



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM

# A guide to completing the National Reserve System application form for land acquisitions

## 2010/2011

The National Reserve System (NRS) is Australia's system of terrestrial protected areas. One of the ways that the Australian Government strengthens Australia's National Reserve System is by supporting state and territory governments, Indigenous groups, conservation organisations and other landholders to purchase land for inclusion in the National Reserve System.

### Using the application form

The application form is specifically designed for proposals to purchase land for inclusion in the NRS. This application form is in Adobe PDF format and can be filled in using Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat, versions 8 and above. To install the latest version of Adobe Reader, visit [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html).

The form has been tested, and runs successfully on computers running Windows XP, Vista and 7. Issues have been experienced when acrobat is part of an integrated document management system or a partial installation has been completed. Unfortunately, due to limitations with Adobe PDF forms, the application cannot be opened on all Apple Mac computers. It has been tested successfully with OS X 10.5 running Adobe Acrobat 9.2.

**For help with filling in, saving or emailing the PDF application form, contact the National Reserve System Section on 02 6274 1753**

### **Downloading and saving the application form:**

To download the NRS application form, click on the hyperlink provided in your Caring for our Country online application. To download the file without viewing it first:

1. Right click on the Title link
2. Select "Save Target As" when presented with a menu
3. In the Save As window, navigate to a convenient location on your file storage system to save a copy of your form.
4. Retain the automatically generated proposal number and click Save.

This creates a new copy of the form on your hard drive. You can now close the form and come back to it at a later time. When working on your application, please remember to save at regular intervals using the Adobe save function.

### **Filling in the application form:**

Please provide a response to every question. Failure to answer all questions may lead to a delay in the assessment of your application or result in your application being assessed as ineligible.

Use a response of "not applicable" to indicate if you have considered the question and found it does not apply to your circumstances.

Remember to save the file as you complete each part of the application form.

### **Navigation in the application form:**

In the Status Bar, there are forward and back clickable arrows for changing the viewing document page. As with other applications, clicking and dragging the vertical Scroll Bar on the right side of the document can be used to navigate through a page or the document, with the view depending on your selection of Page View.

New lines can be added to tables by clicking the + button and lines may be deleted by clicking the – button. For an example of this type of table, see question 3(a) Details of your financial contributors.

There are a number of two part questions requiring a yes or no answer followed by a request to provide details. The second part of the question is not editable until the appropriate answer has been provided in the first part of the question. After filling in the second part of the answer, if you change the answer in the first part it will clear the contents of the second part of the answer.

Some questions in the application form require you to select answers from pull down lists so that the responses can be grouped for later assessment.

### **Submitting the application form:**

When the form has been completed select the "Submit by email" button to email the responses direct to the National Reserve System Section of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Please see Section 22, Applicant declaration, for more details.

## Guidelines Index

1. [Executive Summary and Section 1. Proponent details](#)
2. [Section 2 Contribution to Caring for our Country targets](#)
3. [Section 3 Financial contributors, stakeholders, technical advisors](#)
4. [Section 4 Property information and value to the NRS](#)
5. [Section 5 Biodiversity values](#)
6. [Section 6 Regional context](#)
7. [Section 7 Protection of heritage values, native title interests and other Indigenous heritage](#)
8. [Section 8 Condition and landscape context](#)
9. [Section 9 Protection mechanism and International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) protected area management category](#)
10. [Section 10 Protected area management](#)
11. [Section 11 Restrictions on the use of the land](#)
12. [Section 12 Management infrastructure](#)
13. [Section 13 Monitoring and evaluation](#)
14. [Section 14 Communications plan](#)
15. [Section 15 Community support](#)
16. [Section 16 Public Benefit and Socio-economic impacts](#)
17. [Section 17 Risk Management](#)
18. [Section 18 Valuation](#)
19. [Section 19 Current status of proposal](#)
20. [Section 20 Project work plan](#)
21. [Section 21 Detailed project budget](#)
22. [Section 22 Applicant declaration](#)
23. [Appendix A](#)
24. [Appendix B](#)
25. [Appendix C](#)
26. [Appendix D](#)
27. [Appendix E](#)

## Information

### **Further information on the National Reserve System can be sought from:**

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts,  
National Reserve System Section: 02 6274 1753, or email: [NRS@environment.gov.au](mailto:NRS@environment.gov.au)

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the relevant State or Territory contact. They will be able to provide advice on the technical elements of the application, meeting criteria for the NRS and refer you to the NRS Section if further advice is required.

