



# Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park

Joint Management Plan February 2016



*'Everything is connected. People, culture, stories... one whole thing... it's all connected... Life.... sacred sites... the same thing... all connected.'*

Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl



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Cover Photo: Stephen Nicholson

### **Acknowledgements**

This plan was prepared by the Parks and Wildlife Commission and Traditional Owners with assistance from the Central Land Council. Planning for formal joint management began with a series of meetings between Traditional Owners, the Parks and Wildlife Commission staff and Central Land Council staff in 2009.

# Executive Summary

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park is Aboriginal-owned land that has been leased to the Northern Territory Government for 99 years to be jointly managed as a National Park.

## Managing Country – our cultural and natural values

Traditional Owners' connection to country is strong with cultural practices maintained to protect physical and spiritual sites throughout the landscape. This provides considerable management challenges to ensure that cultural heritage is not diminished during management of other key values.

The Parks cultural assets are a management priority. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan developed by the Central Land Council in consultation with traditional owners will provide direction to on-ground management. Traditional Owners are particularly keen to see their culture included in interpretation material using local language and place names.

Remnants of first contact history, including early pastoralism and mining sites, add to the significance of the Park. These sites require adequate interpretation.

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park is the only conservation reserve in the Davenport Murchison bioregion and it protects the flora and fauna whose range overlaps the northern boundary of arid species and the southern boundary of tropical savannah species. Importantly, it protects the catchment of a network of permanent and semi-permanent waterholes that are home to a high diversity of fish species. Eight species (one frog, one lizard and six plants) are known to be protected only by this Park.

In recent years extensive wildfires have swept across the Park. Fire management is aimed at reducing wildfire and will incorporate Indigenous knowledge and the practice of small scale, patchy, burns to protect cultural sites and infrastructure, and to manage habitat. Traditional Owners will be involved in the planning and delivery of these more appropriate fire regimes. Developing a management track through the centre of the Park will enable access for improved fire and cultural site management.

Feral animal programs will target the removal of donkeys and horses from the Park. Cattle are not to be grazed on the Park. Good relationships with neighbouring communities and pastoral properties are integral to the planning for mustering, or aerial culling and managing boundary fence lines. Weeds are managed through annual maintenance programs at camping areas and along boundary fences and during routine Park surveillance. The exception is a targeted program to eradicate isolated infestations of Weeds of National Significance.

## Managing visitor experiences

Rising as low, rolling, rocky ranges the Davenport-Murchison Ranges have been eroded and folded creating deep gorges and broad valleys. Situated about 340 kilometres by road south east of Tennant Creek, they provide a getaway for the independent and intrepid four wheel drive traveller looking for the tranquillity of camping along permanent outback waterholes against a backdrop of rugged and colourful ranges.

The Park provides access to the Davenport-Murchison Ranges at several remote and basic camp sites. These are linked by a dedicated four-wheel drive track and also connect to the Binns Track which in itself provides a great alternative to mainstream tourist routes. A new track through the centre of the park has been approved and will enable better management of the park's natural and cultural values as well as provide a new four-wheel drive experience for visitors. As a destination, the Park retains that sense of adventure, through keeping infrastructure low-key and to a minimum.

By virtue of its remoteness, which is its essential appeal, there are limited commercial opportunities for the local tourism industry as it relies on the independent traveller. Traditional Owners however, are keen to explore and be involved in whatever opportunities might arise. The joint management partners will present and promote the Park as a living cultural landscape with strong, ongoing Traditional Owner connection to country.

### **Governance through Joint Management**

The Park will be jointly managed by the Traditional Owners and the Northern Territory (through the Parks and Wildlife Commission). Joint management is about Traditional Owners having input into decisions affecting their own traditional country and sharing with Parks and Wildlife Commission in decision making and implementing management across the Park. A Joint Management Committee with representatives from both partners will oversee strategic direction of the Park and implementation of this Plan. Working Groups will support the Committee in its decision making, or to address specific tasks. The Central Land Council will represent and support the Traditional Owners interests and facilitate consultations as required. Through joint management both partners are committed to continuous learning and improvement so the management arrangements may evolve over time.

### **Operational Management**

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the Park under strategic direction of the Joint Management Committee. Ranger staff are located in Tennant Creek. As a joint partner, the Territory will continue to fund the day-to-day operation of the Park and encourage and facilitate training, employment and commercial enterprise development for Traditional Owners. In turn, Traditional Owners who live in close proximity to the park, will provide supervision, training and direction to Parks staff in relation to management of sacred sites and in particular, the use of fire.

### **This Plan**

This is the first Joint Management Plan to be drafted for Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park. The partners have worked together to articulate the management directions now presented in this Plan. It has been developed in a positive spirit and both partners are optimistic about the future. The Plan will be measured against key performance indicators to ensure it remains relevant, and will remain in place until it is amended or replaced by a new Plan.

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	iii
Table of Contents .....	v
Vision for the Park .....	1
1. Introduction .....	2
1.1 The Park and it's Values .....	2
1.2 Purpose of the Plan .....	3
Park Governance .....	6
2.1 Joint Management Partners .....	6
2.2 Joint Management .....	7
2.3 Planning and Decision-making .....	8
3. Managing Country .....	13
3.1 Cultural values .....	13
3.2 Natural values .....	18
4. Managing for Visitors .....	22
4.1 Engaging with a Cultural Landscape .....	22
4.2 A Remote Visitor Experience .....	23
5. Managing for Business Operations .....	27
5.1 Effective Operations .....	27
5.2 Indigenous Training, Employment and Enterprise Development .....	27
5.3 Community Engagement and Participation .....	28
5.4 Research, survey and monitoring .....	28
5.5 Regulated activities and permits .....	28
Appendix 1. Selected performance indicators .....	34

## Vision for the Park

*'Country is alive. People are strong. Young people work and know their land.'*

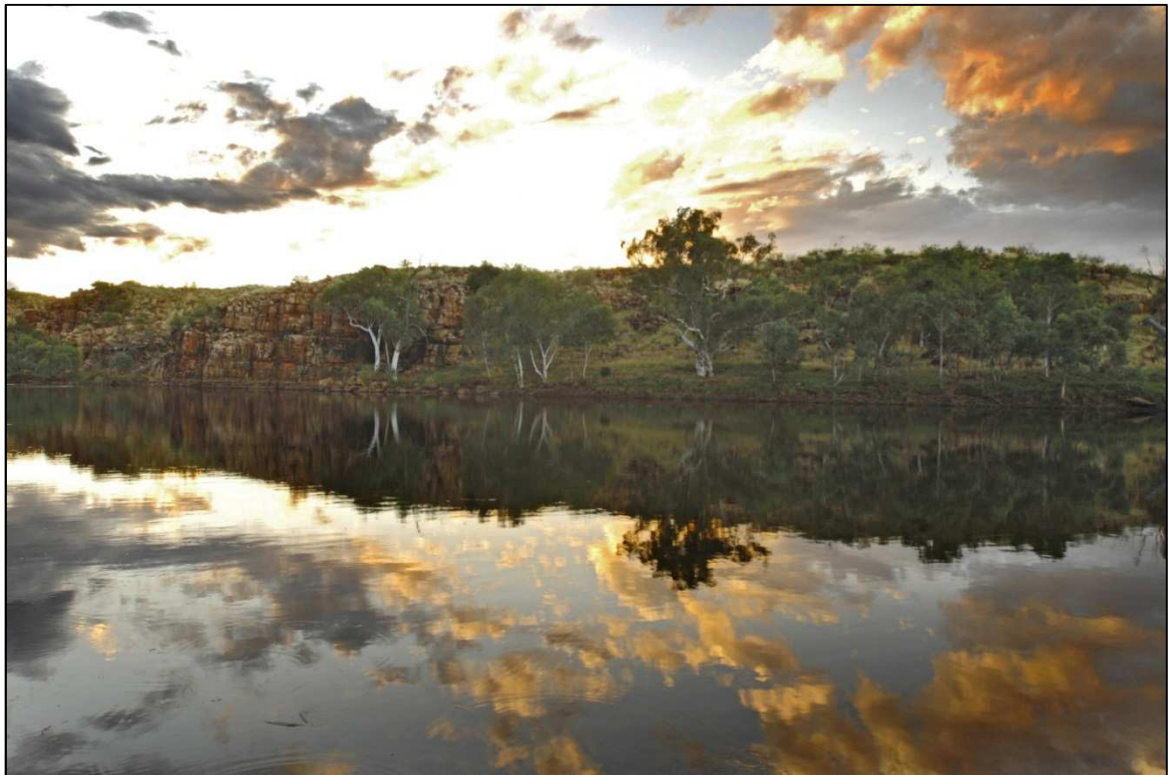
Throughout the life of the Plan, we will increasingly find both partners working together to manage the Park, respecting and acknowledging each other's skills and knowledge, and communicating clearly.

A strong partnership will mean:

- The country and sacred sites are looked after for current and future generations;
- Traditional Owners take a leading role in the management of the Park. They participate in decision-making, planning and on-ground implementation on the Park;
- Traditional Owners are actively involved through jobs, training and business opportunities; and,
- Visitors enjoy the park and appreciate its significant cultural values.

*'Strong young people... from all four languages working on country... so they can learn their connections. Traditional Owners as Rangers and Senior Rangers... on country... our future leaders.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**



Waterholes provide photographers with tranquil opportunities. (Image courtesy of Tourism NT)

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The Park and its Values

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park (127,706 Ha) is set in the relatively remote Davenport-Murchison Ranges, 150 kilometres south east of Tennant Creek (Map 1). The Park is owned by Aboriginal Lands Trusts for Aboriginal Traditional Owners and managed in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Being off the beaten track and with minimal development, the Park provides opportunity for visitors to experience the real outback.

Land for the Park was purchased by the Conservation Land Corporation as a Crown Lease in Perpetuity in 1993. In 2003, the proposed Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park was included in Schedule 1 of the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*, allowing the Northern Territory and Traditional Owners to enter into formal joint management of the Park. On the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008, title for the Park was transferred to Aboriginal freehold land and leased back to the Northern Territory for 99 years to be jointly managed as a National Park with Traditional Owners.

To improve the management boundary for the Park, an additional area, part of the Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust (NTP 3977) was included in Schedule 5 of the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act*. NTP 4387 at Whistleduck Creek may be added to the Park and be covered by this Plan. The Park comprises Erleterlapentye Aboriginal Land Trust NT Portion 4386 (112,000Ha), and part of Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust NTP 3977 (Administrative NT Portion 6800(A)) of 15,800Ha.

On 25 May 2011 the Park was officially declared under the TPWC Act and was formally named Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park on 29 June 2011. Iytwelepenty is the traditional name for the region and is phonetically pronounced EAT-OOL-ER-POON-CH.

*'This country names Iytwelepenty... Dreamtime name that one... we didn't choose this name'.*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

### Natural Values

The Park is the major conservation area within the Davenport Murchison bioregion, which is under-represented in the National Reserve System. It represents ten per cent of the area of the Davenport and Murchison Ranges Site of Conservation Significance and protects an extensive network of permanent, isolated waterholes. At least seven fish species are present in these waterholes. Eight species (one frog, one lizard and six plants) are known to be protected only by this Park. On the border of climatic zones, the Park contains the northern extent of arid species such as the Black-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*, nationally-vulnerable) and the southern extent of tropical species such as the Northern Nail-tailed wallaby (*Onychogalea unguifera*).

