire management, introduced animal control and access will depend on this cooperation.

### **Management Actions**

**7.3.1** *PWCNT staff will continue to maintain amicable working relationships with neighboring landholders and consult on specific issues including fence erection and maintenance, introduced animal control and fire management.*

**7.3.2** *PWCNT will negotiate public access routes across neighboring pastoral properties.*

### **7.4 Research and Monitoring**

A comprehensive resource study by the CCNT was conducted over the Dulcie Range area in 1989. This survey included flora, fauna, Aboriginal sites and potential recreation sites. The survey covered the full extent of the Dulcie Range and the Oorabra Range to the south. An earlier CCNT survey was carried out in 1983 by Latz and Langford.

Rock art and Aboriginal archaeological sites in the Dulcie Range area have been surveyed and documented in conjunction with the Aboriginal traditional owners (Gunn 1989a, 1992, 1993 and 1997 and Cleary et al. 1994 and Gunn 1996).

Periodic surveys have been undertaken on an opportunistic basis by Ranger staff from the East District. Results have been recorded on the Biological Records Scheme.

Research and monitoring is to be encouraged into all aspects of the Park's natural and cultural resource values, leading to greater understanding and more effective management of those values.

Research into Aboriginal and other cultural aspects of the Park will lead to greater understanding of overall Park values. The Aboriginal custodians should be actively involved in research and monitoring regarding Aboriginal cultural aspects in the Park

Areas and features of historical significance need to be located, assessed, conserved and monitored where appropriate.

### **Management Actions**

**7.4.1** *The PWCNT will conduct further survey work as required on the Park, furthering work done in earlier surveys. Ranger staff will continue to conduct flora and fauna surveys while on regular patrols. Neighbouring landholders and other parties may be invited to participate in survey activities when appropriate.*

**7.4.2** *The PWCNT will continue to liaise and consult with the Aboriginal custodians regarding cultural site survey, monitoring and protection. Aboriginal cultural project planning will be discussed with the Aboriginal custodians prior to any project work being undertaken.*

**7.4.3** *The PWCNT will work with the Heritage Conservation Branch, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment to determine the location, status and conservation and monitoring needs of historic places and objects.*

**7.4.4** *The PWCNT will encourage Aboriginal custodians to be involved in research, monitoring and fieldwork exercises regarding Aboriginal cultural aspects in the Park.*

## **7.5 Junior Ranger Program**

A Junior Ranger Program has been established within the PWCNT East District. Ranger staff regularly visit Aboriginal communities in the Harts Range area to promote the Junior Ranger Program.

Junior Ranger activities can benefit all youth and school children in the region of the Park by providing environmental awareness, Park appreciation and role modeling by Ranger staff and senior community members.

### **Management Actions**

**7.5.1** *The Junior Ranger Program will be continued in the Park region and activities may include:*

- *wildlife survey and trapping,*
- *wildlife studies and environmental education,*
- *camping, bush survival skills and*
- *team work skills.*

*It is possible that in the future some of these activities could be held in the Park.*

## **7.6 Commercial Operations**

In the long term the Park may offer opportunities for commercial/concessionaire operations including provision of:

- guided tours and interpretation
- Remote wilderness camping
- campground management
- firewood supply
- rubbish removal.

Well managed concessions that are consistent with PWCNT policy on concessions and the Park's management objectives can provide valuable Park management assistance. They also allow use of staff resources for other activities and increase visitor enjoyment of the Park. With the Dulcie Range National Park being relatively remote and without full-time Ranger presence, concession and other commercial operators can act as monitoring agents for PWCNT.

Aboriginal people may not wish to be involved with conducting cultural tours and may prefer instead to allow an accredited tour operator who has been endorsed by the Aboriginal custodians to conduct tours on their behalf and under their guidance. The successful tour operator would liaise directly with the Aboriginal custodians.

Leases and licences may need to be issued within the Park to allow for services and facilities to be provided by outside interests. Issuing of leases has Native Title and Land Claim implications.

