

LANGTREE NATURE RESERVE
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

March 2001

This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for the Environment on 22nd March 2001

Acknowledgments

This plan of management is based on a draft plan prepared by staff of Field Services Division and Griffith District with the assistance of specialists in Western Zone and the Griffith District Advisory Committee.

Valuable information and comment was provided by members of the local community.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

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FOREWORD

Langtree Nature Reserve is located in the Riverina, 20 km south of Hillston. It has an area of 234.8 ha and was dedicated in 1995.

The reserve conserves a remnant sample of belah-rosewood woodland and a small area of mallee. It is the only protected area of belah-rosewood association south of the Lachlan River and one of the few remaining areas of native animal habitat in the region.

The reserve has been fenced to exclude stock and major pest control programs have been carried out for rabbits and noxious weeds.

This plan provides for on-going pest species control as needed. Regeneration of native vegetation will be monitored, with the aim of achieving a natural vegetation structure and species composition.

Appropriate research programs and educational use will be permitted in the reserve. Research into the fire management requirements of the reserve's plants and animals will be undertaken.

This plan of management establishes the scheme of operations for Langtree Nature Reserve. In accordance with Section 76 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

Bob Debus
Minister for the Environment

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1. INTRODUCTION

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires that a plan of management be prepared for each nature reserve. A plan of management is a legal document that outlines how the area will be managed in the years ahead.

The procedures for the adoption of a plan of management for a nature reserve are specified in the Act:

- * The Director-General is required to refer the plan to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for its consideration and advice.
- * The Director-General is required to submit the plan to the Minister, together with any comments or suggestions of the Advisory Council.
- * The Minister may adopt the plan without alteration or with such alterations as the Minister may think fit, or may refer it back to the Director-General and Council for further consideration.

Once a plan has been adopted by the Minister, no operations may be undertaken within the nature reserve except in accordance with the plan.

Although not a requirement under the Act, a draft plan of management for Langtree Nature Reserve was placed on public exhibition from May to August 2000. All comments received were considered by the Advisory Council and the Minister.

For additional information or enquiries on any aspect of this plan, or on Langtree Nature Reserve, contact the Service's Griffith Office at 200 Yambil Street Griffith or by phone on (02) 6962 7755.

2. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

2.1 NATURE RESERVES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Nature reserves in New South Wales arose out of faunal reserves. Faunal reserves were first established under the *Fauna Protection Act 1948*. Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967*, faunal reserves were reclassified as nature reserves. The Fauna Protection Act was replaced by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, nature reserves are areas of special scientific interest containing wildlife or natural environments or natural phenomena.

The purposes of nature reserves are defined in the Act as:

- "(a) the care, propagation, preservation and conservation of wildlife;
- (b) the care, preservation and conservation of natural environments and natural phenomena;
- (c) the study of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena; and
- (d) the promotion of the appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife, natural environments and natural phenomena.

Nature reserves are valuable refuge areas, where natural processes, phenomena and wildlife can be studied. They differ from national parks, which include as a major objective the provision of appropriate recreation opportunities.

2.2 LANGTREE NATURE RESERVE

2.2.1 Location, Gazettal and Regional Setting

Langtree Nature Reserve is located in the Riverina, 20 km south of Hillston. It has an area of 234.8 ha and was dedicated in 1995.

The nature reserve is in two parts either side of Langtree Road and the Griffith-Hillston railway line (see Summary Map, page 3). The larger part was formerly a travelling stock and camping reserve while the smaller was reserved as the Village of Langtree.

The reserve lies in the central NSW wheat belt, an area which has been extensively cleared. Only small areas of native vegetation remain, on rural properties, roadsides and several conservation reserves. Most remnant areas have been substantially altered by grazing and logging activities.

The reserve is in Carrathool Shire.

2.2.2 Importance of Langtree Nature Reserve

Langtree is one of several small conservation reserves within the Riverina Region. Most similar country between Hillston and Griffith has been cleared for wheat cropping and grazing and the reserve is representative of formerly widespread habitats. The reserve is important as a remnant sample of native vegetation, as a scientific reference area and as one of the few remaining areas of habitat for native animals in the region.

Langtree is the only conservation reserve south of the Lachlan River which supports *belah* *Casuarina cristata* / rosewood *Alectryon oleifolius* woodland. Small areas of *belah*-rosewood woodland are found on road reserves and private land but are subject to grazing and therefore loss of species and cover.

