



# TENNANT CREEK TELEGRAPH STATION HISTORICAL RESERVE

**Draft Plan of Management**

**April 2002**



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

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## PREFACE

The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is an important link in the story of the Overland Telegraph Line. The building and operation of the Line was a major factor in the pattern of development of what was thereafter to become the Northern Territory.

In order to tell the story to both local visitors and tourists alike, management of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is done according to heritage principles that ensure that the significance of the site is maintained.

The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is a community resource and asset. I envisage that the people of Tennant Creek will continue to be involved in the management of the Station, using it as a reminder of their history.

This Plan of Management is a commitment towards the protection of the important heritage values of the Reserve, whilst providing opportunities for the community to continue to use and learn from the Telegraph Station for many years to come.



The Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA  
Minister for Parks and Wildlife



# Northern Territory Heritage Register

## Statement of Heritage Value

### Tennant Creek Telegraph Station

*The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is highly significant, not only to the Territory but also to Australia, since the building of the Overland Telegraph Line from Port Augusta to Darwin in the early 1870s not only provided an international communication link, but the Station also became an extremely important base for numerous exploration and prospecting expeditions and a focal point for pastoral and mining development in the Barkly Region.*

*Commencing in 1874, the previous temporary structures were replaced with substantive iron-roofed stone buildings purpose-built for their primary function of operating the Overland Telegraph Line. In 1935 the Station reverted to a depot and place of accommodation for Government employees. From 1955 the buildings became a station 'homestead' with modifications and additions made to suit their new purpose. Some of these transitions are still evident in the buildings today.*

*The Overland Telegraph Station at Tennant Creek is situated on land that traditionally belonged to the Warumungu people and is near a very significant sacred site called "Jurnkurakurr" which is where a Dreamtime being "Jalawala" (the black nosed python) lives. When the Telegraph Station was established it became an important place of contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with some Aboriginal people being employed there throughout its history.*

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve is to conserve the heritage significance of the Telegraph Station complex. The Reserve also provides an interesting and educational attraction for visitors travelling the Stuart Highway and provides a venue for social functions for the people of the Tennant Creek region.

This plan sets guidelines for the future management of the Reserve in order to conserve its historical resources.

Major management directions for the Reserve during the life of this Plan are:

- The continued management and maintenance of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, its facilities and values in accordance with the 1992 Conservation Plan as updated in February 2001.
- The continued provision the Reserve as an attraction for visitors and a local venue for community activities and functions.

This Draft Plan was prepared by the Alice Springs Strategic Planning and Development Unit of the Parks and Wildlife Commission in conjunction with the Barkly District Park staff. This Plan is in two Parts. Part A consists of the General Park Management Principles and Directions that apply in all NT parks and reserves. This Part is included in all Parks and Wildlife Commission Plans of Management. Part B focusses on the special characteristics of Native Gap Conservation Reserve and on the specific management issues facing the Reserve.

<b>PREFACE</b>	iii
<b>STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE</b>	iv
<b>SUMMARY</b>	iv
<b>CONTENTS</b>	v
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 The Reserve and its Location	1
1.2 The Values of the Reserve	2
1.3 Regional Context	2
1.4 The Purpose of the Reserve and the Intent of this Plan	2
<b>PART A. GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND DIRECTIONS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 General Principles	6
3.2 Management Directions	6
3.2.1 Native Species Management	7
3.2.2 Fire Management	7
3.2.3 Exotic Animal Species Management	8
3.2.4 Weed Management	9
<b>4. MANAGEMENT for ABORIGINAL INTERESTS INCLUDING PROTECTION OF SITES</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 General Principles	10
4.2 Management Directions	11
<b>5. MANAGEMENT of HISTORIC SITES</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1 General Principles	12
5.2 Management Directions	12
<b>6. VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 General Principles	13
6.2 Management Directions	14
<b>7. PARK ADMINISTRATION, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>15</b>
7.1 General Principles	15
7.2 Management Directions	15
7.2.1 General Administration	15
7.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement	16
7.2.3 Concessions Management	17

<b>PART B.</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT of TENNANT CREEK TELEGRAPH STATION HISTORICAL RESERVE</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>ZONING SCHEME</b>	<b>18</b>
8.1	Visitor Use Zone	18
8.2	Historical Zone	18
8.3	Minimum Use Zone	19
8.4	Service Zone	19
<b>9.</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE’S VALUES</b>	<b>22</b>
9.1.	Conservation Plan	22
9.2	Historical Values	23
9.3	Recreational Values	24
9.4	Educational Values	25
9.5	Amenity Values	26
<b>10.</b>	<b>RESERVE ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>27</b>
10.1	Legislative Requirements	27
10.2	Reserve Administration	28
10.3	Visitor Facilities	28
10.4	Visitor Monitoring	28
10.5	Information and Interpretation	29
<b>11.</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM</b>	<b>30</b>
11.1	Management Actions	30
11.2	Targets	31
	<b>FIGURES &amp; TABLES</b>	
	Figure 1 – The Reserve and Locality	3
	Figure 2 – Zoning Scheme	21
	Table 1 – Summary of Zoning Scheme	20
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
	Appendix 1 – Conservation Plan Update, 2002	32

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Reserve and its Location.

Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve is located 300metres east of the Stuart Highway, 10km north of Tennant Creek (see Figure 1). The Historical Reserve consists of two Portions, namely NT Portion 4702 (13.64 hectares) that contains the Telegraph Station complex and NT Portion 4429 (3370m<sup>2</sup>) encompassing the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station bores.

On 20 August 1980 the Central Land Council submitted Land Claim No. 22 over a large area of land that included the Telegraph Station area. The claim was lodged under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory)* on behalf of the Warumungu Aboriginal people claiming to have a traditional claim to the area.

The 1987 proposal for a Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve covered an area of 1972 hectares, comprising of NT Portions 487, 496, 497 and 2442 (survey plans S85/85B & C, August 1986). NT Portion 2442 had previously been vested in the Conservation Land Corporation ( NT Government Gazette G36 of 10 September 1986), while NT Portions 487, 496, 497 were Crown Land in the process of being acquired for inclusion into the Reserve.

Following a recommendation by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner a negotiated settlement for Land Claim No 22 was eventually reached in August 1991 to resolve the section of the claim covering the Telegraph Station. The settlement involved the offer of Northern Territory freehold title land surrounding the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station to the Warumungu Aboriginal people as the Partta Aboriginal Land Corporation. The settlement excluded the Telegraph Station and immediate environs and an area containing the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station bores. 13.64 hectares of land containing the Telegraph Station was then surveyed as NT Portion 4072 and a separate area of 3370m<sup>2</sup> surrounding the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station bores as NT Portion 4429. The Conservation Land Corporation holds Northern Territory freehold title to both of these NT Portions. The Reserve has yet to be officially named.

The Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Justice Maurice, in his report on the Warumungu Land Claim stated: - *“There is no place of greater spiritual significance to the Warumungu than Jurnkurakurr, spiritual home of Jalawala (the black nose python), the Mungamunga women, and Kiliriji (another snake); actors in a sequence of primordial events of continuing significance to the Warumungu people. Yet this very place was the first to be permanently occupied by whites in the region, for this was the site of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.”*

Whilst these Aboriginal sites are in close proximity to the Telegraph Station none are within the surveyed boundary of NT portion 4072. The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority advised in September 2000 that no Registered or Recorded sites occur within NT portion 4072. There are currently no native title claims over the Reserve.

The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is listed as an indicative place on the Register of the National Estate as site No. 13878, 12 December 1984 (Technical Section – Historic Environment) with a Statement of Significance of “*A rare Northern Territory Telegraph Station, virtually intact*”. The Telegraph Station (NT Portion 4072) and an area surrounding the two graves (NT Portion 4771(A)) were declared a heritage place and listed on the NT Heritage Register in July 2001 (NT Government Gazette G26, July 4 2001). The NT Statement of Heritage Value is on page iv.

## **1.2 The Values of the Reserve**

The **historical values** of the Reserve relate to the history associated with the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station and the use of the telegraph buildings since that time. The Station was an important link in the Overland Telegraph Line and one of the first permanent European settlements in the Barkly region. It played an important part in the later settlement and development of the region, particularly in the pastoral sphere.

The **recreational and tourism values** relate to the Telegraph Station complex and information aimed at making the Reserve an interesting and educational stop for visitors. The Reserve offers considerable educational opportunities to local schools who can discover the significance of the Telegraph Station and learn the wider story of the Overland Telegraph Line, as well as the significance of near by *Jurnkurakurr*. The area amongst the historic buildings provides a venue for functions with appropriate themes for the people of the Tennant Creek area.

## **1.3 Regional Context**

The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is an important component of the parks and reserves associated with early exploration and the construction and operation of the Overland Telegraph Line. Visitors travelling the Stuart Highway can call into telegraph stations and sites associated with the Telegraph Line, sites that include the Alice Springs and Barrow Creek Telegraph Stations, Ryan Well and Frew Ponds.

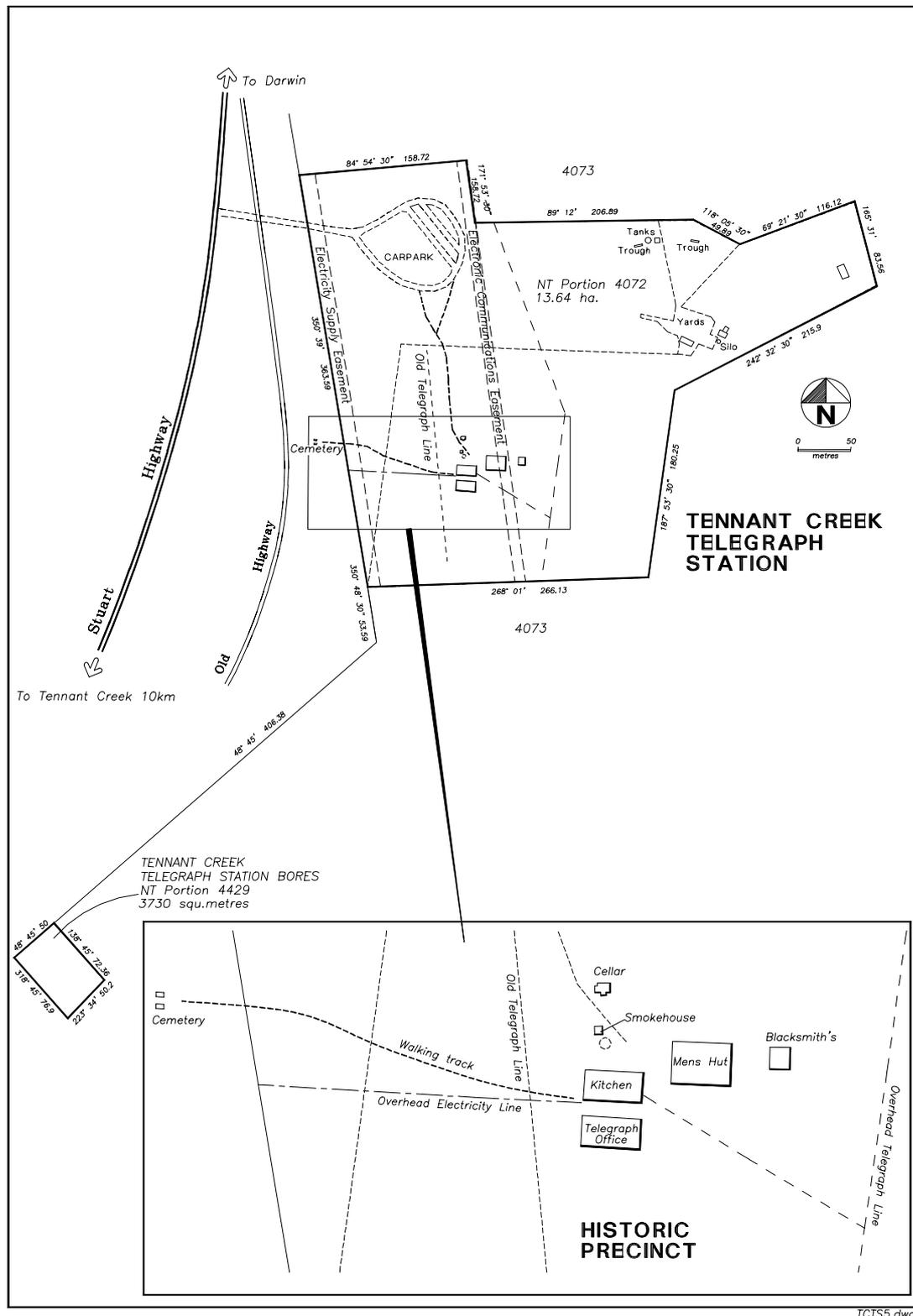
## **1.4 The Purpose of the Reserve and the Intent of this Plan**

