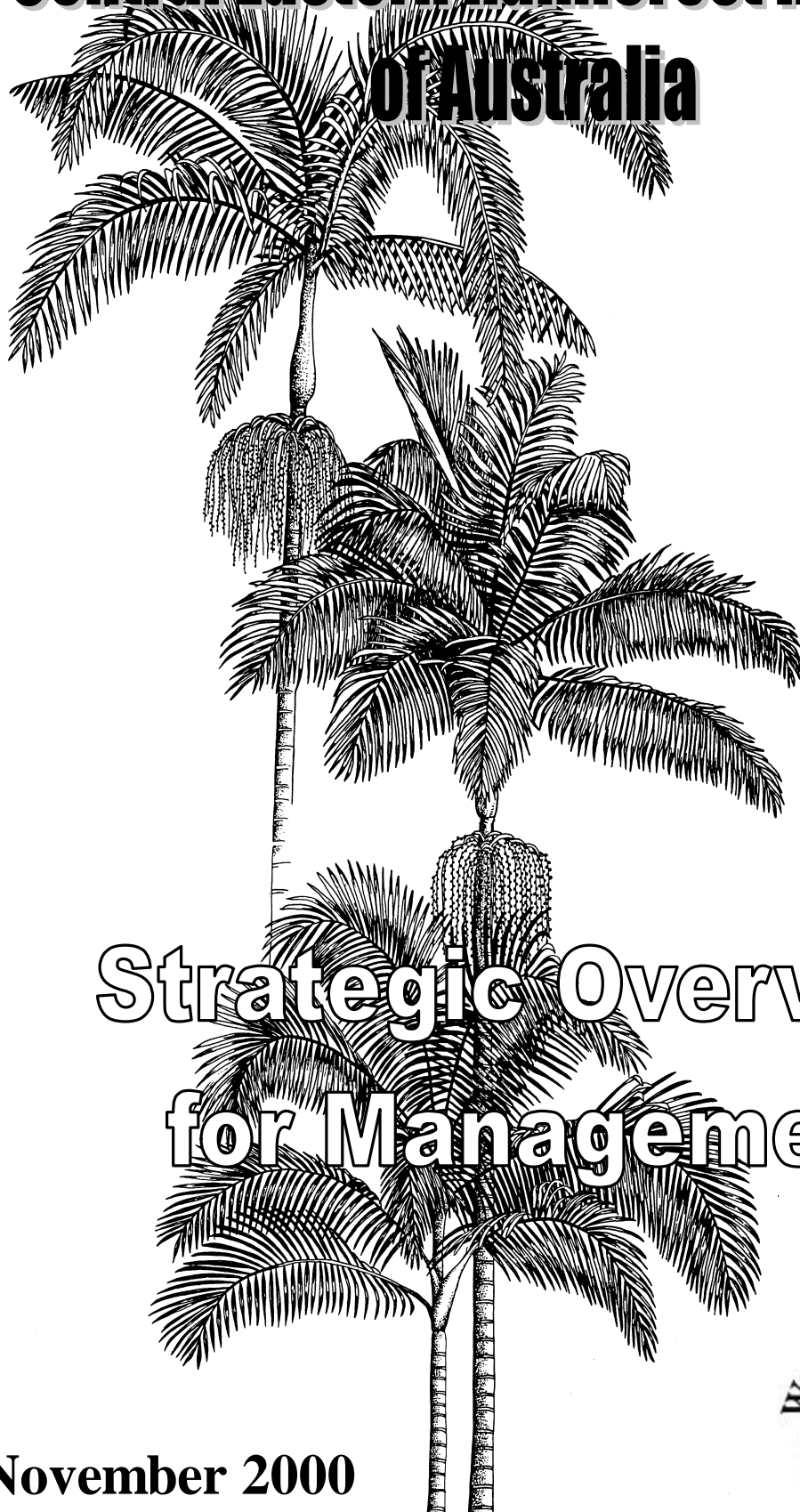


# **World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia**



## **Strategic Overview for Management**

**November 2000**



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## *Ministers' Message*

The World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (CERRA) comprise almost 50 separate reserves in north-east New South Wales and south-east Queensland. Each of these reserves contains important nature conservation values in its own right, however the full significance of the property becomes evident only when viewed as a whole. Each of the reserves makes a unique contribution, like the chapters in a book, to CERRA's story of the evolution of the Australian biota and landform, from its Gondwanan origins to the present. CERRA also provides a significant network of habitats for many of Australia's rare and endangered species.

CERRA's global significance was recognised by the international community when it was first included on the World Heritage List in 1986 and then re-listed with additions in 1994.

Since 1994, the Commonwealth Government and the New South Wales and Queensland Governments have recognised the need for coordinated, consistent and cooperative management, to ensure that the integrity of CERRA's values is protected. Mechanisms have been introduced progressively to ensure closer liaison, cooperation and consistency of management approach at all levels within the managing agencies.

The *CERRA Strategic Overview* is a major element in guiding cooperative management by the three Governments in relation to the protection, conservation and presentation of CERRA until 2007. Our endorsement of this document is a public commitment by our respective Governments to the cooperative management of CERRA in the years to come.

Senator the Hon Robert Hill,  
Commonwealth Minister for  
the Environment and  
Heritage  
on behalf of the  
Commonwealth

The Hon Bob Debus MLA,  
NSW Minister for the  
Environment  
on behalf of the State of New  
South Wales

The Hon Rod Welford MLA,  
Qld Minister for the  
Environment and Heritage,  
and Minister for Natural  
Resources  
on behalf of the State of  
Queensland



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## ***Part A: Basis for management***

### **1. The Management Vision**

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*The outstanding universal values of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia are conserved and protected for present and future generations through coordinated and cooperative management and community involvement. Local communities and visitors are aware of and appreciate the significance of this World Heritage property which will continue to provide for a range of ecologically sustainable tourism, recreational and scientific activities.*





Map 1. Map of CERRA



## 2. Introduction

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The World Heritage Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (referred to as CERRA throughout this document) represent the major remaining areas of rainforest in south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales. They comprise national parks, nature reserves, flora reserves, State forests and other Crown reserves. Almost 50 individual reserves are protected in the property. Refer to Map 1 for their location and Appendix 1 for details on size and tenure.

The current fragmented distribution of the remaining rainforest in New South Wales and south-east Queensland is a result of many factors, both ancient and modern. These include: the natural contraction of rainforest as a result of the drying of the Australian continent over millions of years; the use of fire as a land management tool by Aboriginal people over thousands of years; massive clearing for agriculture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; and large scale mechanised logging of rainforest and surrounding forest types in the mid to late twentieth century.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s rainforests became the focus for an increasingly prominent conservation movement. Concern centred on the rainforests of north-east NSW and south-east Queensland. Public pressure was responsible for a dramatic revision of official policies towards forest management, the establishment of new national parks and reserves, and the World Heritage listing of the NSW rainforests in 1986. World Heritage listing is the highest level of international recognition that may be afforded to an area, acknowledging its outstanding universal values and global significance. In 1994, a renomination of this property, now including the Queensland reserves and named CERRA, was accepted.

CERRA was inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of its outstanding natural values. It represents outstanding examples of major stages of the Earth's evolutionary history, of ongoing geological and biological processes, and of biological diversity. A wide range of plant and animal lineages and communities with ancient origins in Gondwana survive in this collection of reserves, many of which are restricted largely or entirely to CERRA. CERRA also provides the principal habitat for many threatened species of plants and animals.

In nominating CERRA for World Heritage listing, the Commonwealth Government, on behalf of the people of Australia, accepted an obligation to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, rehabilitation and presentation of the property and its transmission to future generations. Day-to-day management of the sites within CERRA however remains primarily the responsibility of three government agencies: Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Queensland, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in New South Wales. World Heritage listing has not affected ownership or control of the reserves included in CERRA.

CERRA is an important recreational resource, providing the settings for a range of nature-based recreational activities. It attracts a large and growing number of local and overseas visitors, contributing significantly to the economies of local communities. At the same time, this level of visitation places extra responsibility on managers to provide additional recreational opportunities without compromising ecological sustainability or the values that lie behind CERRA's World Heritage listing.

Thus, the high levels of visitation, along with fire management and weed invasion are the issues that currently create the greatest challenges for the State agencies charged with the



responsibility for protecting and conserving CERRA's World Heritage values. The appropriate presentation and interpretation of those values is also a priority for managers.

Because of the complexity of CERRA, both in terms of its fragmented distribution and the number of jurisdictions and tenures involved, Governments agreed in 1993 to establish a CERRA Coordinating Committee of on-ground managers, to ensure management at the operational level was coordinated, consistent and compatible. In 1997 a committee of senior agency officials (CERRA Steering Committee) was established to develop strategic policy directions for CERRA. One of the Steering Committee's primary roles is to oversee the development of this Strategic Overview.

### ***Purpose of the Strategic Overview***

This Strategic Overview has been prepared in accordance with Australia's international responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention. It will ensure that appropriate consideration is given to CERRA's World Heritage values by managers when developing management prescriptions for the CERRA reserves, and that they are developed and implemented in a consistent and coordinated way. It does not attempt to provide detailed management prescriptions for the individual reserves in CERRA. The document also serves as a public statement of the commitment of the management agencies to the long term survival of CERRA.

The Strategic Overview outlines strategies proposed for the management of CERRA up to 2007. Under its framework, the respective State agencies will continue to undertake day-to-day management, but with a greater level of coordination and consistency.

The Strategic Overview is not intended to be a statutory document in its own right, however, by agreeing to the content of this document, Governments will make a commitment to abiding by its principles and to implementing the strategies outlined. These will be put into effect by the relevant Governments through decisions made by the Ministerial Council, government policies, statutory management plans and other planning instruments.

Preparation of the Strategic Overview has been guided by information in the documents published for the nomination of CERRA for World Heritage listing, existing management arrangements and government policies, and consultation between all of the management agencies involved and with the community.

### ***Using this document***

Information in this document is presented in two parts. Part A provides an introduction to the CERRA property and the basis for management. Part B focuses on how management will achieve the major objectives of the World Heritage Convention, namely the property's:

- **Identification**
- **Protection**
- **Conservation**
- **Rehabilitation**
- **Presentation**

Within each objective, issues are dealt with in a common format under the following headings:

- **Objective**-includes a definition of the objective.



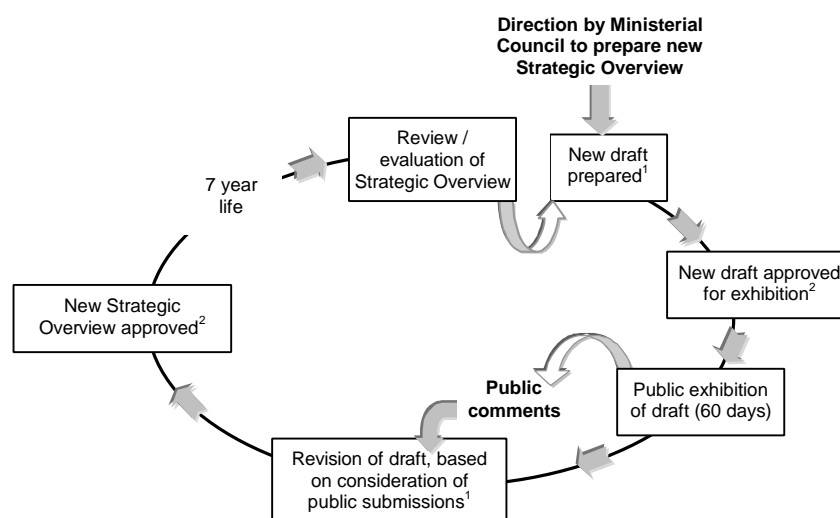


- **Background information**—provides background to the objective in the CERRA context and an outline of the current situation in relation to the objective.
- **Desired outcome(s)**—the outcome(s) to be achieved in relation to this objective by 2007.
- **Issues**—the major strategic issues identified in relation to this objective.
- **Management responses**—proposes strategies, policies and actions needed to achieve the desired outcome(s).

### *Preparation and review*

This Strategic Overview constitutes policy of the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland Governments. The document will be current for up to seven years from the date of its approval by the CERRA Ministerial Council and will remain so until it is reviewed and a new document approved. A seven year timeframe has been selected as a medium-term planning horizon that provides a realistic period within which the identified management responses can be implemented and their effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes evaluated. The planning cycle for the Strategic Overview is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Planning cycle for the CERRA Strategic Overview Document.**



<sup>1</sup> Prepared by the Coordinating Committee in consultation with the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Approved by the Ministerial Council on the advice of the Steering Committee, Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Committee.

