

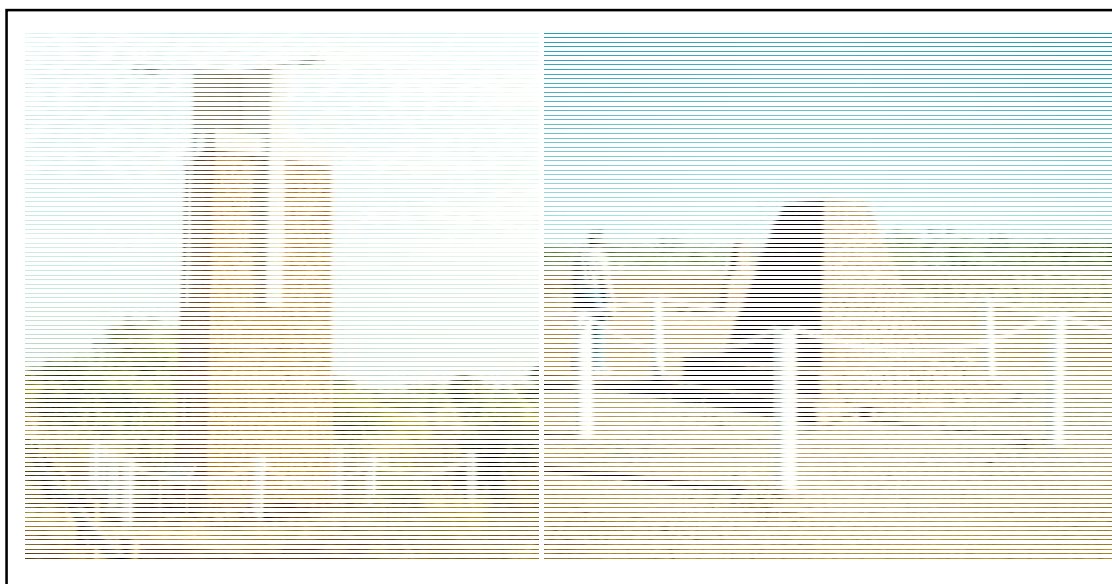


ROADSIDE HISTORICAL RESERVES

CENTRAL MOUNT STUART, ATTACK CREEK & JOHN FLYNN HISTORICAL RESERVES

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

January 2000



PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
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ROADSIDE HISTORICAL RESERVES

Central Mount Stuart,
Attack Creek &
John Flynn Memorial.

Plan of Management

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Foreword

John Flynn Historical Reserve was placed in the care of the NT Reserves Board in 1957 and both Attack Creek and Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserves in 1963. At this time the NT Reserves Board was the only organisation with existing legislation and expertise able to take control of such Reserves. These Reserves have no biological conservation values and no physical historical remains as the memorials were built to commemorate historical events. The Reserves are maintained by the Department of Transport and Works (T&W) and fit well with their Stuart Highway Visitor Facilities Strategy.

This Plan sets guidelines for the future management of these three Historical Reserves.

Management directions for the Reserves are:

- Continued co-operation with T&W regarding maintenance of the Reserves.
- To draft a formal management and maintenance agreement with T&W for the Reserves.

Acknowledgments

This Plan of Management has been prepared by the Strategic Planning & Development Unit of the Parks and Wildlife Commission's Southern Regional Office in Alice Springs.

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

1.1 The Significance and Values of the Reserves.

Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve is located on the western side of the Stuart Highway approximately 212 kilometres north of Alice Springs. The Reserve (NT Portion 623) is 121.92 metres by 21.34 metres covering an area of 0.25 hectares and is positioned within the road reserve for the Stuart Highway (see Figure 1). The area was surveyed on 25 August 1961 and is shown on survey plan C 91,

The area was proclaimed a Reserve on 11 May 1962 under section 103 of the *Crown Lands Ordinance* as Reserve No. 1083. The Reserve was placed under the care of the Northern Territory Reserves Board on 5 June 1963 and on 30 June 1978 the area was declared a Reserve under section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

A Reservation from Occupation, (R.O. 1109) covering all of NT Portion 623 was declared on 6 June 1985 (NT Gazette S25) under section 178(1) of the *Mining Act*.