Historical reserves throughout the Northern Territory recognise and conserve areas of significance for past exploration and settlement by Europeans. Their foremost aim is to protect the values that contribute to that significance whether by physical evidence or locations where significant events occurred. The aim and purpose of this Plan is to ensure the protection and conservation of the Reserve’s values.

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. This Plan states the management intentions of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory for the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve. The purpose of this Plan of Management is to guide the future protection and conservation of the Park's natural and social values consistent with relevant legislation, NT Government policies and the wishes of the Aboriginal custodians and other stakeholders. The Plan aims to achieve this by identifying key

values of the Park, current and potential threats or pressures on those values and management actions to ameliorate these pressures. To assess the success of these actions the Plan also identifies appropriate performance measures or indicators and targets for each value.

**Figure 1. Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and Locality**



## **PART A. GENERAL PARK MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND DIRECTIONS**

This Part presents the general principles and directions which apply to the parks and reserves<sup>1</sup> (around one hundred) managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. It focuses on:

- management of native plants, animals and the natural environment;
- management of Aboriginal interests and sites;
- management of non-Aboriginal historic sites;
- visitor management and the provision of recreational opportunities;
- park administration, stakeholder management and concessions management.

It is incorporated as a key component of all Plans of Management prepared according to the requirements of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and of other Management Plans for parks not declared under that Act.

### **2. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Plans of Management, incorporating this Document, are central to the Parks and Wildlife Commission's management framework, and provide the basis for measuring progress over time.

Recently, the Commission has moved to address the issue of managing for outcomes through a management regime monitored and controlled through the Project Management System. In the case of park management, this provides the basis for setting short-term objectives and pursuing these through the achievement of realistic milestones. Within each of the Parks and Wildlife Commission's nine administrative districts throughout the Northern Territory, annual project plans are developed for the following key areas:

1. native species management;
2. fire management;
3. exotic animal species management;
4. weed management;
5. visitor management;
6. cultural values management;
7. stakeholder engagement; and
8. district management.

With respect to individual parks, however, successful operation of the Project Management System requires longer-term goals and targets to be set in the Plan of Management for each park.

Additional feedback on progress from year to year is provided through the Park Audit System. For each of the eight program areas, annual park audits are to be conducted

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document 'parks' will be used to refer to 'parks and reserves'.

for all parks to determine if targets and desired trends are being achieved. Audits are in place for the first six program areas. Audits for the stakeholder and district management programs are yet to be developed.

For each park, the overall implementation of the Plan of Management will be monitored through a review conducted after five years of operation in which progress with respect to management actions and overall direction will be assessed. This assessment will also determine whether the Plan requires revision or should continue in operation for the intended ten-year period.

At the end of its ten-year life, the Plan will be further reviewed and a report prepared assessing the level of success achieved in implementation. This report will then be used to aid the preparation of a new Plan of Management.

### **3. MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

A primary objective in the management of parks is the protection and management of native plants and animals and the natural environment. In the Northern Territory such protection is guided by the following set of general principles.

#### **3.1 General Principles**

- The native plants and animals of a park represent primary values which are dependent upon maintenance of natural habitats and ecological processes.
- The effective management of a park's natural values requires a sound knowledge base.
- Introduced plants and animals have the potential to alter a park's ecosystems to the detriment of native flora and fauna and landscape/aesthetic values.
- Fire is an inescapable process in the landscape that demands careful management to achieve conservation objectives.
- The maintenance of a park's scenic values and natural character is fundamental to the value of the park as a whole.
- Accelerated soil erosion arising from new or poorly managed processes can threaten landscapes and habitats.
- The hydrological resources of a park are a critical element of the park's ecosystems and the maintenance of their integrity is crucial.
- Effective visitor management is crucial to the protection of a park's native plants and animals and the habitats and ecological processes upon which they depend.
- Any substantial management action may benefit some species, disadvantage others, and have no effect on yet other species. Hence, in prioritising management actions, long-term implications should be taken into account as well as the satisfaction of short-term objectives.
- Management actions must give weight to long-term impacts above short-term effects.

#### **3.2 Management Directions**

Within the Northern Territory, the application of the above principles is focussed on the following four areas:

### 3.2.1 Native Species Management

<b>Management Objective</b>	<i>To provide an overall framework for the protection of plants, animals and the natural environment within Territory parks, and for the management of species of flora and fauna of particular conservation interest.</i>	
<b>Management Directions</b>	<p>The protection of native plants, animals and the natural environment, including the retention of all species will be accorded the highest priority in the management of NT parks.</p> <p>Research, monitoring and recording of natural values and ecological processes will be accorded high priority.</p> <p>Particular attention will be directed at the management requirements and status of threatened plant and animal species.</p> <p>Projects will be developed for the protection of all threatened species, and will take into account any relevant Species Recovery Plans.</p> <p>No developments or activities will be permitted that may seriously affect natural ecological processes or the aesthetic value of a park's landscapes.</p> <p>Soil erosion sufficiently severe to compromise other management imperatives will be controlled and efforts will be made to rehabilitate seriously affected areas.</p> <p>Interpretation and community education programs will be used to help visitors, school children and the wider community understand and appreciate the natural values of Territory parks, and of the ways in which these are best managed; and to adopt impact-reducing behaviour.</p>	
<b>Performance Measures</b> In accordance with the Biodiversity and Species Management Audit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total number of native species present</li> <li>2. Distribution of species currently classified as threatened or of greater conservation concern</li> <li>3. Abundance of species currently classified as threatened or of greater conservation concern.</li> </ol>	<b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management	

### 3.2.2 Fire Management

<b>Management Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To protect native plants, animals and the natural environment and minimise detrimental impacts of wildfires on the environment.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To protect people, personal property and park assets from harm due to fire.</i></li> <li>3. <i>To improve scientific understanding of the role of fire in the landscape of Territory parks and to use this knowledge for improved fire management practices.</i></li> <li>4. <i>To establish, with respect to the management of fire, a cooperative working relationship with neighbours</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Management Directions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The management of fire will be given high priority as a key mechanism for protecting and managing native plants, animals and the natural environment in Territory parks.</li> <li>2. Fire management activities will follow sound strategic planning principles with decisions and actions based on the best information available. The general direction of the fire management program for the park will be established through the annual project review and program audit. Specific attention in planning and implementing the program will be given to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protection of native plants, animals and the natural environment;</li> <li>• minimising impact on the recreational and aesthetic values and ensuring the protection of people, personal property and park assets;</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of cultural resources that may be damaged by fire and adoption of strategies to ensure their protection;</li> <li>• systematic monitoring with the aim of achieving better understanding of fire-habitat relationships and more informed fire management in the future; and</li> <li>• staff and visitor safety.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Efforts will be made to minimise the risk of wildfire incursions into Territory parks and will include cooperation with neighbouring landholders.</li> <li>4. Restrictions on the lighting of fires may be applied in times of high to extreme fire risk or in accordance with the <i>Bushfires Act</i>.</li> <li>5. Visitor access to all or part of Territory parks may be regulated or restricted in times of high to extreme fire danger.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Performance Measures</b> In accordance with the Fire Management Audit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extent and type of fires matched to stated operational objectives</li> <li>2. Area adversely affected by wildfire</li> <li>3. Impact of fire on fire sensitive sites</li> <li>4. Incidence of fire in area designated as fire-free</li> <li>5. Effectiveness of fire management in maintaining the extent and habitat suitability of the major vegetation types</li> </ol>	<p><b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management</p>

### 3.2.3 Exotic Animal Species Management

<p><b>Management Objective</b></p>	<p><i>To minimise the impact of exotic animals on the native plants, animals and natural environment of NT parks.</i></p>	
<p><b>Management Directions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Managers will seek to reduce or eliminate the impact of exotic animals on the native plants, animals and natural environment of Territory parks.</li> <li>2. Exotic animal control activities will be outlined in the feral animal management project statement and will be based on a strategic approach to the control of exotic animals with attention being directed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the ecology and behaviour of feral animals;</li> <li>• assessment of the impact of exotic animals, and of a range of possible mitigation measures;</li> <li>• staff competencies and training requirements;</li> <li>• the interests of stakeholders;</li> <li>• safety of staff and Park visitors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. A feral animal monitoring program will be developed for Territory parks.</li> <li>4. Programs will be developed in conjunction with neighbours.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Performance Measures</b> In accordance with the Exotic Animal Management Audit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type, extent and density of exotic animals</li> <li>2. Impact of exotic animals on park values</li> <li>3. No. of incursions into areas designated as exotic animal-free</li> <li>4. Extent of management effort to control exotic animals.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management</p>	

### 3.2.4 Weed Management

<b>Management Objective</b>	<i>To minimise the impact of weeds on the native plants, animals and natural environment of NT parks.</i>	
<b>Management Directions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Managers will seek to significantly reduce the impact of weeds on the native plants, animals and natural environment of Territory parks.</li> <li>2. Weed control activities will be outlined in the weed management project statement and will be based on a strategic approach that gives attention to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• criteria for assessing priority such as threat to rare or sensitive habitats, aesthetic and recreational impacts, status under legislation and probability of long-term success;</li> <li>• assessment of the impact of weeds, and of a range of possible mitigation measures;</li> <li>• monitoring and maintenance of identified priority weed-free areas;</li> <li>• control options best suited to different species and conditions, including burning, slashing, physical removal and chemical methods;</li> <li>• the ecology and life cycle of target weed species;</li> <li>• education and cooperation of neighbours and visitors in minimising the risk of weed spread;</li> <li>• minimising the risk of seed spread during and after control activities; and</li> <li>• staff training and safety standards.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. A weed monitoring program that includes the collation of data, allowing for comparisons of data across the years will be established for Territory parks.</li> </ol>	
<b>Performance Measures</b> In accordance with the Weed Management Audit: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extent and severity of weeds</li> <li>2. Extent of weed control effort</li> <li>3. Assessment of weed species highly likely to cause severe impacts if left untreated</li> <li>4. % of park area essentially weed-free</li> <li>5. % of park area subject to dense infestation</li> </ol>	<b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management	