The review of the Strategic Overview should: assess the relevance of identified issues; assess the extent to which management responses have been implemented and objectives achieved; identify the reasons for lack of achievement or implementation; assess new information that might affect management; and propose changes and new objectives and management actions where appropriate. Specific measures of the effectiveness of the document should include:

- success in maintaining the integrity of the World Heritage property;
- improvement in the protection, conservation and presentation of the World Heritage values;



- leadership by agencies responsible for implementing management actions identified in the plan;
- ownership of the plan by the CERRA community;
- commitment to consultation and participation;
- adequate resourcing; and
- perceived usefulness of the Strategic Overview.

Before assigning funding priorities each year, the Strategic Overview will be assessed by the CERRA Steering and Coordinating Committees, in consultation with the Community Advisory and Technical and Scientific Advisory Committees (for a description of these committees, refer to Section 4 (Figure 2) and Appendix 4). Such an annual assessment will allow the Committees to consider ongoing changes that have occurred and to re-evaluate management priorities.

There may be a need to amend parts of this Strategic Overview before the end of 2007. It is not envisaged, however, that the Strategic Overview will be amended unless significant new issues and information obtained from research and monitoring activities have arisen and/or where aspects of the document are not achieving the desired outcomes. This document may only be amended by the Steering Committee following full consultation with the Coordinating Committee, the Community Advisory Committee and the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee. At the discretion of the Steering Committee, amendments may be placed on public exhibition to seek the views of the broader community prior to incorporation of the proposed amendments.



### 3. World Heritage

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#### *The World Heritage Convention*

The World Heritage Convention was established under the auspices of the United Nations in 1972. It aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect the world's natural and cultural wonders. By ratifying the Convention in 1974, Australia became one of the first of more than 140 countries to commit to the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of World Heritage properties.

Under the Convention a list of properties having outstanding universal value has been established. In order to qualify for the World Heritage List, a nominated property must meet specific criteria of universal value from either a natural or cultural point of view. There are currently thirteen World Heritage areas in Australia (listed in Appendix 2) and over 400 throughout the world. Included on this list of globally important sites are the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of the United States of America, Mount Everest and the Great Wall of China.

Only the governments of those countries that are parties to the Convention may nominate a property for World Heritage listing. The Convention is administered by the World Heritage Committee, which comprises 21 nations elected from the signatories to the Convention.

#### *Natural criteria for World Heritage listing*

In order to qualify for the World Heritage List, a nominated property must meet specific cultural or natural criteria and associated integrity conditions. Four criteria are used to assess whether a natural property is worthy of inscription on the World Heritage List. At least one criterion and its standards of integrity must be met before a property can be inscribed on the List. The criteria adopted by the World Heritage Committee for assessing a nominated property for inclusion on the World Heritage List as a natural property are that the site must:

- I be outstanding examples representing major stages of the Earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features; or
- II be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh-water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals; or
- III contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; or
- IV contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

#### *Ownership and control*

World Heritage does not affect ownership rights or control of the property. In the case of CERRA, the individual reserves remain under the jurisdiction of their State Governments and are managed by the relevant State agencies.



The Commonwealth Government does however have an international obligation to protect, conserve and present all of Australia's World Heritage properties.

### ***Management obligations***

Although the World Heritage Committee has no powers to manage or influence management of listed properties, management should be in accordance with the duties and obligations of signatories to the Convention. Article 5 of the Convention states:

*To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention should endeavour insofar as possible and as appropriate for each country:*

- a) to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of the heritage into comprehensive planning programs;*
- b) to set up within its territories, where such services do not exist, one or more services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage with an appropriate staff and possessing the means to discharge their functions;*
- c) to develop scientific and technical studies and research and to work out such operating methods as will make the State capable of counteracting the dangers that threaten its cultural or natural heritage;*
- d) to take appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of this heritage; and*
- e) to foster the establishment or development of national and regional centres for training in the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and to encourage scientific research in this field.*

A set of management principles derived from these obligations is presented in Section 7.

### ***CERRA World Heritage Property***

CERRA was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 and extended in 1994 because it satisfies three of the four criteria for natural values of outstanding universal significance. It represents:

- a record of the Earth's evolutionary history, geological processes and the resulting landscape features (criterion I);
- outstanding examples of ongoing ecological and biological process (criterion II); and
- significant areas for the conservation of biodiversity, including threatened plants and animals (criterion IV).

A description of the World Heritage values of CERRA can be found in Section 5 and a list of key examples given in Appendix 3.



## 4. Management background and regional setting

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### *Regional context*

CERRA is located between Brisbane and Newcastle, in a region that has one of the fastest growing populations in the country. Major population centres within 100 km of CERRA include Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich and Gold Coast in Queensland, and Tweed Heads, Lismore, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Armidale, Tamworth, Maitland and Newcastle in New South Wales. South-east Queensland is the most heavily populated part of that State, containing over 1.5 million people, or about 60% of Queensland's population. North-east New South Wales, while not as heavily populated as south-east Queensland, is also experiencing rapid growth with an 80% increase in population expected over the next 25 years.

The region is one of the most popular tourist destination centres in Australia for national and international tourists. Most of the reserves in CERRA are accessible from major population centres via sealed or gravel roads. The most popular parks within the property are Springbrook, Lamington, Barrington Tops, Dorrigo and Mount Warning National Parks. There are approximately 2 million visits to the property each year.

### *Land tenure and boundary*

CERRA comprises nearly 50 reserves ranging in size from 11 ha to about 100, 000 ha. Tenure includes national parks, nature reserves, flora reserves, State forests and other Crown reserves. Boundaries of the property are illustrated on Map 1 and the individual reserves and their tenure are listed in Appendix 1.

Since the World Heritage listing of CERRA, there have been major changes in tenure in NSW. As a result, most flora reserves that were previously managed by State Forests of NSW (SFNSW) were revoked and incorporated into new or existing national parks and nature reserves, managed by the NPWS. In Queensland, two environmental parks and three areas of State forest have been incorporated into adjacent national parks. As a result of these changes, the World Heritage listing, which comprised mostly complete reserves in 1994, now includes only parts of a number of the reserves listed in Appendix 1.

### *Native Title*

Several of the reserves are currently subject to claims under the Commonwealth's *Native Title Act 1993*, as detailed in Appendix 4. Nothing in this document is intended to diminish native title in any way.

The New South Wales, Queensland and Commonwealth Governments are committed to inviting greater involvement of Aboriginal communities in the future management of CERRA. Amendments to the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act* allow for the return of national parks to their Traditional Owners and subsequent joint management of these parks. Indigenous Land Use Agreements are in the process of being negotiated for some parks in CERRA and are an alternative to formal hand-back of the reserves.

### *Adjacent land uses*

There are eight distinct groupings of reserves in CERRA. Although some reserves form contiguous chains within the groupings, the property as a whole has an extremely high



boundary to area ratio. This means that adjacent land uses have the potential to significantly impact on the values of the property.

Many reserves are adjacent to either freehold rural grazing properties or State forest where logging, bee-keeping, off-road horse and trail-bike riding, and grazing may be undertaken. Siltation of streams, pesticide drift from aerial spraying, fire, straying cattle and the spread of exotic plants are potential threats posed by these activities.

Management of State forests in New South Wales is in accordance with the Regional Forest Agreements and the resultant NSW Integrated Forestry Operations Approval.

As a result of recent substantial increases in the protected area estate in both NSW and Queensland, listed parts of many of the reserves in CERRA are now contiguous with other areas of reserved land and informal forest reserves. In these cases, the management of adjacent areas is compatible with, and in most cases identical to, management of the World Heritage listed areas.

There are a number of tourist facilities adjacent to CERRA, notably the two lodges on private land within the boundary of Lamington National Park. Two of the reserves, Springbrook National Park and Iluka Nature Reserve, lie directly adjacent to residential settlements.

### ***Administration***

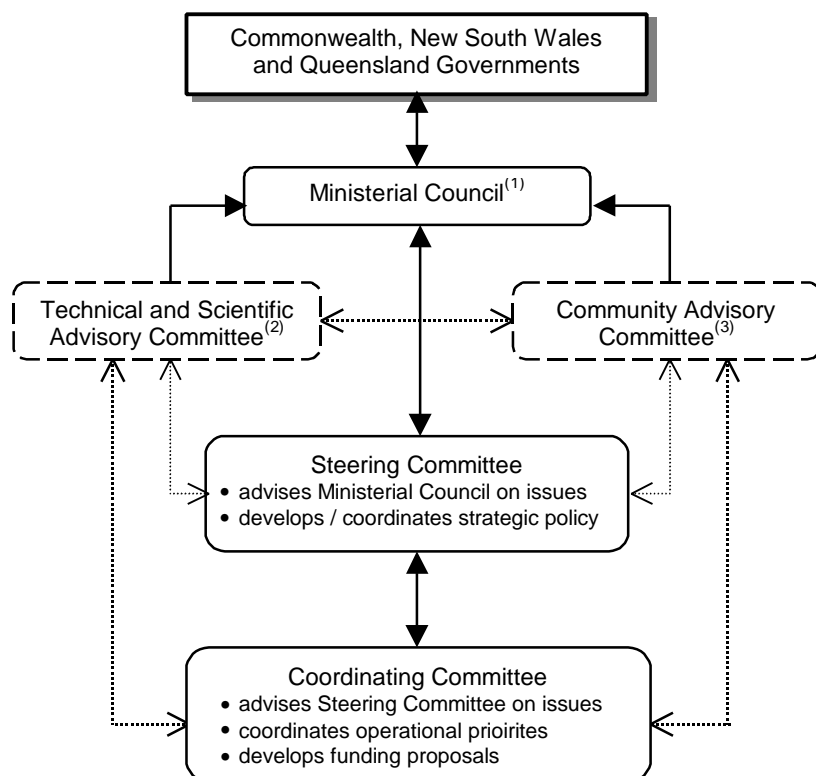
CERRA is administered by three principal agencies in the two States: the QPWS and DNR in Queensland, and the NPWS in New South Wales. Small areas are also under the jurisdiction of SFNSW, Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board and the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. Administration and consultation arrangements between Governments, their management agencies and the community are shown in Figure 2. The CERRA Executive Officer provides secretariat support to each of these committees.

In 1993 all Governments agreed to establish a CERRA Coordinating Committee comprised of on-ground managers from the principal agencies (NPWS, QPWS, DNR and SFNSW) and Environment Australia to facilitate the cooperative management of the property at an operational level. In 1997 a committee of senior agency officials, the CERRA Steering Committee, was established to develop strategic policy directions for the property. One of the Steering Committee's primary roles is to oversee the formulation and implementation of the Strategic Overview (see Appendix 5 for the Terms of Reference for these Committees).

The New South Wales World Heritage Properties Ministerial Council, comprising two Ministers with relevant responsibilities from each of the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments, makes policy decisions in relation to all World Heritage Properties in New South Wales, including the New South Wales component of CERRA. In November 2000, a specific CERRA Ministerial Council, which includes relevant Commonwealth, NSW and Queensland Ministers, was established. Its terms of reference are given in Appendix 5.

In the past, community consultation has only been achieved in New South Wales through the existing NPWS District (now Regional) Advisory Committees and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. In recognition that no such bodies exist in Queensland, a CERRA Community Advisory Committee will be established. The Committee will include appointed individuals as well as the Chairs of the NSW Regional Advisory Committees. Scientific and technical advice is currently provided by officers employed by the management agencies. A separate and independent Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee will also be established. Terms of reference for these committees are included in Appendix 5.



**Figure 2. Administration and consultation arrangements for CERRA**

(1) Comprises relevant Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland Ministers.

(2) A separate and independent committee is in the process of being established to provide scientific and technical advice.

(3) A CERRA Community Advisory Committee is also in the process of being established. It will comprise the Chairs of the NPWS Regional Advisory Committees and other appointed individuals, including representation from Queensland.

## Legislation

Legislative arrangements for the protection of areas vary between States and for different land tenures. Legislative arrangements are summarised in Appendix 6. World Heritage is considered a matter of national environmental significance for the purposes of the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This legislation therefore will apply throughout CERRA to ensure the protection of World Heritage values.