### **Management Actions**

**7.6.1** *Concessionaire operations, leases and licences for activities within the Park will be investigated and issued should the need arise.*

**7.6.2** *All future commercial operations in the Park will be required to operate under signed concessionaire agreements in accordance with the Parks and Wildlife Commission's Concessionary Operations Policy (Policy 6.9).*

**7.6.3** *Commercial operations within the Park must be consistent with its bush character*

*and promote the protection of the Park's natural and cultural values. Commercial operations will be monitored and reviewed on individual merit.*

## **7.7 Safety Provisions**

Maintenance of visitor and staff safety to best levels practicable, is one of the Parks and Wildlife Commission's core management objectives for the all Parks.

There are a number of potential safety hazards associated with a Park situated in relatively remote and rugged country. Hazards include becoming lost whilst walking, dehydration, sunstroke and injuries from falls.

Rangers have completed 'Senior First Aid' training as a minimum. The district's vehicles are equipped with H.F. radios or satellite telephones and basic safety and first aid equipment. Telephones are available at neighboring station homesteads, for emergency use. The nearest medical and police assistance is at the Harts Range community on the Plenty Highway.

Park infrastructure will be designed and constructed to ensure best practicable safety standards are met in addition to relevant Australian Standards.

An Emergency Response Plan has been produced for search and rescue operations and other emergency situations that may occur on the Park. This plan is consistent with the Harts Range Counter Disaster Plan.

## **Management Actions**

**7.7.1** *Staff training and development will be regularly assessed and upgraded as necessary to meet with the PWCNT standards under 'Training of Field Operatives Policy'. This training will include resource management techniques, emergency operational procedures and first aid.*

**7.7.2** *The Park's Emergency Response Schedule will be reviewed annually by the CDR Central and East, and the Regional Parks Manager, South and modifications made if necessary.*

## **7.8 Legislative Requirements**

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is obliged, under section 21 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to manage the Park in accordance with this Plan once it has been gazetted and is operational.

The management of the Park will follow the guidelines outlined in this Plan. The Plan may be amended at any time in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Law enforcement by Ranger staff is necessary to ensure that By-laws and regulations under the *TWPC Act* are implemented and adhered to.

The Park contains several registered sacred sites. This requires that the PWCNT obtain an Authority Clearance under section 20 of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*, providing clearance for any actions, works and visitation within these area.

The Park should be managed in accordance with this Plan and the guidelines of this Plan will require periodic review to ensure the most appropriate management for the Park.

Parks and Wildlife Commission officers must have a thorough understanding of legal procedures as they apply to law enforcement under the *TWPC Act*.

## **Management Actions**

**7.7.3** *Review of the implementation of this Plan will be undertaken as necessary. At a minimum, the Plan will be fully reviewed by the Park Planning Team after 5 years in operation.*

**7.7.4** *Staff training and development programs will ensure that all Rangers and Wildlife management staff have a firm understanding of legal procedures and details as they apply to law enforcement under the TPWC Act.*

## **7.9 Performance Audit**

This Plan of Management recognises the need for accountability in the planning and management of parks and thus pays due attention to performance management. Indicators, which are identified as Management Actions below, are provided as a yardstick against which progress in achieving the objectives of the Plan can be gauged. They are not a complete measure of success, nor the only measure. Nevertheless, their constant monitoring will enable the Parks and Wildlife Commission to monitor any difficulties or undesirable trends and to keep management on track to achieve the key objectives of the Plan.

The aim in this Plan is to work towards a measurement system that satisfies the following criteria:

results-oriented	- focuses primarily on outcomes and outputs;
selective	- concentrates on the most important indicators of performance;
useful	- provides information of value to the Commission;
accessible	- provides periodic information about results; and
reliable	- provides accurate, consistent information over time.

## **Management Actions**

**7.9.1** *All management actions in this Plan will be reviewed on at least an annual basis.*

**7.9.2** *The proportion of management actions implemented will be reported.*

## 8.0 FUTURE EXTENSIONS TO PARK AREA

The wider Dulcie Range has potential as a remote recreation and tourism area north east of Alice Springs (see section 2.4, Recreation and Tourism values page 4).

Acquisition of further areas of the Dulcie Range to add to the existing area would not only protect the Range's natural and cultural resources but would produce a quality park accessible to travelers using the Explorer Territory 4WD Route and the Plenty Highway (part of the proposed Outback Highway).