## 4. MANAGEMENT FOR ABORIGINAL INTERESTS INCLUDING PROTECTION OF SITES

The Parks and Wildlife Commission aims to protect the Aboriginal interests and sites of significance which occur in nearly all Northern Territory parks. Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are important stakeholders with respect to all activities of the Parks and Wildlife Commission. A number of factors contribute towards making the relationship between the Commission and Aboriginal communities sufficiently special to be treated separately from other stakeholders. These include:

- ***The Social Characteristics of the Northern Territory:*** Aboriginal people make up over 25% of the population.
- ***Aboriginal ownership and interest in Territory lands:*** Through Land Claims, 50% of Northern Territory lands are under Aboriginal ownership, including several high profile national parks. Underpinning this formal recognition of ownership, there is also the deep and abiding spiritual connection of people to many other lands, including most NT parks.
- ***Coincidence of Operations and Interests:*** The Parks and Wildlife Commission tends to operate in the rural/remote areas of the Territory where the majority of Aboriginal people live. There is also a shared interest in conservation with Aboriginal people displaying a major concern with “caring for their country”.
- ***Common Interest in Parks:*** The involvement of Aboriginal people in the Territory's parks brings considerable benefits to the park system, adding an important cultural dimension to areas which contribute significantly to the conservation of the Northern Territory's native plants, animals and natural environment, and to visitor interest.

Management will be in accordance with the following general principles.

### 4.1 General Principles

- The significance of Territory park areas to Aboriginal custodians is an important value in its own right.
- Involvement of Aboriginal communities enriches park management and is important to ensure consideration of Aboriginal perspectives.
- The development of economic opportunities, including provision of employment, contract services and concessionary enterprises for local Aboriginal people, is an obligation accepted formally under some joint management arrangements, and it is desirable that it be extended more widely.
- It is desirable that park visitors gain respect for and understanding of traditional culture and history associated with Territory parks, as well as any association between Aboriginal communities and the parks.

## 4.2 Management Directions

<p><b>Management Objectives</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To recognise and protect values, areas, sites and artefacts of significance to Aboriginal people.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To manage park values relating to Aboriginal cultural in accordance with the wishes of those with traditional affiliations to the area.</i></li> <li>3. <i>To encourage visitor understanding and appreciation of the cultural values attached to Territory parks.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>Management Directions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aboriginal interests, values and concerns will be taken into account in the management of Territory parks. Ongoing, effective consultation in relation to all aspects of management of Territory parks will be pursued.</li> <li>2. Insofar as traditional activities do not significantly conflict with conservation values and visitor safety and enjoyment, those activities will be accommodated in Territory parks.</li> <li>3. Further documentation and research into places and objects of cultural significance, knowledge and history will be encouraged and facilitated.</li> <li>4. Aboriginal sites of significance will be protected according to the wishes of the traditional custodians.</li> <li>5. All Aboriginal archaeological sites and objects are automatically protected under the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>.</li> <li>6. Proposed developments in Territory parks will require site investigation and clearance from the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.</li> <li>7. The Commission will establish formal mechanisms to ensure that the Aboriginal custodians are consulted with respect to the management of Territory parks.</li> <li>8. Support will be given to Aboriginal organisations or individuals wishing to run appropriate interpretive and educational programs within Territory parks or to be involved in park management. In addition, relevant Aboriginal organisations will be encouraged to apply for contracts for park operations such as track maintenance, campground and picnic area cleaning, and cultural site management.</li> <li>9. Consultation with Aboriginal custodians will be undertaken to ensure that appropriate interpretative messages relating to Aboriginal culture and values are communicated to park visitors.</li> <li>10. Any developments in Territory parks or any other “act” for the purposes of the <i>Native Title Act</i> (“NTA”), done in the parks, will comply with the requirements of the NTA.”</li> </ol>
<p><b>Performance Measures</b> Extent of degradation of Aboriginal areas and sites as determined by the Cultural Management Audit.</p>	<p><b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management</p>

## 5. MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC SITES

For many Australians the non-Aboriginal historic sites which occur in Territory parks are highly valued. The Parks and Wildlife Commission aims to protect these sites in accordance with the following general principles.

### 5.1 General Principles

- Historical features and the history of Territory parks are important values that provide insight into the past, and should be identified and protected wherever possible.
- Management of historic sites and artefacts should follow recognised practices and procedures.
- It is desirable that park visitors should appreciate the historical significance of Territory parks and of the sites within them.

### 5.2 Management Directions

<b>Management Objective</b>	<i>To recognise the historical values of Territory parks and to ensure the appropriate protection of sites and objects of historical interest.</i>	
<b>Management Directions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Documentation of the history, historic sites and artefacts in Territory parks will be encouraged to increase understanding of the values and provide information that will facilitate management.</li> <li>2. All conservation work and management of historic sites and artefacts in a park will follow ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) principles and recommended procedures outlined in the Burra Charter.</li> <li>3. Where there are significant historical values in Territory parks, work will be in accordance with a Conservation Plan prepared by suitably qualified experts.</li> </ol>	
<b>Performance Measures</b> Extent of degradation of historic sites as determined by the Cultural Management Audit.	<b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management	

## **6. VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The majority of Northern Territory Parks make some provision for visitors. Recreation is an important component in all parks other than in a small number of parks that are primarily concerned with conservation of particular species or other aspect of the natural environment. The Parks and Wildlife Commission aims to manage visitors and recreation according to the following general principles:

### **6.1 General Principles**

- Parks provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate the values for which they have been set aside. Recreation is an important element in the use, appreciation and enjoyment of parks by visitors.
- Poorly designed recreational facilities or infrastructure can diminish park values as well as visitor experiences.
- Well designed interpretation and education programs can increase visitor knowledge and understanding of park values and their management leading to enhanced visitor experiences and compliance with management provisions.
- The safety of park visitors is of paramount importance in the development and management of parks.
- Issues related to equity of use including gender and physical impairment are primary considerations in the provision of visitor access and development of park visitor facilities.
- Effective liaison with the tourism industry can help to improve the delivery of park recreational opportunities and the provision of visitor services.
- An understanding of visitor use and expectations can help to improve park recreational opportunities and the provision of visitor services.
- Appropriate commercial operations can be a very important tool for managing visitors and better utilizing staff resources. Well-managed operations can make parks more enjoyable to a greater number of people and contribute to the value of the tourism industry. In addition, appropriate and well-managed commercial operations may enhance visitor opportunities and enjoyment, contribute significantly to local economies, and reduce the resource requirements of park management.

## 6.2 Management Directions

<b>Management Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To provide safe and high quality visitor experiences.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To minimise the impact of visitors on park values.</i></li> <li>3. <i>To offer recreational opportunities consistent with maintaining park values.</i></li> <li>4. <i>To provide appropriate visitor facilities and opportunities to understand and appreciate park values.</i></li> </ol>	
<b>Management Directions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Visitor Monitoring Strategy will be developed for each park to monitor visitor numbers, activities, preferences and satisfaction levels to assist park management and planning. The Strategy will contain the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• counting of park visits and regular maintenance and calibration of counting devices,</li> <li>• effective management of data from counters, surveys, commercial operations and ranger observations,</li> <li>• a program of quantitative and qualitative assessment of visitor satisfaction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Visitor access, the provision of visitor facilities and the development of recreational opportunities will be in accordance with the zoning scheme.</li> <li>3. Safety standards and procedures will be followed in all aspects of park management. Visitor safety will be promoted through information management including the use of signs, publications and park interpretation programs.</li> <li>4. An interpretation program will be developed for Territory parks. The program will seek to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate orientation to park visitors;</li> <li>• relevant safety information and also advise visitors of hazards or potential dangers that they could encounter during their visit;</li> <li>• information about the recreational opportunities available to visitors during their visit; and</li> <li>• messages and information for visitors about park values.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Visitor facilities will be designed and sited to minimise adverse impacts on park values.</li> <li>6. All facilities will be designed and constructed to minimise the risk of injury to visitors.</li> <li>7. The impacts of recreational use on Territory parks will be monitored. Activities that are identified as having adverse impacts on park values will be controlled.</li> <li>8. All park developments will be carried out with a minimum of interference to park values and in accordance with relevant Territory legislation including the Environmental Assessment Act, Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act and the Heritage Conservation Act, as well as the Commonwealth's Native Title Act.</li> <li>9. Visitor services, access and facilities will be provided on an equitable basis wherever practicable in relation to all park developments. Facilities provided for disabled access will be designed in accordance with Australian Standards.</li> </ol>	
<b>Performance Measures</b> In accordance with the Visitor Monitoring System. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visitor satisfaction</li> <li>2. No. of visitor safety incidents</li> <li>3. Site impact of visitors</li> </ol>	<b>Desired Trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management	

## 7. PARK ADMINISTRATION, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is committed to the effective management of its Parks, including appropriate concessions where these are shown to enhance the visitor experience and supplement scarce park management resources. The Commission's administration will be guided by the following set of general principles:

### 7.1 General Principles

- Park management should be conducted within a framework of effective and efficient use of resources, and should be outcome oriented.
- Effective park management is dependent upon the selection of competent staff and their continued professional development and training.
- Park management benefits substantially from the involvement of stakeholders and the general public.
- Volunteers can make a major contribution to park management and assist in making scarce resources go further.
- The safety of visitors is of paramount importance in the management of the Territory's parks.