As well as legislation and statutory regulations, management of CERRA is influenced by policies set by a number of national, State and regional agreements and strategies. These include the National Forest Policy Statement, the Regional Forest Agreements for the Upper and Lower North East New South Wales, and the NSW Biodiversity Strategy.

## The planning process

The Strategic Overview is part of the overall planning framework for CERRA. It seeks to ensure that management of all the reserves within this World Heritage Property is consistent, coordinated and complementary. It has been prepared by the CERRA Steering Committee, for the Commonwealth, NSW and Queensland Governments to provide

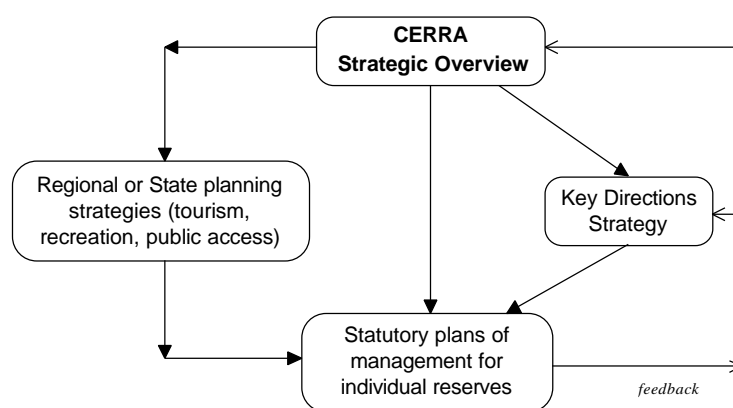


direction and guidance to the managing agencies in the formulation of their policies and in the development of other planning instruments.

Legislation within each State requires the preparation of management plans for many of the individual reserves in CERRA. The status of management plans for these reserves is given in Appendix 7.

The Strategic Overview provides strategies and direction for management for the whole of CERRA. An associated document, *Key Directions*, has identified management issues and strategies in the reserves adjacent to the New South Wales-Queensland border where there is a particular need for coordination at an operational level on a range of issues. The hierarchy of the relevant planning documents is shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. The interaction between the Strategic Overview and other planning documents.**



### ***Funding***

Funding for the management of CERRA is largely the responsibility of the relevant State management agencies. As part of the World Heritage Management and Upkeep Program of the Natural Heritage Trust, Commonwealth funding has been made available to these agencies to assist with additional management and presentation activities that have resulted from the property's World Heritage status. The Commonwealth has also funded the position of the CERRA Executive Officer since 1994. Future Commonwealth funding assistance will be subject to negotiation between governments.





## 5. Values

### *World Heritage values*

CERRA's universal values relating to its unique biota and landforms lie at the heart of its recognition as a World Heritage area. These World Heritage values give Australia a unique natural asset of universal significance, as well as the responsibility to conserve and protect them for future generations to enjoy.

World Heritage values are those values directly related to the criteria for which an area is included on the World Heritage List. For CERRA, which satisfies three of the four possible criteria for listing of a natural property, these are:

#### **An ark of evolutionary values and processes that formed the landscape (criterion I)**

CERRA contains outstanding examples representing major stages in the Earth's evolutionary history. At least three major stages in the Earth's evolutionary history - the eras of ferns, of conifers and of flowering plants - are evident in the flora of CERRA. Thriving in the humid conditions common in CERRA's rainforests are some of the oldest elements of the world's ferns, representing the 'Age of Pteridophytes' - between 200 and 400 million years ago - a time when ferns were the dominant terrestrial plants. CERRA is also one of the most significant centres of survival for araucarians, the most primitive of the world's conifers, representing the 'Age of Conifers' in the Jurassic Period. Hoop pine, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, is one of two species of *Araucaria* found in Australia and is closely related to the Wollemi pine. It is the main emergent in much of the dry rainforest in CERRA and also occurs in its temperate and subtropical rainforests.

While containing representatives of primitive plant families linked to the birth of flowering plants over 100 million years ago, CERRA's greatest value from the 'Age of Angiosperms' is as the repository of the best living examples of relict plant species that can trace their origins to the second wave of flowering plants. This wave led to that most radical shift in the world's vegetation when the relatively depauperate conifer forests were overwhelmed by the diversity of flowering plants. The subtropical rainforests of CERRA are the closest living analogue of the resulting vegetation, widespread during the late Cretaceous/ early Tertiary - the 'golden age' of modern flora. CERRA contains the most extensive areas of subtropical rainforest remaining in the world. They provide an unparalleled record of the vegetation of the time before the mass extinction event that saw the disappearance of the dinosaurs, along with three-quarters of all living species at the time.

With the drying and cooling of the planet's climate, dry-adapted species and temperate species gained dominance. For some 50 million years the forests of the supercontinent Gondwana were dominated by species of two ancient genera: *Nothofagus* and *Araucaria*. CERRA is the only place in Australia where these two genera coincide - not only in the same region, but also side by side in the same rainforest communities. The genus *Nothofagus* is of outstanding importance to science as a key to understanding the break-up of Gondwana and the general distribution of life in the Southern Hemisphere. Virtually all the Antarctic beech, *Nothofagus moorei*, is found in CERRA where it is the dominant species in the region's cool temperate rainforest.

Many fauna species found in CERRA also have links back to Gondwana, including the lyrebirds, the rufous scrub-bird, bowerbirds, the pouched frog, chelid turtles, land snails,



velvet worms, glow worms, and numerous other invertebrates. CERRA comprises the major refugia of Gondwanan rainforest flora and fauna.

CERRA's spectacular landforms are outstanding examples of ongoing geological processes. As the Australian continental plate moved over the planet's hot spots, volcanoes erupted in sequence along the east coast resulting in the Tweed, Focal Peak, Ebor and Barrington volcanic shields. There is a unique opportunity to age the formation of the swelling of the continental margin due to the interaction of these shield's remnants with the eastern highlands.

Mount Warning is the plug of the ancient Tweed shield volcano that was active over 20 million years ago. Most of the shield has been eroded down to basement rock, leaving the plug isolated from the shield remnants. The Tweed valley, which surrounds Mount Warning, is the largest and best example of an erosion caldera of its age in the world, and an outstanding illustration of ongoing geological processes.

### **Ongoing evolutionary processes (criterion II)**

CERRA exists as the central group in an Australian archipelago of rainforests extending from the Kimberley to Tasmania. Australia is unique in the world in having rainforests that are living models of the fossil vegetation, providing an unparalleled opportunity for studying the ongoing evolution of plant communities as distinct from plant species. CERRA has a key role in providing benchmarks for the study of plant and animal communities of Gondwanan origin.

The rainforest in north-east NSW and south-east Queensland are disjointed islands in a sea of fire prone eucalypt forests and agricultural lands. By its very fragmented nature, CERRA will also continue to be a focus of ongoing evolutionary processes for individual species, as this isolation encourages the evolution of new species. Many plants and animals found in CERRA have disjunct distributions or are locally restricted to a few sites. CERRA in effect is a living text-book of biogeography, with evolutionary processes reflected in the distribution patterns of its biota.

### **Biological diversity (criterion IV)**

CERRA contains some of the most important and significant habitats for the conservation of biological diversity in the world. In particular, it provides habitat for many threatened species, with more than 200 rare and threatened species of plant and animal recorded in these reserves. Several of these, such as the Hastings River mouse and the parma wallaby, are recent rediscoveries, previously considered to be extinct. Many of the rare species are rainforest specialists and their vulnerability to extinction is due to the rarity of their rainforest habitat. Although once the dominant vegetation in Gondwana, rainforest contracted over the millions of years after the supercontinent's break-up as climate conditions changed. Rainforest at the time of European settlement was restricted to refugia of suitable conditions protected from fire. Clearing over the past 200 years reduced its distribution further and affected the viability of many rainforest stands. Only a quarter of the rainforest present in Australia at the time of European settlement remains. CERRA protects the largest and best stands of rainforest habitat remaining in this region.

The Border Region is particularly significant, reflected in the high number of species found, many of which are endemic or rare. It has the highest concentration of velvet worm, frog, snake, bird and marsupial species in Australia. The rare examples of rainforest on limestone in the Hastings/ Macleay region have one of the richest land snail fauna yet recorded.

Key examples of values under each criterion, are listed in Appendix 3.



## ***Other values***

### **Natural heritage**

CERRA is a rich collection of landscapes; from the coastal dunes of Iluka Nature Reserve, which supports the largest remaining area of littoral rainforest in NSW, much closer to the sea than any other comparable example of rainforest; to the steep escarpment capped with volcanic soils supporting a diverse mosaic of tall, lush rainforest fringed by woodland, heath and tall forests.

The rainforests are central to the World Heritage listing of CERRA. This is the theme that unites the reserves. Many of the NSW parks in CERRA were created or greatly increased in size as part of the 1982 'rainforest decision' when the NSW Government decided the conservation values of these forests greatly outweighed their value as a source of timber.

However CERRA also protects large areas of other vegetation. It contains a diverse range of heaths, as well as eucalypt-dominated forest and woodland over a range of soil types and climates, including some of the tallest trees in NSW. These communities have a high diversity of plants and animals that add greatly to CERRA's value as the habitat for endemic or rare and threatened species. The complex dynamics between rainforest and tall open forest, which often has a rainforest understorey, belies the close evolutionary and ecological links between these communities.

Major sections of the Great Escarpment, the steep fall from the tablelands to the coastal plains, are included in CERRA. One of the most spectacular is the convoluted gorge country of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park with its numerous dramatic waterfalls. The evidence of ancient volcanism is important in understanding this phenomenon. The section of the Great Escarpment from the Dorrigo Plateau to the Bellinger Valley in New England National Park is the best example in Australia of a radial drainage pattern related to a specific centre of eruption.

### **Cultural heritage**

CERRA's World Heritage values reflect a legacy of land use and custodianship by traditional owners. The land, water, animal and plant communities are of great significance to indigenous people.

There are several important archaeological sites that date Aboriginal occupation of the area to at least 9000 years. There are also a large number of sites of religious significance, many of which are associated with or include natural features in the landscape, blurring the distinction between the natural and the cultural. The continuity of knowledge and use of these sites by Traditional Owners form the basis for land claims under the provisions of the Native Title Act (as detailed in Appendix 4).

Following European settlement of the region, the rainforests initially drew the attention of cedar getters, followed by settlers and miners. CERRA contains some evidence of these times in the form of settlement ruins, mine races, tramways, tracks and cemeteries.

Timber reserves that contained some rainforest were first set aside in the 1870s and State forests and reserves (including national parks) were gazetted in the area from the early 1900s onwards. CERRA includes one of the first national parks declared in Queensland (Lamington National Park), the first national park declared in north-east NSW (New England National Park) and the first flora reserve declared in NSW (Tooloom Scrub Flora Reserve, now in Tooloom National Park).



## **Recreation**

Most of the reserves in CERRA are located along the Great Escarpment behind the coastal plains, forming the mountain backdrop to a rapidly growing residential and tourist population. Because of their intrinsic beauty, natural features and accessibility from the major population centres, CERRA has high recreational values. CERRA provides settings for recreation and tourism that are outstanding and increasingly rare by world standards, on the doorstep of Australia's fastest growing cities. Domestic and international tourism to the property is increasing, due in part to its location between the two principal arrival points into the country, its proximity to other tourist attractions and also to the increasing awareness of the attractions of the national parks and the rainforests themselves.

A wide range of recreational opportunities exists in the reserves. Bush walking, rock climbing, nature observation, scenic driving, photography and fishing are popular activities, with picnic sites and limited basic camping facilities available in many of the reserves. A major award-winning visitor centre is located in Dorrig National Park. Information centres are also provided in Lamington and Gibraltar Range National Parks. An estimated 2 million visitors come annually to CERRA, the most popular reserves being Barrington Tops, Oxley Wild Rivers, Dorrig, Gibraltar Range, Mount Warning, Springbrook and Lamington National Parks. The glow worms at Natural Bridge in Springbrook National Park, currently generate the largest single component of tourism in CERRA.

## **Wilderness**

Extensive natural areas have the capacity to represent a greater diversity of habitats in better health than smaller or more modified areas. Wilderness often represents the only opportunity to maintain the integrity, gradients and mosaics of ecological processes that constitute native biodiversity at the genetic, species, community and landscape levels. Wilderness also has many cultural values, providing not only opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation, but also aesthetic, spiritual and intrinsic value. Unroaded and largely free of exotic species, they are rare examples of the indigenous Australian landscape.