### **Possible Areas for Inclusion.**

The existing Park (NT Portion 2455) covers an area of 191.1 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) and covers the southwest portion of the Dulcie Range. To take in the major part of the Dulcie Range considerable land acquisition would be needed to develop a major park with significant natural, recreation and tourism values, which would have rational boundaries for fencing and park management.

Approximate areas of neighboring P.P.L's that may be considered for addition to the Park area are:

- Arapunya 600 km<sup>2</sup>,
  - Jinka 275 km<sup>2</sup>
- ( These two areas are extremely important to the future development of a major park.)

- Old MacDonald Downs 100 km<sup>2</sup>,
  - Derry Downs 30 km<sup>2</sup>
- ( These two areas are important, but not crucial to the future development of an expanded park.)

This would give the expanded Park a total area of approximately 1200 km<sup>2</sup> and would include the principal natural, cultural and recreational areas within the Dulcie and Oorabra Range identified in the 1989 CCNT resource survey.

Most of this area is mountainous range country and is considered difficult for the grazing of stock due to management problems such as mustering and fencing. Stock currently access a number of waterholes in the Range. Compensation for the loss of these watering points or provision of alternative watering points may have to be considered.

### **Management actions**

**9.1** *The PWCNT will investigate the addition of the above areas into the Park.*

## 9.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

This Plan has specified a number of Management Actions that will be implemented in order to meet management objectives. Priorities for the implementation of these actions are summarised below and have been assigned as follows:

- Ongoing:** Must be undertaken on an ongoing basis or as required in order to achieve the Plan's stated objectives.
- High:** Imperative to achieve the Plan's stated objectives.
- Medium:** Very important to achieve the Plan's stated objectives but subject to the availability of resources.
- Low:** Desirable but will be undertaken only if the necessary resources are available or other conditions stated in the Actions are fulfilled.

Action	Page	Priority
<b>Management of the Park's Resources</b>		
4.3.1	8	As needed
4.4.1	8	Ongoing
4.4.2,3	8,9	Ongoing
4.4.4	9	As needed
4.5.1	9	Medium
4.5.2	9	Low/ongoing
4.5.3	9	Low
4.5.4	10	Medium
4.6.1	11	Low/ongoing
4.6.2	11	Low/ongoing
4.7.1	12	High
4.7.2	12	Ongoing
4.7.3	12	High
4.7.4	12	Low
4.7.5	12	Medium
4.7.6	12	High
4.8.1	13	Medium
4.8.2	13	Low
4.8.3	13	Ongoing
4.10.1	15	Ongoing
4.10.2	15	Low
<b>Management of Aboriginal Sites &amp; Interests</b>		
5.2.1	16	Ongoing
5.3.1	16	Ongoing
5.3.2	16	Ongoing
5.4.1	17	Low

## Park Administration and Research

7.2.1	Monitor demands on staff resources	19	Ongoing
7.2.2	Maintain regular patrols of the Park	19	Ongoing
7.3.1	Maintain regular liaison with interest groups	20	Ongoing
7.3.2	Negotiate public access routes to the Park	20	High
7.4.1	Undertake surveys as required	20	Low
7.4.2	Consult with traditional owners re surveys & monitoring of cultural sites	20	Ongoing
7.4.3	Liaise with Heritage Cons. Branch (DLP&E)	20	Ongoing
7.4.4	Encourage Custodians in field work	20	Ongoing
7.5.1	Continue Junior Ranger activities	21	Ongoing
7.6.1	Applications for leases and licences will be investigated	21	Low
7.6.2,3	Commercial operations in the Park	21	Ongoing
7.7.1	Regularly assess staff training and emergency procedures	22	Ongoing
7.7.2	Review Emergency Response Schedule	22	Ongoing
7.8.1	Review Park Plan	23	Ongoing
7.8.2	Provide understanding of law enforcement to staff	23	Ongoing
7.9.1	All management actions to be reviewed annually	23	Ongoing
7.9.2	Management actions implemented to be reported	23	Ongoing
9.1	PWCNT to investigate additional Park area	24	High

## **10.0 SELECTED INFORMATION SOURCES**

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