

**Mamungari Conservation Park Board of Management**

**Draft Management Plan**

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**Mamungari Conservation Park**

**2007**

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## **INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE**

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* provides a statutory process that allows the public to contribute to the management of reserves. This is your opportunity to convey your opinion on the proposed management for Mamungari Conservation Park.

The management plan has been prepared under the Act to provide a vision for the reserve and identifies objectives and strategies for the management of the reserve.

You are welcome to make a written or e-mail submission to the address provided below.

### **How To Make An Effective Submission:**

- state the plan to which you are referring, as several may be on public exhibition;
- make your text concise and clear;
- refer to the page, section number, paragraph and/or objective or strategy upon which you are commenting;
- if you disagree with an objective or strategy, state your reasons and say what you would prefer in its place, and why;
- if you are commenting on the accuracy of background information, provide references for your information sources; and
- it is also important to say with which sections of the plan you agree.

### **Method Of Analysing Public Submissions:**

After the closing date for public submissions, the points made in each submission will be collated according to the section of the draft plan they address. Each point made will be assessed and the draft management plan amended using the following criteria.

#### The draft management plan will be amended if the point:

- a) provides additional information of direct relevance to management;
- b) indicates or clarifies a change in Government legislation, management commitment or management policy;
- c) proposes strategies that would better achieve or assist with management objectives;
- d) prompts a re-consideration of the objective and/or strategy and results in an alternative objective and/or strategy for the park;
- e) is an alternate viewpoint received on the topic and is considered a better option than that proposed in the draft plan; or
- f) indicates omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.

#### The draft management plan will not be amended if the point:

- a) addresses issues beyond the scope of the plan;
- b) was already in the plan or will be considered during the development of a subordinate plan;
- c) offers an open statement, or no change is sought;
- d) clearly supports the draft proposals;
- e) is an alternate viewpoint received on the topic but the proposal of the draft plan is still considered the best option;
- f) is based on incorrect information;
- g) contributes options that are not possible (generally due to some aspect of existing legislation or Government policy); or
- h) involves details that are not appropriate or necessary for inclusion in a document aimed at providing management direction over the long term.

**What Will Happen To Your Submission:**

At the close of the public exhibition period, the draft plan and public submissions will be referred to the Mamungari Conservation Park Co-management Board for consideration and comment. Then all submissions, and advice from the Mamungari Conservation Park Co-management Board, will be forwarded to the Minister for Environment and Conservation through the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council, which provides independent advice to the Minister.

After considering all submissions, advice and recommendations the Minister may adopt a management plan with or without alteration. The Minister may only adopt a management plan with the agreement of the Mamungari Conservation Park Co-management Board. The Minister is the only person empowered to make changes before the plan is formally adopted. Notice of the official adoption will be published in the *Government Gazette*. The final plan and an analysis of all submissions received will be made available for sale to the public and on the Department for Environment and Heritage's website:

[http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/management\\_plans.html](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/management_plans.html).

*Please note your submission will become part of the public record and available to anyone who requests a copy unless you specifically request otherwise. An analysis of public submissions will be available for public viewing on the Department's website following the adoption of the final management plan.*

**Closing Date For Submissions:**

The closing date for public submissions is at least three months from the time the plan is released for comment. A notice of release is placed in *The Advertiser*, local newspapers and the *Government Gazette*.

**Submissions Close:****Friday 28 September 2007****Written submissions addressed to:**

Mr Jason Irving  
Manager, Policy and Planning  
Department for Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

**E-mail submissions to:**

[irving.jason@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:irving.jason@saugov.sa.gov.au)

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan of management was compiled in draft form by consultants Scott and Annie Cane with assistance and guidance from a number of agencies, groups and individuals. It was prepared in collaboration with the Mamungari Conservation Park Co-management Board and with the assistance of the South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage.



## 1 PARK LOCATION AND FEATURES

In 1970 the Unnamed Conservation Park was proclaimed a National Park pursuant to the then *National Parks Act 1966* to conserve the environments of the Great Victoria Desert and protect wilderness values. The park was not assigned a name at that time and was subsequently constituted by statute as the Unnamed Conservation Park (comprising Section 50, North Out of Hundreds) under *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Following the development of Memoranda of Understanding in 2002, 2003 and 2004 between Maralinga Tjarutja, Pila Nguru and the State, the park was handed back to Maralinga Tjarutja in 2004 to be managed by a Co-management Board.

Anangu know the area as *Mamungari*, meaning, in general terms, the place of harmful spirits. The park was re-named as Mamungari Conservation Park on 30 November 2006. The park does not allow access under State mining legislation.

Mamungari Conservation Park covers over 2 100 000 hectares of the most arid western margin of South Australia. It is an inverted 'L' shaped park with a latitudinal and longitudinal scope that incorporates the stark limestone plains of the Nullarbor Plain, the ancient palaeo-channels of the Serpentine Lakes and the dune fields across the heart of the Great Victoria Desert.

Anangu association with the area has been established to 39 000 years ago on the Nullarbor Plain immediately to the south of the park. Anangu landowners thus have a long-standing proprietary interest in the park and have sought recognition of that fact since 1983. In response to this the South Australian Government prepared a plan of management for the park in which the concept of joint management – *Tjungaringu or Tjungaringanyi* (working together) – was central. Now the land has been returned to Anangu and that concept of *Tjungaringanyi* has vital force.