### Cultural Values

The Park includes the rich, living, cultural landscape of Alyawarr, Wakaya, Kaytetye and Warumungu Traditional Owners. It is an important focal area which supports many sites still tended by Traditional Owners. Traditional ceremonial activity continues to sustain the country and there is great potential for traditional ecological knowledge to contribute to park management, particularly fire management. The Park also contains heritage sites, including relics and evidence of the early mining and pastoral history of the area.

## Recreational Values

The Davenport-Murchison Ranges region offers a remote visitor experience for adventurous four-wheel drive drivers seeking to get off the beaten track. The Park supports four-wheel drive tracks, basic camping facilities and shady waterholes. The Park is connected to the Binns Track that traverses the Territory from north to south covering some of the Northern Territory's most remote country. The quiet waterholes and low-key campsites provide an alternative to the more highly visited parks that are readily accessed along the Stuart Highway.



Quiet contemplation and a sense of discovery await visitors. (Image courtesy of Tourism NT)

## 1.2 Purpose of the Plan

This Plan gives the strategic direction for the day-to-day operations of the Park (Map 2), consistent with the requirements of Sections 25AB (objectives of joint management) and 25AC (principles of joint management) of the TPWC Act. The Plan explains how the joint management partners will work together and also is the primary source against which management performance will be measured (see Appendix 1). It provides for the ongoing conservation of the Park's significant natural, cultural and visitor values and continued public use and enjoyment. As such, the Park will be managed to:

- Enable visitors to enjoy a remote part of the Northern Territory and appreciate its cultural significance;
- Maintain the significant biodiversity values, especially the Park's threatened species and wetland values;
- Maintain an equitable and effective partnership with Traditional Owners; and,
- Meet the needs of Traditional Owners to maintain their connection to country, protect and manage their sacred sites and to create employment opportunities in the Park.

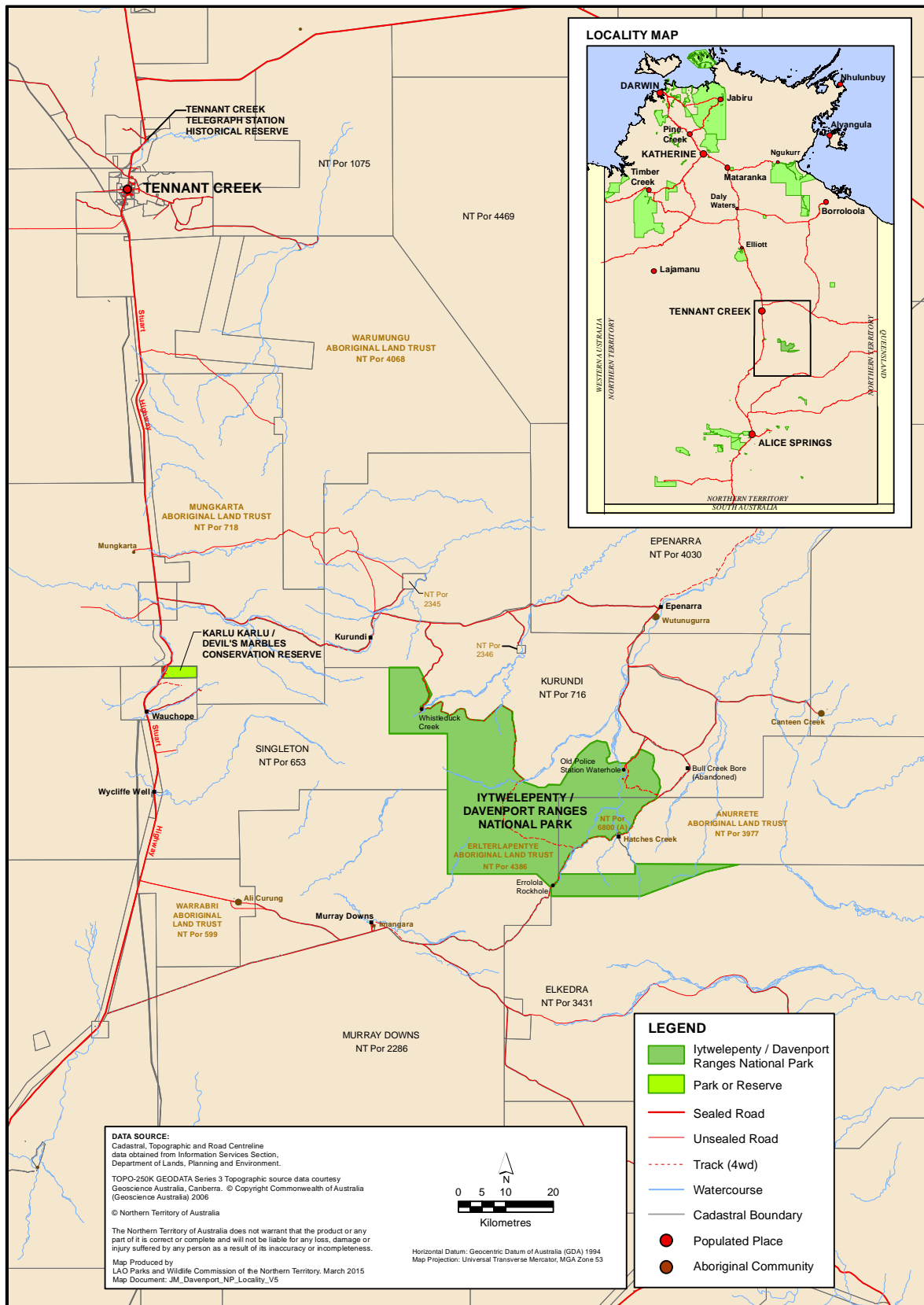
This is the first Plan for the Park and will remain in effect until amended or replaced by a new plan.

*'Write 'em down... strong words in that book... keep 'em straight... them young people and other Rangers got to read 'em word... what they (can) do in the Park.'*

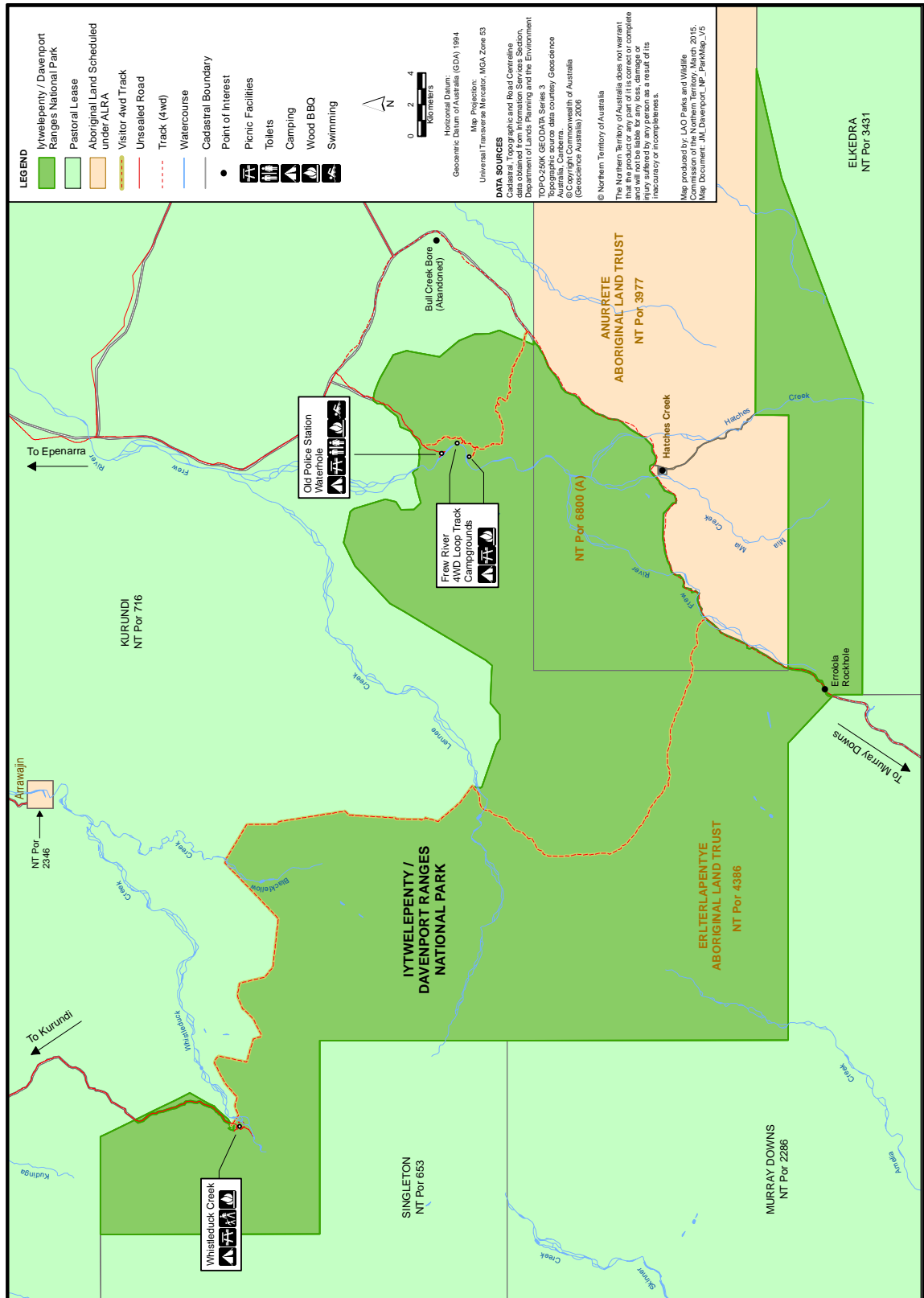
**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**



Map 1 Location Map Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park



Map 2 Park Map Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park



## 2. Park Governance

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park is Aboriginal land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) (ALRA)*. Traditional Owners have agreed to lease the land back to the Territory for 99 years, and to work together to manage the Park. Under section 25AA of the TPWC Act the joint management partners for the Park are the Northern Territory of Australia (Territory) and the Aboriginal Traditional Owners (Traditional Owners) of the Park. In developing and implementing this joint management plan, the joint management partners are bound to comply with their obligations under the TPWC Act, the Park Lease and an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) registered under the *Native Title Act*. The joint management partners must manage the park in accordance with this Joint Management Plan.