The pattern of agricultural settlement in the region has resulted in most of the wilderness being confined to the forests of the Great Escarpment, coinciding with some of the larger reserves within CERRA. Formal recognition through the provisions of the NSW Wilderness Act has been given to several wilderness areas in CERRA. Management of these areas aims to preserve their capacity to evolve in the absence of significant human interference. It is therefore linked closely to the World Heritage natural criterion (II). The wilderness condition and integrity of many of the key areas in CERRA greatly assisted its acceptance on the World Heritage list.

## **Economic**

The regional economy surrounding CERRA was previously based on the timber, pastoral and dairying industries; it is now increasingly supported by specialist horticulture and tourism. The rainforests of this region have provided species for horticultural propagation, the most successful being the macadamia nut now cultivated in plantations both locally and in Hawaii.

National parks and other forest areas have considerable economic value and can contribute directly and indirectly to the employment, income and output of the regional economy. With the region's increasing importance as a tourist destination, visitation to the parks and reserves in CERRA is increasing, both for day trips and longer stays. Some



of the reserves offer basic camping facilities, but many visitors stay at nearby towns or guest houses. Farm stays, wilderness lodges and guided tours to national parks provide an alternative income for regional communities. It has been estimated that, for every 10 000 visitors to regional national parks, between 4 and 6 jobs are created in the local area. With over 2 000 000 visitors per year, it is possible that close to 1000 jobs in the regional economy can be attributed to CERRA.

The economic value of recreation use and management of two reserves in CERRA (Dorrigo and Gibraltar Range National Parks) was estimated in 1995. Dorrigo National Park, with its large rainforest information centre, cafe and picnic areas, contributes over \$4 million to the regional economy and has a recreational value estimated at \$5.4 million per year.

### **Research and education**

The variety of ecological communities and landscapes makes CERRA ideal for research and educational visits. The landforms, and plant and animal communities in CERRA have been subject to limited studies, some dating back to the earliest studies of forest ecosystems in Australia carried out in the 1930s on the Barrington Tops.

Information arising from the scientific research conducted to date in CERRA supported the World Heritage nomination. In fact, the current state of knowledge about CERRA's World Heritage values is directly related to the levels of research undertaken. This information however is far from comprehensive, highlighting the need for further research in CERRA. The high scientific value of CERRA therefore reflects not only what has been discovered, but also what remains to be discovered. Large gaps in knowledge remain, especially regarding ecological needs of the threatened species and communities.

As some communities and species are almost exclusively found in CERRA, it is inevitable that there will be ongoing scientific interest in CERRA. As effective management will rely increasingly on future research work to understand CERRA's complex natural systems and their significance, this interest should be fostered. Facilitating increased levels of scientific research is directly related to the obligations under the World Heritage Convention to encourage scientific research into the identification, conservation and rehabilitation of CERRA, as well as best management practice and abatement of threatening processes.

The education values of CERRA are heightened by the accessibility of many of its reserves and their proximity to several universities, namely, the Universities of Newcastle, New England and Queensland, and Southern Cross and Griffith Universities. These institutions all offer biological science and/ or resource management courses. Several of the reserves in CERRA have an established history of providing field sites for students from tertiary, secondary and primary education institutions. Changes to the school curricula, with their greater emphasis on environmental and cultural education, are resulting in increased use of the parks. Dorrigo, Mount Warning, Nightcap and Border Ranges National Parks are considered some of the most important areas of public land in upper north-east NSW for their educational values.

### **Scenic and aesthetic**

CERRA includes some of the most dramatic scenery in Australia, with landscapes dominated by striking vertical cliffs and precipitous waterfalls. With many vantage points on ridges and escarpments named 'Point Lookout' and the presumptuous 'Best of All Lookout', CERRA offers outstanding vistas: from uninterrupted views of forested wilderness covered by natural vegetation to the contrasts of steep forested slopes



surrounding cleared valleys. The mosaic of rainforest and eucalypt forest adds to the complexity of colour and texture in the scenery.

The Great Escarpment is a high, abrupt wall densely clothed with tall forest or scree slopes. It is visually striking and the sheer vastness of its forested landscapes provides a splendid visual experience. The section in south-east Queensland—a more or less continuous wall of mountains spanning the horizon for over 150 km—was named the ‘Scenic Rim’ by early settlers.

### **Bequest, inspiration and existence**

One of the goals of World Heritage management is to transmit areas so that future generations can experience and appreciate their uniqueness. This goal explicitly recognises an area’s bequest values. The wild and rugged landscapes, diverse flora and fauna, and opportunities for solitude and quiet reflection are attributes that promote inspiration, serenity and rejuvenation of the human mind and spirit. Such feelings are valued by individuals and society, and lead to contributions in the fields of philosophy, painting, literature, music and photography. CERRA has inspired such contributions and these have promoted a sense of place for all Australians who then want such places protected. Existence values derive from the community’s pleasure from simply knowing that places such as CERRA exist and are protected, even though they may never visit them.

### **Water catchment**

As most of CERRA lies in the steep and rugged landscape behind the coastal plains, it experiences high rainfall and is the source of a number of river systems. This area abounds in wild and scenic rivers. Washpool Creek, with its riparian corridor of rainforest, is an exceptionally wild and scenic river, being the largest remaining river in the region with an undisturbed catchment.

CERRA protects the catchment areas for a number of water storage facilities, assuring water quality by their large areas of undisturbed forests. The parks on the Scenic Rim include the watersheds for a series of reservoirs providing high quality water supplies to the Gold Coast and adjacent rural areas. Likewise, Barrington Tops National Park protects the catchment of three reservoirs in the Hunter Valley.



## 6. Threats

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Like many protected areas, CERRA faces a range of threats to its immediate and long-term integrity. These threats vary greatly in scale from an instance of incompatible land use on an adjoining property through to global climate change. Part B of this document addresses primarily those threats that are of strategic importance to the overall integrity of CERRA's World Heritage values, and therefore require a strategic, coordinated and, where possible, consistent approach by the management agencies. Threatening processes that are specific to particular locations will, more appropriately, be dealt with in the context of management planning for each reserve. Threats such as the impacts of human enhanced climate change, which are beyond the influence of the management agencies, are considered to be also beyond the scope of this document.

The strategic threats fall into four categories:

- uncontrolled or inappropriate use of fire;
- inappropriate recreation and tourism activities, including the development of tourism infrastructure, under the increasing visitor pressure from Australia, overseas and commercial ventures;
- invasion by pest species including weeds, feral animals and fungal pathogens; and
- loss of biodiversity at all levels.

Each of these factors is considered a substantial threat to the ongoing viability of CERRA's World Heritage values. Wilderness areas provide protection against the scale of impacts from each of these threats. Any significant diminution of wilderness condition therefore could threaten the ecological integrity of CERRA's World Heritage values.

The potential for these threats to degrade the World Heritage values of CERRA is exacerbated by the property's mostly rugged terrain, fragmented nature and complex boundaries. These make on-ground management measures, such as fire management, pest animal and weed control, and the regulation of access, extremely difficult. The diverse tenures within CERRA hinder consistent and integrated management of the property.

The nature of the property also means it has many neighbours. In addition to adjacent national parks and other reserves, CERRA's neighbours include numerous private holdings regulated by 28 different local government areas. Properties adjoining CERRA with prominent vantage points are highly valued and under pressure for residential and tourist development. Such development has the potential to diminish the scenic values for others. The diversity of local government zonings and policies creates the potential for inconsistency in planning processes that in turn could lead to incompatible development or land use at the property's boundary.

The strategies outlined in Part B provide strategic directions for both proactive management and rehabilitation of threatening processes, as well as seeking to ensure the support and cooperation of neighbours and the broader community for the World Heritage objectives.



## ***Part B: Management Strategies***

### **7. Key Management Principles**

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World Heritage status is the highest level of recognition that may be afforded to an area. It places an important responsibility for Australia to apply the highest possible standards of management practice.

A set of key management principles for CERRA, which provides a philosophical basis for the management of CERRA and guidance in the formulation of operational management strategies, has been derived from the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. These principles are consistent with the Australian World Heritage management principles, which are regulations to the Commonwealth's EPBC Act (see Appendix 6).

Management of CERRA will aim to:

- identify, protect, conserve, present and, where necessary, rehabilitate the World Heritage values of the property;
- integrate the protection of the property into a comprehensive planning program;
- give the property a function in the life of the Australian community;
- strengthen appreciation and respect for the property's World Heritage values, particularly through educational and information programs, and keeping the community broadly informed about the condition of the World Heritage values of the property;
- take the appropriate scientific, technical, legal, administrative and financial measures necessary for implementing these principles;
- provide for continuing community and technical input in managing the property; and
- manage the broad range of values, both World Heritage and non-World Heritage, ensuring that achieving the long-term conservation of the reserves' World Heritage values is the over-riding principle.





## 8. Strategic Management Objectives

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### *Strategic objectives*

As a signatory to the World Heritage convention, Australia has certain obligations in relation to its World Heritage areas. In particular Australia must take measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of its World Heritage, and, through these measures, to pass on the outstanding universal values of these places to future generations. These obligations provide the basis for the following strategic objectives for the management of CERRA:

- To ensure that the World Heritage values of the property are clearly **identified**.
- To ensure that the World Heritage values of CERRA are **protected** through appropriate long-term legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements.
- To ensure that the World Heritage values of CERRA are **conserved** through both pro-active management and the control of threatening processes.
- To ensure that degraded areas of CERRA are **rehabilitated** to a natural condition.
- To ensure that the World Heritage values of CERRA are **presented** in the most appropriate and sustainable way to the community.
- Through achievement of the above objectives, to **transmit** the outstanding universal values of CERRA to future generations.

In the following sections, each of the above objectives is addressed by providing background information, identifying desired outcomes for the year 2007, identifying the key strategic issues and proposing guidelines and actions necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.

Responsibility for implementing the proposed guidelines and actions rests with the relevant State agencies. Implementation will be dependent on the provision of adequate resources by the State and Commonwealth Governments. Provision of these resources will be subject to negotiation by the CERRA Ministerial Council.



## IDENTIFICATION

Identification refers to the obligation to identify areas of outstanding universal value that are considered worthy of protection under the World Heritage Convention, and to comprehensively document their World Heritage values.

### Background information

CERRA was originally inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986. At that stage the property included 16 rainforest parks and reserves in NSW. A re-nomination was submitted in 1992 primarily to add the Queensland reserves to the existing World Heritage property. In response to the evaluation of the nomination by IUCN, and on the recommendation of the World Heritage Bureau, the nomination was extended to include a number of additional areas in NSW such as flora reserves on the Richmond, Koreelah and McPherson Ranges and on the Carrai Plateau, as well as Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. The areas covered by the revised nomination were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994.

The World Heritage values of CERRA have been summarised earlier in this document (see Section 5 and also Appendix 3). While the nomination document adequately identified and described the values of the area nominated in 1992, the values represented in the individual reserves are not well documented. Despite recent systematic forest surveys, much more remains to be discovered about the biological diversity within CERRA, at all levels. The level of understanding about CERRA's World Heritage values is also often inadequate for management purposes. Little is known, for example, of the ecological requirements of individual species. This means a realistic assessment of the long-term viability of some plant and animal species and communities within CERRA is not currently possible.

Recent additions have been made to the reserve system in NSW and Queensland, including some significant additions to existing reserves included in CERRA. These include many suitable areas identified by the IUCN in 1993 and improve the integrity and decrease the fragmentation for the property. There are also some other significant areas of rainforest that have been reserved. Other reserves may also warrant consideration, following the recommendations of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA) World Heritage Expert Panel. Potential additions also exist in the increasing number of protected areas on private lands (subject to conservation agreements) and reserves managed by local government authorities.

The CRA World Heritage Expert Panel also identified the potential for the forests of north-east NSW and south-east Queensland, including CERRA, to contain outstanding universal cultural values, in relation to its use by and significance to local Aboriginal peoples. The indigenous cultural values of CERRA are poorly known.

### Desired outcomes

- Areas of potential outstanding universal value or that improve the integrity of the property are evaluated as additions to CERRA.
- The location of World Heritage values within the property is comprehensively documented.
- Improved knowledge of World Heritage values through research.
- Local communities support any proposed additions to the property.