### **State and Territory Contacts:**

[www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/getting-involved/contacts.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/getting-involved/contacts.html)

## Executive Summary/Section 1. Proponent details

The Executive Summary, and Section 1 of this form are auto-filled from the information supplied during the Caring for our Country online application process. Please check this information and edit if required. It would be helpful if your proposal title and project summary were in the following format:

### **Proposal title** (*maximum 80 characters, or about 12 words*)

Use the property name with a one line explanation:

- Red Lake – acquisition and establishment of Red Lake Nature Reserve
- Big Woodland – acquisition and addition to Big National Park

### **Project Summary** (*maximum of 750 characters, or about 100 words*)

Provide a clear and concise description of your proposal. Please state the location of the proposal, the purpose, general environmental character, benefits to the NRS and social and economic benefits to the local community, for example:

- Red Lake is located 45 km north of Ballarat. The Environment Department proposes to purchase the lake and surrounding grassy woodland to establish a new nature reserve covering 231 hectares. This is a wetland of national importance supporting migratory waders and waterbirds. It will also improve the conservation of two poorly protected threatened grassy woodland ecosystems and five nationally threatened plant species. Facilities are proposed to allow visitors to view wetland plants, animals and ecosystems from walking trails. It is expected to become a significant resource for nature based tourism in the region.

## Section 2. Contribution to Caring for our Country targets

### **2(a) Targets addressed by proposal**

The targets that appear on your downloaded form are those that you have supplied in the Caring for our Country online application. Changes cannot be made to these targets on the NRS application form. If you wish to amend these targets, please return to the online form, select the appropriate targets and then download a new copy of the NRS application form.

### **2(b) Does your proposal include activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on any matters of national environmental significance?**

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance. There is a close alignment between the Australian Government's responsibilities under the EPBC Act, and the five-year outcomes and targets identified for Caring for our Country.

Select the appropriate response, noting that an approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* may be required. Further information is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/approval.html>

**If yes, please describe the likely significant adverse impact on any matters of national environmental significance.**

Please list each matter of national environmental significance and the anticipated adverse impact upon it.

Lists and further information on matters of national environmental significance are available at:

- Nationally threatened species (fauna):  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna>
- Nationally threatened species (flora):  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=flora>
- Nationally threatened ecological communities:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publiclookupcommunities.pl>
- Ramsar wetlands:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/ramsar.html>
- World Heritage:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/index.html)
- National Heritage:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/index.html>

### Section 3. Financial contributors, stakeholders, technical advisors and supporters

#### **3(a) Details of your financial contributors:**

Provide the name and role of any partners that have agreed to contribute financial or other services that facilitate meeting the proposal. Do not list stakeholders or supporting organisations that may provide management services once the protected area is established.

Place a tick in the appropriate box against any partners that identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations. The following website may provide more information:

- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations:  
<http://www.oric.gov.au/>

#### **3(b) Stakeholders and supporting organisation(s)**

Provide the names of the people, organisations or State agencies you have consulted who have agreed to support you in achieving your project's objectives. Please include details on the activities they are supporting and the nature of their support. For non-government entities, you should also include the names of CEOs of all related entities, including subsidiaries, parent and sister companies.

### 3(c) Technical advice

Provide details of scientists and other experts who can support the accuracy of the technical information contained in your application. Please note that scientists or other experts listed here may be contacted to verify this information.

### 3(d) Conflict of interest

Please provide details of any potential conflict of interest. For example, if the organisation members or partners who are supporting the application have an interest in the land to be purchased this should be detailed here.

## Section 4. Property information and value to the NRS

### 4(a) Property details

If you need to find property details, you can perform property searches online yourself (look up Title Searchers in the yellow pages) or use an agent. For each jurisdiction, you can perform searches of:

- Qld: Automated Title
- NSW: Lot Inquiry and/or Title Search
- Vic: Title Package and/or Final Search
- ACT: Look up lease and development conditions through the ACT Planning and Land Authority register and then search Certificate of Title and/or Crown Lease and/or Check Search
- SA: Property Search and/or Check Search
- Tas: Folio Text and Plan
- WA: Title Search and/or Check Search
- NT: Title Search

For each land parcel, as a minimum, in your application you need to indicate:

**Property name:** Please provide the name of the property to be purchased. If the property doesn't have an official name provide a short informal name for identification.

**Address:** Provide the location address for the property. If the property straddles more than one state boundary, use the state in which the majority of the property is located.

**Local Government Area:** If applicable, please list all local government areas covered by the property starting with the LGA containing most of the property.