### 2.1 Joint Management Partners

#### 2.1.1 Traditional Owners

*'All four tribes... all connected. All connected by sacred site.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

Traditional Owners recognise that their ancestors have occupied and used the land and waters of Iytwelepenty since creation time. To this day they have continued to observe their traditional laws and customary practices on this country. Traditional Owners identify with the Alyawarr, Warumungu, Kaytetye and Wakaya languages and seven traditional estate groups lie within the National Park:

Traditional Estate Group	General Location	Language Affiliation:	Main Dreaming within the Park area
Akweranty / Anwerret	South-eastern portion of the Park	Alyawarr	Ankerr - emu dreaming
Antarregeny	North-east and southern portion of the Park	Alyawarr	Kwelharr or Rwaney – Black-footed rock wallaby dreaming
Arrawatyen (or Arrawajin in Warumungu)	North-eastern portion of the Park	Warumungu / Wakaya / Alyawarr	Kwaty (Alyawarr) or Ngappa (Warumungu) - rain dreaming
Kelantyerrang (or Karlanjirangi in Warumungu)	North-central part of the Park	Warumungu	Karlanji (Warumungu) or Arlanty (Alyawarr) - long nosed dragon dreaming
Lyentyawel Ilepparanem	South-west and central portion of the Park	Kaytetye / Alyawarr	Arwengalker - sugarcane, wild honey dreaming
Tyaw	South-east wedge of the Park	Alyawarr	Kwaty - rain dreaming
Warwepenty (or Warupunju in Warumungu)	North-west portion of the Park	Warumungu	Arwengalker (Alyawarr) or Kurlppu (Warumungu) - sugarcane, wild honey dreaming

Membership of the landholding group associated with each of the seven estate groups is by descent from the four grandparent lines. Traditional Owners describe themselves as either *apmerek-artwey* or *kwertengerl* for one (or more) of these countries. They are *apmerek-artwey* on the basis of affiliation through father's father (arreng or arrengey in Alyawarr; kangkuya or kangku in Warumungu), and secondarily on the basis of filiation through mother's mother (anyany in Alyawarr; jurttanti or jaaju in Warumungu). They are *kwertengerl* on the basis of filiation through mother's father (artartety in Alyawarr; tapu tapu in Warumungu) and father's mother (aperl or aperley in Alyawarr; tapu tapu or aputu in Warumungu).

In addition to descent based affiliations to country, individuals may be incorporated into one or more landholding groups on the basis of non-descent based criteria. These include; birthplace and/or conception site affiliation; physical, residential and long-term historical connections; and recognised possession of knowledge of the spiritual and physical properties of the landscape.

Succession may also lead to another group, or set of groups, taking on a role to look after the sites and sacred property of another group. Over time this custodial role may become formally recognised as ownership of the estate and its sacred property through ceremony.

### **2.1.2 Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory**

The Territory will generally carry out its joint management obligations through the Parks and Wildlife Commission. For the purposes of this Joint Management Plan, references to the Parks and Wildlife Commission as a joint management partner should be read as including a reference to the Territory.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is dedicated to conserving the natural and cultural values of parks and reserves, while providing high-quality nature-based tourism and recreation opportunities for visitors. The Parks and Wildlife Commission is committed to: engaging the public and working with the interests of the community; to seeing that the joint management partnership grows and becomes truly equitable; and ensuring that Traditional Owners benefit culturally, socially and economically from joint management.

## **2.2 Joint Management**

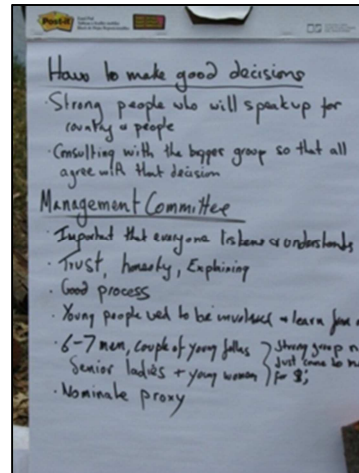
Joint Management is about Traditional Owners and the Parks and Wildlife Commission working together, exchanging their knowledge and expertise, solving problems and sharing decisions. A mutual understanding of country, Law, culture and Indigenous decision-making principles and responsibilities are fundamental to making good joint management decisions.

Good joint management has a clear structure and process for making decisions and both partners accept and understand their roles and responsibilities within this framework. The partners are optimistic that this new way of learning and working together will provide equity and continue to build trust and respect. Both partners acknowledge that it will take time and support to build capacity and a strong working relationship. For the purpose of joint management, the term governance is defined as *the way the partners organise themselves and the rules they put in place to realise their shared vision*. It includes all aspects of partnership, communication, planning and decision-making.

Working in a cross-cultural environment requires mutual trust and respect as well as clear communication at all levels. A shared understanding of country, culture and indigenous decision-making principles are fundamental to making good joint management decisions. Developing this Plan together has been the first step in moving both partners towards a better understanding and acceptance of the motivation and logic behind decisions affecting park management.

## PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

- Decision-making and accountability should be shared equitably.
- Time spent together on country is important for developing mutual trust, respect and understanding between the partners.
- Indigenous decision-making processes must be respected.
- Management priorities will be guided by the Park's key values.
- Planning and decision-making must incorporate risk identification and minimisation.
- Engagement and employment of Traditional Owners in management operations is central to joint management success.
- Resources are limited and must be used effectively.
- Joint management has to be checked to see that it is working well. It is important to keep improving.
- Public support for joint management is very important.



All partners are involved in joint management decision making

## 2.3 Planning and Decision-making

### 2.3.1 A Partnership Approach

Joint management provides exciting new opportunities to make better management decisions based on a combination of Indigenous and western approaches to land management. Successful joint management relies on meaningful engagement with Traditional Owners and will be measured against the achievement of the aims in this Plan and the satisfaction of the joint management partners.

For Traditional Owners of the Park it is essential that appropriate senior people are involved in making decisions related to their country. Across the Park different groups of Traditional Owners maintain responsibility for different areas of country. Traditional Owners emphasise the importance of ensuring decision-making structures reflect the differing responsibilities between different language and estate groups. As the Park contains important sacred sites it is essential that relevant senior Traditional Owners are involved in any decisions involving these areas. Accordingly, decision-making will be structured so that the people whose country is affected are well-informed about park operations and are involved in decisions.

*'Apmerek-artwey and kwertengerl get together and talk about the country... to make the right decisions. Apmerek-artwey straighten out kwertengerl if they make mistake. It's the way it's happened in the old days and it's the way it happens now.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

It is important to acknowledge that Traditional Owners' values and perceptions in relation to looking after country do not always line up with conventional park management approaches. Each partners' perception of joint management is strongly influenced by what they value most highly – for Traditional Owners it's Aboriginal law and extended family. Respecting these differences will significantly assist the partnership and provides the basis for effective joint management and governance of the Park.

*'We need trust between Parks and Traditional Owners... trust both ways... we got to talk straight.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

### 2.3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Each of the joint management partners have responsibilities for looking after the Park and clear roles and responsibilities have been established and defined to meet the processes used in decision making.

- The **Joint Management Committee** is the governing body for the Park; established to assist the joint management partners meet the requirements of joint management as set out in the TPWC Act, the Park Lease and the ILUA. Its' primary functions are to provide strategic direction to Park operations, determine local policy and procedures, and review progress against management directions in this plan. The Committee will initially be composed of a male and female representative from each of the seven estate groups nominated by senior Traditional Owners, and two senior Parks and Wildlife Commission staff. The partners wish to remain flexible in the structure of the committee and it will be reviewed as the working relationship progresses to ensure efficient and effective decision making. Regular meetings and communications with the entire Committee are logistically difficult to achieve and alternative structures will be used to process some routine activities or investigate new proposals. For this, the Committee may establish Working Groups to ensure timely decision making and a more thorough investigation of issues.

*'When we talk to National Parks, we have all the right people on the committee... we need a strong committee to make decisions... we need a mix of people... young and old people ... all working together.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

- **Traditional Owners** provide an essential contribution to the direction and management of the Park. Senior Traditional Owners have individual and collective responsibilities and cultural obligations for decision-making regarding country and overseeing cultural protocols. Traditional Owners also have responsibilities for managing traditional knowledge and passing it on to the right people, looking after the land and its resources, maintaining sacred sites and keeping the country alive. Traditional Owners are responsible to the land, law and culture.
- **Parks and Wildlife Commission** is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Park under the direction of the Joint Management Committee. The Parks and Wildlife Commission resources the Park's ongoing management, including; administrative functions, staffing, infrastructure and services in accordance with the Park Lease, ILUA and any relevant laws. Employees are responsible to the Minister for Parks and Wildlife and the Northern Territory Government and represent the Northern Territory in the joint management partnership.
- The **Central Land Council (CLC)** is an independent statutory body created under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The CLC is responsible for representing and protecting the interests of the Traditional Owners in the Park's management under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. The CLC will support Traditional Owners' interests and facilitate consultations, assist with monitoring joint management processes, and help resolve differences between Traditional Owners and the Partners, if needed.

**Table 1: Decision-making Framework.**

Joint Management Committee	Park Operational Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise executive authority and be accountable for the management of the Reserve.</li> <li>• Set strategic direction and park-specific policy and procedure for management programs and staff to implement.</li> <li>• Approve work programs and internal annual budgets.</li> <li>• Establish directions and criteria to evaluate development proposals.</li> <li>• Consult with senior men and women responsible for sacred sites.</li> <li>• Communicate with, and provide feedback from, the groups that members represent.</li> <li>• Link with the key stakeholders and wider community.</li> <li>• Monitor and review management performance.</li> <li>• Consider other proposals not specified in this plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for day-to-day management of the Park.</li> <li>• Implement operational programs, policy and procedure as approved by the management committee.</li> <li>• Maximise on-ground participation of Traditional Owners in management of the Park.</li> <li>• Report progress to the joint management committee.</li> <li>• Liaise with stakeholders and neighbours.</li> <li>• Issue permits, contracts and licenses according to relevant laws, policy and procedures.</li> <li>• Monitor management effectiveness and adjust management according to new information, improved procedures, new technology and new threats or issues.</li> </ul>

### 2.3.3 Building Effective Governance and Continuous Improvement

The partners recognise the need for training to build effective governance. Traditional Owners are willing to teach Rangers and visitors cross-cultural skills, language and Aboriginal land management techniques. Rangers are prepared to share their knowledge of planning, budgeting and Park management with Traditional Owners.

The partners are also committed to continuous learning and improvement. This involves tracking progress against performance measures, evaluating results and purposely modifying management to reflect new knowledge and insights (see Appendix 1). It also involves monitoring to measure efficiencies, improved effectiveness and progress toward long-term aims.