**Table 1: Issues and strategies for identification**

Issues	Management Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additions to the reserve system, including reserves managed by local government and other State agencies, may contain World Heritage values.</li> <li>• Voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs) exist in both Queensland and NSW as a form of off-reserve conservation. Some areas covered by VCAs may contain World Heritage values; other areas, adjacent to CERRA, may be worthy of protection through VCAs.</li> <li>• CERRA may include outstanding universal cultural values.</li> <li>• In the past there has been opposition to proposed extensions by local communities.</li> <li>• There is limited understanding of many aspects of CERRA's World Heritage values, including their spatial distribution in each reserve and the long-term viability of plant and animal species and communities within CERRA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess reserved areas that may enhance the values and integrity of the property as potential additions to CERRA.</li> <li>• Continue negotiating VCAs to protect areas of high natural value.</li> <li>• Where appropriate consider these areas as possible additions to CERRA in close consultation with owners and local government.</li> <li>• Initiate close consultation with local Aboriginal peoples.</li> <li>• With their cooperation, appropriately document the cultural values of CERRA</li> <li>• Only with their agreement, investigate the potential of CERRA to be renominated as a cultural landscape.</li> <li>• Where additions are proposed, implement a program for consultation with stakeholder and community groups in relation to possible additions.</li> <li>• Develop and enhance a sense of ownership and responsibility for CERRA among local communities in partnership with local government.</li> <li>• Undertake an audit of existing biodiversity data for CERRA to identify gaps.</li> <li>• Review and update as necessary CERRA's World Heritage values and detail their occurrence in each reserve.</li> <li>• Develop priorities for research to fill data gaps, such as targeted research that will add to the knowledge of the property's values or comprehensive baseline studies, and undertake or support such research..</li> <li>• Examine options for a funded research strategy to be implemented through partnerships with local universities.</li> </ul>



## PROTECTION

Protection refers to the obligation to ensure that appropriate long-term legislative, regulatory and institutional arrangements are in place and to obtain community support for these arrangements.

### Background information

CERRA consists of about 50 public reserves under various land tenures. These are mostly national parks, nature reserves and State forest reserves under the jurisdiction of the State agencies responsible for conservation and forests. Various levels of protection and regulation are afforded to the different tenures and zoning under relevant State legislation. These are detailed in Appendix 6.

Administrative arrangements that encourage coordinated, consistent and cooperative management between agencies and across State borders have been established at the operational, strategic policy development and Ministerial levels.

Management planning is at various stages of completion for each of the CERRA reserves (see Appendix 7). Measures to address the World Heritage obligations are not specifically addressed in most of the current plans of management.

Part of CERRA in Queensland comprises Crown land (Rabbit Board Reserves, Reserves for Prison Purposes and Road Reserves) reserved for purposes other than conservation. Although there are restrictions on land use through the provisions of the relevant Acts, there is no explicit provision for the protection of conservation values within those Acts. For these reserves, and also for State forests in Queensland, there is no State requirement to prepare a management plan.

Land use activities on neighbouring lands and developments within CERRA also have the potential to impact on CERRA's World Heritage values. Current legislation in each State requires an assessment of environmental impacts of proposed designated projects but requirements vary between States and between local government areas. The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* provides that an action that will or is likely to have a significant impact on CERRA's World Heritage values may be undertaken only if the action is approved by the Commonwealth Environment Minister or is carried out in accordance with a management plan accredited by the Commonwealth Environment Minister. The Australian World Heritage management principles (which are regulations to the EPBC Act) guide management planning and impact assessment.

There remains a level of concern within some sectors of the community about the possible implications of World Heritage listing on their activities.

### Desired outcomes

- As far as possible, policy formulation and planning for CERRA is undertaken strategically, considering the implications for the entire property.
- All CERRA reserves are covered by statutory management plans and, where necessary, operation plans (such as fire, weeding and incident control plans).
- Effective inter-governmental and inter-agency administrative arrangements are in place to ensure the cooperative, coordinated and consistent management of CERRA.
- Local communities are supportive of the World Heritage objectives for the property.



**Table 2: Issues and strategies for protection**

Issues	Management response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no unifying management planning framework covering all components of the CERRA, due to the diverse tenures and the fact that two States are involved.</li> <li>• The management of some CERRA reserves in Queensland (Rabbit Board Reserves, Reserves for Prison Purposes and Road Reserves) does not explicitly protect their conservation values. Some reserves do not require the preparation of management plans.</li> <li>• Most reserves have no current management plan; some plans do not specifically address World Heritage objectives.</li> <li>• Environmental impact assessment requirements vary between States and between local government areas, and between the different levels of government, including the Commonwealth.</li> <li>• There is the potential for conflict between the protection of World Heritage values and the exercising of native title rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise, implement and adopt the strategies of the <i>Strategic Overview</i>.</li> <li>• Encourage and assist relevant government agencies to either enter into Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCAs) for these reserves or agree to change their tenure to Conservation Park as appropriate.</li> <li>• Prepare statutory management plans for VCAs and Conservation Parks.</li> <li>• Ensure that statutory management plans are prepared for all CERRA reserves as a matter of priority and that these specifically address World Heritage objectives, and meet the requirements of the Australian World Heritage management principles.</li> <li>• Ensure that management plans contain provisions for evaluating and monitoring their effectiveness.</li> <li>• Ensure that environmental impact assessments for proposals that may affect CERRA (whether or not on the reserves themselves) adequately address potential impacts on World Heritage values and are carried out in accordance with the Australian World Heritage management principles.</li> <li>• Provide information to local government authorities and other relevant agencies about CERRA's World Heritage values and ensure they are aware of legal provisions to protect these values.</li> <li>• Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the world heritage values of CERRA, a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of CERRA's world heritage values.</li> <li>• Ensure valid native title is recognised and Indigenous Land Use Agreements negotiated, consistent with Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention and the</li> </ul>



Issues	Management response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There remains a level of concern within some sectors of the community about the possible implications of World Heritage listing on their activities.</li></ul>	<p>restrictions on land use imposed by law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utilise existing mechanisms and develop innovative approaches to increase understanding and support for CERRA among the community by promoting the World Heritage values of the property and the benefits of World Heritage listing.</li><li>• As far as practicable, cooperate with neighbours to protect both the boundaries of the property and the values of neighbouring lands.</li><li>• Establish a community advisory committee as a forum for information exchange and community input into the management of CERRA.</li></ul>



## CONSERVATION

Conservation refers to the obligation to ensure that the ecological viability of the property's values is maintained. This requires an increased understanding of the values of the property, active management, and the control of processes which threaten the long-term integrity of the property and its capacity for ongoing evolution.

### Background information

To conserve CERRA's World Heritage values, management aims to maintain species richness and genetic diversity, to ensure populations of threatened species remain viable, to control threatening processes (summarised in Section 6), and to maintain opportunities for continued natural evolution in wilderness areas. Specialists within the management agencies currently provide scientific and technical advice on the management of CERRA.

As discussed under the objective of identification, the level of understanding about CERRA's World Heritage values is often inadequate for management purposes. Little is known, for example, of the ecological requirements of individual species. It is now recognised however that lowland rainforest remnants on private property and in other reserves (sometimes little more than individual trees) allow gene flow between, and improve the viability of, the larger and high altitude rainforest reserves in CERRA. Thus areas outside CERRA can directly contribute to the conservation of CERRA's World Heritage values and therefore complement CERRA.

Each of the agencies managing CERRA has its own priorities and policies in relation to nature conservation. These require coordination at the operational level in relation to fire, visitor management and threatened species, particularly in the border region where different agencies manage contiguous reserves. The CERRA Coordinating Committee was established to coordinate operational matters within CERRA (see Section 4).

Effective management is currently constrained by: an incomplete database on natural resources and visitor use; inadequate systems for the storage and distribution of resource data and research results; pressures for greater use of the reserves for tourism, recreation and development; and complex boundaries and the dispersed nature of the property.

### Desired outcomes

- Widespread recognition that conservation of the reserves' values is the primary consideration in their management.
- Management objectives, policies and activities are coordinated between agencies, consistent with World Heritage objectives and improved in line with best practice.
- A comprehensive biological data set is available to managers in all agencies.
- An appropriate regime of monitoring is in place to enable assessment of the state of the World Heritage values of CERRA.
- Management decisions are guided by independent scientific and technical advice.



**Table 3: Issues and strategies for conservation**

Issues	Management response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of coordination of policies and programs between agencies in relation to key management issues, such as fire management, visitor management and endangered species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate mechanisms for coordination of policy and on-ground management across the property.</li> <li>• Implement <i>Key Directions</i> to improve coordination on key issues in the border region; develop other regional strategies as appropriate.</li> <li>• Develop appropriate training programs for field staff in CERRA to promote consistency of approach to and best practice in a range of management tasks, such as fire and pest control.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited knowledge exists on best management for, and the ecological requirements of, many of CERRA's unique plants and animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support research on management issues and the ecology of species, as part of the research strategy recommended in Table 1.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing systems for the storage and distribution of resource data and research results are inadequate for effective management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an integrated data storage and retrieval system accessible to managers in all relevant agencies.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats of important plant and animal species often extend beyond CERRA's boundaries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the importance of small rainforest remnants as stepping stones between the larger reserves.</li> <li>• Wherever possible, work with neighbours and local government to conserve off-reserve habitats. Encourage landholders to enter into conservation agreements to formally protect important habitat values.</li> <li>• Promote, and consider formal recognition of small lowland rainforest reserves that support the conservation of CERRA's World Heritage values.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate and or intensive recreation activities may negatively impact on conservation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage appropriate visitor use through planning and provision of infrastructure.</li> <li>• Manage and maintain existing visitor infrastructure to cater for planned levels of visitation and use, while ensuring impacts on the environment are minimised.</li> <li>• Provision of opportunities for horse-riding and off-road 4WD touring will be restricted to designated routes where they do not threaten CERRA's natural and cultural values.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently no mechanism for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Technical and Scientific Advisory</li> </ul>





Issues	Management response
independent scientific and technical input into the management of CERRA.	Committee to provide independent advice on the management of CERRA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of formal auditing of the state of the World Heritage values of CERRA.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop mechanism for regular reporting on the state of the CERRA's World Heritage values through routine monitoring of core and supplementary indicators, following the baseline studies recommended in Table 1.</li></ul>



## REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation refers to the obligation to restore degraded areas to naturally functioning ecosystems that can continue to support and no longer threaten World Heritage values.

### Background information

Natural processes of change such as erosion and evolution occur in CERRA today as they have through geological time. Human activities can, however, lead to accelerated rates of erosion and disturb the delicate balance of species that give CERRA its unique character.

Various parts of CERRA have been disturbed in the past by activities such as mining, timber harvesting, road construction and fire. Some disturbed sites have not regenerated, degrading the ecological and aesthetic values of CERRA. Even seemingly innocuous activities like bushwalking can lead to vegetation damage and soil erosion at campsites and along tracks, especially in steep or wet areas. Any new infrastructure developments within CERRA have the potential to require some rehabilitation of surrounding areas.

Most CERRA reserves are affected by environmental weeds, with some sections greatly affected. For most reserves, this is the greatest threat to their World Heritage values. Those weeds of major concern to managers are mistflower, lantana, camphor laurel and Madeira vine. Scotch broom, blackberry and bitou bush are problems in some individual reserves. Lantana and vines are often associated with previous disturbance and can arrest natural regeneration processes. Other environmental weeds can invade undisturbed areas. The long-term impacts on surrounding natural ecosystems are unknown. Biological control options are being investigated in cooperation with other government agencies but weeding is currently the only option for control. Strategic priority weeding is occurring in parts of CERRA whenever funds are available, but this is limited in extent and hampered by the inaccessibility of many infestations.

Pest animals occurring in CERRA include pigs, foxes, cats, goats and wild dogs. Some of these have the potential to become major threats to World Heritage values in the future. Both weeds and pest animals can move or spread either from the reserves to neighbouring properties or *vice versa*. This can lead to conflict between managers and neighbours.

The double fences designed to prevent the movement of rabbits and cattle tick across the State border in places effectively divide otherwise contiguous areas of the same ecosystem.

### Desired outcomes

- Rehabilitation policies and programs are coordinated between agencies and consistent with other World Heritage objectives.
- Impacts of processes that threaten World Heritage values are minimised.
- Rehabilitated areas support naturally functioning ecosystems.
- Neighbours are informed and supportive of rehabilitation measures.