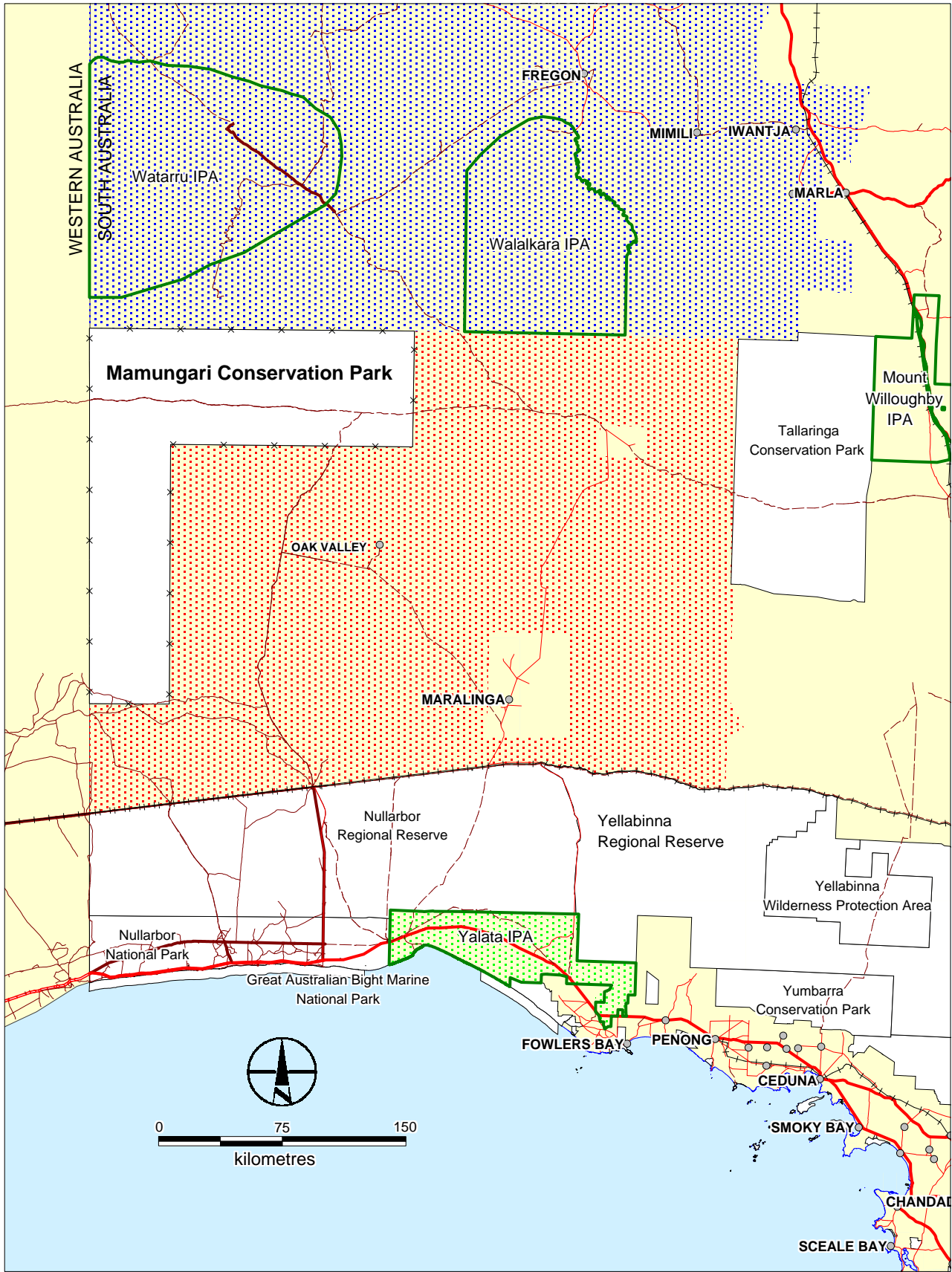
The park is located between the *Maralinga Tjarutja* Lands, the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara* Lands and the Spinifex Native Title Determination Area (Figure 1). Today the descendants from the park live at Oak Valley (South Australia) and Tjuntjuntjara (Western Australia) – 130 kilometres and 250 kilometres east and west of the park respectively. These communities have constructed a road through the southern section of the park. Water tanks have been constructed near the park margins. The Anne Beadell Highway passes through the northern arm of the park and intersects the Cook Road at Volkes Hill (Figure 2). A disused airstrip is located near that road on the Serpentine Lakes.

This environment supported a fully nomadic population of Anangu until as recently as the 1950s and Anangu living in the adjacent communities retain knowledge of the natural resources of the park. There has been little environmental change since the area was permanently occupied and the area is still used and managed by Anangu in a customary fashion as they travel through, forage and camp within the park.

The park is the one of the most remote continental conservation areas on the planet and has high conservation values as a consequence.

Mamungari Conservation Park, together with the surrounding lands, has played a critical role in the evolution and dispersal of many of southern Australia's unique flora and fauna species. It is likely to play a significant role in the continued survival and evolution of many of these species in the face of significant increasing pressures associated with climate change. The park provides a unique opportunity to combine Anangu knowledge of landscape and resources with Western skills in the management of the natural resources of the conservation area.