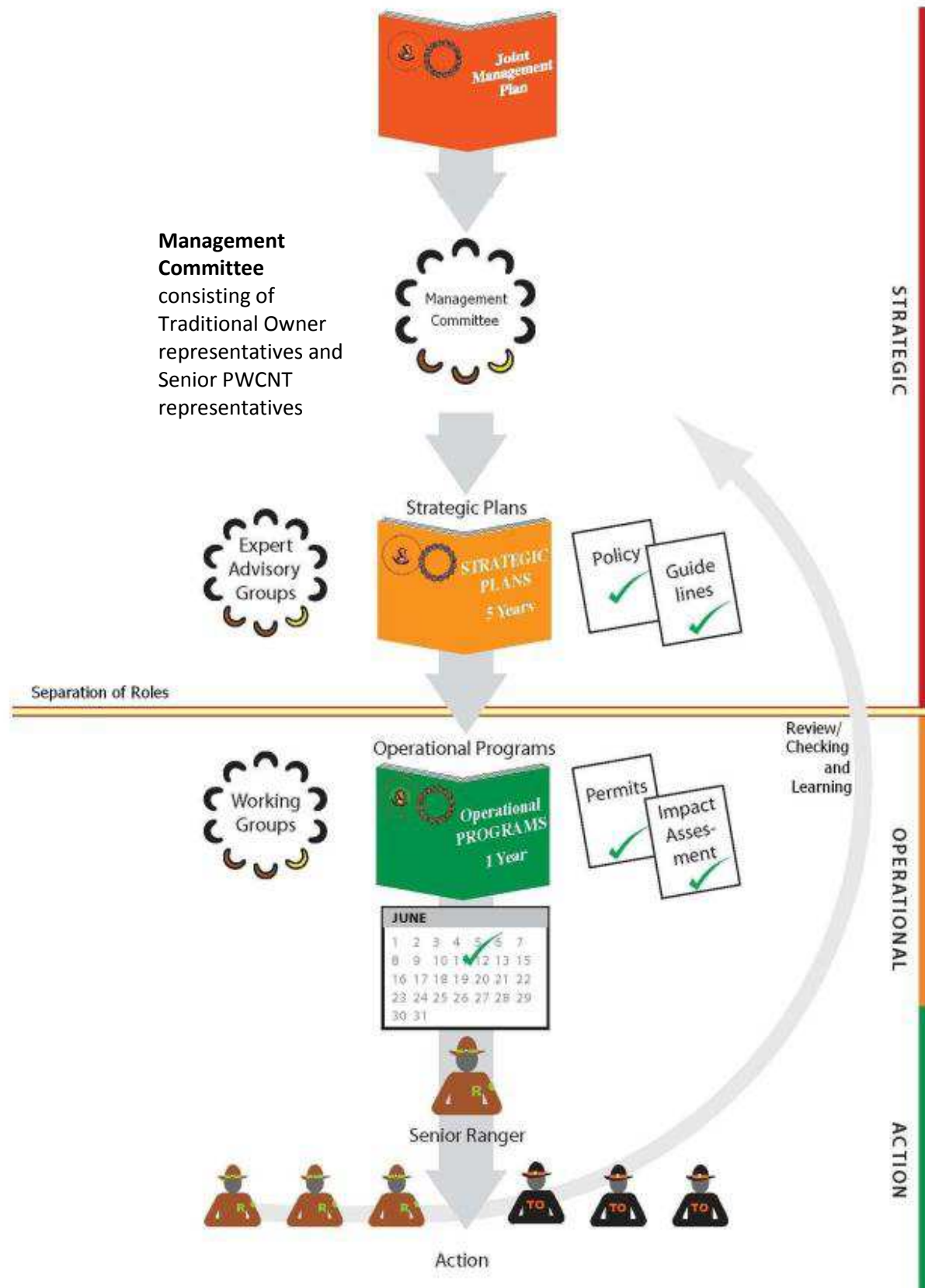
*‘Young people need to want to be involved... old people want to pass on knowledge and responsibility.’*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**



Four wheel drive opportunities are a feature of the park.  
(Image courtesy of Tourism NT)

Figure 1 Park Management and Operations – Roles and Responsibilities





### **Aims of Park Governance**

- Equitable partnership with effective governance, making well-informed decisions.
- The Aims and Directions in this Plan are achieved with resources used effectively on agreed priorities.
- Traditional Owners benefit from joint management.

### **Management Directions**

**2.1 Joint Management Committee** – A Joint Management Committee will oversee strategic direction of the Park. For matters that potentially affect any sacred sites, the Joint Management Committee must consult with senior Traditional Owners responsible for the sites.

**Role** - The role of the Committee is to provide direction and policy. It will represent the interests of Traditional Owners and Parks and Wildlife Commission but will not have a direct role in day-to-day operations.

**Membership** – The Committee will initially consist of Traditional Owners representing the seven estate groups (male and female) and two Senior Parks and Wildlife Commission officers. This structure will be reviewed to enable progressive efficiencies over the duration of the plan.

**Meetings** - The Committee will meet at least once a year.

**Making decisions** – Decisions will be made by consensus. The roles and decision-making responsibilities of the Committee are summarised in Table 1.

**2.2 Technical advice, Expert Advisory Groups and Working Groups** – Working groups of Traditional Owners, Parks and Wildlife Commission staff, CLC officers and specialists may be formed to support the Committee or address specific tasks, such as for fire management, cultural heritage, interpretation, tourism and policy development. Other persons will be invited by the partners to attend meetings and provide advice on particular issues or to represent community interests (for example tourism or pastoral industries).

**2.3 Supporting and building effective governance** - joint management will be a process of continuous learning and improvement. In the future, governance arrangements may be refined to increase effectiveness. Governance training will be provided to both partners to give them the tools and skills to work effectively in the partnership, with attention given to needs identified by monitoring and evaluation.

**2.4 Representation** - The CLC will represent and support Traditional Owners' interests and facilitate consultations when required.

**2.5 Professional development** – Professional standards and competencies will be supported by ongoing training in all aspects of park management. Priority will be placed on local cultural inductions and cross-cultural training with Traditional Owners.

**2.6 Information exchange** – A key role of committee members will be to bring to the Committee the collective expertise, interests and concerns of their group. Committee members will be responsible for passing on information to the wider Traditional Owner group, local community and key stakeholders. The CLC will provide support if required. Park operations will be responsible for effectively communicating information about Park management programs to the Joint Management Committee.

**2.7 Monitoring and evaluation** – A monitoring and evaluation program will be developed that will help develop effective governance. Performance will be measured annually using indicators (see Appendix 1) relating to the satisfaction of the partners and effectiveness of the partnership.

**2.8 Dispute resolution** -The joint management partners will aim to resolve disputes through open discussion and communication, involving the CLC as required or requested by the Traditional Owners. However, should a dispute arise between the partners that cannot be resolved, the parties will follow the dispute resolution processes set out in the Lease.

## 3. Managing Country

### PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGING COUNTRY

The joint management partners of Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park recognise that:

- Managing country means working together on country and managing natural and cultural values together;
- Management should protect and where possible enhance Park values;
- Management of cultural knowledge and sites is the responsibility of Traditional Owners; and
- Adverse impacts of wildfire, weeds, feral animals and erosion should be reduced.



Joint management partners meet on country

### 3.1 Cultural values

#### 3.1.1 Living Cultural Landscape

The entire area covered by the Park has important cultural significance to Traditional Owners and both partners are committed to ensure these cultural values are recognised and managed appropriately.

*‘Sacred sites... young Traditional Owners and Parks need to speak with the old people to look after sites the proper way... no short cuts... we need a strong agreement on this... so they are looked after right.’*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

There are many sacred areas across the Park where access and related information is restricted, consistent with local cultural values, laws and customs. Such places are restricted because of *business* – Aboriginal English term for sacred Law and rites, or Dreaming (altyerr or aknganenty) knowledge. These places are termed *amekamek* in Alyawarr and *ekemeyke* or *meke-meke* in

Kaytetye. It is important to note that it is not only the physical site that may be restricted, but also approaches to the site and cultural information associated with it. Other areas of special cultural significance in the Park include Dreaming sites, mens' and womens' ceremonial grounds, places of conception and birth, and traditional walking tracks. As senior Traditional Owners become more elderly, access to certain sites is becoming more challenging for them.

*'Young fellas need to learn about cultural business... they need to get out on country.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

**Aboriginal use** - The Park is used by Traditional Owners throughout the year, in response to seasonal and cultural factors. Traditional owners assert their rights under their own law and the TPWC Act, ALRA and *Native Title Act*, to continue to protect and conduct traditional cultural and religious activities within the Park. They retain the rights to burn, hunt, gather, fish, and use land-based resources (such as food and medicinal plants and trees, timber, charcoal, ochre, stone and wax), to have access to and use waters, and to camp, erect shelters and other structures within the Park. Areas within the Park are also accessed to monitor and clean sacred sites that continue to be used for ceremonial purposes for both mens' and womens' business.

*'We need to keep alive our stories, business and knowledge... it's important... really important ... stories, dreaming, knowledge need to be passed onto the young.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

**Aboriginal knowledge** - The need to transfer knowledge and practices from old to young people is one of the most important issues identified by Traditional Owners. Traditional Owners duties include on-site teaching of younger members of the landholding groups by elders about each site's associations and how to appropriately look after the physical and spiritual attributes of these places.

*'We need to pass on the stories, language and knowledge to our grand kids.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

Recording cultural heritage, particularly oral history is a priority for Traditional Owners. They also seek to have their Indigenous ecological knowledge, skills and experiences incorporated into on-ground operations for the Park, applied appropriately and in the right context.

There is great scope for Traditional Owners to interpret the significance of the Park to Park staff, commercial operators and visitors. Together the partners can promote an understanding and respect for the traditions, languages, cultures, customs and skills of Traditional Owners. The partners will ensure Traditional Owners are always recognised as the owners of their knowledge and retain the right to control who can use their knowledge and how.

**Fire** - *Rwa* is a major Alyawarr cultural tradition associated with the origin and continuation of the Alyawarr social system. The use of fire and burning is also a technique for hunting food animals and for influencing types and growth of food plants in certain areas, both physically and symbolically. The technique of controlled burns to assist hunting and regrowth was, and is, especially effective in the Park's range country with its numerous natural barriers such as pounds, escarpments and narrow gorges. As part of the continuing right of Traditional Owners to engage in their cultural practices within the Park, these burning practices will be resumed.

Traditional Owners have identified special areas, sacred sites and features that need to be protected from fire. Guidelines and standard operating procedures for burning will be established as a priority with assistance from Traditional Owners and CLC. Senior Traditional Owners will take a leading role in the decision-making, planning and on-ground implementation of any burning associated with cultural site management. Traditional Owners are equipped to undertake prescribed burns in the Park, but require the support of Park staff, Bushfires NT and the CLC to obtain the required accreditation to participate in on-ground PWCNT fire

management work.

**Culturally significant species** - Senior Traditional Owners identify all plant and animal species in the Park as culturally and economically important to local Aboriginal people.

*'Too much Buffel Grass, there used to be a lot of bush onions, tomatoes, pencil yams, now... nothing.'*

#### Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl

*Trees* - all mature trees (regardless of species) are culturally significant across the Park, particularly in several areas in the north-west and central sections of the Park. Traditional Owners continue to collect sugarbag (native honey) ngkwarl or arwengalker (in Alyawarr) or kurlppu (in Warumungu) amongst the branches and trunks of mature trees.

*Water and Waterholes*- kwaty (in Alyawarr) or ngappa (in Warumungu) - Rain Dreaming is an important tradition in the Ranges country, including several locations within the Park. Given the importance of the kwaty traditions, songs and ceremonies, no waterholes, rockholes and watercourses in the Park should be disturbed unless the permission of senior Traditional Owners is provided.

*Black-footed Rock Wallaby* - kwelharr or rwaney (in Alyawarr) - the Alyawarr name for the Davenport and Murchison Ranges area means where the *kwelharr* or *rwaney* (Black-footed rock wallaby) run, or, where the *kwelharr* or *rwaney* tracks are everywhere. The tradition associated with kwelharr or rwaney is highly significant and underpins certain men's ceremonies throughout the local area and wider region. Several sites associated with these traditions have access and other restrictions attached to them.

*Emu Ankerr* and *Thorny Devil Lizard* Arnkerrth - These species are culturally important because the traditional track relating to them is important to the broader region.

Other plant and animal species with cultural significance within the Park include:

*Areng* - Euro

*Inap* - Echidna

*Arlanty* (Alyawarr) or *Karlanji*  
(Warumungu) Long-nosed dragon  
*Lophognathus longirostris*

*Kangelarr* - edible fruit vine

*Arlatyey* - Pencil yam *Vigna lanceolata*

*Kelkareng* - Holly Grevillea *Grevillea wickhamii*

*Arlewatyerr* - Sand goanna

*Marntekarr* - snakes

*Arnwekety* - Conkerberry *Carissa lanceolata*

*Ntang Alkentyar* (seed) from *Alerrey*  
(wattle species) tree

*Arwengerrp* or *Kwepeng* (Alyawarr),  
*Kurtinja* (Warumungu) - Bush Turkey,  
Australian bustard *Ardeotis australis*

*Rtey-Rtey* (Alyawarr), *Tiyatiya*  
(Warumungu) - Australian Magpie Lark,  
*Grallina cyanoleuca*

*Aylperr* - Catfish sp.