White cypress pine *Callitris glaucophylla* stands in the reserve are also significant as there are few areas of this species in conservation reserves in the region; the only area south of the Lachlan River being Cocoparra National Park.

The relatively rare plant native jasmine *Jasminum lineare* is found in the reserve and survey may find other significant species.

The reserve provides important remnant habitat for the native animals of the region, particularly for bird breeding and as a stopover for nomadic and migratory birds. The vulnerable Major Mitchell's cockatoo *Cacatua leadbeateri* (listed in Schedule 2 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*) is found in the reserve and may nest there.

As one of the few remaining areas of native vegetation in the region the reserve has the potential to be valuable for scientific research and for educational purposes.

3. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR NATURE RESERVES

The following general objectives relate to the management of nature reserves in New South Wales:

- * protection and preservation of scenic and natural features, including significant geological and geomorphological features;
- * conservation of wildlife, including maintenance of biodiversity and populations of threatened species;
- * maintenance of natural processes;
- * preservation of catchment values;
- * preservation of Aboriginal sites in consultation with the Aboriginal community;
- * conservation of non-Aboriginal historic features;
- * provision of opportunities for appropriate use; and
- * encouragement of scientific and educational enquiry into environmental features and processes.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR LANGTREE NATURE RESERVE

In addition to the above general objectives the management of Langtree Nature Reserve will be subject to the following more specific objectives:

- * protection of Langtree Nature Reserve as a sample of the native woodlands which were formerly common in the Hillston-Griffith area and in particular of the belah-rosewood association;
- * protection of the reserve's value as remnant habitat and in particular of habitat for the threatened Major Mitchell's cockatoo; and
- * promotion of community appreciation of the values of remnant woodland.

3.3 OVERALL STRATEGY

The reserve will be managed as a sample of remnant vegetation with important scientific values. Public use will be limited to educational visits by foot. Two major management programs will be implemented:

- control of rabbit populations and significant weed species; and
- encouragement of regeneration of a natural vegetation structure and species composition through monitoring and, if necessary, direct intervention.

4. POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT

This chapter contains the policies and framework for management of Langtree Nature Reserve together with relevant background information. Policies are summarised under the following section headings:

4.1 THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

4.2 USE OF THE AREA

The policies established in this plan of management provide the framework for future management consistent with anticipated resources available to the Service and anticipated community trends over the next five to ten years.

The actions identified in the implementation table at the end of the plan are those to which priority will be given in the foreseeable future. Other management actions may be developed over the life-span of this plan consistent with the policies set out below.

Where not specifically provided for in this plan, management of Langtree Nature Reserve will also be in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act and with general Service policies.

4.1 THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

4.1.1 Natural heritage

Natural heritage includes all aspects of the natural environment including geology and soils, water quality, native plants and animals and the relationship between these.

Landform and soils

Langtree Nature Reserve lies on Quaternary sand plain deposits. The topography is flat to very gently undulating, with no watercourses.

Soils are mainly red and brown clayey sands and loams with small gilgaied areas. There are two small slightly higher areas with red sandy soils in the north east and south west.

Because of the flat topography and lack of drainage lines there is no evidence of erosion in the reserve.

Langtree lies in an eastern outlier of the Murray Darling Depression Bioregion, a large area which extends from the Victorian and South Australian borders generally west of Balranald, to north of Wilcannia.

Native plants

Most of the reserve supports *Casuarina cristata* / rosewood *Alectryon oleifolius* woodland. Wilga *Geijera parviflora* and white cypress pine *Callitris glaucophylla* are scattered throughout, plus a small number of bumble box *Eucalyptus populnea* trees. The understorey includes warrior bush *Apophyllum anomalum*, hooked needlewood *Hakea tephrosperma*, butterbush *Pittosporum phylliraeoides*, buddah *Eremophila mitchellii*, emu bush *Eremophila longifolia*, punty bush *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, wedge-leaf hop bush *Dodonea viscosa*, native jasmine *Jasminum lineare*, ruby saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*, Australian carrot *Daucus glochidiatus*, twin leaf *Zygophyllum glaucum* and grasses *Danthonia* spp., *Chloris* sp. and *Stipa* spp.

The woodland tree density and species distribution varies across the reserve. It is not clear whether this is a natural pattern or a result of past land use.