This plan supersedes the 1993 *Unnamed Conservation Park Management Plan*.



**LEGEND**

- |  |                            |  |            |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------|
|  | NP&W Act Reserves          |  | Towns      |
|  | Indigenous Protected Areas |  | Highways   |
|  | Pitjantjatjara lands       |  | Roads      |
|  | Maralinga Tjarutja lands   |  | 4WD Tracks |
|  | Yalata lands               |  |            |

**Figure 1**

**Mamungari Conservation Park  
Location**

Map designed and created by  
Reserve Planning using PAMS  
Projection: MGA Zone 52 (GDA 94)  
Date: August 2006



## 2 TJUKURRPA AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Tjukurrpa

The *Tjukurrpa* governs the manner in which Anangu people from the Mamungari Conservation Park manage their land. The *Tjukurrpa* is an oral tradition that represents the spiritual beliefs of the landowners and provides them with a theoretical and political framework for the management and use of land. The *Tjukurrpa* also provides a partial moral and social charter for society and social relations to the land. Seven *Tjukurrpa* are known to pass through the Mamungari Conservation Park and these dictate the nature of human relations to the land affected by those *Tjukurrpa*.

Relations to land are also determined by the normative system of oral custom and tradition adhered to by the Anangu owners of the park. This aspect of custom and tradition is the *Tjamuku Aratja* – or the way of the ancestors – and features a number of customary mechanisms (such as the place of one's birth, the loss of one's umbilical cord, parent's and grandparent's country, gender, age and primogeniture) by which members of society behave in relation to, and exercise rights and interests in, land. The *Tjamuku Aratja* and *Tjukurrpa* blend to effect a consensual system of decision-making in relation to land, within which seniority and knowledge ultimately effect an oligarchic political process: power and authority rest with the older members of society.

The Mamungari Conservation Park is also owned by Anangu in inalienable freehold and is retained as a Conservation Park as a consequence of amendments in 2004 to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*. The Mamungari Conservation Park is the first 'Anangu-owned Park' in South Australia.

A 'Co-management Board' manages the park in accordance with the *Tjukurrpa*, *Tjamuku Aratja*, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*, other applicable legislation and a 'Co-management Agreement'. The Board consists of a majority of Anangu and representatives of the State of South Australia. The Board has certain powers usually reserved for the Minister for Environment and Conservation or the Director of National Parks and Wildlife under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

### 2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

Mamungari Conservation Park is managed by the Mamungari Conservation Park Co-management Board subject to the provisions of the co-management agreement for the park. When managing the park, the Board is required under section 37 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* to have regard to, and provide actions that are consistent with the following objectives of management stated in the Act:

- preservation and management of wildlife;
- preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves;
- preservation of features of geographical, natural or scenic interest;
- destruction of dangerous weeds and the eradication or control of noxious weeds and exotic plants;
- control of vermin and exotic animals;
- control and 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;
- generally, the promotion of the public interest; and
- preservation and protection of Aboriginal sites, features, objects and structures of spiritual or cultural significance within reserves.

Section 38 of the Act states that a management plan is required for each reserve. A management plan should set forth proposals in relation to the management and improvement of the reserve and the methods by which it is intended to accomplish the objectives of the Act in relation to that reserve.

In accordance with the Act, the provisions of this management plan must be carried out and no actions undertaken unless they are in accordance with this plan. In order to achieve this, each year the Board will draw up its work program to implement strategies proposed in this management plan. Implementation of these projects is determined by, and subject to, the availability of resources (eg staffing and funding).

### **2.3 Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984**

Maralinga Tjarutja holds the park on behalf of the Aboriginal owners pursuant to the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*.

Mamungari Conservation Park is a co-managed park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and subject to a co-management agreement signed in 2004. The park is under the management of a co-management board, established under the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*, and subject to the provisions of the co-management agreement for the park.

### 3 GUIDING MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The Board is responsible for the control and management of the park in accordance with relevant Anangu and western law. The guiding management objectives for the Mamungari Conservation Park are mindful of the long history of association Anangu have with the park and are cognisant of the emerging values of the park both as a place of remote beauty and conservation value.

Thus the management objectives for the park seek to ensure:

- The continued use and enjoyment of the park by Anangu in a manner that is consistent with their traditions;
- The use and enjoyment of the park by members of the public in a manner that is consistent with the Co-management Agreement for the park and that respects Anangu traditions; and
- The protection of the natural resources contained within the park.

### 4 ZONING

Section 39 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* provides for the designation of zones in a reserve. Zoning aims to ensure that public use and management actions remain compatible with the protection of park values and constrains the use of land in zones to the conditions specified in an adopted management plan.

The four management zones described below and shown in Figure 2, establish a framework for the sustainable use of the reserve during the life of this plan.

*Core Zone:* encompasses the majority of the park and is designed to manage and conserve biological diversity, natural landscapes, wilderness values and *manta milmil* - country (*manta*) that is dangerous, sacred and forbidden (*milmil*).

- A permit for vehicle or other access must be obtained from the Board to access this zone and will only be authorised for scientific purposes in accordance with Anangu tradition.
- No permit is required for emergency situations.