The cairn at the Reserve was constructed in April 1960 to commemorate the centenary of Stuart's party surveying and naming Central Mt Stuart during their first attempt to cross Australia from south to north.

The Reserve's primary focus and **historical significance** relates to the explorer John McDouall Stuart and his attempts to reach the north coast of Australia. Stuart's successful crossing allowed the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line, which closely followed his route and contributed to the settlement of central Australia.

In 1860 Stuart wrote in his journal, "*Monday, 23rd April, Centre.-Took Kekwick and the flag, and went to the top of the mount.....Built a large cairn of stones, in the centre of which I placed a pole with the British flag nailed to it. Near the top of the cone I placed a small bottle, in which there is a slip of paper, with our signatures to it, stating by whom it was raised. We gave three hearty cheers for the flag....*"

Stuart raised the British flag on the mountain in the belief that Central Mount Stuart represented the geographical centre of the Australian continent.

Due to its small size and location within the road reserve there are no biological **conservation values** for the Reserve.

The **tourism and recreation values** of the Reserve relate to the history associated with explorer John McDouall Stuart. The Reserve is a site of interest along the NT Heritage Trail and the NT-SA "Explorer Highway" route.

Attack Creek Historical Reserve is located on the eastern side of the Stuart Highway approximately 64 kilometres north of Tennant Creek. The Reserve (NT Portion 624) is 51.82 metres by 42.66 metres covering an area of 0.22 hectares and is positioned within the road reserve

for the Stuart Highway (see Figure 2). The area was surveyed on 29 August 1961 and is shown on survey plan C 92.

The area was proclaimed a Reserve on 11 May 1962 under section 103 of the *Crown Lands Ordinance* as Reserve No. 1084. The Reserve was placed under the care of the Northern Territory Reserves Board on 5 June 1963. On 30 June 1978 the area was declared a Reserve under section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

A Reservation from Occupation, (R.O. 1108) covering all of NT Portion 624 was declared on 6 June 1985 (NT Gazette S25) under section 178(1) of the *Mining Act*.

The Stuart Commemorative Cairn and plaque was erected in 1960 to commemorate the Stuart centenary.

The Reserve's primary focus and **historical significance** relates the first attempt by explorer John McDouall Stuart and his party to cross the continent of Australia from south to north.

Stuart with his companions William Kekwick and Benjamin Head reached Attack Creek on 26 June 1860 where they encountered, and were attacked by Aborigines from the Warramungu tribe. Stuart was aware that his small party was outnumbered and with rations running low, made the decision to abort the trip and return to South Australia.

Due to its small size and location within the road reserve there are no biological **conservation values** for the Reserve.

The **tourism and recreation values** of the Reserve relate to the history associated with explorer John McDouall Stuart. The Reserve is a site of interest along the NT Heritage Trail and the NT-SA "Explorer Highway" route

John Flynn Historical Reserve is located at the junction of the Barkly and Stuart Highways approximately 24 kilometres north of Tennant Creek. The Reserve (NT Portion 498) is a triangular piece of land covering an area of 0.47 hectares. (see Figure 3). The area was surveyed on 7 February 1957 and is shown on survey plan B.29.

The area was proclaimed a Reserve in Commonwealth Gazette no 20 on 4 April 1957 under section 103 of the *Crown Lands Ordinance* as Reserve No. 996. The Reserve was placed under the care of the Northern Territory Reserves Board on 18 September 1957 (NT Gazette 38). On 30 June 1978 the area was declared a Reserve under section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* (NT Gazette 26A).

This memorial to Flynn was built in 1952 and was dedicated by the Governor General, Sir William Slim, on 27 August 1953.