### 7.2 Management Directions

Within the Northern Territory, the application of the above principles is focussed on the following three areas:

#### 7.2.1 General Administration

<b>Management Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To provide responsible management and appropriate and efficient administration of Territory parks.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To ensure that park staff are highly professional, fully trained and enjoy safe and healthy work practices and working environments.</i></li> <li>3. <i>To maximise the safety of visitors and staff.</i></li> </ol>
<b>Management Directions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Park management will be guided by a project management and audit system which provides the basis for measuring outcomes and gauging progress in the achievement of management objectives.</li> <li>2. The selection of suitable staff and their professional development will be accorded high priority.</li> <li>3. Suitable training for staff will be provided in the skills necessary to perform required duties.</li> <li>4. Wherever possible contract services will be used for general visitor facility maintenance and visitor services.</li> <li>5. Management programs suitable for volunteers will continue to be identified.</li> </ol>

	<p>The Commission will actively encourage the community to become involved in programs within Territory parks including education, interpretation, monitoring and park maintenance tasks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. All major facility developments for both visitors and park administration will be subject to environmental assessment to ensure appropriate siting and to minimise damage to the natural and cultural resources of the park.</li> <li>7. Emergency Response Procedures will be carried out in accordance with the Commission's Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures.</li> <li>8. Visitor information, including signs and interpretation material will inform visitors of potential safety hazards and appropriate precautions.</li> <li>9. Operations for the exploration and recovery of minerals on parks may be permitted in accordance with the <i>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> and <i>Mining Act</i>, and current administrative arrangements between the Parks and Wildlife Commission, the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment and the Department of Mines and Energy. These arrangements will be monitored to ensure that they provide for protection of key park values.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Performance Measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project milestones met</li> <li>2. Staff competency levels</li> <li>3. No. of volunteers hours</li> <li>4. No. of safety incidents</li> </ol>	<p><b>Desired Trends</b></p> <p>To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management</p>

## 7.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

<p><b>Management Objectives</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To ensure adequate and appropriate consultation and representation of stakeholders interests in the management of Territory parks.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To foster the involvement of stakeholders in relevant areas of park management.</i></li> <li>3. <i>To establish effective mechanisms for consultation with the key stakeholders.</i></li> <li>4. <i>To actively encourage and involve stakeholders and other agencies and organisations in the conservation of biodiversity in the districts surrounding Territory parks.</i></li> <li>5. <i>To engender a positive community attitude to Territory parks.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>Management Directions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Parks and Wildlife Commission will be mindful of the need to keep the community and park stakeholders involved and informed with regard to all issues and proposed developments of mutual interest. Any community involvement initiatives that will assist achievement of the park's management objectives will be supported.</li> <li>2. Park staff will regularly liaise with its neighbours in relation to cooperative management in the use and control of fire, control of stock and feral animals, weed control, soil conservation, fences, aspects of Aboriginal interest, visitor access and tourism development.</li> <li>3. Annual assessment of stakeholder liaison will be undertaken for Territory parks as part of the Stakeholder Management Audit component (once developed) of the Park Program Audits.</li> <li>4. The Commission will continue to encourage resident Aboriginal people and others with traditional affiliations with Territory parks to accept invitations to be involved in management advisory activities and will strive for a consultative process that is ongoing, open, accountable and accessible to the parties involved. Effective consultation and involvement will also be facilitated with ongoing education of park staff of the need to consult.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Performance Measure</b> In accordance with Stakeholder Management Audit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No. of complaints from stakeholders</li> <li>2. No. of engagements with stakeholders</li> <li>3. Satisfaction of stakeholders with the Commission</li> </ol>	<p><b>Desired Trend</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management</p>
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### 7.2.3 Concessions Management

<p><b>Management Objectives</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>To make provision for appropriate commercial activities which enhance the visitor experience in NT parks and reserves and/or supplement management resources.</i></li> <li>2. <i>To ensure that any commercial activities undertaken in Territory parks are of a high standard and compatible with each park's character and values.</i></li> </ol>
<p><b>Management Directions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Commission may issue permits, leases and licences for concessions operations where these enhance the visitor experience. Such operations will be required to operate under the Commission's Concessionary Operations Policy.</li> <li>2. Permits, licences, leases will provide details on the manner in which the operation may be carried out, including any restrictions on activities. In the development of conditions, consideration will be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• environmental impact;</li> <li>• impacts on park visitors;</li> <li>• codes of conduct;</li> <li>• visitor safety;</li> <li>• visitor information standards;</li> <li>• Aboriginal training and employment opportunities, where applicable;</li> <li>• carrying capacities or limits on the level of activity that can be undertaken;</li> <li>• penalties in the event of failure to comply with conditions,</li> <li>• operational term and review period.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Performance measures</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Level of satisfaction of visitors with commercial services as determined by surveys conducted as part of the visitor monitoring program for the park</li> <li>2. Contribution of commercial services to park management</li> </ol>	<p><b>Desired trends</b> To be determined for each park and included in individual plans of management</p>

## **PART B. MANAGEMENT of TENNANT CREEK TELEGRAPH STATION HISTORICAL RESERVE**

This Part of the Plan focuses on the special characteristics of Native Gap Conservation Reserve, and specifies a number of management actions and programs designed to protect the cultural and natural values of the Reserve and to address the key management issues. These actions/programs, specific to Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, are in addition to those of a more general nature outlined in Part A.

### **8. ZONING SCHEME**

The Zoning Scheme is an important tool in pursuing the intent of this Plan. The scheme provides the basis for regulating the activities of visitors and allowing for appropriate management of the Park's resources.

Visitor access to any of the zones may be restricted if it is seen to be having a deleterious effect on the values of the Park.

Four zones have been identified to regulate the use, development and management of the Reserve (see Figure 2). These zones have been identified as the Visitor Use Zone, Historical Zone, Minimum Use Zone and Service Zone.

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

#### **8.1 Visitor Use Zone**

The purpose of this zone is to provide an area for visitor facilities. Minimal disturbance to the natural resources will occur during the siting and development of facilities. Facilities provided in the zone will be minimal and include the car park, pit toilet, walking tracks and unobtrusive information and interpretive signs relating to the history of the site and use of the area by Aboriginal people.

#### **8.2 Historical Zone**

The purpose of this zone is to provide protection of the historical values of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.

Management of the historic fabric in this zone will be in accordance with guidelines set in the Conservation Plan Update, 2001. Facilities will be limited to walking tracks and carefully located information and interpretive signs telling visitors of the history and significance of the Telegraph Station buildings. Special functions and educational activities with an historic or 'bush' theme may also be catered for in this zone. Low key business operations such as a guiding service or providing morning and afternoon teas may be conducted from the historic

buildings. Visitor access through this zone will be by foot only. Service vehicles only may enter this Zone.

### **8.3 Minimum Use Zone**

The principal purpose of this zone is to provide a setting for the Telegraph Station. Controlling vehicle movement in this zone will allow the Reserve's native flora to re-establish in previously degraded areas such as disused tracks and the cattle yards. Grasses and occasional small shrubs cover this zone. Facilities in this zone will be limited to services, fencing and essential service tracks only. A future caretaker's residence/demountable building may be located in this zone away from the historic buildings. A suitable site may be in the vicinity of the old stock yards approximately 500 metres north-east of the historic buildings.

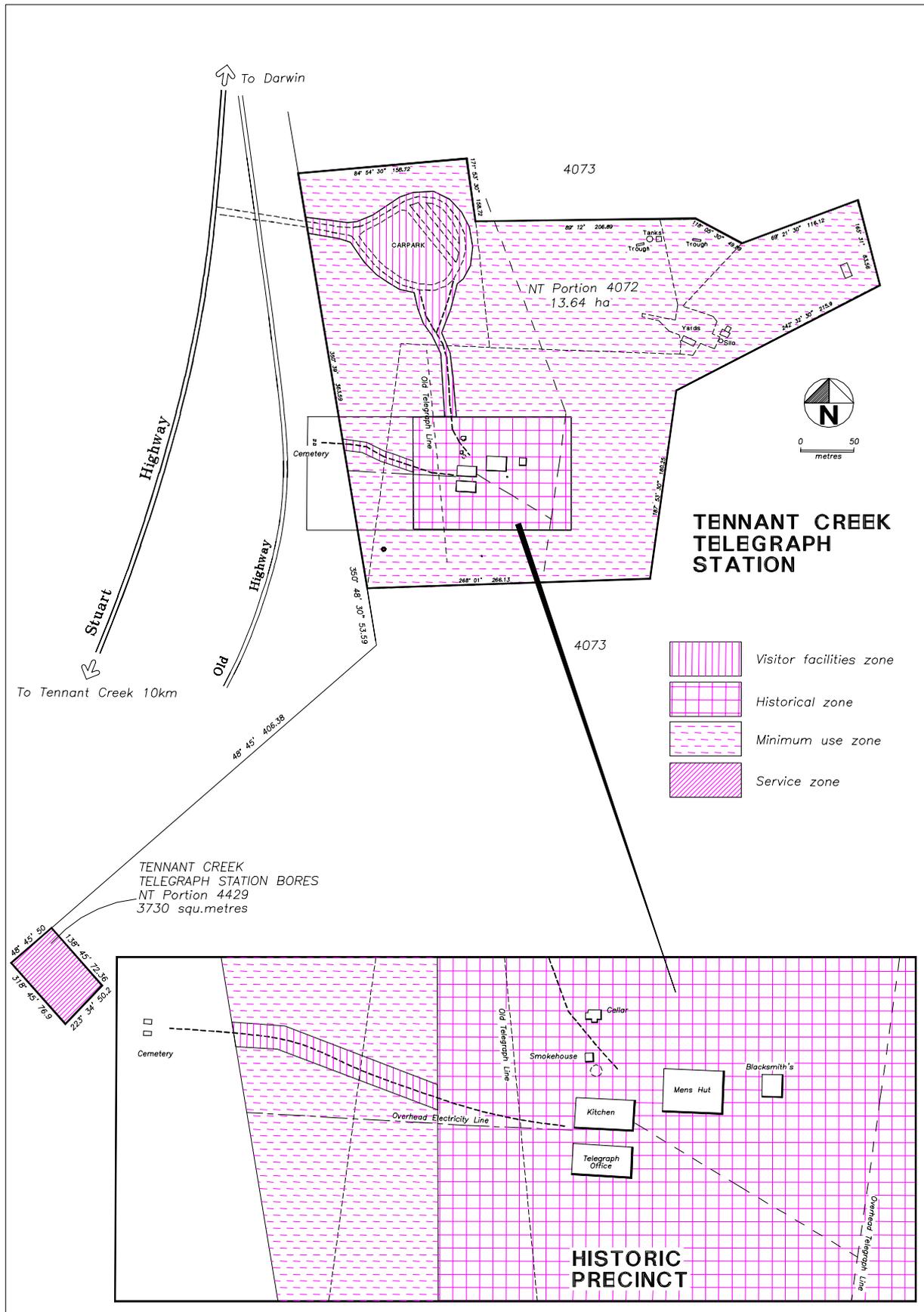
### **8.4 Service Zone**

This zone covers NT Portion 4429 and contains the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station water bores. The zone allows for the ongoing operation and maintenance of these bores to provide a water supply for the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station.

**Table 1. Summary of Zoning Scheme**

	<b>Visitor Facilities Zone</b>	<b>Historical Zone</b>	<b>Minimum Use Zone</b>	<b>Service Zone</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide an area where visitor facilities can be sited with minimal impact to the environment.	This zone provides protection to the Telegraph Station Buildings while still allowing visitors to walk through and appreciate the history associated with the site. Special functions, educational activities and low key business operations with an educational, historic or 'bush' theme may also be catered for in this zone.	To provide a setting for the Telegraph Station. It will also allow the area's native flora to continue to re-establish in previously degraded areas. A caretaker's residence may be located in this zone at a site in the vicinity of the old stock yards.	To allow the ongoing operation and management of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station water bores.
<b>Management strategy</b>	To concentrate development and visitor use in a manageable area and to keep impacts within acceptable limits.	To monitor and protect the historical site in accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 1991.	To keep vehicle movements to a minimum in this zone. Unwanted tracks will be closed and rehabilitated where necessary.	To be managed primarily as a service site to the Telegraph Station.
<b>Access</b>	Vehicle access to the car park. Pedestrian access by walking tracks to the Telegraph Station Buildings and the cemetery.	Visitor access in this zone will be by foot only. Management and service vehicles only will be allowed into this zone.	Management and service vehicles only. Visitor access in this zone will be by foot only.	Management and service vehicles only.
<b>Facilities</b>	Vehicle parking area, pit toilet, walking tracks, interpretation and information signs.	Historical fabric of the Telegraph Station. Walking tracks. Interpretation and information signs.	Management tracks, fire breaks, services and stock fencing only.	No visitor facilities. Management tracks, bores, services and stock fencing.
<b>Visitor uses</b>	Car parking. History appreciation and photography.	History appreciation and education. Photography and special functions.	A scenic backdrop for the historic complex	Limited visitor value. Water bores for the Telegraph Station complex.