*Northern Access Zone:* includes a corridor four kilometres wide along the Anne Beadell Highway, widening to 10 kilometres at the Serpentine Lakes.

- A permit for vehicle access must be obtained from the Maralinga Tjarutja office in Ceduna, DEH or their agents.
- Visitors may camp 100 metres either side of the Anne Beadell Highway except across a 50 kilometre section of this track from 129°20'E to 129°48'E.

*Anangu Business Zone:* along the community road linking Oak Valley and Tjuntjuntjara.

- Visitors must have a specific, written, permit issued by the Board to access this zone.

*Southern Access Zone:* tracks are poor in this zone.

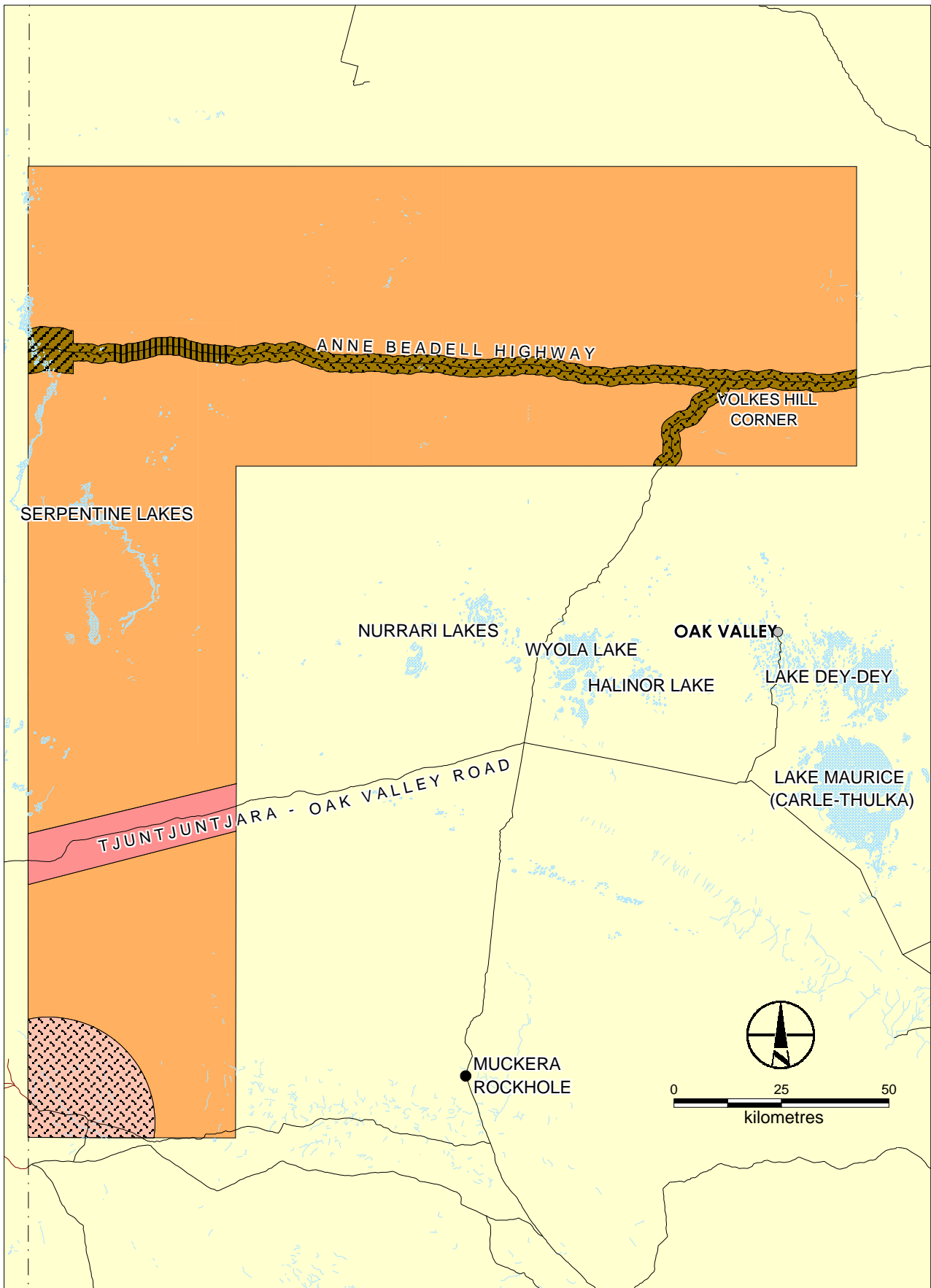
- Visitors must have a specific, written, permit issued by the Board to enter this zone.

#### **Objective**

Zone the Mamungari Conservation Park and manage those zones in a manner that ensures public use of the park in accordance with Anangu tradition and the protection of park values.

#### **Strategies**

- Implement and manage four management zones within the park.
- Consider the design and erection of signs to adequately inform the public of the nature of Anangu tradition and, where appropriate, discourage camping and other activities at any sensitive locations defined along the Northern Access Zone.



**LEGEND**

- |  |                             |  |                      |  |              |
|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|--|--------------|
|  | Mamungari Conservation Park |  | Core Zone            |  | Hydrology    |
|  | Managed Camping             |  | Northern Access Zone |  | Roads        |
|  | No Camping                  |  | Anangu Business Zone |  | State Border |
|  | Open Camping                |  | Southern Access Zone |  |              |

Open camping in the Northern Access Zone is allowed only 100 metres either side of the Anne Beadell Hwy. Refer to text for further details.