The Reserve's primary focus and **historical significance** relates the recognition of John Flynn and others who helped to establish the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

The inscription on the memorial reads “*His vision encompassed the continent. He established the Australian Inland Mission and founded the Flying Doctor Service. He brought lonely places a spiritual ministry and spread a mantle of safety over them by medicine, aviation and radio.*”

There are no **conservation values** for the Reserve. **Tourism and recreation values** of the Reserve relate to the history associated with The Very Reverend John Flynn, the first superintendent of the AIM and founder of the RFDS.

1.2 Visitors Facilities

Visitor facilities currently provided at **Central Mt Stuart** include a car park, rubbish bins and an interpretation shelter with signage provided and maintained by the Department of Transport and Works (T&W).

Facilities currently provided at **Attack Creek** include a car park, rubbish bins and interpretation signage. A roadside shelter with drinking water is located a few metres east of the Reserve, all of these facilities were provided and are maintained by T&W.

Facilities currently provided at the **John Flynn Monument** include a car park and rubbish bins. There is no interpretation at the Reserve other than the plaque fixed to the monument. The area is maintained under the T&W roadside cleaning contract.

1.3 The Purpose of these Reserves.

- The main purpose of these three Reserves is to provide well-maintained rest stops where visitors can appreciate and understand part of the history of early explorers and pioneers of central Australia.

1.4 The Intent of this Plan

This Plan states the intent of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) with respect to the future management of these Reserves