**Figure 2. Zoning Scheme**



TCTSZONE.dwg

## **9. MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE'S VALUES**

### **Primary objectives**

1. To manage and conserve the fabric of the Telegraph Station buildings and surrounding historic sites in accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 2001.
2. To present the Telegraph Station buildings and their environs in an appropriate manner.
3. To protect and manage sites and resources of historic significance found in the Reserve.
4. To preserve and, where appropriate, display historic artefacts associated with the Reserve.
5. To enable visitors to appreciate and understand the significance of the cultural resources of the Reserve through interpretive material and programs.
6. To promote and encourage further research into the history of the Reserve.

### **9.1 Conservation Plan**

To ensure that conservation and management of this historic site was undertaken in accordance with the Burra Charter and in a programmed manner, the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory commissioned a heritage conservation architect to prepare a new Conservation Plan. A previous Conservation Plan prepared in October 1987 provided the bulk of the historical data for the new Plan. The Conservation Plan was finalised in July 1992. Policies in this Conservation Plan included statements of conservation techniques as defined in Article 1 of the Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter).

The Conservation Plan, 1992 rated the historic fabric according to its contribution as follows:

Sig. A.	of exceptionally high value;
Sig. B.	of considerable value;
Sig. C.	of some value;
Sig. D.	of little value;
Int.	Intrusive.

The policy statements developed in that Conservation Plan related directly to these values, but in general, surviving building fabric of Sig. A & B in good condition was to be preserved, while that of poor condition would be restored or reconstructed. Surviving building fabric of significance levels Sig. C & D may have been reconstructed or repaired and building fabric considered intrusive was to be removed or put to a compatible use.

To ensure compliance with the Conservation Plan regular monitoring of the historic buildings was necessary. All conservation works complied with accepted ICOMOS Burra Charter principles and guidelines.

The Conservation Plan, 1992 stated that any landscaping within the Historic Zone should ensure it does not impact on the historic integrity of the site and future infrastructure development in the vicinity of the historic buildings should be assessed to ensure that historic values of the site are protected.

Many of the policy statements and prescriptions of the Conservation Plan, 1992 have been implemented with restoration work undertaken and unwanted structures removed. A review of the Conservation Plan was undertaken in February 2001. The review examined restoration work that has been undertaken and identified future management actions for the complex (see Appendix 1). The Conservation Plan Update, 2001 will guide future maintenance and conservation work at the Telegraph Station.

Since the review, conservation works have been completed on the smokehouse and the men's hut. These works have been recorded on a master copy of the Conservation Plan Update. Further works will be subject to availability of funding resources.

## 9.2 Historical Values

<b>Value</b>	<b>Social - Historical:</b> A virtually intact Northern Territory Telegraph Station complex.
<b>Background</b>	<p>The building of the Overland Telegraph Line from Port Augusta to Darwin in the early 1870s provided an international communication link to Australia. Telegraph Stations along the line became extremely important bases for the expansion of European settlement. The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station was the base for numerous exploration and prospecting expeditions and a focal point for pastoral and mining development in the Barkly Region.</p> <p>Commencing in 1874, the previous temporary structures at the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station were replaced with substantive iron-roofed stone buildings purpose-built for their primary function of operating the Overland Telegraph Line. In 1935, when circumstances changed, the Station reverted to a Government depot. From 1955 the buildings became a pastoral station 'homestead' with modifications and additions made to suit their new purpose.</p> <p>A number of authorities, such as the Australian Heritage Commission, the Heritage Advisory Council and community groups such as the National Trust, have a particular interest in the management and conservation of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station. Liaison is required with those outside organisations having a valid interest in the Telegraph Station's management. Support in a financial or volunteer capacity may provide support to maintain the Telegraph Station.</p> <p>The historical values of the Reserve relate to the history associated with the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station and the use of the telegraph buildings since that time.</p> <p>The Telegraph Station complex consists of a Telegraph Office, kitchen, men's hut and blacksmith. A cellar and smokehouse also remain. Descriptions, floor plans and management prescriptions of these buildings can be seen in the Conservation Plan, 1992.</p>

	<p>Two graves are situated a short distance west of the Telegraph Station buildings. These graves are outside of the current Historical Reserve boundary. The significance of the graves is recognised by their inclusion in the heritage place listed on the NT Heritage Register. Reserve staff manage and monitor these graves as an important part of the Telegraph Station history. Buried in the graves are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archibald Cameron, Linesman aged 48 Years died at Tennant Creek on 24 February 1902 from “Congestion of Brain”; and</li> <li>• Brian Thomas Nugent, Pastoralist of Banka Banka Station near Powell Creek aged 65 years, born Maitland NSW and died unmarried at Tennant Creek of “Fluid of the Stomach or Dropsy” in August 1911.</li> </ul>		
<b>Requirements</b>	Funds and resources (Government and/or private sector) to operate and maintain the historic complex.		
<b>Management objective/s</b>	To manage and conserve the fabric of the Telegraph Station buildings and associated historic sites in accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 2001.		
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continued monitoring, protection and maintenance of this historical place in accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 2001 as resources permit.</li> <li>2. Monitor the impacts of visitors on the historic precinct and if required regulate visitor numbers to ensure protection of the historic resources and values.</li> <li>3. Seek sponsorship or community volunteers to assist with maintenance and opening of the Telegraph Station to visitors.</li> </ol>		
<b>Performance measures</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extent of degradation of historic site as determined by the Cultural Management Audit.</li> <li>2. The number of management prescriptions completed in the Conservation Plan Update, 1991</li> </ol>	<b>Desired trends</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decreasing</li> <li>2. Increasing</li> </ol>
<b>Short term target/s</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To consider and determine appropriate low-cost solutions to the problems associated with the rising damp in the buildings within one year of POM gazettal.</li> <li>2. Seek community volunteer involvement with management of the Telegraph Station by the tourist season of 2003.</li> </ol>		
<b>Long Term target/s</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement low-cost solutions to the rising damp problem by 2005.</li> <li>2. In accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 2001 repair and repaint as much as the complex as possible with available funds by 2007.</li> </ol>		

### 9.3 Recreational Values

<b>Value</b>	<b>Social – Recreational:</b> The historic significance together with its location near Tennant Creek and adjacent to the Stuart Highway provide opportunities for passive recreational activities.
<b>Background</b>	<p>The area amongst the historic buildings provides a suitable venue for functions with appropriate historical or ‘bush’ themes for the people of the Tennant Creek area. Alternative uses of the Telegraph Station could ensure that the buildings were well maintained at a reduced cost to the Commission.</p> <p>Estimated visitor numbers to the Telegraph Station ranged from 3,731 in 1996 to 11,199 in 1997.</p> <p>As part of the ‘Territory Parks Alive’ program the Telegraph Station has been staffed every Friday during the peak visitor period (May to September) allowing visitors to inspect the interior of the main buildings and gain information from the Ranger on hand regarding the Telegraph Station and surrounding area. Resources may not permit this level of Ranger input of time in the future. Volunteers could open the Station to visitors thus ensuring a wider involvement of the community and use of the Telegraph Station.</p>

<b>Requirements</b>	A well-conserved Telegraph Station complex. Positive interaction with community groups and volunteers. Knowledge by the local community of opportunities to utilise the Telegraph Station and assist in its management.		
<b>Management objective/s</b>	To provide a well-maintained and well-managed Historical Reserve for visitors.		
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Telegraph Station will be opened to visitors as resources permit.</li> <li>2. The Telegraph Station will continue to provide a venue for appropriate local community functions. A permit will be required.</li> <li>3. Community involvement in the management of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station will be sought and encouraged.</li> </ol>		
<b>Performance measures</b>	Satisfaction of visitors with the Reserve and experiences as determined by the qualitative visitor surveys conducted as part of the Visitor Management Audit.	<b>Desired trends</b>	Positive.
<b>Short term target/s</b>	To encourage the local community to develop a sense of ownership of the Telegraph Station and expand heritage and other appropriate activities within two years of gazettal of the POM.		

#### 9.4 Educational Values

<b>Value</b>	<b>Social – Educational for Visitors and School Groups:</b> – The Reserve is easily accessible to visitors travelling the Stuart Highway and staying at Tennant Creek, and is within close proximity to Tennant Creek schools.		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Reserve offers considerable educational opportunities to visitors and local school groups who can discover the significance of the Telegraph Station and learn the wider story of the Overland Telegraph Line. A Fact Sheet provides visitors with a map and information relating to access, background history and management of the Telegraph Station.</p> <p>There are many visitors who travel across the Barkly Highway from Queensland and then north to Darwin and/or Western Australia. The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station provides the best opportunity for these people to learn about the significance of the Overland Telegraph Line to the development of central and northern Australia.</p> <p>The existing interpretation at the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station provides information about the buildings, their use and the people who lived and worked at the Station. Additional signage is required outlining the significance of the Overland Telegraph line to Northern Territory history. Information about the OT Line and the Telegraph Station could also be provided at the Battery Hill Visitor Centre.</p> <p>School groups have used the complex for educational purposes in the past. however school group usage could be increased with promotion and improvement of the site.</p>		
<b>Requirements</b>	A well-maintained and accessible complex. Financial resources for high quality interpretation.		
<b>Management objective/s</b>	To make the Telegraph Station a desirable location for groups and individuals to visit and learn the story of the Overland Telegraph Line and this Telegraph Station.		

<b>Actions</b>	In addition to those identified in Part A, Section 6.2, p14; 1. The Fact Sheet will be regularly updated to ensure its relevance and accuracy for visitors. 2. As resources permit, additional interpretive signage will be developed relating to the significance of the Overland Telegraph Station. 3. Promote the complex to Tennant Creek schools as a location for educational visits. 4. Encourage community involvement in the Station complex to assist with education and interpretation programs.		
<b>Performance measures</b>	Satisfaction of visitors as determined through the Visitor Monitoring System and outlined in Part A, Section 6.2, p14.	<b>Desired trends</b>	Positive
<b>Short term target/s</b>	1. Contact made during 2002 with the Tennant Creek schools regarding use of the Telegraph Station. 2. Community group consultation with respect to volunteer assistance at the Telegraph Station to occur during 2002.		
<b>Long Term target/s</b>	Provide additional interpretive signage at the telegraph station by 2006.		