*Wirilki* - Witchetty grub

*Ilenty* - Galah

*Yerrakwerr* - Small onion species

### **3.1.2 Exploration, Colonisation and Mining Heritage**

Despite its remote location there are historic sites and stories from the early European contact period starting with John McDouall Stuart and his party in 1860 when, on attempting to reach the north coast, named the Davenport Range after the Honourable Samuel Davenport, MLC.

Not long after, in 1872, the Overland Telegraph was established and it opened the area up for further exploration and pastoralism. By the late 1880's, pastoral 'outstations' were established on the Frew and Elkedra Rivers and at Murray Downs Creek.

In 1896 the Government Geologist, H. Browne, led the first official party to explore the Davenport Ranges. His party documented the prospective nature of Hatches Creek. The presence of heavy minerals was confirmed by Alan Davidson in 1898 when he made a detailed journey for the Central Australian Exploring Syndicate. He also reported an abundance of sizable fish in the Elkedra River, possums along the creeks and already the presence of wild cattle.

By 1916, mining activity in Hatches Creek was producing wolfram (also known as tungsten) and its various ores (scheelite and wolframite), and small amounts of gold. Tangible evidence of the mining period and mining infrastructure still exists but, except for the head-frame, batteries and some miscellaneous workings, this is outside the Park boundary.

Sustained connection to country means that Traditional Owners have detailed knowledge of the first contact period and the cross-cultural interactions. The colonisation stories often overlap experiences of bloody cultural clashes and emerging co-dependency. Many Indigenous people around Itywelepeny became involved in both the mining and pastoral industries, settling closer to sources of food and provisions received in exchange for their labour. Cattle arrived on the Frew River in 1889 but the enterprise was abandoned by 1896 after drought, low prices and attacks on cattle from Aborigines. A police station was built on the site of the pastoral ruins and occupied for a brief period from 1919. The ruins of the old police station, on the south side of the Frew River are a significant reminder of early Government intervention and law and order in the region.

These heritage sites have not been properly documented, or assessed for significance and heritage values. The partners are required to consult with the Heritage Branch and seek approval to undertake proposed works to any sites. Damage by fire, livestock, human interference, vegetation growth and termite damage provide a threat to the integrity of these sites. Sites should be properly documented and conserved until their significance is clarified.

### **Aims for Managing Cultural Values**

- Traditional Owners satisfied with their involvement, fulfilment of their cultural responsibilities and protection of their sacred sites.
- Indigenous knowledge and practices incorporated into Park operations and managed to the satisfaction of Traditional Owners.

### **Management Directions**

**3.1 Cultural heritage management plan** - A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) developed by the CLC in consultation with Traditional Owners will be endorsed by the Joint Management Committee for implementation. The partners and CLC will work together to identify supporting resources, if required.

**3.2 “Back to country”** - With support from the CLC, the partners will spend time on country together, facilitating transmission of cultural knowledge and skills between Traditional Owner families, to the younger generation and Parks and Wildlife Commission staff as appropriate.

**3.3 Aboriginal cultural business** - the Parks and Wildlife Commission will respect advice relating to cultural matters and customary obligations from Traditional Owners. Ample notice will be given to the public regarding temporary closures, if required.

**3.4 Recording of oral histories and Indigenous knowledge** - is a high priority to senior Traditional Owners to strengthen their responsibilities and continue their traditions. CLC will provide support.

**3.5 Indigenous knowledge, practices and priorities** - will be incorporated into Park management operations consistent with PWCNT Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property policy and with the active leadership and involvement of Traditional Owners in planning and on-ground implementation.

**3.6 Traditional burning** - As a priority, Park burning guidelines and standard operating procedures will be completed by the Joint Management Committee and approved by all Traditional Owners. Traditional Owners will take a leading role in the decision-making, planning and on-ground implementation of fire management associated with their cultural sites. Burns will be conducted in accordance with the approved CHMP and any legal obligations applying to the PWCNT.

**3.7 Hunting and gathering** - If required, hunting and gathering guidelines will be developed by the Joint Management Committee and approved by all Traditional Owners.

**3.8 Culturally sensitive areas** - Park staff will respect restrictions and guidelines for sacred sites or culturally sensitive areas of the Park as directed by senior Traditional Owners. Park staff and their contractors will not visit identified areas of cultural significance unsupervised by senior Traditional Owners.

**3.9 Cultural induction and supervision** - new staff (including both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) will be inducted by senior Traditional Owners before working within the Park.

**3.10 Interpretation** - Cultural heritage and historic sites and places will be interpreted through signs.

**3.11 Cultural Awareness** - The explanation of cultural restrictions will be presented in both English and Alyawarr on signage and in interpretive material.

**3.12 Sacred site clearances** - see Management Direction, Section 5.10.

**3.13 Cultural heritage approval** - see Management Direction, Section 5.10.

**3.14 Cultural objects** - see Management Direction, Section 5.10.

## 3.2 Natural values

### 3.2.1 Natural character

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park consists of low, rugged rocky hills which contrast with the flat sand plains of the surrounding country. The Park is formed from extremely old rock formations dated at 1820 - 1770 million years before present. The Davenport Ranges are Precambrian silicified sandstone, which has been extensively folded, faulted and eroded with the lines of weakness forming the creeks and waterholes. Soils are generally shallow lithosols, but deep fine-grained alluvial soils occur in the valleys and surrounding plains.

**Bio-regional context** – The Park is the only major conservation area within the Davenport Murchison bioregion which is under-represented in the National Reserve System. The Park also supports ten per cent of the Davenport and Murchison Ranges Site of Conservation Significance. The biodiversity value of the bioregion is not especially high and remains in reasonably good condition. The Park protects a good proportion of range country, however only a small sample of flood-out areas and valley floors are reserved. Any future reserve extensions should preferably include more fertile lowland environments.

**Wetlands** - Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park protects an extensive network of permanent and isolated waterholes. The catchments contain several deep, permanent rock-holes providing a variety of environmental conditions favourable for the various fish species and diversity of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants.

**Native plants** – The Park contains a relatively high number of plant species for the area (approximately 435 plant species) and six species are known to be only protected by this Park. Plant community diversity is low when compared to other parts of Central Australia with only six major communities:

- *Snappy Gums foothills* - where representative species are Snappy Gums (*Eucalyptus leucophloia*), Spinifex hummock grasses and Turpentine Bush (*Acacia lysiphloia*) and is the dominant plant community of the area.
- *Sand plain communities* - comprising mostly Soft Spinifex (*Triodia pungens*), under various shrubs and small trees such as *Acacia coriacea*.
- *Soft Spinifex rocky hills* - typified by Soft Spinifex (*Triodia pungens*) interspersed with Acacia and Grevillea species, such as *Acacia monticola*, *Acacia hilliana*, *Acacia spondylophylla* and *Grevillea wickhamii*.
- *Watercourse and associated frontage communities* - dominated by River Red Gums, (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Melaleuca species and various perennial grasses. The sandy watercourse frontage country supports grasses and occasional trees such as Bloodwood (*Corymbia opaca*).
- *Mulga red earths* - small stands of Mulga associated with *Aristida* grasses and some forbs such as *Sida* species.
- *Woodland on gravelly flats* - typified by annual and perennial grasses under trees such as Bloodwoods (*Corymbia opaca*) and Ghost Gums (*Corymbia aparrerinja*).

The Park supports plant species with tropical affinities overlapping with species with more arid southern/central affinities. Species such as *Grevillea refracta*, a typical Top End plant is found at the southern extreme of its range in the Park, and *Grevillea wickhamii*, common to central Australia, are both found on the Park. At least seven rare, endangered or significant plant species occur within the Park.

**Native animals** – Two animal species (1 frog and 1 lizard) are known to be protected only by this Park. The Park contains the northern extent of arid species such as the Black-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*, nationally-vulnerable) and the southern extent of tropical species such as the Northern Nail-tailed wallaby (*Onychogalea unguifera*) and Spectacled Hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus*). The rare Greater Bilby, *Macrotis lagotis*, has been found on Kurundi Station and may occur in the Park.

The area is particularly important for its diversity of fish species. A total of seven species representing six families have been recorded from the major catchment systems.

### 3.2.2 Managing threatening processes

The main threats to the natural and cultural values of the Park are likely a result of the impact of large wildfires, changed fire regimes, Buffel grass and large exotic herbivores.

**Fire** - Fire has long been used by Traditional Owners to manage their country however, since European colonisation fire regimes have shifted from small-scale patchy fires to more frequent and widespread wildfires. In recent history, large wildfires have affected significant portions of the Park, as demonstrated in 2001 when approximately 80% of the Park was burnt in a single wildfire event.

Traditional Owners are continuing to practice traditional burning which differs from approaches introduced by the Parks and Wildlife Commission over the past 20 years. Senior Traditional owners will have a lead role in the decision-making, planning and on-ground implementation of any burning related to cultural site management.

The prevention and control of wildfire requires close collaboration with neighbouring communities and landholders

*'...You need knowledgeable people, where to burn and where not to burn.*

*Rangers come from other place... might burn wrong place... Ranger can't do as he likes... must ask us. The main men... teach 'em little bit too. Aboriginal Ranger still has to ask us... If a ranger burns on his own... we'll sit him down and sort him out... he got to know the rules... Really straight rules suits us and suits you.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

Fire management should focus on protecting sacred sites, incorporating traditional burning practices, protecting habitat through avoiding large catastrophic wildfires and collaboration with neighbouring landholders to avoid fires crossing property boundaries. In addition to applying traditional approaches to burning, fire management will require strategic fire breaks and fuel reduction around cultural sites and infrastructure.



Traditional Owners will play a leading role in protection of sacred sites



**Weeds** - The Parks and Wildlife Commission has a responsibility under the *Weeds Management Act* to take all reasonable measures to control the infestation and spread of declared weeds. The limited populations of *Parkinsonia aculeata*, a weed of national significance, are managed as a priority. Other declared weeds: Goats head burr *Acanthospermum hispidum*; Khaki weed *Alternanthera pungens*; and, Mossman River Grass *Cenchrus echinatus* are confined to campgrounds and routinely managed. There are other non-declared weeds such as Couch grass *Cynodon dactylon* which is spreading along the waterways but its spread cannot be managed. Buffel Grass is another non-declared weed, highly invasive and threatens the vegetation in the river valleys and plains surrounding the Park. Buffel grass is generally beyond control however there are isolated populations around Whistleduck Creek Campground that are managed and the spread of other populations are monitored. Keeping the boundary fencelines clear of vegetation maintains a fire break and enables management and maintenance of the fence.

*'Buffel grass... good for cattle... no good for country... fire gets away now. Too late for Buffel grass. If you burn it, it comes back again. When it rains it comes back thicker.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

**Feral animals** - Large introduced herbivores such as donkeys and horses disturb sacred sites, impact on waterways, encourage weed infestation and degrade land condition. Traditional owners have highlighted the importance of managing these animals humanely and recognise that establishing and maintaining good fences as the main basis for control. Aerial culling will be used when numbers warrant, following agreed standard procedures which outline notifications and approval processes.

Other introduced animals known to occur in the Park include cats and foxes which prey on native species and for which there are no current management or control options. There are no known introduced crustaceans or fish in the Park.