**General description of land:** Describe where the land is and the parcels involved. For example, three adjacent parcels of land along the Lachlan River

**Nearest town, distance and direction:** Please provide this information based on the nearest town with a post office.

**Latitude and longitude at the centre of the site:** Please report the latitude and longitude at the centre of the site in degrees, minutes and seconds. If you do not

have access to this information, you can use the Environmental Reporting Tool to find the central coordinates of your property.

- Environmental Reporting Tool:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html>

To obtain latitude and longitude information with this tool, use the map search link on the page link shown above and zoom in to find your property. Once the property is located read the coordinates in the bottom box of the map window.

**Total Area:** is the area (converted to hectares) stated on the survey of the land parcel. This section is automatically generated from the land parcel table that appears at the bottom of section 4(a).

#### **Land Parcels (plan and allotment)**

This table summarises the land being purchased with a row for each land parcel. Add extra rows to the table by clicking on the + button if the property includes more than one land parcel. Please complete each of the applicable fields with the information listed below:

**Tenure:** Please list the crown lease number or certificate of title (lot number and folio) for each land parcel being purchased. If it is a lease please indicate the type.

Plan and allotment information is required to legally identify the land included in this application.

**Expiry date:** If any of the land being purchased is leased, please state the expiry date for the lease.

**Plan:** The plan is the legal description of the area within which the land parcel is situated, for example the deposit plan, shire plan, hundred plan, etc.

**Allotment:** The allotment is the sub-division within the plan that legally describes the specific parcel of land. Examples of this include lot, block, section, and allotment numbers.

**Area:** Please provide the area of the land to the nearest hectare, preferably from the survey plan. Please convert square kilometres to hectares by multiplying the figure by 100 (i.e. 1 sq km = 100 ha).

**Part:** Please tick part to indicate that only part of a land parcel will be purchased.

**Lease name:** If the land parcel is leased, provide the name of the lease such as pastoral lease or perpetual lease (not the property name).

**Lease Number:** Please provide the identifying number for the lease or volume and folio number.

**Options for renewal:** Describe the normal options for renewal of leases that will expire.

#### **4(b) Select the IBRA Regions and Subregions that occur on the property.**

Using the drop down menus choose the IBRA region and then a sub-region that applies to your project. The native vegetation and reservation level percentages will be automatically generated according to your selections.

**Note:** the drop down menu will not appear until the state has been selected in question 4(a)

The following link will be of assistance in identifying the IBRA regions and sub-regions in which the land acquisition will be made:

- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) regions and the information on these regions:

[www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/science/bioregion-framework/ibra/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/science/bioregion-framework/ibra/index.html)

**4(c) How will this project make a significant contribution to the development of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) National Reserve System in Australia?**

Summarise briefly the main benefits of purchasing this land. Your summary should include whether acquiring the land will:

- Secure better protection of under-represented bioregions (i.e. those that have less than 10 per cent of their area protected in the National Reserve System);
- Contribute to the conservation of matters of national environmental significance;
- Improve the representativeness of the National Reserve System by inclusion of unrepresented or poorly represented ecosystems;
- Increase resilience and ecological connectivity within the landscape assisting capacity for biodiversity to adapt to climate change;
- Ensure greater adequacy of bioregions by providing long-term and increased security for one or more ecosystems and associated species;
- Add areas that have significant biodiversity values such as high diversity of ecosystems or species, contain significant habitat for rare, migratory or threatened species;
- Have associated Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage and values, socio-economic benefits and scientific importance.

**Example:** Including Red Lake in the NRS will increase the reservation level of the high priority IBRA region xxx by 0.5% and the subregion yyy by 2%. It will protect all of the Red Lake Wetland of National Importance and habitat for six EPBC Act listed migratory bird species. The Eastern Bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*), listed as endangered under the EPBC Act, has been recorded from melaleuca shrublands surrounding the lake, which covers about 15% of the proposed acquisition. It will also protect the tall sedgeland around Red Lake, which represents 30% of the sedgelands distribution.

## Section 5. Biodiversity values

This information assists the Department to form recommendations about the degree to which any land meets National Reserve System criteria of comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy. You should make every endeavour to respond in a complete way to this Section, including as needed by liaison with the relevant state or territory conservation agency.

## 5(a) Summary of biodiversity values

Identify the numbers of unrepresented and under-represented regional ecosystems, nationally threatened species and ecological communities, and sites of national and international significance in the appropriate fields.

Obtaining a report using the protected matters search tool may help identify these values. Please note that it is recommended that local experts check the information before including it in the application.