## 9.5 Amenity Values

<b>Value</b>	<b>Amenity</b> - Isolated rural setting for the Telegraph Station complex.
<b>Background</b>	The Historical Reserve has limited biological conservation values owing to the Reserve's relatively small size and rocky flat terrain. Prior to becoming a Reserve grazing, extensive vehicle movements and other human impacts had denuded the Reserve of most native vegetation. However, the removal of stock from the area in the mid 1980s together with several, recent good seasons of high rainfall have led to grasses and occasional small shrubs cover over the area of the Historical Reserve.  Although the Reserve has not been surveyed for introduced plants, several species have been observed on the site. Buffel Grass ( <i>Cenchrus echinatus</i> ), the most common introduced plant, is concentrated around the historic buildings and along road and pathways.
<b>Requirements</b>	A well maintained Reserve with secure boundary fencing.
<b>Management objective/s</b>	A well maintained natural setting for the Telegraph Station, requiring minimal ongoing maintenance.
<b>Actions</b>	1. Keep vehicle movements in the Minimum Use Zone to a minimum. 2. Control Buffel Grass in visitor areas and around the historic buildings by slashing and spraying with appropriate herbicides. 3. Assess the condition and adequacy of existing fencing and take measures to improve the situation where necessary. 4. Implement strategies for the suppression and control of wildfire on the Reserve. 5. Encourage native grasses and shrubs within the Reserve, other than in the Historical Zone.
<b>Performance measures</b>	As determined through the Fire Management Audit outlined in Part A Section 3.2.2, p8 and the Weed Management Audit outlined in Part A, Section 3.2.4, p9.

## 10. RESERVE ADMINISTRATION

### Objectives

To ensure that management procedures and practices achieve the objectives of this plan by following the management actions.

- To administer the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, its By-Laws and other relevant legislation.
- To protect and maintain the historical structures in accordance with the Conservation Plan.
- To maintain visitor facilities and to ensure that future developments adhere to the requirement of this Plan and the Conservation Plan.
- To cooperate with Tennant Creek tourist organisations regarding management of the Reserve.
- To provide sufficient resources for the efficient management of the Reserve.

### 10.1 Legislative Requirements

The principal legislation under which the Commission operates are the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission Act* and the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*. Commission operations and planning is subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act*, *Heritage Conservation Act* and the *Sacred Sites Protection Act*. Commonwealth legislation including the *Native Title Act* and the *NT Land Rights Act* also influence Reserve planning and operations.

Operations for the exploration and recovery of minerals on parks and reserves may be permitted in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and *Mining Act*, and current administrative arrangements between the then Parks and Wildlife Commission, the former Department of Lands, Planning and Environment and the former Department of Mines and Energy. These arrangement provide for protection of key park values.

Visitors to the Reserve occasionally commit offences against the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* or By-laws. The effectiveness of strategies to control human activities within the Reserve is dependent on the extent to which the users of the Reserve abide by legal restrictions. An education program is critical to achieving a high level of compliance as in most cases users will abide with controls where they are clearly aware of what they are and why they have been implemented. There will, however, always be a need to monitor the level of compliance and, where users continue to undertake illegal activities, take action to stop inappropriate behaviour.

## 10.2 Reserve Administration

The Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is managed as part of the Barkly District by rangers based in Tennant Creek and at present is staffed for a period every Friday during the peak visitor period (May to September) allowing visitors to inspect the interior of the main buildings. The number of hours rangers are present depends on other calls on their time. Staffing levels are periodically reviewed to ensure changing needs are met. In the event that volunteers from the local community were willing to open the station for a set time each week, advertising of these standard opening hours would be possible with local tourist information outlets.

The Telegraph Station is unmanned for the remainder of the year with the buildings remaining locked. During this time visitors can look over the complex and view the outside of the main buildings. Routine maintenance visits are carried out.

## 10.3 Visitor Facilities

A bus and car park is located approximately 200 metres north of the Telegraph Station buildings (see Figure 1). A pit toilet is located at the carpark. Pedestrian access from the carpark to the Telegraph Station buildings and from the buildings to the cemetery is via gravel walking tracks.

Visitor information is currently provided near the walking track leading to the historic buildings and at various locations among the buildings.

Special functions such as the Desert Harmony Festival are periodically held on the grassed courtyard area at the Telegraph Station.

<b>Management objective/s</b>	To maintain existing visitor facilities in good order.
<b>Actions</b>	Maintain visitor facilities in good condition.

## 10.4 Visitor Monitoring

Recorded visitors to the Reserve ranged from 3,731 in 1996 to 11,199 in 1997. These visitor numbers are approximate only and have been estimated from the best available information. A vehicle traffic counter has at times recorded vehicle numbers visiting the Reserve and visitor book entries are also used in the calculation of visitor numbers.

Tennant Creek Telegraph Station is a Type 2 park as defined in the *National Data Standards on Protected Areas Visitation*. Type 2 parks are 'low visitation level parks' which collectively, account for 10 percent (ie. approximately 65,000 per annum) of total visits to PWCNT parks and reserves. A Visitor Monitoring Strategy for the Reserve is required as outlined in the PWCNT Visitor Monitoring Manual, 1999 as an essential component of environmental and visitor management. This has been produced with a qualitative survey proposed to occur during the peak visitor season in 2002.

<b>Management objective/s</b>	To conduct accurate visitor monitoring enabling management to monitor future trends at the Reserve and plan for future visitor needs.
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<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement an ongoing visitor-monitoring program in keeping with the management resources available and the level of visitation.</li> <li>2. Traffic counting and calibration will continue in accordance with the PWCNT Visitor Monitoring Manual.</li> </ol>
<b>Target/s</b>	To conduct a qualitative visitor survey during 2002 and use the results in the management of the Reserve.

### **10.5 Information and Interpretation**

The interpretive signage at the Reserve aims to inform visitors about the history and various uses of the Telegraph Station. Interpretive signage is located at points of interest throughout the complex and at the cemetery.

A Fact Sheet for the Reserve is available at Parks and Wildlife offices and Northern Territory Government tourist information centres.

<b>Management objective/s</b>	To enhance community understanding and support for the Historical Reserve through education and interpretation programs.
<b>Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain existing written information and on site interpretation. Upgrade when required.</li> <li>2. Develop and implement, in collaboration with relevant agencies, programs to ensure park visitors understand and enjoy the values of the Reserve.</li> </ol>

## 11. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

### 11.1 Management Actions

This Plan has specified a number of actions that will be undertaken in order to meet management objectives. Priorities have been assigned to Actions or groups of Actions as outlined below. Priorities for the implementation of these actions have been assigned according to the action, relative importance and urgency for implementation:

- Ongoing:** Must be implemented on an ongoing basis in order to achieve the objectives of the Plan.
- High:** Imperative in order to achieve the Plan's stated objectives.
- Medium:** Very important to achieve the Plan's stated objectives but subject to the availability of resources.
- Low:** Desirable to achieve the Plan's stated objectives but only if the necessary resources are available and only after higher priorities have been satisfied.

VALUE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	PRIORITIES	COMPLIANCE
9.2 Historical			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued monitoring, protection and maintenance of this historical place in accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 2001 as resources permit.</li> <li>Monitor the impacts of visitors on the historic precinct and if required regulate visitor numbers to ensure protection of the historic resources and values.</li> <li>Seek sponsorship or community volunteers to assist with maintenance and opening of the Telegraph Station to visitors.</li> </ol>	<p>High</p> <p>Low</p> <p>High</p>	
9.3 Recreational			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Telegraph Station will be opened to visitors as resources permit.</li> <li>The Telegraph Station will continue to provide a venue for appropriate local community functions. A permit will be required.</li> <li>Community involvement in the management of the Tennant Creek Telegraph Station will be sought and encouraged.</li> </ol>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>High</p>	
9.4 Educational			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Fact Sheet will be regularly updated to ensure its relevance and accuracy for visitors.</li> <li>As resources permit, additional interpretive signage will be developed relating to the significance of the Overland Telegraph Station.</li> <li>Promote the complex to Tennant Creek schools as a location for educational visits.</li> <li>Encourage community involvement in the Station complex to assist with education and interpretation programs.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Low</p> <p>High</p>	
9.5 Amenity			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep vehicle movements in the Minimum Use Zone to a minimum.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

VALUE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	PRIORITIES	COMPLIANCE
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Control Buffel Grass in visitor areas and around the historic buildings by slashing and spraying with appropriate herbicides.</li> <li>3. Assess the condition and adequacy of existing fencing and take measures to improve the situation where necessary.</li> <li>4. Implement strategies for the suppression and control of wildfire on the Reserve.</li> <li>5. Encourage native grasses and shrubs within the Reserve, other than in the Historical Zone.</li> </ol>	<p>High</p> <p>Low</p> <p>High</p> <p>Low</p>	
<b>10 Administration</b>			
10.3 Visitor Facilities	Maintain visitor facilities in good condition.	Ongoing	
10.4 Visitor Monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement an ongoing visitor-monitoring program in keeping with the management resources available and the level of visitation.</li> <li>2. Traffic counting and calibration will continue in accordance with the PWCNT Visitor Monitoring Manual.</li> </ol>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>	
10.5 Interpretation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain existing written information and on site interpretation. Upgrade when required.</li> <li>2. Develop and implement, in collaboration with relevant agencies, programs to ensure park visitors understand and enjoy the values of the Reserve.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium</p>	

## 11.2 Targets

VALUE	TARGETS	COMPLIANCE
<b>9.2 Historical</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To consider and determine appropriate low-cost solutions to the problems associated with the rising damp in the buildings within one year of POM gazettal.</li> <li>2. Seek community volunteer involvement with management of the Telegraph Station by the tourist season of 2003.</li> <li>3. Implement low-cost solutions to the rising damp problem by 2005.</li> <li>4. In accordance with the Conservation Plan Update, 2001 repair and repaint as much as the complex as possible with available funds by 2007.</li> </ol>	
<b>9.3 Recreational</b>		
	To encourage the local community to develop a sense of ownership of the Telegraph Station and expand heritage and other appropriate activities within two years of gazettal of the POM.	
<b>9.4 Educational</b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact made during 2002 with the Tennant Creek schools regarding use of the Telegraph Station.</li> <li>2. Community group consultation w.r.t. volunteer assistance at the Telegraph Station to occur during 2002.</li> <li>3. Provide additional interpretive signage at the telegraph station by 2006.</li> </ol>	

**APPENDIX 1. TENNANT CREEK TELEGRAPH STATION:  
CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE, 2001**

This document is an update of the 1992 Conservation Plan for the TCTS prepared by Domenica Pecorari & Associates Pty Ltd and resulted from an on site review of that Conservation Plan in February 2001 by:

- Domenico Pecorari            Consultant Conservation Architect
- Kay Bailey                    Principal Planner, PWCNT
- Syd Milgate                  Planner, PWCNT
- Mike Heywood                CDR, East/Central/Barkly, PWCNT
- Peter Kennedy                Senior Ranger, Barkly, PWCNT
- Phil Asmussen                Technical Support Officer, PWCNT