**Figure 2**

**Mamungari Conservation Park Zoning and Features**

Map designed and created by Reserve Planning using PAMS  
Projection: MGA Zone 52 (GDA 94)

## 5 MANAGING NATURAL HERITAGE

### 5.1 Geology, Soils and Landform

The park is situated within the Officer basin. Its northern and southern sections mainly cover the Victoria desert environmental association and the Muckera environmental association (Laut et al., 1977). The predominant landform of the northern part of the park is the longitudinal sand dunes and their associated swales which run generally in an east-west direction. The dunes overlie an undulating topography mantled with calcrete and silcrete materials (Greenslade et al., 1986). These materials are exposed as stony gibber spreads with the interdune corridors.

Toward the south, the park includes some of the sandy northern fringe of the Nullarbor Plain and a portion of the treeless plain.

A number of playa lake systems, all of which are saline and ephemeral, are scattered throughout the Great Victoria Desert. These include the Nurrari, Wyola, Dey Dey and Maurice Lake systems with the Serpentine Lakes being located along the western boundary of the park (Figure 1).

The most significant geological features are the palaeodrainage channels within the Great Victoria Desert (Morelli and Drewien, 1993). The Serpentine Lakes appear to occupy the main channel of a palaeodrainage system. Other channels are overlain by dunes and are not well defined (Greenslade et al., 1986).

The four dominant soil types for the region are: red siliceous sands in dune areas; red earthy sands associated with plains of limestone; calcareous and siliceous loamy soils on saline plains with salt-pans and lakes; and brown calcareous earths associated with some low scarp features with calcrete rises and tracts of dunes (Greenslade et al., 1986).

#### **Objective**

Protect soils, geological, geomorphological and hydrological features of the park from adverse impacts.

#### **Strategy**

- Manage the physical environment of the park in a manner compatible with neighbouring environments and Anangu relationships with the broader area.

### 5.2 Native Wildlife

The park contains over 270 plant species, including nine plants listed as rare or vulnerable and one species previously thought to have been extinct (Symon and Copley 1986, DEH 1996, Leigh et al., 1981). Vegetation is distributed in six major vegetation associations including open Marble Gum (*Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*) woodland, that is restricted to the Great Victoria Desert, and a unique geo-botanical association of Black Oak (*Casuarina cristate*) (Douglas, 1979).

The remoteness of the park supports a poorly known fauna that includes several species that are classified as threatened. Over 120 species of birds are recorded for the area, including the Scarlet-chested Parrot, Princess Parrot and Malleefowl (*nganamara*). Mammals include the Southern Marsupial-mole (*itjaritjar*), Hairy-footed Dunnart (*mingkiri*) and, possibly, the Sandhill Dunnart (*mingkiri kutjarpa*). The Mamungari Conservation Park is known to support a high diversity of reptile species with 42 species identified within the region.

Hunting and gathering is allowed within the park in accordance with a proclamation under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Under section 68D(5a)(a) of the Act, it is not an offence for a relevant Anangu person to take native plants, protected animals, or eggs if done in accordance with permission granted by the Board. The Board will monitor such activities and implement appropriate management where required.

#### **Objective**

Conserve and maintain the native plant and animal populations and maintain natural habitats within the park.

#### **Strategies**

- Identify and implement research and conservation priorities within the park.
- Utilise and document Anangu knowledge of plants and animals, ecosystems, biological associations, ethno-taxonomy and nomenclature.

- Allow for hunting and gathering within the park by relevant Anangu persons with permission granted by the Board.
- The board will monitor and consider appropriate management of Anangu hunting and gathering, and burning within the park.

### **5.3 Introduced Plants and Animals**

An ecological survey of the park in 1979 revealed the presence of only one introduced plant species (Douglas, 1979) but increased visitor use has led to an increase in the range of weed plants. There are now 20 species identified in the park. At this stage the range of these introduced plant species is still restricted.

Introduced animals are known to be present within the park but population levels are comparatively low, varying with seasonal variations in water availability. Anangu have incorporated the smaller introduced animal species (Rabbits, Hare and Cats) into their subsistence diet. Anangu consider camels fondly as these animals are remembered for their transport role in the early historic era as well as their presence in the Bible. Anangu also travel with their dogs through the park.

#### ***Objective***

Prevent the spread of exotic plant species and introduced animals within the park.

#### ***Strategies***

- Record weed distribution and abundance, and formulate and implement weed eradication program.
- Monitor feral animal populations in the park and consider commercial enterprises in regard to the removal of unwanted animals in consultation with Anangu.
- Consider the need for a policy on domestic animals in the park.

## 6 MANAGING FIRE

A fire management plan was prepared for the Unnamed Conservation Park in 1992. This plan stated that a lack of historical and biological evidence failed to justify the development of a proactive burn program in the park. At the time, available information showed that:

- While Anangu did historically burn within the park and the surrounding Great Victoria Desert, the practice was limited in extent and frequency;
- The recent fire history of the park suggested that bushfires occur infrequently and are unlikely to burn the entire area, or whole plant communities at any one time due to the park's size and its contiguous plant communities; and
- The park does not require a burning strategy to maintain pre-European fire regimes, with contemporary fire history being little different from pre-European fire history.