Small areas of mallee occur on sandy rises in the northern section of the smaller block and the south western corner of the larger block. Dominant species are pointed mallee *Eucalyptus socialis*, congoo mallee *E. dumosa* and yorrell *E. gracilis*. Shrubs include warrior bush, miljee *Acacia oswaldii*, butterbush, grey copperburr *Sclerolaena dicantha*, satiny bluebush *Maireana georgei*, climbing saltbush *Einadia nutans* and yellow wood-sorrel *Oxalis corniculata*.

The mallee in Langtree Nature Reserve differs from mallee found on sand dunes in such reserves as Nombinnie Nature Reserve, by having a sparse shrub layer. It is thought that this is a natural difference rather than being a result of fire history or land use practices.

Native jasmine *Jasminium lineare* is found in small patches in the reserve. This is a relatively rare species. Only small-scale plant survey has been undertaken in the reserve and it is probable that further survey would reveal additional significant species, and species which are seasonal or ephemeral.

The reserve area has been subject to stock grazing and selective tree cutting and these activities, along with rabbit grazing, are likely to have affected the vegetation structure and composition. It is reported that the area was virtually bare of ground cover until rabbit populations were decimated by myxomatosis in the 1950s. Most of the trees appear to be quite old and it is likely that little regeneration has occurred this century. In particular, white cypress pine was formerly more common.

Despite these disturbances the vegetation is generally in good condition. It is expected that elimination of stock and rabbits from the reserve (see section 4.1.3) will result in regeneration of trees and shrubs. Monitoring will be needed to determine whether further measures are necessary to promote regeneration such as grass control, seeding or exclosures to prevent kangaroo grazing. Several photographic sites have been established for recording the various vegetation associations of the reserve. Regular photographic recording at these points will be an important means for monitoring changes in the vegetation.

Native animals

As an area of remnant woodland the reserve provides important habitat for native animals in the region, particularly for provision of shelter and breeding opportunities. The area is small, however, and cannot support significant numbers of many species. Remaining woodland areas in nearby road reserves and private land make vital contributions to conservation of native plant and animal populations in the area.

Native animals recorded in the reserve include the red kangaroo *Macropus rufus*, western grey kangaroo *Macropus fuliginosus*, eastern grey kangaroo *Macropus giganteus*, echidna *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, shingleback *Trachydosaurus rugosus*, Goulds goanna *Varanus gouldii* and 38 species of birds. Birds commonly seen include the mallee ringneck *Barnardius zonarius barnardi*, yellow thornbill *Acanthiza nana*, spiny cheeked honey eater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*, rufous whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris* and mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*.

As stated in section 2.2.2, the reserve provides habitat for the vulnerable Major Mitchell's cockatoo. These cockatoos have large territories and because of its small size the reserve can support only a few breeding pairs. It may, however, be an important resting area for nomadic birds.

Under the Threatened Species Conservation Act a recovery plan must be prepared for endangered (Schedule 1) and vulnerable (Schedule 2) flora and fauna. The purpose of a recovery plan is to promote the recovery of a threatened species, population or ecological community to a position of viability in nature. Recovery plans for species listed on Schedule 1 must be prepared within five years from December 1995 and within 10 years for species listed on Schedule 2. The provisions of a recovery plan for Major Mitchell's cockatoo will be implemented in the reserve where relevant.

All records of native plants animals are collected and stored on the NSW Wildlife Atlas, a state-wide data base established by the Service. Information is built up about locality, habitat and breeding records and used to assist management of native wildlife.

Policies

- * All works will be designed and undertaken in a manner that minimises soil erosion.
- * The native vegetation of the reserve will be managed to encourage the regeneration of trees and shrubs in the absence of stock and rabbit grazing and improve its habitat value for native animals.
- * The Service will work with the Western Riverina Regional Vegetation Management Committee, neighbours and land use authorities to encourage retention of areas of native vegetation close to the reserve.

Actions

- * A systematic plant survey will be undertaken for the reserve, with particular checking for rare or threatened species.
- * A program will be developed and implemented to monitor regeneration of native trees and other plants in the reserve, based on the existing photographic points. It will be designed to test the effectiveness of management programs and the effect of kangaroo grazing. Measures to promote regeneration may be undertaken if satisfactory natural regeneration does not occur.
- * The Service will liaise with State Rail and other local landholders to maintain and/or restore native vegetation adjacent to and near the reserve which will enhance habitat and create wildlife corridors.

4.1.2 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage includes both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history and associated activities and works. It comprises important sites, structures and relics that may have aesthetic, historic, scientific and social significance to present and future generations.