This update should be read in conjunction with the 1992 Conservation Plan. History and Drawings from that document and are not repeated here. An update of work completed by March 2002 is also included

<i>Strategy Number</i>	<i>Strategy Statement</i>	<i>Work Completed Since 1992 &amp; site condition as at Feb 2001</i>	<i>Work Proposed To be Done - Work up to Mar 2002</i>
S1  Photos 1-7 pages 28 -31	CELLAR: ORIGINAL STONE WALL Remove existing subsoil drainage system. Excavate along perimeter of building, apply moisture-proofing membrane to full height of stonework from foundation to ground level and re-fill with compacted clay-rich fill. (P1)	Drainage work completed. Strip drains installed around cellar building. Drains to pit located between cellar and smokehouse, then pumped using submersible pump to outflow east of Telegraph Office.  <b><i>Submersible pump working</i></b>	Install one-way valve in pipe at pit. Determine water level in pit and in cellar after rain to see if strip drain low enough.  <b><i>Completed. Appears to be operating effectively after rain.</i></b>
S2  Photos 8 & 10 pages 32-33	CELLAR: EXTERNAL RENDER Investigate and determine the historical finish of external walls, remove all render and re-finish in the historical method. (P2)	Render completed. Investigation not done. <b><i>Render flaking on lower walls</i></b>	Replace lime render (smooth finish) then whitewash on a regular basis. Check historical records
S3  Photo 12 page 34	CELLAR: INTERNAL RENDER Investigate and determine the historical finish of internal walls, remove all render and re-finish in the historical method. (P3)	Render completed. <b><i>Water pooling on floor. Internal water problem needs to be further addressed.</i></b>	Address water problem. Replace lime render (smooth finish) then whitewash on a regular basis.
S4	CELLAR: STEPS Remove broken stonework and replace with matching stone from the original quarry source using the historical method. (P4)	Stonework repaired. Access to quarry not available.	Low priority. Periodically check steps for deterioration.

S5	CELLAR: FLOOR Investigate and determine the historical state of the floor and <u>reconstruct</u> as necessary using historical method. Monitor floor for signs of damp. (P5)	<i>Floor not visible (covered with water).</i>	Address water problem. Report on floor condition when water dries up.  <i>Floor dry.</i>
S6	CELLAR: SHELVES Investigate and determine the historical finish of shelves, remove all render and re-finish in the historical method. (P6)	Work done – <i>shelves OK</i>	Periodically monitor condition of shelves.
S7	CELLAR: ROOF STRUCTURE & SHEETING Monitor the verandah structure and sheeting for leaks. (P7)	Roof and capping repaired. <i>Leak in roof near top of wall.</i>	Repair roof leak. Mix sealant into limewash and paint wall cappings.
S8	SMOKEHOUSE: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS Install silicate damp coursing to external stone walls, using the “Freeztec” method, or similar, applied to manufacturers instructions. (P8)	Work not done. Freeztec method not suitable for this building. <i>Rising damp on lower walls</i>	Address rising damp problem
S9	SMOKEHOUSE: INTERNAL RENDER Investigate and determine the historical finish of internal walls, remove all render and re-finish in the historical method. (P9)	Investigation and work not done. <i>Internal render flaking due to rising damp.</i>	Address damp problem, re-render then lime wash
S10	SMOKEHOUSE: EXTERNAL POINTING Investigate and determine the historical finish of external walls and re-finish in the historical method. (P10)	Investigation and work not done	Re-finish external walls in the historical method
S11	SMOKEHOUSE: ROOF STRUCTURE & SHEETING Monitor the roof structure for further deterioration and sheeting for leaks. (P11)	<i>Termite activity in NE corner, roof structure needs attention.</i>	Replace 4 mulga ‘rafters’ (2 each side) & replace sawn timber pulins. Treat all roof timbers for termites. <i>Roof timbers replaced Feb02 other than 2 base pieces.</i>

S12	<p>KITCHEN: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS: EXTERNAL</p> <p>Install silicate damp coursing into external stone walls at a level 100mm below finished verandah slab level, using the “freeztec” method, or similar, applied to manufacturers instructions. (P12)</p> <p>Cut out and remove a 150mm wide section of concrete, where verandah abuts stonework to permit installation for full length of stonework, and refill with compacted gravel/slaked lime mix (ie a no-fines mortar). (P12)</p>	<p>Damp coursing installed but not as low as specified.</p> <p><b><i>Rising damp on lower walls Stonework deteriorating on SE corner of building</i></b></p> <p>Work done</p>	<p>Monitor damp situation.</p> <p>Install facing strip of harder stone around bottom of walls approximately 100mm wide.</p> <p>Adequately support the stonework in its existing position while carrying out restoration works.</p> <p>Install second pit with submersible pump east of the Telegraph Office. Pump excess water to creek.</p>
S13	<p>KITCHEN: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS</p> <p>Prop, or otherwise adequately support the stonework in its existing position while carrying out restoration works. (P13)</p>	<p>Some restoration work completed, further work needs to be done.</p> <p><b><i>Rising damp on lower walls.</i></b></p>	<p>Monitor damp situation.</p> <p>Adequately support the stonework in its existing position while carrying out further restoration works</p>
S14	<p>KITCHEN: EXTERNAL POINTING</p> <p>i. In the short term, monitor pointing for deterioration. (P14 i.)</p> <p>ii. In the long term, cut back pointing, provide a key and re-point in the historical method. (P14 ii.)</p>	<p>External pointing done, poor quality - very coarse</p>	<p>Long term, re-do pointing or have whole building rendered.</p>
S15	<p>KITCHEN: INTERNAL WALLS</p> <p>Remove all Portland cement based, “drummy” and damaged render and clean out joints to minimum 60mm depth. Re-render in the historical method. (P15)</p>	<p>Work completed.</p> <p><b><i>Render flaking on lower wall, evidence of water leak near chimney</i></b></p>	<p>Re-render flaking on lower wall. White wash into cracks. Periodically clear wasp’s nests &amp; remove bats. Repaint walls to cover stains. Inspect roof and/or flashing for leak and repair.</p> <p><b><i>Roof repaired March 2001.</i></b></p>
S16	<p>KITCHEN: DOOR &amp; WINDOW FRAMES</p> <p>Monitor door and window frames for deterioration or damage. (P16)</p>	<p>Some doorframes repaired or replaced.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor door and window frames for deterioration, damage and termite activity.</p>

S17	KITCHEN: DOORS Repair doors D1, D2, & D3 in the historical method. (P17)	Doors repaired	Continue to monitor doors for deterioration and damage.
S18	KITCHEN: CEILINGS Refix ceiling panels, timber cornices and cover strips. Monitor condition of ceilings for deterioration or water damage. (P18)	Work done. <b>Several ceiling battens loose.</b>	Re-nail loose battens.
S19 i. ii.	KITCHEN: INTERNAL FLOORS In the short term, monitor condition of concrete flooring. (P19 i.) In the long term, remove 300 x 300mm sample sections of concrete slab flooring and examine beneath. Evaluate method of concrete removal if original flagstones exist, or patch up concrete flooring if not. (P19 ii.)	Work not done	Monitor condition of concrete flooring.
S20 i. ii.	KITCHEN: SINK & BENCHES In the short term, replace hot water unit with a small unit located within sink bench, chase all piping into render, and monitor condition of plumbing lines. (P20 i.) In the long term, carefully remove benches, sinks and all plumbing and re-render walls in the historical method. (P20 ii.)	Removable sink and stand installed. Power chased into wall, water pipes not.	In the long term, and subject to available funds reconstruct sink cupboard in the 1930's to 1940's style.
S21	KITCHEN: FIREPLACE Clean out stove and fireplace area. Monitor for signs of deterioration. (P21)	<b>Flashing leaking, some staining on wall.</b>	Investigate source of leak and repair. Repaint when room needs painting. <b>Leak repaired March 2001</b>
S22	KITCHEN: MANTELPIECE & SHELVING Monitor for signs of deterioration. (P22)	<b>Mantelpiece &amp; shelving appear OK</b>	Monitor for termite activity.
S23	KITCHEN: ROOF FRAMING & SHEETING Gain access into the roof space to determine the condition of the fabric.	Action not completed	Gain access into the roof space and report on the condition of the fabric.

S23 (cont)	Report on conditions with recommendations. (P23)		
S24	KITCHEN: ELECTRICAL WIRING Disconnect existing wiring from power source and remove visible wiring including surface mounted conduits. Re-wire building to current code with conduits concealed. (P24)	Work done 1997	Monitor situation
S25	KITCHEN: PLUMBING SERVICES Investigate the condition of all plumbing lines and report potential risks. Monitor for signs of deterioration and take action recommended by report. (P25)	Work done	Monitor situation
S26  i.  ii. photos 22,23 page 29	KITCHEN: VERANDAH STRUCTURE & SHEETING In the short term, monitor the roof structure and roof sheeting for leaks. (P26 i) In the long term, remove existing roof structure and rebuild in the historical method. (P26 ii)	<b><i>SW corner hip rafter not supporting verandah adequately.</i></b>	Replace hip similar to structure on the NW corner. Remove sheeting and push tight to building. Straighten roof sheeting and ridge capping. Re-fix sheeting with spiral nails. Straighten guttering; repair with pop rivets where loose or broken. <b><i>Sheeting and guttering repaired March 2001</i></b>
S27  i.  ii.	KITCHEN: VERANDAH PAVING In the short term, monitor the condition of verandah paving for signs of cracking or deterioration (P27 i.) In the long term, remove 300mm x 300mm section of concrete slab and examine beneath. Evaluate method of concrete removal if original flagstones are found to exist, or patch up paving. (P27 ii.)	Done	Continue to monitor condition of paving.
S27A New action Photo 22 page 39	KITCHEN: VERANDAH FLY WIRE SCREENS & SREEN WALLS.	<b><i>Some fly screens loose.</i></b>	Re-paint frames in historic colours. Re-nail loose fly wire. Monitor Long term, replace fly wire with larger size fly wire mesh.