To date, the park has had no pro-active fire policy. That is, no burning is being carried out for ecological purposes nor are wildfires being contained. This is consistent with the management practices for neighbouring lands. Some areas in the region are burnt as part of traditional land use to ensure regeneration and to attract food resources.

The Board may decide to review this fire management plan and update it as necessary.

### *Objective*

Allow for traditional use of fire to continue in Mamungari Conservation Park.

### *Strategies*

- Ensure that traditional use of fire in Mamungari Conservation Park remains consistent with the management objectives of this plan.
- Consider the need for an updated fire management plan, and prepare one if deemed necessary.

## 7 MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 7.1 Indigenous Heritage

The wildness of the Mamungari Conservation Park belies the immediacy of its human heritage. The park is part of the homelands of 16 families, comprising over 320 people. Twelve of these people were born and lived nomadic lives within, or on the immediate margins of, the park before contact with non-Aboriginal Australians. That contact occurred in the mid 1950s as a consequence of the construction of the Anne Beadell Highway and patrols associated with the Atomic Tests at Maralinga. Most people left the area contained by the park for fear of death resulting from atomic radiation. One family stayed in the desert, and was living on the northwestern margin of the park two weeks before contact in 1986. Family members, some of whom were born in the park area, continue to live in the adjacent communities of Tjuntjuntjara and Oak Valley. These people, and their families, maintain strong ties to the Mamungari Conservation Park.

Seventy-six waterholes and associated living areas are currently known within the park. At least seven *Tjukurrpa* pass through the park. One of these is the most sacred and dangerous *Tjukurrpa* in the southern Western Desert. Another is exceedingly important to women.

A large portion of the Mamungari Conservation Park is described as *manta milmil*. Some parts are significant to women, others to men. Extensive portions of the park are important and well used hunting areas, particularly in the south. Anangu pass through and camp within the park on an almost daily basis for social, recreational and traditional purposes. The area is sometimes burnt as part of traditional land use to ensure regeneration and to attract food resources. On occasions, ceremonial entourages pass through the park and this requires the closure of roads to ensure the safety of both the ceremonial party and others using the access routes.

The remoter portions of the park have remained sequestered from Anangu from the time that the land was designated a 'prohibited area' and the time that it was owned by the Crown and constituted as a park. As a consequence, traditional knowledge about significant areas within the park – its sacred lands and waterholes – is known only to a small, aging and diminishing portion of

Anangu. Younger Anangu will be taught this knowledge in due course as part of their customary education and will visit and so learn about significant locations and *Tjukurrpa* within the park.

### Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

The purpose of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* is the protection and preservation of Aboriginal sites, objects and remains. 'Aboriginal site' and 'Aboriginal object' are defined under the Act as 'an area of land or an object that is of significance according to Aboriginal tradition; or that is of significance to Aboriginal archaeology, anthropology or history.' The Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (AARD) of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet maintains a Central Archive, including the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects.

Although there are no sites listed on the Central Archive for Mamungari Conservation Park, a comprehensive survey of the park is yet to be undertaken. In carrying out the activities and strategies proposed in this plan, the Board will ensure that it complies with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*.

To ensure the protection of sites, Board staff will consult with AARD and the relevant regional Aboriginal heritage committees before commencement of any significant development works.

### **Objectives**

Encourage the continued access, use and enjoyment of the traditional lands within the park by Anangu.

Encourage the re-use and occupation of selected parts of the park by the families of Anangu born within it.

Ensure park management does not adversely affect Anangu land use or damage areas that are of importance to them.

### **Strategies**

- Support regular visitation by Anangu to and documentation of significant areas, waterholes and *Tjukurrpa* within the park.
- Facilitate and monitor the environmental impacts of traditionally derived land use practices within the park.
- Consider and plan for suitable locations, appropriate infrastructure and environmental impacts of semipermanent settlement within the park by Anangu, in accordance with the Co-management Agreement.
- Comply with heritage management requirements within the Co-management Agreement.
- Consider and act upon requests by Anangu for closure of the park for ceremonial reasons and the development of a park closure management plan.
- Consult Anangu from the park before entering into any agreement affecting the land, its physical and biological resources, or the customs and traditions of Anangu.



## 8 MANAGING TOURISM AND RECREATION

### 8.1 Visitor Access, Activities and Facilities

As a consequence of the perceived danger to travellers within the park that arises from the sacred and often dangerous character of the land (*manta milmil*), a number of access zones have been defined to protect travellers from unintentionally traversing dangerous areas and unwittingly damaging locations that have significance to Anangu within the park. These zones also facilitate the private nature of intercommunity travel and relations between the occupants of Oak Valley (South Australia) and Tjuntjuntjara (Western Australia). They also seek to minimise visitor impacts on the natural environment and so conserve essential park values without detracting from the wilderness experience provided by travelling through the park.