Aboriginal Sites

The nature reserve was part of the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people and today is in the area of the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The history of Aboriginal use of the area is not known. No Aboriginal sites have been recorded in the reserve and there is a low probability of finding any because of the distance from water. Nevertheless, the presence of sites such as artefact scatters cannot be ruled out and a check should be made before undertaking any ground disturbance in the reserve.

While the Service presently has legal responsibility for the protection of Aboriginal sites it acknowledges the right of Aboriginal people to make decisions about their own heritage. It is therefore policy that Aboriginal communities be consulted about decisions regarding the management of Aboriginal sites and related issues.

Post-contact heritage

The Griffith-Hillston area was divided into relatively small rural properties following the First World War as part of soldier settlement programs. The reserve area was probably subject to relatively intensive stock grazing from this time.

The smaller section of the nature reserve was subdivided as part of a town site in the 1920s but blocks within the reserve were never developed. A site for a railway siding was set aside to the west of the town site and a cemetery was reserved adjacent to the southern boundary of the larger section of the nature reserve. It appears that the cemetery has never been used.

Cypress pine and possibly other trees have been cut from the reserve for fence posts and firewood. It is also possible that the reserve was logged in the past.

No historic sites are located within the nature reserve, apart from a small ground tank in the south west. The date of construction of the tank is not known but it is in poor condition, and does not hold water.

Policies

- * The cultural heritage values of the nature reserve will be conserved in accordance with the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS.
- * The Griffith Local Aboriginal Land and other relevant Aboriginal community organisations will be consulted and actively involved in all aspects of management of Aboriginal sites and values in the reserve.
- * All works with the potential to impact on Aboriginal sites will be preceded by an archaeological assessment.
- * Any Aboriginal sites found will be recorded and will be protected from disturbance.
- * The location of any Aboriginal sites found will not be publicised.
- * The ground tank will be retained but not maintained (see also section 4.2.3).

4.1.3 Introduced Species

An introduced species is defined in this plan as any plant or animal species not native to the reserve. Introduced species within the reserve and on adjoining land are of concern because they have the potential to have detrimental effects on ecological values and can spread to and from neighbouring land.

A large number of introduced grasses and pasture weeds such as Patersons curse *Echium plantagineum*, saffron thistle *Carthamus lanatus*, oat grass *Avena* spp., smooth mustard *Sisymbrium erysimoides*, common heliotrope *Heliotropium europaeum* and wild turnip *Brassica tournefortii* are established in the reserve, particularly on ripped rabbit warrens. These species are common throughout the region and would be very difficult to control. They are not considered a significant threat to the natural systems of the reserve.

Three noxious weeds have been found in the reserve - horehound *Marrubium vulgare*, opium poppy *Papaver somniferum* and galvanised burr *Sclerolaena birchii*. The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* places an obligation upon public authorities to control noxious weeds on land that they occupy to the extent necessary to prevent such weeds spreading to adjoining lands. Control programs have been undertaken for these species and on-going monitoring and control will be needed.

An intensive program of rabbit control was undertaken following dedication of the nature reserve, involving ripping and poisoning. This was very successful and has largely eliminated rabbits from the reserve. Follow-up monitoring and control will be needed to maintain this situation.

Foxes occur in moderate numbers but their control is not possible unless undertaken over a larger area in cooperation with neighbours. Fox control will be undertaken in the reserve if part of a cooperative program.

Cats are likely to be present in the reserve but there is presently no practical means for control.

Policies

- * Noxious weeds will be controlled and if possible eradicated. Other introduced plant species will be treated where they:
 - have a significant impact on native plant and animal communities;
 - are significant agricultural pests; and/or
 - are new isolated occurrences.
- * The cooperation of other authorities and neighbours will be sought in implementing weed control programs.
- * Introduced animals will be controlled where they have a significant effect on native species. In particular, rabbit populations will be kept as low as possible. Control will be designed to minimise damage to native vegetation and impacts on native animals. Control programs will be undertaken in cooperation with the Hay Rural Lands Protection Board and neighbouring land holders where appropriate.

Actions

- * Control programs for horehound, opium poppy and galvanised burr will be implemented.
- * On-going monitoring and control of rabbits will be undertaken.
- * Fox baiting will be undertaken if part of a community program.

4.1.4 Fire Management

Fire is a natural feature of the environment of Langtree Nature Reserve and is essential to the survival of some plant communities. Frequent or regular fire, however, can cause loss of particular plant and animal species and communities. Fire can also damage some types of cultural sites and threaten neighbouring land.