S28	<p>TELEGRAPH OFFICE: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS EXTERNAL</p> <p>Cut out and remove a 150mm wide section of concrete, where verandah abuts stonework, to permit installation of silicate damp coursing into external stone walls at a level 100mm below finished verandah slab level, using the “Freeztec” method, or similar, applied to manufacturers instructions. Install damp proof course for full length of stonework, and refill cut out section of slab with compacted gravel/slaked lime mix (ie a no-fines mortar). (P28)</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>Damp coursing installed above specified level.</p> <p><b><i>Rising damp on lower walls Water table very high. Drains and pits full of water.</i></b></p>	<p>Long term, re-do pointing in finer smooth historical method as originally done.</p> <p>Install second pit with submersible pump east of the Telegraph Office. Pump excess water east, towards creek and away from buildings</p>
S29	<p>TELEGRAPH OFFICE: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS</p> <p>Prop, or otherwise adequately support the stonework in its existing position while carrying out restoration works. (P29)</p>	<p>Some repairs completed</p> <p><b><i>Rising damp on lower walls</i></b></p>	<p>Monitor damp situation. Install facing strip of harder stone around bottoms of walls approximately 100mm wide.</p>
S30	<p>TELEGRAPH OFFICE: EXTERNAL POINTING</p> <p>i. In the short term, monitor pointing for deterioration. (P30 i.)</p> <p>ii. In the long term, cut back pointing, provide a key and re-point in the historical method. (P30 ii.)</p>	<p>Work not done</p>	<p>In the long term, re-point in the historical method.</p>
S31	<p>TELEGRAPH OFFICE: INTERNAL WALLS</p> <p>Remove all Portland cement based, “drummy” and damaged render, clean out joints to minimum 60mm depth. Re-render in the historical method. (P31)</p> <p>Photos 16-19 pages 36,37</p>	<p>Work completed however the render is now flaking on lower walls</p>	<p>Re-render flaking areas on lower walls. White wash into cracks. Periodically remove wasp nests &amp; discourage bats.</p>
S32	<p>TELEGRAPH OFFICE: DOOR FRAMES</p> <p>Monitor all door frames for deterioration of damage (P32)</p>		<p>Continue to monitor doorframes for damage and termite activity.</p>

S33	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: DOORS Monitor all doors except D3 for deterioration or damage. (P33) Rebuild and re-install door D3 in the historical method. (P33)	Door rebuilt	Continue to monitor doors for deterioration or damage.
S34	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: WINDOWS Monitor windows for damage. Repair window W4 in the historical method. (P34)	Window repaired	Continue to monitor windows for deterioration, damage or termite activity.
S35 i. photo 20 page 38	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: CEILINGS In the short term, re-fix ceiling panel's timer cornices and cover strip. Monitor condition of ceilings for deterioration or water damage. (P35 i.)	Done <b><i>Damp patches near chimney in middle room.</i></b>	Check roof flashing for leak and repair. ( <b><i>Checked &amp; repaired Feb – Mar 2001</i></b> )
S36 i. ii.	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: INTERNAL FLOORS In the short term, monitor condition of concrete flooring. (P36 i.) In the long term, remove 300mm x 300mm sample sections of concrete slab flooring and examine beneath. Evaluate method of concrete removal if original flagstones found to exist, or patch up concrete flooring if not. (P36 ii.)	Not done	Continue to monitor floor  Long term action.
S37 Photo 18 page 37	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: FIREPLACE Clean out fireplace area. Monitor for signs of deterioration. (P37)	Fireplace periodically cleaned and monitored for signs of deterioration.	Continue to clean and monitor fireplace.
S38 I. ii. Photo 18 page 37	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: MANTELPEICE In the short term, monitor for signs of deterioration. (P38 i.) In the long term, carefully remove cupboard framework and re-render walls in the historical method. (P38 ii.)	Periodically monitored.  Not done	Short term, monitor for signs of deterioration.  In the long term, carefully remove cupboard framework and re-render walls behind in the historical method

S39	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: ROOF FRAMING & SHEETING Gain access into the roof space to determine the condition of the fabric. (P39)	Not done	Gain access into the roof space and report on the condition of the fabric. Re-nail sheeting with spiral roofing nails where required.
S40	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: ELECTRICAL WIRING Disconnect existing wiring from power source and remove visible wiring including surface mounted conduits. Re-wire building to current Code with conduits concealed. (P40)	Work completed	Continue to monitor condition of wiring.
S41  i.   ii. Photo 21 page 38	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: VERANDAH STRUCTURE AND SHEETING In the short term, carefully remove rot-affected sections of timber wall plate and replace with new timber to match existing and monitor the roof structure and roof sheeting for leaks. (P41 i.) In the long term, remove existing verandah enclosure framing and repair original posts and framing in the historical method. (P41 ii.)	Work done.	Monitor the roof structure and roof sheeting for leaks.  Straighten roof sheeting where required Re-fix sheeting with spiral nails. Straighten guttering; repair with pop rivets where loose or broken. <b><i>(sheeting and guttering repaired Feb – March 2001)</i></b>
S42  i.   ii.	TELEGRAPH OFFICE: VERANDAH PAVING In the short term, monitor the condition of verandah paving for signs of cracking or deterioration. (P42 i.) In the long term, remove 300mm x 300mm section of concrete slab and examine beneath. Evaluate method of concrete removal if original flagstones are found to exist, or patch up paving if not. (P42 ii.)	No flagstones found, flagging re-done.	Continue to monitor  Continue to monitor
S43	MEN'S HUT: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS Install siliconate damp coursing into external stone walls, using the "Freeztec" method, or similar, applied to manufacturers instructions. (P43)	Not done, any longer the preferred method. <b><i>Rising damp on lower walls Internal render flaking due to rising damp.</i></b>	Monitor damp situation. Install facing strip of harder stone around bottoms of external walls approximately 100mm wide.

S44	<p>MEN'S HUT: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS ROOM 3</p> <p>Carefully displace intact panel of rendered block work wall to permit access to stonework, clean down stonework and apply lime mortar, re-rendering in the historical method. Re-install panels of block work walling. (P44)</p>	<p>Not done <i>External cracks in external wall SE corner.</i></p>	<p>Remove rendered stonework from SE corner, clean up and reconstruct in the historical method. (Obtain advice from Tim Newland) re stonework.</p> <p>Long term, Carefully displace intact internal panel of rendered block work wall to permit access to stonework, clean down stonework and apply lime mortar, re-rendering in the historical method. Re-install panels of block work walling.</p>
S45	<p>MEN'S HUT: EXTERNAL POINTING</p> <p>Remove salt affected pointing and apply new pointing to match existing. (P45)</p>	<p>Unable to determine if work completed.</p>	<p>Remove salt affected pointing and apply new pointing to match existing</p>
S46	<p>MEN'S HUT: CEILINGS</p> <p>i. Monitor condition of ceilings for signs of deterioration. (P46 i.)</p> <p>ii. In the long term, carefully dismantle ceiling in Room 3 and ceiling battens in Room 1, repair as necessary at fixing locations. (P46 ii.)</p>	<p>Unable to determine if work completed.</p>	<p>Monitor condition of ceilings for signs of deterioration.</p> <p>In the long term, carefully dismantle ceiling in Room 3 and ceiling battens in Room 1, repair as necessary at fixing locations.</p>
S47	<p>MEN'S HUT: INTERNAL FLOORS ROOMS 1, 2 &amp; 3</p> <p>i. In the short term, monitor the condition of flooring for signs of deterioration. (P46 i.)</p> <p>ii. In the long term, remove 300mm x 300mm sample sections of concrete slab flooring and examine beneath. Evaluate method of concrete removal if original flagstones found to exist, or patch up concrete flooring if not. (P47 ii.)</p>	<p>Not done, long term aim.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor flooring.</p>

S48	MEN'S HUT: MAIN ROOF STRUCTURE AND SHEETING Monitor condition of main roof structure and sheeting for leaks. (P48)	Unable to determine if work completed.	Continue to monitor condition of main roof structure and sheeting for leaks. Straighten roof sheeting and ridge capping. Re-fix sheeting with spiral nails. Straighten guttering, repair with pop rivets where loose or broken.
S49	MEN'S HUT: ELECTRICAL WIRING Disconnect existing wiring from power source and remove visible wiring including surface mounted conduits. Re-wire building to current Code with conduits concealed. (P49)	Done  Not re-wired	
S50	MEN'S HUT: ROOM 4		Long term, re-point original stone walls.
S51	MEN'S HUT: ROOM 5	<b><i>Signs of water leak staining walls</i></b>	Inspect roof for water leak, repair and seal. Re-point walls to approx. 400mm
S52 i.  ii.	MEN'S HUT: SOUTHERN VERANDAH Monitor condition of verandah structure and sheeting (P52 i.) In the long term, carefully dismantle the verandah structure and sheeting including concrete footings and concrete slab. (P52 ii.)	This long-term action is no longer required. Verandah to stay.	Continue to monitor condition of verandah structure and sheeting. <b><i>Repaired and repainted January-Feb 2002.</i></b>
S53  Photos 14,15 page 35	BLACKSMITH: ORIGINAL STONE WALLS Carefully remove all pointing, propping walls as necessary, re-pug and re- point in the historical method, cap at tops of wall and exposed ends. (P53)	Work not done, long term, leave as is for now.	Monitor condition
S54	BLACKSMITH: RECENT STONE WALLS Carefully remove all recent stone walling without disturbing original stonework. (P54)	Work not done, long term, leave as is for now.	Monitor condition

S55	BLACKSMITH: ROOF STRUCTURE AND SHEETING Carefully dismantle recent roof structure and sheeting including steel posts and footings. Taking care not to disturb original stonework. (P55)	Work not done, long term, leave as is for now.	Monitor condition
S56	BLACKSMITH: FLOORS Carefully remove concrete slab without disturbing flagstones. (P56)	Work not done, long term, leave as is for now.	Monitor condition
S57	BLACKSMITH: DOORS & WINDOWS Monitor condition of early iron window and door frames for deterioration. Carefully dismantle recent doors (D1, D2) and related steel post supports and concrete footings. (P57)	Work not done, long term, leave as is for now.	Monitor condition
S58	BLACKSMITH: HEARTH Carefully remove recent stonework and Portland cement render without disturbing lower, earlier section of stonework. (P58)	Work not done, long term, leave as is for now.	Monitor condition
S59 i.  ii.	BATHROOM: Monitor condition of building and plumbing lines for deterioration. (P59 i.) In the long term, remove Bathroom structure and all associated in ground plumbing. (P59 ii.)	Bathroom removed, no further action.	
S60	CEMETERY: Monitor the cemetery structures for deterioration and vandalism. (P60)		Continue to monitor & maintain.

### **SUMMARY**

Since the Parks and Wildlife Commission assumed control of Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve in 1986 considerable funds have been spent upgrading the Reserve as well as running and ongoing maintenance costs. Major expenditure items have included:

1. Subsoil drainage to control rising damp.
2. Installation of silicon damp course and repairs to stone work and mortar.
3. Replacement of adzed timbers and stonework on cellar and smokehouse.
4. Preparation of Conservation Plan by heritage architect.
5. Restoration works to the Telegraph Station buildings. (One Nation program).
6. Repairing and replacing service infrastructure such as power and water supply.
7. Construcion of car park.

8. Preparation of interpretation signs, construction of walking tracks, a pit toilet and shade shelter.

Unless further preventative measures put in place to control the rising damp problem the buildings will continue to deteriorate nullifying much of the earlier restoration work.

#### **PRIORITY ACTIONS**

1. Further address the rising damp problem that is affecting the stonework and render on all of the buildings. This may be achieved by;
  - a. Consult a hydrology/drainage expert to advise on methods to further lower the water table in the vicinity of the Telegraph Station complex.
  - b. If agreed to by the hydrology/drainage expert construct a second pit in the drainage channel east of the Telegraph Office and install a pump similar to the pit near the cellar. Excess water could be pumped eastwards away from the buildings towards the creek.
2. Inspect all roofing and guttering;
  - a. Straighten bent sheeting and re-nail where loose.
  - b. Repair broken guttering.
  - c. Repair leaks in sheeting and flashing around chimneys.
3. Subsequent to addressing the rising damp problem repair affected stonework and render on lower walls of all buildings.