**Table 4: Issues and strategies for rehabilitation**

Issues	Management response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of coordination between agencies and States may result in ineffective or incompatible rehabilitation policies and programs.</li> <li>• Introduced species, especially weeds, have the potential to significantly impact on the World Heritage values of the property. There are other disturbed sites in CERRA created by earlier activities, including mining, timber harvesting and road construction.</li> <li>• Maintenance of border fences between otherwise contiguous CERRA reserves interrupts the continuity, and may reduce the viability, of some sensitive ecosystems.</li> <li>• There is potential for conflict with neighbours over the movement and spread of pest species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a coordinated approach to, and implement programs for, rehabilitation within CERRA, including the control of pest species.</li> <li>• Develop an inventory of pest species infestations and degraded sites in CERRA.</li> <li>• Undertake and support research into rehabilitation methods and pest species effects and control.</li> <li>• Identify priorities for rehabilitation of disturbed sites and control of weeds and pest animals in CERRA.</li> <li>• Ensure that pest control programs are adequately resourced for effective control to be achieved.</li> <li>• Develop monitoring procedures to measure success of rehabilitation programs.</li> <li>• Seek cooperation of relevant agencies in developing options to minimise the environmental impacts of the tick and rabbit fences.</li> <li>• Wherever possible, establish cooperative arrangements with neighbours and local government authorities in relation to pest management.</li> <li>• Incorporate an introduced pest species management component into education and interpretation programs.</li> </ul>



## PRESENTATION

Presentation refers to the obligation to provide information, education, interpretation, promotion and publicity for CERRA in a way that creates a greater understanding of, and support for its outstanding universal values and the World Heritage concept.

### Background information

As described in Section 5, CERRA provides settings for recreation and tourism that are outstanding and increasingly rare by world standards. Visitor numbers are approximately 2 million annually and are increasing, with the highest visitation occurring in the Queensland reserves. Provision and maintenance of visitor facilities is the single greatest demand on management agency's resources.

Competing pressures for use of areas by different user groups (such as 4WD groups, bushwalkers and tour operators) can create conflict and diminish visitor enjoyment. Some of the more popular areas (such as Green Mountains and Mount Warning) are already overcrowded during peak holiday periods. A recreational management strategy and zoning scheme for the parks and reserves of the NPWS northern directorate has been completed which will guide the type of use, and the provision and level of facilities throughout the NSW section of CERRA, in the broader regional context.

The aim of presentation is not only to enhance the quality of visitor experiences, but also to help shape the public image of the area, influence visitor behaviour and engender broad community support for management objectives. For CERRA a major aim is to present the fragmented property as a single entity, and this requires agency cooperation and neighbour support. A brochure has been produced and distributed to promote the property as a whole, however other information brochures available for individual reserves do not necessarily identify the individual areas as part of CERRA or provide information on World Heritage.

Park visitor centres have been established within and outside CERRA (in Dorrigo, Lamington and Gibraltar Range National Parks and at Murwillumbah). High quality interpretive displays have also been installed recently at a number of other reserves and other towns. Standards of signs and interpretive displays vary throughout the property. Some signs are out of date, provide inaccurate information about CERRA or its values, or do not reflect the World Heritage status of the reserves.

The NPWS and the QPWS conduct a range of visitor information, education and interpretation programs targeted at various sectors of the community. Delivery of these services though is sometimes sporadic, dependent on funding and staff availability at the district level. Commercial guided tours account for a large proportion of visitors in some areas, particularly in south-east Queensland. The QPWS has developed a tour operator training kit for guides working in CERRA.

### Desired outcomes

- High quality nature-based and sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities and experiences are available within CERRA.



**Desired outcomes cont.**

- Visitors are better informed of the diversity of recreational opportunities available, both within CERRA and the surrounding region.
- Recreation and tourism do not diminish or threaten World Heritage values.
- The potential for conflict between recreational users is minimised.
- Public awareness, understanding and support for the World Heritage listing of CERRA and its management, is reflected in environmentally responsible behaviour.

**Table 5: Issues and strategies for presentation**

Issues	Management response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is incomplete data on visitor use of CERRA and its impacts.</li> <li>• Increasing visitor numbers have the potential to adversely affect World Heritage values.</li> <li>• Lack of public and agency identification with CERRA as an integrated World Heritage property.</li> <li>• Signs vary within the property, often carrying inconsistent messages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake and support research into patterns of visitor use of CERRA and its impacts on World Heritage and other values.</li> <li>• Ensure that the prime consideration in the face of increasing pressures for recreation is the conservation of an area's values.</li> <li>• Ensure visitor facilities and recreational activities are planned and managed to have minimal or no threat to the values of the area.</li> <li>• Provide community education to highlight the vulnerability of World Heritage values and promote the need for environmentally responsible behaviour.</li> <li>• Improve internal communication and promotion of CERRA within agencies.</li> <li>• Develop an information and education strategy to promote CERRA, its values and significance to the broader community, especially the local community, through partnerships with local government, tourism bodies and schools.</li> <li>• Review existing information on CERRA for accuracy, consistency and effectiveness.</li> <li>• Develop and follow standards for the design and content of signs and interpretive displays within CERRA, to ensure consistency of signage and messages.</li> </ul>



Issues	Management response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of training for staff involved in the presentation of the property.</li> <li>• Lack of quality control over presentations given by commercial tour operators within the property.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between various user groups, such as day use picnickers, car-based campers, bushwalkers, horse-riders and vehicle-based tourists..</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement training for relevant staff.</li> <li>• Formulate a code of conduct for tour operators.</li> <li>• Facilitate and encourage tour operators to undertake training courses. Examine options for developing competency based training programs for tour operators in CERRA and implementing accreditation arrangements based on these.</li> <li>• Enhance formal and informal consultation mechanisms with the tourism industry.</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for meaningful consultation with user groups to resolve potential conflicts.</li> <li>• Facilitate and contribute to the development of regional cross-tenure visitor management strategies across CERRA.</li> </ul>



## Appendix 1 Land Tenure of CERRA (January 1999)

Reserve name	Approximate areas (hectares)
<b><i>New South Wales</i></b>	
<b>National parks managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)</b>	
Border Ranges (part)	31508
Mebbin (part)	11
Nightcap (part)	4945
Mount Warning	2380
Koreelah (part)	769
Mount Clunie (part)	485
Mount Nothofagus (part)	650
Toonumbar (part)	1225
Tooloom (part)	1665
Richmond Range (part)	870
Mallanganee	222
Washpool (part)	27715
Gibraltar Range (part)	17273
New England (part)	30115
Cunnawarra (part)	270
Dorrigo (part)	7885
Oxley Wild Rivers (part)	102820
Werrikimbe (part)	25578
Willi Willi (part)	1610
Mt Royal (part)	230
Barrington Tops (part)	39193
<b>Nature reserves managed by NPWS</b>	
Limpinwood	2646
Numinbah	858
Captains Creek (part)	380
Iluka	136
Mount Hyland (part)	1636
The Castles	2360
Mount Seaview	1703
<b>Flora reserve managed by State Forests of NSW (SFNSW)</b>	
Amaroo	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>307174</b>



Reserve name	Approximate areas (hectares)
<b><i>Queensland</i></b>	
<b>National parks managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)</b>	
Springbrook (part)	2480
Lamington	20569
Mount Chinghee	1257
Mount Barney (part)	10831
Main Range	17794
<b>Conservation parks managed by QPWS</b>	
Spicers Gap	6
<b>State forest managed by Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</b>	
Goomburra (part)	2067
Spicers Gap (part)	257
Gilbert (part)	84
Emu Vale (part)	268
Gambubal (part)	2260
Teviot (part)	390
Burnett Creek (part)	1076
<b>Rabbit Board paddock reserves managed by Darling Downs— Moreton Rabbit Board</b>	
R475 (Res 5740)	22
R470 (Res 11.135)	40
R603 (Res 3934)	36
R464 (Res 11.108)	26
R489 (Res 929)	18
<b>Reserves for prison purposes managed by Queensland Corrective Services Commission</b>	
R932 (Res 12018)	6
R547 (Res 2678)	42
Various road reserves adjacent to the areas listed here.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59529</b>





## Appendix 2 World Heritage Properties in Australia

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Currently there are 13 World Heritage properties in Australia. These are

**1. Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) (NSW & Qld)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1986, additions listed in 1994

**2. Fraser Island (Qld)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1992

**3. Great Barrier Reef (Qld)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1981

**4. Heard and McDonald Islands (part of the Australian Antarctic Territory)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1997

**5. Kakadu National Park (NT)**

Stage 1 was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1981, stage 2 in 1987 and stage 3 in 1992. Listed under natural and cultural criteria.

**6. Lord Howe Island Group (NSW)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1982.

**7. Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte) (Qld & SA)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1994.

**8. Macquarie Island (Tasmania)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1997.

**9. Shark Bay (WA)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1991.

**10. Tasmanian Wilderness (Tas)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1982, extended in 1989. Listed under natural and cultural criteria.

**11. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (NT)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list for its natural values in 1987. Inscribed as a cultural landscape in 1994.

**12. Wet Tropics of Queensland (Qld)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1988.

**13. Willandra Lakes Region (NSW)**

Inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1981 under natural and cultural criteria.



## Appendix 3 Key examples of CERRA's World Heritage values

Natural criteria against which CERRA was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 following extension of the original area listed in 1986.	Examples of CERRA's World Heritage values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 following extension of the original area listed in 1986.
<p><b>Criterion (i) outstanding examples representing the major stages of the earth's evolutionary history.</b></p>	<p>CERRA preserves outstanding examples of ecosystems and taxa from which modern biota are derived, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some of the oldest elements of the world's ferns from the Carboniferous period,</li> <li>• one of the most significant centres of survival for Araucarians,</li> <li>• an outstanding record of Angiosperms,</li> <li>• an outstanding number of the oldest lineages of the Corvida (one of the two major groups of true songbirds that evolved in the Late Cretaceous), and</li> <li>• outstanding examples of other relict vertebrate and invertebrate fauna from ancient lineages linked to the break-up of Gondwana.</li> </ul> <p>The World Heritage values include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rainforests which are exceptionally rich in primitive and relict species, many of which are similar to fossils from Gondwana;</li> <li>• subtropical rainforest habitat;</li> <li>• warm temperate rainforest habitat;</li> <li>• ancient ferns and tree ferns;</li> <li>• conifers (e.g. hoop pine) and cycads;</li> <li>• primitive groups within Magnoliales and Laurales (e.g. pepper bushes, sassafras, <i>Trimenia</i>, <i>Wilkia</i>, <i>Cryptocarya</i>, <i>Litsea</i>);</li> <li>• primitive groups within Rosidae and Dilleniidae (e.g. coachwood, Antarctic Beech, <i>Eucryphia jinksii</i>, turnipwood, <i>Pittosporum</i>, most common in warm temperate and subtropical rainforest types);</li> <li>• primitive group of Corvida (such as lyrebirds, rufous scrub-bird, bowerbirds and tree-creepers);</li> <li>• other birds dating from Gondwana (e.g. logrunner, thornbills, scrubwrens and gerygones);</li> <li>• frogs in the families Myobatrachidae and Hylidae;</li> <li>• reptiles such as chelid turtles, leaf-tailed gecko and angle-headed dragon;</li> <li>• monotremes and marsupials; and</li> <li>• invertebrate fauna with origins in Gondwana, including fresh-water crays, land snails, velvet worms, mygalomorph spiders, flightless carabid beetles, bird-wing butterfly and glow-worms.</li> <li>• Ecosystems and taxa which demonstrate the origins and rise to dominance of cold-adapted/dry-adapted flora, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cool temperate rainforest habitat;</li> <li>- dry rainforest habitat; and</li> <li>- plant species in the families Myrtaceae, Casuarinaceae and Proteaceae.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p><b>Criterion (ii) outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment.</b></p>	<p>The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves provides outstanding examples of ongoing geological processes associated with Tertiary volcanic activity, and of biological evolution. The World Heritage values include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the caldera of the Tweed Shield Volcano is considered one of the best preserved erosion caldera in the world and is notable for its size, its age (20 million years), and for the presence of a prominent central mountain mass with all three stages of the erosion of shield volcanoes (the planeze, residual and skeletal stages);</li> <li>centres of endemism where ongoing evolution is taking place;</li> <li>flora and fauna of low dispersal capability that occur in more than one isolated pocket of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves;</li> <li>plant taxa that show evidence of relatively recent evolution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>genera in Southern Hemisphere families (e.g. Winteraceae, Monimiaceae and Lauraceae in the Magnolidae, Proteaceae, Cunoniaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Escalloniaceae, Davidsoniaceae Pittosporaceae, Myrtaceae and Sapindaceae in the Rosidae and, Elaeocarpaceae, Sterculiaceae and Ebenaceae in the Dilleniidae); and</li> <li>monotypic endemic families (e.g. Akaniaceae and Petermanniaceae);</li> </ul> </li> <li>animal taxa that show evidence of relatively recent evolution, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 species of frogs in the myobatrachid genus <i>Pseudophyrne</i> believed to have diverged in the Pliocene;</li> <li>species of frogs in the relict genus <i>Philoria/Kyarranus</i> and the <i>Litoria pearsoniana/ phyllochroa</i> complex;</li> <li>reptiles such as <i>Eulamprus</i> spp; and</li> <li>invertebrates such as snails, earthworms, crays, velvet worms and carabid beetles, including taxa that show overlap and intergradation of different faunal elements (e.g. ants and dung beetles) and</li> </ul> </li> <li>the diversity of plant and animal species.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criterion (iv) contain the most important and significant habitats where threatened species of plants and animals of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and conservation still survive.</b></p>	<p>The ecosystems of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves contain significant and important natural habitats species of conservation significance, particularly associated with rainforest which once covered much of the continent of Australia and is now restricted to archipelagos of small areas of rainforest isolated largely by sclerophyll vegetation and cleared land. The World Heritage values include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>habitats associated with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>subtropical rainforest;</li> <li>wet sclerophyll forest;</li> <li>montane heathlands;</li> <li>rocky outcrops; and</li> <li>ecotones between rainforest and sclerophyll communities;</li> </ul> </li> <li>plant taxa of conservation significance (more than 200 plant taxa, particularly in the families Proteaceae, Myrtaceae and Euphorbiaceae and including species of <i>Cryptocarya</i>, <i>Tasmannia</i> and <i>Endiandra</i>);</li> <li>species of vertebrate fauna of conservation significance (including at least 80 taxa such as Albert's lyrebird, rufous scrub-bird, marbled frogmouth, eastern bristlebird, black-breasted button quail, <i>Philoria/Kyarranus</i> spp., pouched frog, barred frogs, parma wallaby, yellow-bellied glider, Hastings River mouse, New Holland mouse, fawn-footed melomys and golden-tipped bat); and</li> <li>species of invertebrate fauna of conservation significance (such as the Richmond River bird-wing butterfly and <i>Euastacus jagara</i>).</li> </ul>