- Protected Matters Search Tool:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert/epbc/index.html>

**Note:** Before starting question 5(b) please select the IBRA regions and IBRA subregions in question 4(b). This allows the subregion to be selected for the description of native ecosystems.

## 5(b) List all the native ecosystems (by subregion) on the property mapped at the best (at least regional) scale and complete the table where applicable.

This table describes native ecosystems (vegetation units) that have been mapped for the region.

**IBRA Subregion:** The native ecosystems are required to be listed for each IBRA subregion on the property.

**Name:** The name should reflect published vegetation mapping where possible. The name should include structure and dominant species for each layer of vegetation.

**State Code/NVIS Code:** Please include any vegetation mapping codes and Native Vegetation Information System (NVIS) codes if available.

**EPBC Status:** To help assess the importance of native ecosystems please include the status at a national (EPBC Act), state and regional level.

- EPBC Act List of Threatened Ecological Communities:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publiclookupcommunities.pl>

**State/Regional Status:** Most states and territories also have a web site listing threatened ecosystems that may be helpful in filling out the form.

**1750's/Current Extent:** If the information is available please include the area of the native ecosystem within the subregion prior to 1750, its current extent in the subregion and the area currently protected.

**Area Protected:** Provide the area of the native ecosystem on the property in this subregion that will be added to the NRS.

**Threats:** Please list any threats to the persistence of this native ecosystem.

**Significance:** Provide a statement on the significance of this native ecosystem on the property with regard to this subregion – e.g. it is the largest unprotected patch, southern most extent, key habitat for a threatened species, unique or limited distribution, etc.

**Note:** Please attach a clearly labelled map of the ecosystems on the property when you submit your application. The list of attachments that are required with your application can be found on page 33 of these guidelines.

### **5(c) List all significant species found on the property**

Please list all significant species found or likely to be found on the property starting with those of national significance and working down to those of regional significance. Include species threatened at a national, state or regional level, species endemic to the IBRA region, migratory and marine, primitive or distinct species.

**EPBC Status/State Status:** Please select from the drop down list the appropriate EPBC Act status for the species.

**Recorded on the property:** Please choose the appropriate response for recorded on the property. Observed is a reliable record that is not part of an official database, an official record is published or comes from a state or national database and preferred habitat means suitable habitat occurs on the property and expert opinion indicates the species is likely to occur.

**Suitable habitat on property:** Please estimate the area of suitable habitat that occurs on the property.

**Importance of population:** Describe the importance of the population.

**Threats:** Please list any threats to the persistence of these species in the region.

**Significance:** Provide a statement on the significance of this species on the property with regard to this subregion – e.g. southern most extent, key habitat for a threatened species, endemic, migratory, etc.

### **5(d) List the places of environmental significance that either occur on the property or will be impacted by this proposal to manage the land for nature conservation.**

**Type of place:** Please choose the type of place from the list in the form.

**Name of property:** Provide the official name or the name of the place on the property.

**EPBC/State/Regional status:** Some of the places may have official status, where possible please indicate.

**Part of site/Portion on property:** Please indicate if the place of significance is either adjacent to, part of, or all of the property . Please indicate the area in hectares that the place of significance covers on the property.

**Threats:** Please list any threats to this place of significance.

**Significance:** Please indicate why the place is of environmental significance. You may wish to refer to things like climate change, migratory species, ecological connectivity, sustainable habitat or populations, biogeography, typical species in centres of endemism, etc. Attaching a map showing the location of places of significance is helpful.

- Wetlands:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/database/index.html>
- Heritage Places:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/index.html>

## Section 6. Regional context

If you are aware that the land in your proposal has been referred to in any of the reports listed in Questions 6 (a) or (b), please provide the reference to any relevant document(s) and either insert the relevant text or attach the relevant portions of the document(s).

- 6(a) List any bioregional assessment of reserve options, threatened ecological community or species recovery planning process that has identified the land in this proposal.**
- 6(b) Is the land in this proposal identified in any regional land use strategies such as catchment management plans, bioregional conservation plans or other planning strategies?**
- 6(c) How does your project complement or link with other reserves or places managed for conservation of natural values in your region, including improving reserve boundaries?**

Provide a brief description of how well your proposal improves the conservation of natural values by improving connection between other natural areas. Please include information such as whether the land:

- Will buffer significant natural areas from threatening processes;
- Provide alternative/ replicated protected habitat for ecosystems and species;
- Improve the manageability and sustainability of other protected areas and
- Provide better regional conservation of natural values.