In addition to the metaphysical dangers of the park, there are physical ones as well. The area is remote, cold in winter and very hot in summer. Roads are poor, communications are non-existent and there is no water or fuel. The nearest fuel is at Ilkurlka, 150 kilometres to the west of the park. In the past few tourists traversed the remoter parts of the Great Victoria Desert. However numbers are increasing, with at least 8-10 vehicles passing through the area per day during peak periods in mid-winter. Further records of visitor numbers should be kept. This could be achieved by retaining visitors book at Volkes Hill Corner and installing vehicle counter on the Anne Beadell Highway.

A permit system was derived in 1993 from arrangements operating between Maralinga Tjarutja and DEH across the park and adjacent lands. Under this system, access for entry and camping in the Northern Access Zone can be obtained via permits available from the Maralinga Tjarutja Office or DEH. Access to other parts of the park can only be granted by specific written permission from the Board. Travel on roads outside the park but within Maralinga lands (with the exception of the Anne Beadell highway and the Cook to Volkes Hill Corner Road) will only be allowed with permission granted by Maralinga Tjarutja. Notification to Maralinga Tjarutja is required for travel on the Anne Beadell highway and the Cook to Volkes Hill Corner Road. This permitting system may be reviewed after a period of time to determine its effectiveness and costs.

Camping within the park is currently allowed in the Northern and Southern Access Zones only, however camping access in the Northern Access Zone is limited to 100 metres either side of the Anne Beadell Highway and the Serpentine Lakes area, and camping between 129°20'E and 129°48'E is strictly prohibited (Figure 2). The Board will seek advice from Anangu regarding the suitability and extent of this prohibition. Camping in the Serpentine Lakes area will be managed. Signage will be provided to educate and accommodate tourists to assist with their safety when visiting the park.

The Board has the requirement under the Co-management Agreement to ensure that the condition of all roads and water tanks within the park are monitored, and the appropriate authority notified should any roads require maintenance. The Board may choose to consider the appropriateness of using the airstrip near Serpentine Lakes for non-emergency situations.

Commercial tour operators access the park on occasions. Where recommended by the Board, commercial users, organised groups or frequent visitors to the park may be required to participate in cross cultural awareness training or to be accompanied by a guide or observer from Maralinga Tjarutja or DEH (as determined by the Board), and to cover all or part of the costs involved.

Any future tours organised for the benefit of fee or reward would require the tour operator to obtain the mandatory Commercial Users Licence, consistent with Regulation 37 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (National Parks) Regulations 2001*.

#### **Objectives**

Ensure that visitors to the park are aware of the access requirements.

Provide safe and appropriate infrastructure, and provide information and interpretation where considered appropriate.

Allow commercial ventures within the park, subject to approval from the Board.

#### **Strategies**

- Monitor tourist flow through the park by retaining visitors book at Volkes Hill Corner and installing vehicle counter on the Anne Beadell Highway.

- Seek advice from Anangu regarding the suitability and extent of the no camping area between 129°20'E to 129° 48'E on the Anne Beadell Highway and consider modification of that area according to that advice.
- Seek advice from Anangu regarding the most appropriate management regime for camping within the vicinity of the Serpentine Lakes.
- Assess any problems arising from unauthorised entry into the park and into any sensitive areas.
- Develop guidelines and appropriate fees for permitting access to the park for commercial ventures and consider access applications by commercial operators on a case-by-case basis.
- Conduct surveillance to prevent off road travel and illegal wildlife trapping.
- Monitor impacts of tourism and consider regulating camping within the park if untoward environmental damage or damage to areas of significance to Anangu occurs.
- Assess safety hazards within the accessible portions in the park and consider road improvements to reduce vehicular damage and risks to tourists.
- Consider the need for and location of water points within the Northern Access Zone within the park, particularly in respect to possible effects on native fauna and potential camel damage.
- Determine the condition of the Serpentine Lakes airstrip, identify maintenance priorities and consider use of airstrip for non-emergency situations.
- Provide for infrastructure, facilities, information and signage to accommodate tourists and assist with their safety when visiting the park.
- Consider incorporating an information booklet with the park entry permit detailing relevant aspects of Anangu tradition, essential park values, road safety, appropriate equipment for remote area travel and the legal requirements for access within the park.
- Consider updating signage on the Anne Beadell Highway to inform tourists about relevant aspects of Anangu tradition, essential park values, road safety, appropriate equipment for remote area travel and the legal requirements for access within the park.
- Consider the characterisation and definition of the park through nomenclature that better reflects the primacy of Anangu association with the park.
- Employ signage to better inform tourists of appropriate customary behaviour at particular locations within the park.
- Plan for the commercial benefit and involvement of Anangu in the park by considering the development of specialised, high quality cultural and environmental tours within selected portions of the park.

## 9 INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

Anangu have been associated with the area contained by the Mamungari Conservation Park for over 1 000 generations. Yet they have barely one generation of historic social experience and only since 2004 experience in park management. Many senior Anangu can barely read or write. Many do not speak English. Anangu decision-making processes are consensual in nature and this custom lends itself to healthy co-management (*Tjungaringanyi*) with a tradition of humility and acquiescence (*Kuntanytju*) in the face of recognised authority. This customary behaviour does not necessarily blend well in non-Aboriginal decision-making forums. Non-Aboriginal people have much to learn about Anangu thinking if co-management of the Mamungari Conservation Park is to succeed.