Management of fire in the reserve must aim to achieve both long term conservation of native plant and animal communities and ongoing protection of life and property within and adjacent to the reserve.

Fire history

The pre-European fire history of the reserve is not known. Traditional fire practices of Aborigines in NSW have not been well researched and are therefore poorly understood. Aborigines are likely, however, to have had burning regimes which encouraged grazing plants in areas in which they hunted game and kept corridors open in lands they travelled through. From research conducted elsewhere it appears likely that the frequency and intensity of fire now is different from traditional Aboriginal burning practices.

Post contact fire history is also unknown. There is some indication that a fire burnt the area 20 to 30 years ago. This could have killed a number of the white cypress pine trees which remain as stumps.

Ecological requirements

Fire frequency, intensity and season of occurrence are major factors influencing the distribution and composition of plant and animal communities. A variety of fire regimes is needed in order to conserve floristic diversity and provide diversity of habitat for animals.

Little is known about the ecological fire needs of the reserve. Cypress pine is fire sensitive but many of the other species require fire. Fire may be needed for regeneration of acacias in the reserve but there is considerable risk in burning as new shoots and seedlings may be heavily grazed by kangaroos. Fire management must be guided by the monitoring program provided for in section 4.1.1.

Strategies and cooperative arrangements

The reserve is bounded by roads, a railway line and largely cleared private property. The fire risk is considered to be low.

Under the *Rural Fires Act 1997* the Service is a fire authority and is responsible for controlling fires on the reserve and ensuring that they do not cause damage to other land or property. An important part of the Service's fire management is participation in local cooperative fire management arrangements. The Service is a member of the Carrathool Bush Fire Management Committee which aims to coordinate fire management and fire control on a district basis.

In accordance with the Service wide program on fire management planning, a fire management plan will be prepared for the reserve. This will identify the bushfire threat, requirements for the conservation of native plants and animals and neighbouring property, and provide the basis for management strategies and prescriptions.

Bushfire suppression operations may require the construction of temporary firelines. These will be closed and rehabilitated as part of post fire operations.

Policies

- * Fire will be managed in the reserve to ensure maintenance of plant and animal species and communities through the provision of fire regimes compatible with their conservation.
- * Prescribed burning may be undertaken to reduce fuel levels, promote vegetation regeneration or to produce habitat suitable for species with specific requirements. Prior to any such burning an assessment of vegetation characteristics and the status of key species in the area will be undertaken to determine the need for fire and its likely ecological effect.
- * The use of heavy machinery for fire suppression will be avoided.
- * Records and maps will be maintained of all fires as they occur.
- * The Service will continue to actively participate in the Carrathool Bush Fire Management Committee. Close contact and cooperation will be maintained with Council fire officers and volunteer bush fire brigades.
- * The reserve may be closed to public use during periods of extreme fire danger.

Actions

- * Research will be undertaken into the fire management requirements of the reserve.
- * A fire management plan will be prepared for the reserve detailing life, property and natural and cultural resource protection principles, strategies and programs. The plan will be placed on exhibition for public comment before its final adoption by the Service.

4.2 USE OF THE AREA

Certain public and private uses may be appropriate in Service areas provided that they do not conflict with the primary purpose of conservation of natural and cultural heritage and are consistent with the objectives and strategy of the plan of management. The major categories of use that can be appropriate in Service areas are:

- education and promotion of the area, the Service and the conservation of natural and cultural resources;
- involvement of the public in aspects of management;
- certain types of recreation;
- Aboriginal cultural activities;
- research; and
- management operations by the Service and other authorities with statutory responsibilities in the area.

The extent to which these categories of use will be provided for in Langtree Nature Reserve is indicated below.

4.2.1 Public Use

The primary purposes of nature reserves are conservation of wildlife, natural environments and significant cultural features and to provide opportunities for education and scientific research into these resources.

Langtree nature reserve is a small area with no recreational attractions. It is, however, within easy access of Hillston and may provide an important resource for school and community educational visits. All such use must be by walking in order to avoid damage to regenerating native plants.

If there is sufficient demand, educational material may be prepared on the nature reserve to promote public awareness of its values and of the Service's conservation responsibilities. Community appreciation of the area and awareness of management programs may also be promoted through media releases and direct contact with neighbours and community organisations.