**Cattle** – The Park will be managed to be free of cattle. Fencing and maintenance of fences is an important management strategy however not all boundaries can be fenced and cattle access the Park from neighbouring pastoral properties. It is important for operational plans to include an effective fence maintenance program and for the opportunity for Traditional Owners to be employed. Mustering and removal of cattle from the Park will be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the *Livestock Act*.

*'Donkeys, cattle and horses, push'em all out. Put up fence. But don't ask us about what to do with the lonely ones... we don't want to say 'no'.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

**Management Access** – Only a small proportion of the Park is accessible by vehicle which significantly constrains park operations and cultural site management. Management effectiveness could be increased by establishing a vehicle track through the central portion of the Park.



Long-term strategic planning is required for management of fire.

### **Aims for Managing Natural Heritage Values**

- Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into Park operations and managed to the satisfaction of Traditional Owners.
- No significant wildfires across the Park.
- Weeds of National Significance are eradicated and the impact of other weeds kept to a minimum
- The Park is free of livestock

### **Management Directions**

**3.15 Operational programs** – management of fire, weed, feral animal and erosion will be directed through annual operational program(s) developed with Traditional Owners. The operational management priorities for the Park are firstly to protect the integrity of sacred sites and secondly to protect broader landscape values of the Park.

**3.16 Collaboration**- will be encouraged with nearby Aboriginal and pastoral landholders to gain better land management and employment outcomes and improve economies of scale. Plans will be developed, as far as possible, with neighbouring landholders for improved fire, feral and weed management.

**3.17 Park and cultural management access** – A section of the new Frew River to Lennee Creek track, developed for management purposes, has also been identified for visitor access.

**3.18 Traditional burning practices** – Traditional Owners are encouraged to maintain traditional practices within the park. The partners will work together to include these practices within the annual fire planning process. Traditional Owners will be encouraged to implement prescribed burning in consultation with neighbours and support from PWCNT.

**3.19 Prescribed burning** –The joint management partners will develop a long term fire strategy in consultation with Bushfires NT and neighbours. The plans will be consistent with locally developed burning guidelines and standard operating procedures. Traditional Owners will take a leading role in the decision-making, planning and on-ground implementation of prescribed burning in identified areas. Fuel loads around cultural sites will be reduced and strategic fuel breaks established and maintained within the Park. Broader scale prescribed burns will be undertaken in response to seasonal conditions. Training in fire management is a priority for Traditional Owners.

**3.20 Feral animal control** –Guidelines and standard operating procedures developed by the joint management partners will be applied to control donkeys and horses on the Park. Strategic fencing will be maintained and a fence maintenance program developed to include opportunities for Traditional Owner employment.

**3.21 Cattle management** – Cattle will not be allowed to graze on the Park. Strategic boundary fencing will be maintained to restrict cattle access. Neighbouring property managers will have access to the Park to muster their cattle according to the *Livestock Act*.

**3.22 Weed control** –Buffel grass will be controlled at Whistleduck Creek campsite to contain its local spread and reduce the fire risks. Parkinsonia is a high priority for annual spraying, monitoring and surveying for outlying infestations. All other declared weeds in campgrounds are managed annually during routine seasonal site clean-ups and monitored throughout the main camping season. Fencelines are to be kept as vegetation free as possible through annual spraying and mechanical removal or destruction. The introduction of any new weed species is to be dealt with as soon as practical.

**3.23 Soil rehabilitation** - Degraded areas will be identified and progressively rehabilitated using expert advice. Driving off designated tracks is prohibited.

**3.24 Extraction** - Soil, gravel or rocks will not be removed or disturbed without clearances.

## 4. Managing for Visitors

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park provides a remote visitor experience for adventurous four-wheel drive visitors seeking to get off the beaten track. It is especially appealing to those who are independent travellers looking for a quiet place to camp, four-wheel drive and enjoy being *outback*.

From the Stuart Highway the ranges appear as low hills and this may be why it is seldom visited. Only once you enter the Park, and drive along the four-wheel drive track that leads high over the rocky ridges and look down on the well watered and long, attractive valleys, do you realise the true feeling of remoteness and sense of being away from it all.

The level of development is minimal and in keeping with the spirit of being *outback*. This encourages independent travellers to spend a few days here rather than just visit for a few hours and pass through. The Park is visited by approximately 1,000 visitors each year but most visitors stay and enjoy the Park for up to three days.

### PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGING VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The joint management partners recognise that:

- Positive experiences produce satisfied visitors, who may build a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the Park;
- Visitors' appreciation and respect for the Park is enhanced by sharing information about the Park's unique natural and cultural values; and,
- Well-designed facilities help protect Park values and promote safe, enjoyable visitor experiences.

### 4.1 Engaging with a Cultural Landscape

Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park is a place where Traditional Owners maintain their spiritual and cultural connections with their country. To reflect and promote their continuing living connection with their country, Traditional Owners want to incorporate Alyawarr language and traditional names for features and locations across the Park. The joint management partners are keen to improve the public presentation of Iytwelepenty, carefully managing the cultural information presented to the public.

*'Tourists should feel that it is an Aboriginal place... our language should be across the Park. Sign tell 'em tourists Traditional Owners look after this country.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

To date, there has been little tourism development as the visitor numbers and expectation for services have been low. While commercial opportunities are limited, Traditional Owners living close to the Park are interested in participating in, and benefiting from, tourism development. The feasibility of developing niche commercial tourism operations in partnership with Traditional Owners to derive income and generate employment is still to be investigated.



Well sign-posted camp sites service the intrepid traveller. Image courtesy of Tourism NT

The Northern Territory Government agencies associated with tourism, employment and training, as well as the CLC are best placed to provide support to Traditional Owners who seek to develop tourism enterprises. The Joint Management Committee will support the exchange of ideas on tourism opportunities.

## 4.2 A Remote Visitor Experience



The space of the *outback* fills the camera. (Image courtesy of Tourism NT)

lytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park will be presented as a remote destination that appeals to the enthusiastic outback adventurer. Outside of the peak periods of Easter, long weekends and school holidays, the visitor is likely to find themselves camping alone with little contact, if any, with other visitors.

Proximity to Alice Springs and Tennant Creek make the Parks' waterholes an ideal destination for local tourism especially for short 'camping weekend' breaks. The opportunity to camp within sight of water in an otherwise arid landscape is not common in Central Australia and along with the opportunity for swimming in the waterholes, the Park provides that sense of adventure visitors will long remember.

The four-wheel drive tourism market is the niche driver of tourism. The Park supports a dedicated four-wheel drive track and basic camping facilities which highlights the remoteness, isolation, and solitude found throughout the Park. This is the type of experience that appeals to four-wheel drive enthusiasts who have been to other high profile outback destinations and are now looking for a less trafficked route. The Park is linked by the long distance four-wheel drive Binns Track which commences at Mt Dare in South Australia and crosses the Park before ending at Timber Creek. The new north-south four-wheel drive track through the centre of the park will provide additional opportunities for remote camping at agreed locations between the Frew River and Lennee Creek.

*'This place is very special, no bitumen, no houses, no electricity. Change is very small. Tourists like it natural.'*

### Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl

**Park access** - Access to the visitor areas of Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park is via a loop road from the Stuart Highway. The condition of these roads and perceived distance from the Stuart Highway contributes to the low visitor numbers. The northern access route to Old Police Station Waterhole via Kurundi and Epenarra is 170 km from the Stuart Highway and maintained to a 2WD standard. The southern access via Hatches Creek is 175km from the Stuart Highway and is maintained to high-clearance four-wheel drive standard. Off-road driving is prohibited. The Department of Infrastructure will be encouraged to improve the level of directional and safety signage along the access corridors.

**Facilities** –The facilities provided within the Park are basic but suit the needs of visitors wanting to experience a remote outback adventure. Visitor management will focus on maintaining a low-key bush setting with facilities designed for low levels of maintenance.

#### *Camping*

Camping is an integral part of experiencing the Park but visitors are required to only camp in the designated camp grounds:

- Old Police Station Waterhole (*Athethew*) – this camp ground stretches along an expanse of calm water suitable for swimming with well shaded banks and a backdrop of low rocky hills. Shady campsites overlook the water and cater for groups and individuals. In keeping with the site's quiet nature, basic facilities including tables, wood fireplaces and pit toilets are provided. There are informal walking tracks accessing the historic ruins of the old police station and early pastoral dwellings from the early twentieth century.
- Whistleduck Creek – this quiet chain of shaded waterholes forms the boundary of the camp ground. A range of individual and group camping sites with basic facilities of tables, wood fireplaces and pit toilets are provided away from the water.
- Frew River four-wheel drive Loop Track Campsites - south of Old Police Station Waterhole there are two designated campsites: the First Waterhole and Kappantu Waterhole campsites which have basic facilities including tables and wood fireplaces.

#### *Day Use Areas and Activities*

- Frew River four-wheel drive Loop Track - there is a strong market demand for four-wheel drive access and the Park offers a dedicated track along the Frew River. This track challenges experienced off-roaders but rewards them with expansive views across the rugged rocky hills and valleys. With time, the partners may investigate other four-wheel drive opportunities for experienced, self-reliant visitors seeking remote, bush experiences within the Park.
- Frew River to Lennee Creek four-wheel drive track - sections of this new track will be considered by the joint management partners for remote camping opportunities.
- Irmwenga Waterhole Day Use Area – an attractive waterhole located near Whistleduck Creek campground provides tables, parking, pit toilets and a shade shelter with cultural interpretive information.
- Hatches Creek Head Frame – is currently fenced off from the public for safety reasons but can be viewed from behind the barriers. It has potential to be used to present the region's pioneering mining history.

#### *Walking tracks*

There are no formal walking tracks within the Park. Developing existing informal paths within

visitor areas may be explored by the partners, including the route from the Old Police Station Waterhole campground to the ruins.

**Interpretation** – Helps promote appreciation and respect, and reduces the risk of unintentional damage to the Parks values. The partners are interested in promoting the Park as a place of cultural and spiritual importance and information and images will be carefully managed on signs to show how cultural values interact with the natural values in the past and the present. Traditional Owners have aspirations to develop niche tourism enterprises as a means to promote their cultural connections to country.

*'Tourists - no trouble so far - take photos around here, old stone house (police station waterhole). Good 'round here. Only people get lost sometimes. OK so far but need rules.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

**Safety** - Visitor activity is not without risk. The main public safety concerns include swimming accidents and visitors becoming lost, injured or affected by heat or dehydration. Any emergency incidents are complicated by the Park's remote location. Rangers are trained in emergency response, however Ranger patrols are infrequent. A district Emergency Response Plan is annually reviewed with local Police, the Health Clinic at Epenarra and other emergency services to provide clear direction in an emergency.

#### **Aims of Visitor Management**

- Visitors enjoy themselves, are safe and highly satisfied.
- The Park's value as a living cultural landscape is promoted.
- Traditional Owners find opportunity to participate in the local tourism industry.

#### **Management Directions**

**4.1 Indigenous employment** – The partners will work with the tourism industry, CLC and local operators to identify and foster Aboriginal employment in tourism and park management.

**4.2 Park presentation** – The Park will be presented as a remote four-wheel drive destination with basic camping facilities along permanent waterholes with rich cultural values. It will be promoted at regional and national levels through association with the Binns Track, and targeting the four-wheel drive tourism market. The joint management partners will work with Tourism NT, Tourism Central Australia and other agencies to ensure the Park is promoted consistent with its unique values.