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

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

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

Figure 1. Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve

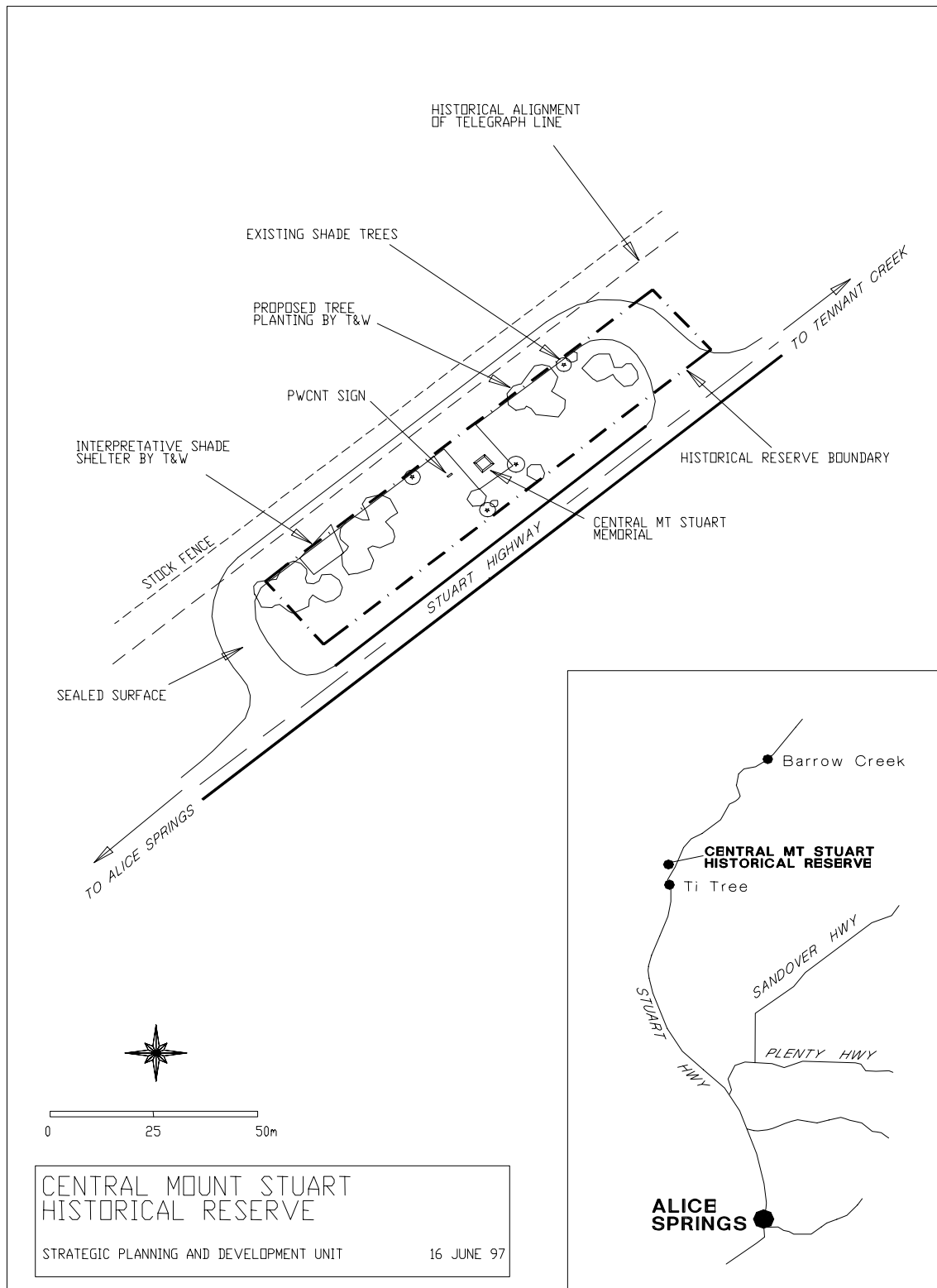


Figure 2. Attack Creek Historical Reserve

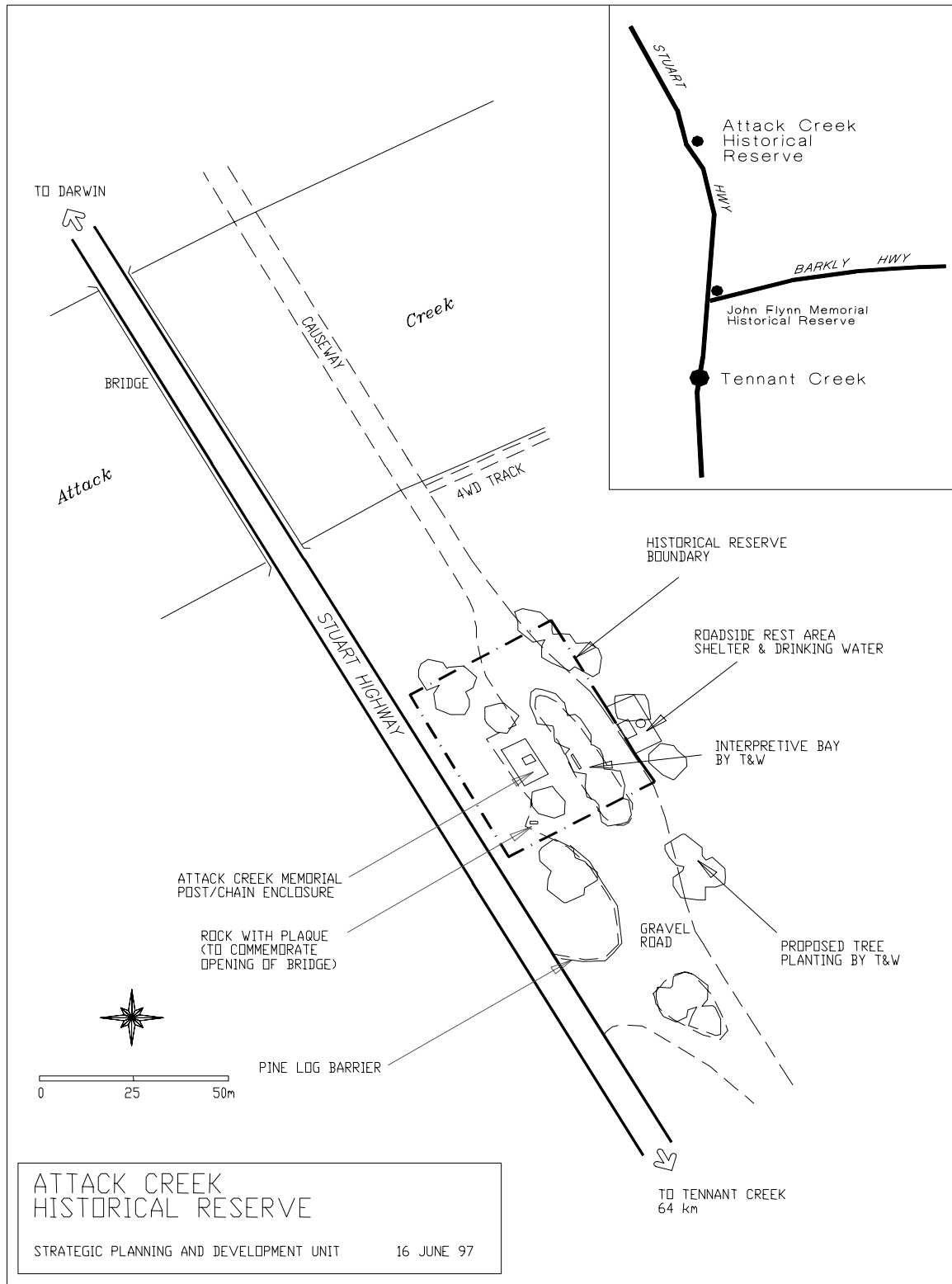
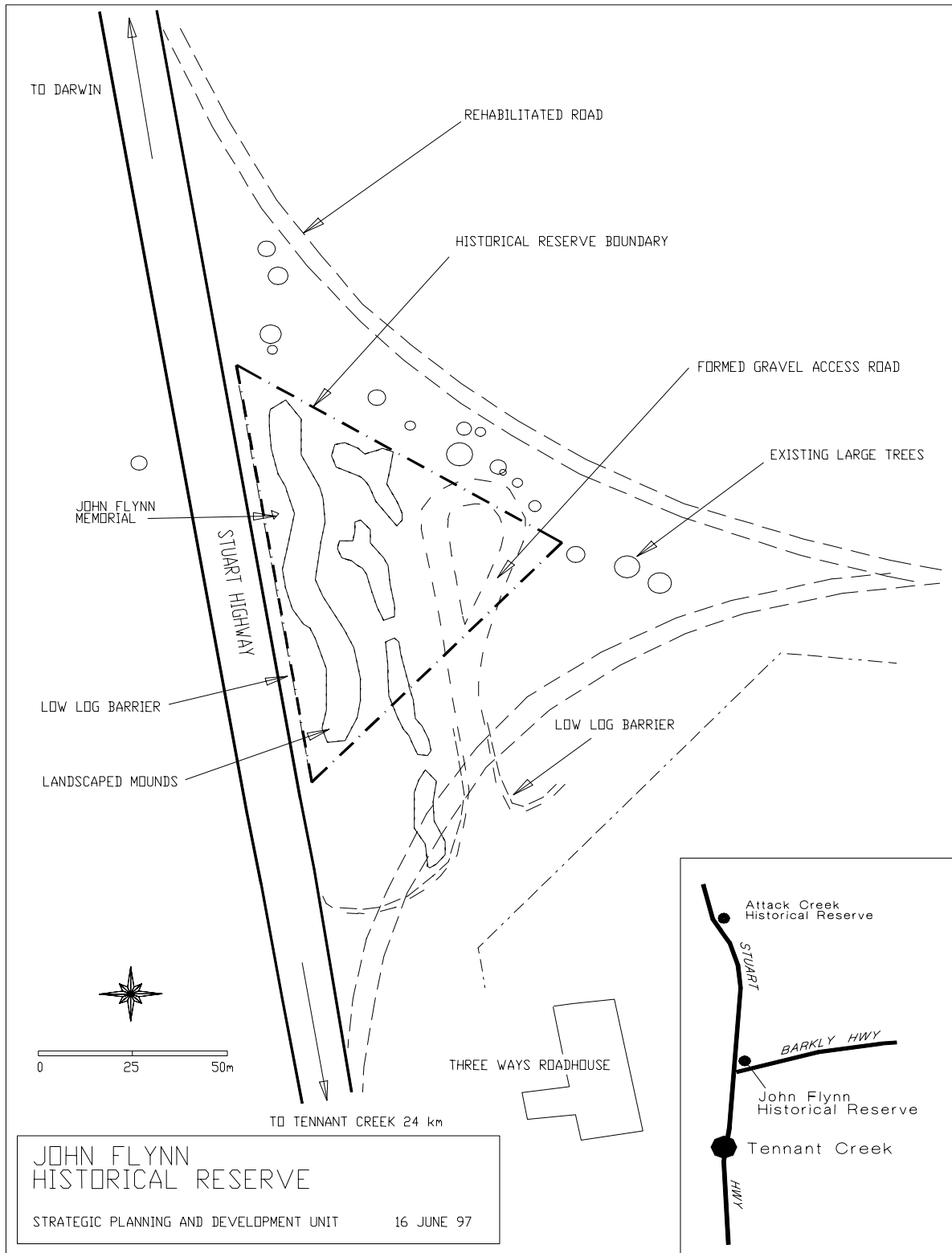