## **Appendix 4 Native Title Claims Affecting CERRA (January 1999)**

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### **QC 96/ 69 on behalf of the Kombumerri people**

- includes part of Lamington National Park and all of Springbrook National Park

### **NC 95/ 11 on behalf of the Gidhabul Nation**

- *in Queensland*, includes part of the Main Range National Park and all of Mt Barney National Park, Gambubal and Burnett Creek State Forests, and Rabbit Board Reserves R470, R489, R475, R603 and R464.
- *in New South Wales*, includes Captains Creek Nature Reserve, and Mt Clunie, Mt Nothofagus, Koreelah, Toonumbar, Tooloom, Richmond Range and Border Ranges National Parks.

### **NC 96/ 8 on behalf of the Bunjalung people of Mulabugilmah and Baryulgil**

- includes part of Washpool National Park

### **NC96/ 14 on behalf of the Bunjalung People of Tabulam**

- includes part of Richmond Range National Park

### **NC 96/ 33 on behalf of the Widjabul Clan of the Bunjalung Nation**

- includes Nightcap National Park

### **NC 97/ 21 on behalf of the Wahlabul people**

- includes a small part of Washpool National Park and part of Richmond Range National Park

### **NC 97/ 31 on behalf of the Aboriginal people of the Millera Tribe**

- includes part of the Washpool National Park

### **NC 97/ 34 on behalf of the Gumbangirri people of the New England Tablelands**

- includes parts of New England and Cunnawarra National Parks

### **NC 98/ 16 on behalf of the Gumbaynggirr people**

- includes parts of New England and Dorrigo National Parks



## Appendix 5 Terms of Reference for CERRA Committees

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### *Community Advisory Committee*

#### **Terms of Reference**

The CERRA Community Advisory Committee will provide advice, either at the request of the Ministerial Council or at its own volition, to the Ministerial Council on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of CERRA from the viewpoint of the community.

The Community Advisory Committee shall:

- consider and advise on the views of represented community interests regarding the management, planning and use of CERRA; and
- at the request of the Ministerial Council, provide advice to the CERRA Steering Committee on issues referred to it for consideration.

#### **Membership**

There shall be a maximum of 15 members of the Community Advisory Committee, comprising:

- an independent Chairperson appointed by the Commonwealth;
- the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee or a nominated representative;
- the Chair of each of the five NSW NPWS Regional Advisory Committees which represent stakeholder interests within the NPWS Northern Directorate;
- up to five representatives of stakeholder interests within the QLD portion of CERRA appointed by the Queensland Government, with one representative chosen from each of the following groups: conservation, indigenous, recreation, commercial tourism and local government;
- up to three additional Commonwealth appointed representatives from specific interest groups, such as indigenous, conservation and tourism.

#### **Appointments**

Members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Ministerial Council. The Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland shall each nominate their own representatives. Nominations shall be by the relevant State or Commonwealth member of the Ministerial Council.

The Chair of each of the New South Wales Regional Advisory Committees shall be appointed to represent the views of their respective committee. Other members shall be appointed in their own right and not as representatives of any particular organisation.

Members shall be appointed for a period of up to three years, with members eligible for reappointment.

The Chair of the Community Advisory Committee shall be agreed by all three Governments.

Employees of the New South Wales, Queensland and Commonwealth Governments may attend meetings of the Community Advisory Committee as observers.



The Committee may, from time to time, invite non-government observers to attend meetings.

### **Termination**

Other than by resignation, terminations of membership of the Community Advisory Committee shall be by the Chair of the Ministerial Council with the written agreement of the nominating State Minister.

### **Operation**

The Community Advisory Committee shall operate according to the following procedures:

- A quorum shall comprise three NSW appointed members, three QLD appointed members and one Commonwealth appointed member, plus the Chair or his/ her delegate appointed from the committee.
- The Committee shall meet as necessary, or at the request of the Ministerial Council, or if the majority of members request a meeting, provided that at least two meetings are held each calendar year.
- Secretariat support for the Committee shall be provided by the CERRA Executive Officer.
- Procedure for the conduct of business shall be by consensus and recommendation. Where consensus is not possible, the Committee shall indicate in its report of meetings the number of members supporting a particular view and note the alternative views of members not supporting a recommendation.
- A report of each meeting shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee and all members of the Steering Committee and Working Group of Officials within 21 days of each meeting.
- Each appointed member shall provide the Chairperson with the name and contact details of an alternative that may act during the illness or absence of that member.
- The Commonwealth shall pay members sitting fees and allowances as prescribed in the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations. State and Commonwealth Governments shall bear the costs of their agency observers attending meetings.



## ***Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee***

### **Terms of Reference**

The CERRA Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee will provide advice, either at the request of the Ministerial Council or at its own volition, to the Ministerial Council on:

- scientific research priorities that will contribute to the protection and conservation of CERRA and a better understanding of its natural history;
- new information or developments in science relevant to the protection, conservation and presentation of CERRA;
- the scientific basis of management principles and practices;
- appropriateness of research funded by agencies in terms of scope, quality and relevance to management of the property; and
- maintenance of the outstanding universal values and integrity of CERRA.

### **Membership**

There shall be up to 8 members of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee comprising:

- an independent Chairperson;
- the Chair of the Community Advisory Committee; and
- a total of up to 6 persons with qualifications relevant to, and/or special interest in, the protection and conservation of CERRA including: botany, zoology, general ecology, park management and social sciences.

### **Appointments**

Members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Ministerial Council. The Chair of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee shall be agreed by all three Governments.

Other than the Chair of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee, up to two members shall be appointed on the nomination of the Queensland Minister, up to two members on the nomination of the NSW Minister and up to two members on the nomination of the Commonwealth Minister.

Members shall be appointed in their own right and not as representatives of any particular organisations, for a period of up to three years, with members eligible for reappointment.

Employees of the New South Wales, Queensland and Commonwealth Governments may attend meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee as observers.

### **Termination**

Other than by resignation, terminations of membership of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee shall be by the Chair of the Ministerial Council, with the written agreement of the nominating Minister, at their discretion.

### **Operation**

The Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee shall operate according to the following procedures:





- A quorum shall be a simple majority of members.
- The Committee shall meet as necessary, or at the request of the Ministerial Council, or if the majority of members request a meeting, provided that at least two meetings are to be held each calendar year.
- Secretariat support for the Committee shall be provided by the CERRA Executive Officer and the agency in which that position is hosted at the time.
- If the Chairperson is absent the Committee shall elect a temporary Chair.
- Procedure for the conduct of business shall be by consensus and recommendation. Where consensus is not possible, the Committee shall indicate in its report of meetings the number of members supporting a particular view and note the alternative views of members not supporting a recommendation.
- A report of each meeting shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Ministerial Council and the Chair of the Community Advisory Committee and all members of the Steering Committee and Working Group of Officials within 21 days of each meeting.
- Each appointed member shall provide the Chairperson with the name and contact details of an alternative who may act during the illness or absence of that member.
- State and Commonwealth Governments shall bear the costs of their own nominees attending meetings. The Commonwealth shall pay members sitting fees and allowances as prescribed in the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal determinations.



## ***Steering Committee***

### **Terms of Reference**

The CERRA Steering Committee will, under the direction of the Ministerial Council, formulate and implement policies for the consistent, cooperative and coordinated management of the Property, at a strategic level, across State boundaries in accordance with the goal of 'best practice management' of Australia's World Heritage properties.

The major functions of the Steering Committee shall be:

- to develop and coordinate strategic policy for CERRA in relation to Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention;
- to provide advice and recommendations to the CERRA World Heritage Property Ministerial Council on any matters relevant to the effective management of CERRA, in particular strategic management planning, funding arrangements and presentation;
- to initiate development of long-term financial arrangements for CERRA and, in the interim, set broad priorities for expenditure;
- to seek and take advice from the Community Advisory Committee and the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee as appropriate; and
- to resolve differences in points of view which may arise from time to time.

### **Membership**

There shall be a total of 6 members of the Steering Committee comprising:

- up to two members each from the New South Wales and Queensland Governments, to be drawn from agencies with day-to-day management responsibilities for CERRA;
- up to two members from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage.

### **Appointment**

Government representatives shall be appointed as deemed appropriate by the relevant management agencies.

### **Operation**

The Steering Committee shall operate according to the following procedures:

- A quorum shall consist of at least one member from each Government.
- The Committee shall meet on an agreed basis, at least twice in a calendar year (which may include meeting by teleconference or email) or as otherwise directed by the Ministerial Council.
- Secretariat support shall be provided by the CERRA Executive Officer.
- Meetings shall be held alternately in Sydney and Brisbane or elsewhere by agreement.
- The Chair shall be rotated between the three Governments from meeting to meeting.
- Procedure for the conduct of business shall be, wherever possible, by consensus and resolution. There will be no provision for voting.
- Governments shall bear the costs of their own representatives attending meetings of the Steering Committee.



- The Chairs of the Community Advisory Committee and the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee may also attend meetings of the Steering Committee in an ex-officio capacity to advise and present reports on the deliberations/recommendations of their respective Committees.
- The Commonwealth shall pay the non-Government members sitting fees and allowances as prescribed in the Commonwealth remuneration Tribunal determinations.
- The Steering Committee shall, on an 'as needs basis', hold occasional joint meetings with the Coordinating Committee to ensure proper communication between the policy and operational levels of the committee structure.



## ***Coordinating Committee***

### **Terms of Reference**

The CERRA Coordinating Committee shall assist in the coordination and implementation of cooperative management across administrative boundaries, in terms of the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the Property.

The major functions of the Coordinating Committee shall be to:

- coordinate the implementation of policies, at an operational level, as directed by the CERRA Steering Committee and the Ministerial Council;
- provide advice, either at the request of the Steering Committee or at its own volition, to the CERRA Steering Committee on matters relating to management and administration of CERRA;
- assist the CERRA Community Advisory Committee and the CERRA Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee to meet their respective terms of reference; and
- provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, expertise and cooperative management initiatives for CERRA.

### **Membership**

The Coordinating Committee shall comprise the following membership:

- up to three members from Queensland comprising two from QPWS and one from DNR;
- up to five members from NSW comprising four from NPWS and one from SFNSW; and
- one member from Environment Australia.