**4.3 Visitor access** – The Frew River four-wheel drive track and the new Frew River to Lennee Creek track provide visitors with access to the interior of the Park. Visitors seeking access outside designated visitor areas require a permit approved by the joint management partners.

The partners will be advised by the relevant road and soil conservation agencies on the most appropriate techniques to upgrade and maintain park roads, reduce erosion and minimise the impact of flooding on visitor access.

- **Park closures** - The Park, or areas within it, may be temporarily closed to the public for flood, fire, rehabilitation works and important ceremonies. These infrequent events will be appropriately publicised.

**4.4 Visitor facilities** – Designated camp grounds and day-use areas are established. Management and maintenance of the campgrounds and picnic areas will be outsourced where it can be effective and contribute to local employment.

- **Future development** – The joint management committee will consider and endorse annual works plans for all proposed developments including siting of all visitor infrastructure.

- **Walking trails** - the informal paths within the visitor areas may be considered for formal development.
- **Camping** - Sites will be maintained to provide basic 'bush style' camping in designated areas. New campsites will be investigated along the Frew River to Lennee Creek track.
- **Campfires** - Firewood collection will be designated on a site by site basis and reviewed on a regular basis. The partners may investigate options to have wood supplied under contract for purchase by campers.
- **Rubbish** – No bins will be provided and visitors are required to take their rubbish with them.

#### 4.5 Other activities:

- **Swimming** – Swimming is acceptable at Old Policeman's Waterhole and Whistleduck Creek.
- **Fishing** – Line fishing is permitted but will not be promoted. The use of fish nets and traps is prohibited.

**4.6 Visitor interpretation** – Interpretive material will aim to increase visitors' awareness of the Park's rich cultural values and recreational opportunities. Both partners will be involved in developing and delivering the interpretation program.

- **Safety** – In conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure, safety and directional signage will be improved and standardised along access corridors and in the Park. Fact sheets, web site and signs will emphasise safety messages and personal responsibility for safety.
- **Aboriginal place names and use of language** – Through the cultural heritage management plan the partners will incorporate Aboriginal place names for areas and features within the Park. Wherever possible, signs will use both Alyawarr and English words.
- **Cultural information** - Information and images of all cultural matters will be thoroughly planned, developed and checked with Traditional Owners, with assistance from CLC.
- **Cultural Awareness** - The explanation of access restrictions for cultural reasons will be presented where appropriate in both English and Alyawarr.

**4.7 Visitor safety** – An Emergency Response Plan for Parks and Reserves of the region will be reviewed annually in collaboration with local Police and other emergency services. Identified risks will be rectified on a priority basis. Tour operators will be encouraged to report incidents and safety issues to Park Operations. Independent travellers will be encouraged to have radio contact or carry a satellite telephone or personal locator beacon.

**4.8 Pets** – Entry of pets will be consistent with the PWCNT Pets in Parks policy.



Memories of peacefully camping by the waterholes remain with visitors after their journey.  
(Image courtesy of Tourism NT)

## 5. Managing for Business Operations

### 5.1 Effective Operations

Park operations are currently carried out by Rangers based at Tennant Creek with regular patrols to the Park. It is hoped that day-to-day management will be carried out by Traditional Owners in the future. At present almost all funding to manage the Park is provided by the Territory where major works and ongoing programs are subject to Territory-wide government priorities. The partners, however, are encouraged to seek extra funding and resources which improve management or promotion of the Park.

On-ground work in the Park is directed by operational programs that are developed to achieve the long-term aims included in this Plan. The Joint Management Committee will be responsible for endorsing long-term strategies and overseeing operational programs implemented by Rangers, Traditional Owners, contractors and volunteers. The Committee's role will be to match priorities and new information with available staff and budgets to best achieve the Park's long-term aims and vision.

### 5.2 Indigenous Training, Employment and Enterprise Development

One of the aims of joint management is to promote opportunities for employment and business for Traditional Owners wherever possible. Traditional Owners emphasise how important training and employment is for their families and acknowledge their responsibility to support young people.

*'We need (Aboriginal) people working here, maybe full time maybe part time. So they're strong on their country... People from this country... all four tribes... working together... so they can learn their connections... like in the old days... all together.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

Since the establishment of joint management, Traditional Owners have participated in paid management programs on a flexible basis. Flexible, project-based employment provides many benefits including work experience, skills exchange and accredited training, and helps build positive working relationships between Traditional Owners and Parks' staff. It also helps young Traditional Owners become work-ready and assists local Indigenous organisations to become contract-ready. There is potential to expand flexible employment in collaboration with nearby community employment programs and Indigenous Community Ranger groups.

*'Young people... community rangers... training up little bit by little bit... train 'em up. To be Rangers so they can come back here and work here.'*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

Traditional Owners are keen to be involved in contract work. The Territory will encourage and support the participation of the Traditional Owners in commercial activities. Where capacity is lacking, the partners may work with local Indigenous organisations, training providers or community ranger groups. Weed and fire management have been identified as priority training needs. Senior Traditional Owners will be requested to provide cultural supervision in work place areas outside of main visitor areas.

The Park provides a platform for Traditional Owners to present their living culture, from a personal perspective, to visitors from all over Australia and the world. The development of local



cultural tourism enterprises may be restricted by the low volume of visitors but this should not preclude involvement in the tourism industry or the on-going discussion and investigation of opportunities. The tourism industry may be able to advise and help develop niche and seasonal business opportunities that meet the expectations and needs of the four-wheel drive based visitors such as tag-a-long tours. The Traditional Owners are open to considering all opportunities.

### **5.3 Community Engagement and Participation**

Working with neighbours for mutual benefit expands the positive influence of the Park beyond its immediate boundary. The Park's remoteness reinforces the need for regional collaboration. The partners will continue to approach neighbouring communities and pastoral operations for support and co-operation in a range of routine management activities along boundaries including: weed control, feral animal management, fencing and fuel reduction burning. The partners will endeavour to arrange for training and support where local capacity for participation in employment is lacking.

### **5.4 Research, survey and monitoring**

Effective management is very much about review and continuous improvement (see Appendix 1). This requires good information about the Parks values, visitor use, environmental trends, and effectiveness of management actions. Most research is carried out internally by the Parks and Wildlife Commission, or related agencies, and have clear objectives and are integrated into operational programs. Permits, however, may also be issued to external research agencies which provide additional opportunities to complement and expand the knowledge of the Park and its values. Traditional Owners have knowledge of the Park that may contribute to these research outcomes and they have expressed strong desires to be consulted and invited to participate in the research, survey and monitoring projects and, where possible, be employed in this work. Senior Traditional Owners may request to supervise any access to non-visitor areas including providing site briefings, directions and conditions of access. It is important that research outcomes are communicated to the partners and for intellectual property rights of Traditional Owners to be protected.

### **5.5 Regulated activities and permits**

All commercial operations, tours, commercial film and photography, public events, public gatherings, interference with or taking wildlife, and special access are regulated within the Park and require a permit under the TPWC Act or TPWC By-Laws. The permits provide the conditions under which the activity can be operated to avoid negative impacts on the values of the Park.

An effective permit process is needed to enable assessment of permit applications submitted to the Parks and Wildlife Commission. The Joint Management Committee will establish local policy and guidelines for Park operations for the issue of permits. The partners will need to have regard to timeliness of processing, the interests of Traditional Owners, the community, industry stakeholders and existing Parks and Wildlife Commission policy. Such guidelines will also explicitly state when a proposed activity will, and will not, require consultation with Traditional Owners. Some permits may require paid supervision by Traditional Owners or Parks and Wildlife Commission staff. Until agreed procedures are in place, the CLC will consult with Traditional Owners on permit applications that request any access or activity that would not normally be allowed to visitors.

**Tour operator permits** – Tour companies require a permit to conduct trade or commerce within the Park (known as a *Tour Operator Permit*) and if other activities requiring a permit are to be carried out, a separate permit may be required. To facilitate permit processing, the information presented by tour operators needs to be accurate and appropriate, particularly for cultural information.

**Promotion, commercial film and photography** – Traditional Owners have no objection to visitors taking non-commercial film or photography in areas where they have permission to visit. Commercial film and photography can be taken in areas of normal public access in accordance with a permit, Park policies and local guidelines, including Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property.

Traditional Owners advise that commercial film and photography of restricted sacred sites will not be approved and images or representations of restricted sacred sites are not to be publicly presented. Commercial film and photography guidelines will be developed as a priority.

**Research permits and guidelines** – research is encouraged, especially where the resulting knowledge will improve management of the Park and the Territory’s park estate. Research proposals will be assessed through consultation with Traditional Owners and Parks and Wildlife Commission staff. Researchers may also require additional permits under the TPWC Act such as a permit to interfere with, take or keep wildlife.

**Development proposals** – All development proposals will be considered and reviewed against guidelines and conditions prepared by the joint management partners to ensure there will be no negative impact on the Park’s values. Where development proposals, leases or activities may cause environmental, heritage or cultural impacts, the proponent will be required to demonstrate that the proposal complies with all relevant legislation. The proposal will also require the informed consent of Traditional Owners and comply with the Parks and Wildlife Commission policy on commercial tourism development.

The types of developments that are likely to occur during the life of this plan include:

- Re-designing and upgrading existing facilities, including interpretive signage;
- Development of an access track to the central portion of the Park linking the Hatches Ck area, through Lennee Ck/Julia Basin to Whistleduck Ck;
- New fences and improved vehicle access.

*‘Walking track and road... can’t make without us. Can’t grade without us. Any new development need the old men to check it... if sacred sites get wrecked, then this old man gets sick... these old ladies too.’*

**Apmerek-artwey and Kwertengerl**

**Benefit sharing Agreements** - With the consideration of the Committee and consent of all affected Traditional Owners, this Plan allows the partners to enter into benefit-sharing arrangements with commercial partners.

**Licence or sub-lease** – In certain circumstances, including where a secure form of land tenure is needed, a licence or sub-lease may be entered into. Any licence or sublease entered into by the Northern Territory in respect of the Park must be consistent with the terms of the Park Lease and this Plan and must have the prior written consent of the Aboriginal Land Trust on behalf of the Traditional Owners.

**Protecting sacred sites** – Protection for places that are of cultural significance in the Northern Territory is afforded under overlapping legislation.

The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) gives legal recognition to areas which that Act terms “sacred sites” and defines as: “a site that is sacred to Aboriginals or is

otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition, and includes any land that, under a law of the Northern Territory, is declared to be sacred to Aboriginals or of significance according to Aboriginal tradition". The Act makes it an offence to enter or remain on land that is a sacred site.

Complementary Northern Territory legislation, the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* (NTASS Act) also provides protection for all sites that fall within the scope of this definition. This protection is generally provided in the form of an Authority Certificate from the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority in response to land use proposals. It means that the traditional Aboriginal owners have an enforceable right to say who enters their sacred sites, and what cannot happen on their sacred sites. Illegal entry, works on or use of a sacred site, is an offence under the NTASS Act.

Strong joint management will ensure that sacred sites are protected in accordance with Traditional Owners' wishes. Under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) the Central Land Council has a specific function to "assist Aboriginals in the taking of measures likely to assist in the protection of sacred sites" and under its established procedures will carry out this role in facilitating joint management.