No-one knows more about the park environment and its human history than the Anangu who were born there, have lived within and continue to use the park (on an almost daily basis). Anangu have a traditional view of their desert homeland but lack familiarity with non-Aboriginal interests and expectations in remote environments such as the park. Anangu have much to learn and profit from in the context of modern environmental co-management. The co-management of the park thus presents a significant and unusual opportunity for the mutually beneficial transfer of traditional and environmental intellectual property between those associated with the park.

The Co-management Agreement and the Board are recent developments and need to be recognised as such. It is important that the Board succeeds as the forum through which co-management issues are identified and resolved. For this to occur there is a need for all parties

involved, Anangu and non-Aboriginal, to lend support and guidance where necessary. Cross cultural training both for Board members and others (including both National Parks personnel and Anangu community members) will assist the successful co-management of the Mamungari Conservation Park.

Liaison should be maintained with all park neighbours, including the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), to ensure the most appropriate management techniques are applied to Mamungari Conservation Park.

### **Objectives**

Ensure all decisions about managing the park are made in accordance with the *Tjukurrpa* and *Tjamuku Aratja* and ensure that senior Anangu are aware of management issues and that their views are considered when making decisions in relation to the park.

Ensure all decisions about managing the park are made in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations, particularly the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and the Co-management Agreement for the park and the management plan.

Ensure fair and equitable cross cultural discussion and decision making for all Board members and ensure the Board prioritises and implements the Management Plan.

### **Strategies**

- Ensure appropriate Anangu awareness of, and involvement in, government programs and scientific research conducted within the park by developing a protocol for notification of, participation in and benefit from such activities.
- Ensure presentation and discussion of management issues affecting the lands contained by the park with senior Anangu by Anangu Board members at least two weeks prior to a Board meeting.
- Provide a genuine opportunity for Anangu to learn modern environmental management techniques and for non-Aboriginal land managers to learn Anangu land management techniques by training Anangu rangers and selected community members in disciplines and areas relevant to the successful management of the park and employ knowledgeable Anangu as consultants in park based projects in areas relevant to their expertise.
- Liaise with and seek the views and support of park neighbours and stakeholders, including the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), DEH, Pila Nguru and other Anangu, in relation to compatible conservation of the desert environment within and surrounding the Mamungari Conservation Park.
- Translate this management plan into Pitjantjatjara.

## SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

<b>ZONING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement and manage four management zones within the park.</li><li>• Consider the design and erection of signs to adequately inform the public of the nature of Anangu tradition and, where appropriate, discourage camping and other activities at any sensitive locations defined along the Northern Access Zone.</li></ul>
<b>MANAGING NATURAL HERITAGE</b>
<b>Geology, Soils and Landform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manage the physical environment of the park in a manner compatible with neighbouring environments and Anangu relationships with the broader area.</li></ul>
<b>Native Wildlife</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and implement research and conservation priorities within the park.</li><li>• Utilise and document Anangu knowledge of plants and animals, ecosystems, biological associations, ethno-taxonomy and nomenclature.</li><li>• Allow for hunting and gathering within the park by relevant Anangu persons with permission granted by the Board.</li><li>• The board will monitor and consider appropriate management of Anangu hunting and gathering, and burning within the park.</li></ul>
<b>Introduced Plants and Animals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record weed distribution and abundance, and formulate and implement weed eradication program.</li><li>• Monitor feral animal populations in the park and consider commercial enterprises in regard to the removal of unwanted animals in consultation with Anangu.</li><li>• Consider the need for a policy on domestic animals in the park.</li></ul>
<b>MANAGING FIRE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that traditional use of fire in Mamungari Conservation Park remains consistent with the management objectives of this plan.</li><li>• Consider the need for an updated fire management plan, and prepare one if deemed necessary.</li></ul>
<b>MANAGING CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>
<b>Indigenous Heritage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support regular visitation by Anangu to and documentation of significant areas, waterholes and <i>Tjukurrpa</i> within the park.</li><li>• Facilitate and monitor the environmental impacts of traditionally derived land use practices within the park.</li><li>• Consider and plan for suitable locations, appropriate infrastructure and environmental impacts of semipermanent settlement within the park by Anangu, in accordance with the Co-management Agreement.</li><li>• Comply with heritage management requirements within the Co-management Agreement.</li><li>• Consider and act upon requests by Anangu for closure of the park for ceremonial reasons and the development of a park closure management plan.</li><li>• Consult Anangu from the park before entering into any agreement affecting the land, its physical and biological resources, or the customs and traditions of Anangu.</li></ul>

## MANAGING TOURISM AND RECREATION

### Visitor Access, Activities and Facilities

- Monitor tourist flow through the park by retaining visitors book at Volkes Hill Corner and installing vehicle counter on the Anne Beadell Highway.
- Seek advice from Anangu regarding the suitability and extent of the no camping area between 129°20'E to 129° 48'E on the Anne Beadell Highway and consider modification of that area according to that advice.
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## INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

- Ensure appropriate Anangu awareness of, and involvement in, government programs and scientific research conducted within the park by developing a protocol for notification of, participation in and benefit from such activities.
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- Liaise with and seek the views and support of park neighbours and stakeholders, including the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), DEH, Pila Nguru and other Anangu, in relation to compatible conservation of the desert environment within and surrounding the Mamungari Conservation Park.
- Translate this management plan into Pitjantjatjara.

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