### **Appointment**

Members shall be appointed as deemed appropriate by the relevant management agencies. However, in making their appointments, agencies shall ensure that the membership of the Coordinating Committee includes operational field staff, planners and managers.

### **Operation**

A quorum shall consist of the Environment Australia member and two members from each State.

Other persons may, on invitation from the Coordinating Committee, attend meetings as observers.

The Chair shall be rotated between the three Governments from meeting to meeting.

Secretariat support shall be provided by the CERRA Executive Officer.

Meetings shall be held at least three times in a calendar year, or as otherwise directed by the Steering Committee, preferably at locations within or immediately adjacent to the Property, as agreed by the Coordinating Committee.

Governments shall bear the costs of their own members attending meetings of the Coordinating Committee.



## ***CERRA Ministerial Council***

The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) (CERRA) World Heritage Property extends across parts of north-eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland. Responsibility for the day-to-day management and protection of CERRA is vested with a number of State agencies across the two jurisdictions. Coordinated and cooperative management is essential to ensure the protection and conservation of the Property's World Heritage values.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) (CERRA) World Heritage Property Ministerial Council shall:

- Coordinate policy between the New South Wales, Queensland and Commonwealth Governments on all matters concerning the CERRA World Heritage Property.
- Provide advice and make recommendations to Governments on:
  - management requirements;
  - management plans;
  - research and education;
  - presentation and promotion;
  - boundary modification;
  - community consultation and liaison; and
  - financial matters.
- Refer matters to the appropriate Community Advisory Committee, Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee and relevant committees of officials and consider reports from these bodies.
- Resolve any disputes that might arise between the Governments.

### **Membership**

Equal membership with up to two members from each of the New South Wales, Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.

### **Operation**

The Ministerial Council shall operate according to the following procedures:

- It shall be chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.
- A quorum shall be three members, with at least one member from each Government.
- It shall meet on an as agreed basis provided that at least one meeting is held per calendar year.
- Secretariat support shall be provided by the CERRA Executive Officer and the agency in which that position is hosted at the time.
- Decisions are to be made on a consensus basis



## Appendix 6 Statutory Protective Arrangements

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Legislative arrangements for the protection of areas vary between States and for different land tenures.

### Queensland

National parks are administered by the Department of Environment under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The *Nature Conservation Act* creates eleven classes of protected areas with stated management principles that apply to each.

Under Section 17 of the Act, a national park must be managed to:

- provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values;
- present the area's cultural and natural resources and their values; and
- ensure that the only use of the area is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.

Under Section 20, a conservation park is to be managed to conserve the area's natural and cultural values and, to the greatest possible extent, the area's natural condition. Any commercial use of the area's natural resources must be ecologically sustainable.

The areas of non-commercial State forest in CERRA are reserved under the *Forestry Act 1959* and administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The *Forestry Act* provides for forest reservation, management, silvicultural treatment and protection of State forests. State forests are managed under a priority zoning system. Within this system and under the provisions of the *Forestry Act* there is scope to declare scientific and feature protection areas, and forest drives and State forest parks. Such declarations require these areas to be managed in a manner that would enhance those features for which the gazettal was made. Recent changes to the *Forestry Act* allow the regulation of public access and activity within clearly defined local areas. This latter regulatory capability can be likened to the implementation of bylaws by a local authority.

Crown reserves are administered under the *Land Act 1994*. Three categories of Crown reserve are included in CERRA: two reserves are declared as prisons under the *Corrective Services Act 1988* and form buffers to the Palen Creek Correctional Centre; five reserves are formally declared as rabbit board paddocks under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985*; and there are road reserves adjacent to some reserves already part of CERRA.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act*, if an area has been included in the World Heritage List, the Queensland Minister for the Environment may propose that the whole or part of the area be declared a World Heritage Management Area. Before a World Heritage Management Area is declared, a management plan for the area must be approved. This ensures that all landholders involved are made aware of any implications and establishes the commitment of the State to manage the area. Designation of a World Heritage Management Area would establish precedence of the *Nature Conservation Act* over other statutes, such as the *Forestry Act* or *Land Act*, to the extent of any conflict between the statutes. A World Heritage Management Area is to be managed to:

- meet international obligations in relation to the area;
- protect the area's internationally outstanding cultural and natural resources and its biological diversity; and
- transmit the area's world heritage values to future generations.



## New South Wales

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Wilderness Act 1987*. These Acts cover the protection and management of areas such as national parks, nature reserves and wilderness.

The following general purposes relate to the management of national parks in NSW:

- the protection and preservation of the scenic, natural and cultural features;
- the conservation of wildlife;
- the maintenance of natural processes as far as possible;
- the provision of appropriate recreational opportunities; and
- the encouragement of scientific and educational inquiry into environmental features and processes, prehistoric and historic features, and park use patterns.

Nature reserves have a more specific function compared to national parks. For example, the provision of recreation facilities is not a primary objective of nature reserves. They are dedicated for the purposes of:

- the care, propagation, preservation and conservation of wildlife;
- the care, preservation and conservation of natural environments and natural phenomena;
- the study of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena; and
- the promotion of the appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena.

Parts of some reserves in CERRA are declared as wilderness under the *Wilderness Act*. Management principles of wilderness areas, as provided in this Act, are to restore and protect the unmodified state of the areas, to preserve its capacity to evolve in the absence of significant human interference, and to permit opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation. Wilderness areas are declared in Limpinwood Nature Reserve, and in Border Ranges, Washpool, Gibraltar Range, New England, Oxley Wild Rivers, Werrikimbe and Barrington Tops National Parks.

Flora reserves are administered by State Forests of NSW (SFNSW) under the *Forestry Act 1916*. Flora reserves are areas of State forests that are set aside to provide long-term protection for stands that are of particular interest and that act as reference stands of particular vegetation types. Management aims to preserve native flora and associated fauna with a minimum of human disturbance.

## Commonwealth

As a State Party to the World Heritage Convention the Commonwealth Government has an international obligation to ensure the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and presentation of the area and its transmission to future generations.

Australia has enacted legislation to implement its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. This is provided for under new Commonwealth legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This legislation came into effect on 16 July 2000. The EPBC Act ensures the protection of World Heritage by providing a direct link to Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention. The provisions of the EPBC Act replaced indirect triggers for Commonwealth environmental impact assessment with direct triggers that focus the Commonwealth's involvement on matters of national environmental significance - including World Heritage properties.



Under the EPBC Act, an action that will or is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values may be taken only if the action is approved by the Commonwealth Environment Minister or is taken in accordance with a management plan accredited by the Commonwealth Environment Minister. In order to obtain an approval, the proposal must be referred to the Commonwealth for environmental impact assessment through either a Commonwealth impact assessment process or an accredited State regime. Under the Act, the onus is on the person who takes or is considering taking an action to ensure that it will not have a significant impact on World Heritage. Substantial civil and criminal penalties can apply for breaches of the Act.

The regulations to the EPBC Act prescribe Australian World Heritage management principles. These principles will guide decision-making by Commonwealth agencies, including decisions by the Commonwealth Environment Minister whether to accredit State Government processes and management plans for CERRA reserves.





## Appendix 7 Status of Management Plans for Individual Parks and Reserves in CERRA (July 2000)

Reserve name	Status of management plan
<i>New South Wales</i>	
<b>National parks &amp; nature reserves</b>	
Border Ranges NP	Joint plan of management adopted 1989. New joint plan in preparation.
Nightcap NP	
Limpinwood NR	
Numinbah NR	
Mount Warning NP	Plan of management adopted 1985
Toonumbar NP	Management guidelines prepared, draft plan in preparation
Tooloom NP	Plan of management adopted 2000
Gibraltar Range NP	Plan of management adopted 1981
Washpool NP	Joint draft plan of management exhibited in 1989. New joint plan in preparation.
Gibraltar Range NP	
New England NP	Plan of management adopted 1990
Dorrigo NP	Plan of management adopted 1998
Barrington Tops NP	Draft plan exhibited in 1989
Iluka NR	Plan of management adopted 1997
Oxley Wild Rivers NP	Draft plan in preparation
Werrikimbe NP	Draft plan in preparation
<b>Flora reserves</b>	
Amaroo	Working plan approved and mining excluded in 1987
<i>Queensland</i>	
<b>National parks</b>	
Springbrook	Draft plan exhibited in 1999
Lamington	Draft plan exhibited in 1999
No plans exist for other reserves in Qld	



## **Addendum (for April 2003 reprint)**

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Since its publication in November 2000, there have been various changes which have affected the information provided in the *Strategic Overview for Management*. The following is provided to update the information.

### **Section 4 – Management background and regional setting**

The CERRA CAC and CERRA TSAC have been established, with the inaugural meeting held in August 2002.

### **Appendix 1 – Land tenure of CERRA**

As a result of the South East Queensland Forest Agreement, Goomburra, Spicers Gap, Gilbert, Emu Value, Teviot and Burnett Creek State Forests are now forest reserves, a new and temporary holding tenure created under the Nature Conservation Act. Forest reserves are managed by the QPWS. Their management principles are given below.

### **Appendix 2 – World Heritage properties in Australia**

In December 2000, the Greater Blue Mountains (NSW) was inscribed on the World Heritage list for its natural values.

### **Appendix 4 – Native Title Claims affecting CERRA**

The Kombumerri claim (QC96/69) and the Gumbaynggirr claim (NC98/16) have been discontinued.

The Widjabul claim (NC96/33) was withdrawn in 1999 and a new claim registered by the Widjabul Aboriginal People (NC01/7). This new claim includes Nightcap and Mebbin National Parks.

The Wahlabul claim (NC97/21) has not yet been accepted but is still considered active.

All other claims have been registered but not finalised.

### **Appendix 6 – Statutory protective arrangements**

#### Queensland

Amendments to the Queensland *Nature Conservation Act* in late 2000 saw the creation of forest reserves as an interim measure to assist the dedication of State forests, timber reserves or Land Act reserves as protected areas. It is Parliament's intention that each forest reserve will become a protected area (such as a national park or conservation park) as soon as practicable after its dedication.

A forest reserve is to be managed to do the following

- protect the biological diversity, cultural resources and values and conservation values of land included in the reserve;
- provide for the continuation of any lawful existing use of the land;
- ensure all uses of the land under an authority in relation to the forest reserve made after its dedication are ecologically sustainable; and
- ensure all uses of the land under an authority made after any designation of land in the forest reserve as a proposed protected area are consistent with the management principles for the class of protected area that the land is proposed to become.

In consultation with the community, all the forest reserves are currently being reviewed, to consider the most appropriate future class of protected area for the reserve.

## New South Wales

Amendments to the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act* in 2001 have provided the following statutory management principles for national parks:

- the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena and the maintenance of natural landscapes,
- the conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value,
- the protection of the ecological integrity of one or more ecosystems for present and future generations,
- the promotion of public appreciation and understanding of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- provision for sustainable visitor use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- provision for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas having regard to the conservation of the national park's natural and cultural values,
- provision for appropriate research and monitoring.

The management principles for nature reserves are:

- the conservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem function, the protection of geological and geomorphological features and natural phenomena,
- the conservation of places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value,
- the promotion of public appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the nature reserve's natural and cultural values,
- provision for appropriate research and monitoring.

Other amendments have also formalised and increased the level of public consultation required in the development of a plan of management.

## **Appendix 7 – Status of management plans for individual parks and reserves**

Since 2000, draft plans have been exhibited for the following parks and reserves in New South Wales:

- Captains Creek Nature Reserve – placed on exhibition in 2002
- Gibraltar Range Group of National Parks (including Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks) – placed on exhibition in 2002
- Mt Seaview Nature Reserve – placed on exhibition in 2002
- Oxley Wild Rivers and Cunnawarra National Parks – placed on exhibition in 2002
- Parks and Reserves of the Northern Richmond Range (including Toonumbar, Richmond Range and Mallanganee National Parks) – placed on exhibition in 2002
- Parks and Reserves of the Tweed Caldera (including Mt Warning, Border Ranges, Mebbin and Nightcap National Parks, and Limpinwood and Numinbah Nature Reserves) – placed on exhibition in 2001
- The Castles Nature Reserve – placed on exhibition in 2002
- Werrikimbe National Park – placed on exhibition in 2002

In Queensland, a management strategy for Main Range and Mt Barney National Parks is in preparation.