**Protecting heritage places** – The *Heritage Act* (NT) provides protection and conservation of heritage places and objects. Under the *Heritage Act*, approval is required before any work is carried out on heritage places or objects. In addition, the Traditional Owners request that if any artefacts are uncovered that they are not disturbed and are immediately reported to the senior men through the CLC. Under the *Heritage Act*, it is also an offence to fail to notify the Heritage Branch of the discovery of a place or object that a person knows is an Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological place or object.

**Proposals for changes to the Park area** – In 2008 the Park incorporated part of the Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust (NTP 3977) to improve the management boundary for the Park. Further rationalising may be considered for areas of low conservation value and are subject to considerable impacts and on-going pressure from feral animals and pastoral activity. A small parcel of land, NTP 4387, at Whistleduck Creek may be added to the park and covered by this Plan. While there are no further proposals to expand the Park in the immediate future, the partners may consider co-operative arrangements with neighbouring Aboriginal and pastoral landholders and nearby communities.

**Community living areas** – Community living areas are an integral part of both the continuation of Aboriginal cultural practices and the natural and cultural resource management of the country. Through the *Pastoral Land Act*, Traditional Owners have achieved legal ownership of small land parcels in proximity of the Park. Further sites may be considered by the partners through the Joint Management Committee, however funding is not obligatory on the Territory or Commonwealth Governments. Consent is required from all affected Traditional Owners.

**Mining** – Territory legislation allows for mining in parks and reserves but requires the Minister for Mines to consider the views of the joint management partners prior to granting any mining interest. The partners recognise that mining and extractive activities may adversely impact the Park's cultural and natural values. Under the ALRA, Traditional Owners have the right to control mining on Aboriginal Land. Currently, Traditional Owners feel strongly that mining is not consistent with the values of the Park and are unlikely to approve it. This includes fossicking however this may be revisited in the future. Ochre has always been used in cultural ceremony and practice and nothing limits the right of the Traditional Owners to collect it in the Park.

**Dealing with proposals not in the Plan** – Any proposal not addressed in the Plan will be considered by the Joint Management Committee. Matters affecting the interests of Traditional Owners will require the consent of affected Traditional Owners via consultation conducted by the Central Land Council.

### **Aims of Business Operations**

- The aims and directions in this Plan are achieved with resources used effectively on agreed priorities, and
- Traditional Owners benefiting economically, socially and culturally through joint management.

### **Management Directions**

**5.1 Management strategies and operational programs** – The partners will prepare and implement integrated management strategies and operational programs for the Park.

**5.2 Day-to-day management** – The Parks and Wildlife Commission will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Park under direction of the Joint Management Committee.

**5.3 Financing** – The Parks and Wildlife Commission will finance and resource the Park’s ongoing management including administrative functions, staff, infrastructure and services. Opportunities to supplement the funding of Park operations and programs will be closely examined and could include revenue obtained from sub-leases, commercial agreements, permits etc. External funding may be sought for specific projects or programs.

**5.4 Work experience, training and employment** – The partners are committed to building capacity, employment and career development opportunities for Traditional Owners of the Park.

- **Indigenous Training and Employment Strategy 2014-17** - PWCNT is committed to providing training, capacity building and professional development for Indigenous Territorians to reach a 10-year goal of 30 per cent Indigenous employment within the PWCNT. Indigenous employment will remain a standing item at Joint Management Committee meetings. Training in fire and weed management is a priority for Traditional Owners.
- **Indigenous employment opportunities in the Parks and Wildlife Commission** – the Parks and Wildlife Commission will continue to provide opportunities for work experience, training, casual work and direct employment of Aboriginal people from the district. Steps will be put in place to facilitate the uptake of higher level positions with the long-term goal to have the Senior Ranger position filled by a Traditional Owner.
- **Partnerships with community-based Indigenous rangers and special interest groups** – Flexible employment of Traditional Owners may be expanded in collaboration with nearby community employment programs and local Indigenous community ranger groups. Indigenous training, employment programs and community volunteers will also be encouraged to assist with Park management.
- **Contract services** – The Parks and Wildlife Commission will encourage private sector participation to build the capacity of Aboriginal organisations to fulfil works and service contracts. Preference will be given to participation of Traditional Owners of the Park in any commercial activities conducted under the lease. If other contractors are used, those providing training and employment to local Aboriginal people will be preferred.

**5.5 Tourism** - The partners will liaise with the tourism industry through established forums and organisations. Sustainable cultural and nature-based tourism will be supported, as will the independent four-wheel drive tourist market. Traditional Owners will be encouraged to take up commercial tourism opportunities when they arise. The partners will actively seek assistance from relevant agencies.

**5.6 Cultural Advice** - Traditional Owners will be paid for specialist cultural advice and supervision consistent with the Parks and Wildlife Commission’s Fee for Service – Indigenous Engagement in Parks policy.

**5.7 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property** - Local Indigenous knowledge will only be used with prior consent of the Traditional Owners. Wherever possible, the partners will assist the Traditional Owners to assert their intellectual property rights, consistent with standard policies developed and agreed by the CLC and Parks and Wildlife Commission.

**5.8 Regulated activities** – The Joint Management Committee has established local guidelines and conditions for the issue of permits:

- **Standard permit applications** – Parks and Wildlife Commission staff holding appropriate delegation can approve permit applications that involve activities or commercial concessions which comply with agreed guidelines and conditions, require no special access, and/or are of a nature or type that has already been considered by the Joint Management Committee.
- **Non-standard permit applications** – Consultation with senior Traditional Owners will be required to provide direction to Park operations if a permit application involves special access or activities not addressed by agreed guidelines or conditions.
- **Routine commercial tours** – Permits for tour businesses making normal use of the Park will continue to be issued through the Tour Operator Permit System.
- **Commercial film and photography** – Commercial filming and photography will require a permit. Permits will be subject to local guidelines and conditions and the Parks and Wildlife Commission policy for Commercial Film and Photography policy and guidelines. The partners will not consent to any publication or broadcasting of images of any sacred site.
- **Remote area camping** - a permit is required to camp outside a designated campground.
- **Research** - Wildlife researchers require permits to interfere with, take or keep wildlife. Traditional Owners and Parks and Wildlife Commission staff should be consulted in developing research proposals and proposals should be consistent the TPWC Act, Park policies and guidelines including Indigenous Intellectual Cultural Property.

**5.9 Research, survey and monitoring** - Programs will be approved in operational strategies and subject to annual review. Participation and employment opportunities for Traditional Owners in research, survey and monitoring projects will be maximised. Indigenous knowledge components will be incorporated in project objectives and outcomes where appropriate.

- **Monitoring** – Visitor monitoring will be undertaken as needed and supported by TNT.
- **Park reporting** – The partners will review the Plan in five years based on the performance indicators (Appendix 1) and provide recommendations for change.

**5.10 Development approvals** – Any proposal will require informed consent of affected Traditional Owners, consistent with the Lease and appropriate assessment processes.

- **Impact assessment** - The potential impacts of all proposed activities and developments will be considered and assessed commensurate with the scale of potential impact.
- **Commercial sublease** - To provide long-term security for commercial proponents the partners can provide long term sub-leases and operational arrangements and conditions for an enterprise.
- **Benefit-sharing agreements** – The partners may enter into benefit-sharing arrangements for commercial operations and developments within the Park.
- **Infrastructure sublease** – With approval of affected Traditional Owners (through the Aboriginal Land Trust), consistent with the Lease and appropriate assessment processes, this Plan provides for sub-leases or licenses on the Reserve for specific purposes, including public infrastructure.

- **Sacred sites clearances** – The joint management partners will work together to see that sacred sites are properly protected, supported by the Central Land Council and Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority as required. The Central Land Council will have primary responsibility for consulting traditional owners for all proposed work on the Park.
- **Heritage work approvals** – Approval must be sought under the *Heritage Act* for any works to heritage places and objects.
- **Heritage objects** - Archaeological objects will not be disturbed and will be reported to the NT Heritage Branch within 7 days of its discovery. Traditional Owners also request that a find of any artefacts are immediately reported to the senior Traditional Owners through the CLC.
- **Changing the Park area** – Any proposals to change the Park area will be considered by the partners through the Joint Management Committee, PWCNT and the Northern Territory Government.
- **Establishing new community living areas** - Any proposal to create community living areas within the Park will be considered through the Joint Management Committee.
- **Mining and exploration** - Mining applications will be addressed through the ALRA and s25(AM) of the TPWC Act. Fossicking is currently not permitted but may be considered in the future. Nothing limits the rights of Traditional Owners to gather ochre within the Park.

**5.11 Community engagement** – Neighbours and local stakeholders will be encouraged to work with the partners in matters of mutual interest both inside and outside the Park boundary including strategic planning, developing opportunities and resolving issues.

**5.12 Dealing with Proposals not in the Plan** – Any proposal not addressed in the Plan will be initially considered by the partners through the Joint Management Committee. Any matter that may affect the interests of Traditional Owners will require the consent of affected Traditional Owners via a consultation process conducted by the CLC.

## Appendix 1. Selected performance indicators

These performance indicators are provided to assist the joint management partners to measure success. They are not the only measures of success and other measures may be developed over time. There is a reasonable expectation that they will be achieved, if not year by year, then over the longer term of this plan. When indicators are not achieved, the reasons will be established and steps taken to improve outcomes.

Aims	Performance Indicators	Targets	Means
<b>Managing Country</b>			
Traditional Owners satisfied with their involvement, fulfilment of their cultural responsibilities and protection of cultural sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional Owner satisfaction.</li> </ul>	High	Partners will be asked at annual joint management meetings.
Indigenous knowledge is incorporated into Park operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mutual understanding and park operation capability</li> <li>Traditional Owner satisfaction.</li> </ul>	Increased High	Partners will be asked at annual joint management meetings.
No significant wildfires.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area burnt in fire-tolerant vegetation communities</li> <li>Area burnt in fire-sensitive vegetation</li> </ul>	>5% each year. < 10% over 10 years in total.	Fire mapping, ongoing data management and review.
No large introduced herbivores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence of large introduced herbivores</li> <li>Existing boundary fence maintained</li> </ul>	Low  Stock proof	Opportunistic sightings and occasional aerial surveys.
<b>Managing Visitors</b>			
Visitors enjoy themselves, are safe and highly satisfied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor satisfaction</li> <li>Number of safety related incidents</li> </ul>	High Low	Occasional visitor satisfaction monitoring. Ongoing reporting.
The Park's value as a living cultural landscape is promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional Owner satisfaction</li> <li>Visitor satisfaction</li> </ul>	High High	Partners will be asked at annual joint management meetings.  Opportunistic visitor satisfaction monitoring.

Aims	Performance Indicators	Targets	Means
<b>Park Governance</b>			
Equitable management partnership with effective governance that makes well-informed decisions.	Joint Management Partners Satisfied with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and Engagement</li> <li>• Representation and Decision-making processes</li> <li>• Building capacity</li> </ul>	High	Partners will be asked at annual joint management meetings. Ongoing record-keeping, reporting and review.
The Aims and Directions in this Plan are achieved with resources used effectively on agreed priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement of Aims and Management Directions in this plan</li> <li>• Implementation of strategies and annual operational programs</li> </ul>	Outcomes realised. % of priority actions completed.	Partners will be asked at annual joint management meetings. Ongoing record-keeping, reporting and review.
Traditional Owners benefit from joint management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New skills acquired by Traditional Owners</li> <li>• Number of days employed in Park programs</li> <li>• Number of contract opportunities created and taken up</li> </ul>	Increased	Partners will be asked at annual joint management meetings. Ongoing record-keeping, reporting and review.