Figure 3. John Flynn Historical Reserve



2. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

These Reserves contribute little value to the PWCNT responsibility for conservation of the Northern Territory's natural values. They have clear value for tourism as road side stops for motorists. In that respect they fit well with the T&W Stuart Highway Visitor Facilities Strategy.

Management Actions

- 2.0.1** *To continue administering the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, its By-Laws and other relevant legislation while these Reserves remain part of the PWCNT managed reserve system.*
- 2.0.2** *The PWCNT will continue cooperation with the T&W Roads Division regarding management of these Reserves.*
- 2.0.3** *The PWCNT will liaise with T&W and draft a formal management agreement covering management and maintenance of these roadside Reserves.*

2.1 Staffing and Management

These Historical Reserves are currently managed and maintained by the T&W Roads Division. The Reserves are cleaned and maintained by contractors holding the roadside cleaning contracts for these sections of the Stuart Highway. PWCNT staff do not regularly patrol or maintain these Reserves. PWCNT visits are usually on an opportunistic basis and are mostly for the purpose of checking vandalism to the monuments and plaques and the general condition of the Reserves. PWCNT staff should continue note and report any signs of vandalism to the monuments especially if plaques have been removed or damaged. The plaques give basic historical information for the Reserves to travellers along the Highway,

Management Actions

- 2.1.1** *The current management arrangement with T&W will be maintained.*
- 2.1.2** *PWCNT will assist in the replacement of damaged or stolen plaques as soon as possible.*
- 2.1.3** *The roadside cleaning contractors will be required to monitor the Reserves and report any vandalism, stolen plaques etc. directly to T&W.*

2.2 Legal Requirements

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is obliged, under section 21 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to manage these Reserves in accordance with this Plan of Management once it has been gazetted and is operational. The Plan may be amended at any time in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

3. MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Listed below are Management Actions stated in earlier sections of the Plan which are to be implemented systematically as Management Programs. Actions in these Programs are referred back to the Management Actions by section numbers and page numbers.

Priorities are assigned as follows:

- High** - imperative to achieve the Plan's stated objective;
- Medium** - very important to achieve the Plan's stated objectives but subject to the availability of resources;
- Low** - desirable but will be undertaken only if necessary resources are available or other conditions stated in the Management Actions are fulfilled; and
- Ongoing** - must be implemented on an ongoing basis in order to achieve the objectives of the Plan.

Guideline	Page	Priority
2. Administration and Management		
2.0.1 Continue administration of the Reserves	7	ongoing
2.0.2 Continue cooperation with T&W	7	ongoing
2.0.3 Draft a formal management agreement	7	high
2.1.1 Maintain current management arrangements	7	ongoing
2.1.2 Replacement of plaques	7	ongoing
2.1.3 Monitoring and reporting vandalism etc.at the Reserves by roadside cleaning contractors	7	ongoing

4. SOURCES AND REFERENCES

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