Policies

- * Public vehicle use will not be permitted within the reserve.
- * Nature study visits by educational and community organisations will be permitted subject to:
 - group sizes and frequency of use being limited to minimise environmental impacts such as trampling of regenerating native vegetation; and
 - visits being restricted if necessary during periods such as the breeding season of Major Mitchell cockatoos.
- * Community understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the reserve will be promoted through such means as media releases and staff contact with neighbours and school groups.

4.2.2 Research

The purpose of scientific study in the reserve is to improve understanding of its natural and cultural heritage and the processes which affect them. Research also establishes the requirements for management of particular species.

Service research efforts must be directed towards the areas of greatest need and will concentrate on plant survey and monitoring of vegetation regeneration and pest species (see sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.3).

Research by other organisations, interested individuals and students may provide valuable information for management. Useful topics include:

- plant and animal survey;
- Aboriginal site survey;
- fire management requirements of the reserve's plant and animal communities; and
- the impact of past land uses on the reserve's vegetation.

Policies

- * Langtree Nature Reserve will be available for appropriate research.
- * Liaison will be maintained with researchers to obtain as much mutual information and assistance as possible. The results of research will be required to be provided to the managers of the area.
- * Research structures and long term markers must be placed in locations which will minimise their visual impact and be removed upon completion of the research.

Action

- * A research prospectus will be prepared for the reserve incorporating the above topics.

4.2.3 Management Operations

The boundaries of both sections of the reserve have been fenced to keep out stock. It is the neighbour's legal responsibility to maintain the fences to prevent stock entering the reserve but the Service's fencing policy provides that, subject to funding and other priorities, assistance with materials can be given as part of a fencing agreement with a neighbour.

Gates allow management access to both sections of the reserve. Because of the reserve's small size there is no need for internal management tracks apart from boundary tracks for fence maintenance. Boundary tracks will be maintained along the northern and eastern boundary of the small block and the southern boundary of the large block.

As far as possible, management vehicles will not be used within the reserve in order to avoid damage to regenerating native vegetation. For purposes such as pest control, quad bikes will be used wherever practicable.

The small ground tank located in the southwestern part of the reserve is in poor condition and rarely holds water. It serves no management purpose and will not be maintained.

Policies

- * Boundary fencing will be maintained in association with neighbours, in accordance with the Service's fencing policy.
- * Close liaison will be maintained with reserve neighbours to deal with matters of mutual concern.
- * As far as is practical all management activities within the reserve will be undertaken by foot or using all terrain vehicles.
- * New works, facilities or operations proposed by any organisation or individual will not be permitted unless they are consistent with the purposes of dedication and this plan of management.

Action

- * Boundary access tracks will be maintained.

5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan of management is part of a system of management developed by the National Parks and Wildlife service. The system includes the National Parks and Wildlife Act, management policies, established conservation and recreation philosophies, and strategic planning at Corporate, Directorate and Regional levels.

The implementation of this plan will be undertaken within the annual programs of the Service's Riverina Region. Priorities, determined in the context of regional strategic planning, will be subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds and to any special requirements of the Director-General or Minister.

Regional programs are subject to ongoing review, within which, works and other activities carried out in Langtree Nature Reserve are evaluated in relation to the objectives laid out in this plan.

The environmental impact of all development proposals will continue to be assessed at all stages of the development and any necessary investigations undertaken in accordance with established environmental assessment procedures.

Section 81 of the Act requires that this plan shall be carried out and given effect to, and that no operations shall be undertaken in relation to the nature reserve unless they are in accordance with the plan.

No term is proposed for this plan of management. If after adequate investigation, operations not included in the plan are found to be justified, this plan may be amended in accordance with 76(6) of the Act.

As a guide to the implementation of this plan, relative priorities for identified activities are summarised in the following table:

ACTIVITY	PLAN REF
High Priority	
* Implement control programs for horehound, opium poppy and galvanised burr	4.1.3
* Undertake on-going monitoring and control of rabbits	4.1.3
* Undertake research into fire	4.1.4
Medium Priority	
* Undertake systematic plant survey, with particular checking for rare or threatened species	4.1.1
* Develop and implement a program to monitor regeneration of native trees and other plants in the reserve	4.1.1
* Liaise with State Rail and other local landholders to maintain and/or restore native vegetation adjacent to and near the reserve	4.1.1
* Undertake cooperative fox control as requested	4.1.3
* Maintain boundary access tracks.	4.3.3
Low Priority	
* Prepare a fire management plan for the reserve	4.1.4
* Prepare research prospectus	4.3.2

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