## Section 7. Protection of heritage values, native title interests and other Indigenous heritage

### Heritage values

- 7(a) List places of national heritage value from the drop-down list, which occur at or near your site, and indicate how you will protect their values.**

National and Commonwealth Heritage Places may be found on the following databases:

- National Heritage List:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national)
- Commonwealth Heritage List:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/commonwealth](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/commonwealth)

- Register of the National Estate:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/rne](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/rne)
- World Heritage:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/list.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/list.html)
- Indigenous Heritage:  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/indigenous/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/indigenous/index.html)

**7(b) Provide details of any state, territory or regional heritage values that exist at or near the site, and indicate how you will protect their values.**

State Heritage Values can be sourced from the various states and territories:

- NSW Heritage Database:  
[www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\\_subnav\\_04.cfmh](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_04.cfmh)
- ACT Heritage Register:  
[www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage/act\\_heritage\\_registerh](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage/act_heritage_registerh)
- Vic Heritage Database.  
[vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/vhd/heritagevic](http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/vhd/heritagevic)  
[Vic Aboriginal Heritage Register](http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/vhd/heritagevic) is not publicly accessible. Some specified groups of people can access the register; everyone else can only find out whether a record exists in relation to specified land by submitting a [prescribed form](#) and a fee.
- Qld Heritage Register  
[www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html)  
[Qld Heritage Register](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html) has limited online search functionality. To find out if a specific place is affected you need to send in a [prescribed form](#).
- [Heritage Council of WA Places Database](#). Also, [WA Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System](#);  
[register.heritage.wa.gov.au/](http://register.heritage.wa.gov.au/)  
[www.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS/](http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS/)
- SA Heritage Places Database;  
[www.planning.sa.gov.au/index.cfm?objectid=1A2DBBD0-F203-0D46-A08F86CFFB7E4828](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au/index.cfm?objectid=1A2DBBD0-F203-0D46-A08F86CFFB7E4828)
- NT Heritage Register.  
[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/heritage/ntregister/index.html](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/heritage/ntregister/index.html)  
Also, an inspection of the [Register of Sacred Sites](#) can be carried out in person in Darwin, or by submitting a [prescribed form](#). There is a cost and information is limited;
- [Tas Heritage Register](#).  
<http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/>

Alternatively, try the Australian Heritage Places Inventory and search by local government area:

- Australian Heritage Places Inventory:  
[www.heritage.gov.au/ahpi](http://www.heritage.gov.au/ahpi)

### **Native title interests**

**7(c) Is there a native title application (i.e. claim) or determination over some or all of the property? If yes, please provide details.**

For native title applications please provide application name and National Native Title Tribunal File Number.

For native title determinations please provide the name on the determination.

Maps showing native title applications (claim areas) and determinations for each State and Territory are available from:

- National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT):  
[www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

The maps include NNTT file numbers for applications. If it is not clear from these maps whether there is a native title application or determination over the property, this information can be obtained from contacting the NNTT:

- National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) Contacts:  
[www.nntt.gov.au/Contacts/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.nntt.gov.au/Contacts/Pages/default.aspx).

**7(d) Is there an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) registered or notified over some or all of the property? If yes please provide details.**

Please provide the ILUA name and National Native Title Tribunal File Number.

- A national map of ILUAs is available from the NNTT website:  
<http://www.nntt.gov.au/Publications-And-Research/Maps-and-Spatial-Reports/Pages/National-Maps.aspx>

If the map indicates that there is an ILUA over the property, the NNTT can assist with the ILUA name and NNTT file number. If it is not clear from the map whether there is an ILUA over the property, this information can also be obtained by contacting the NNTT.

**7(e) Have you consulted the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the area in relation to this application?**

Please provide details of the name of the NTRB, the date(s) of contact. Please also include the NTRB recommendations regarding who to consult and the outcome of any consultation.

**Note:** NTRBs are funded by the Australian Government to provide professional services to native title claimants and holders. NTRBs can assist you to establish the correct native title claimants or holders to consult with, and how consultation should be arranged. A map of Native Title Representative Bodies is available at:  
<https://www.ntrb.net/PublicPages/NTRBmap.aspx>

**7(f) Have you made contact with any relevant Indigenous organisations? Please provide details.**

Contact with Indigenous groups is only required if you believe there will be significant Indigenous interest and values associated with the property and that Commercial in-Confidence issues will not be compromised by making contact.

**7(g) Please outline how you will take into account any other Indigenous interests in the property?**

There are a number of items of Indigenous interest, outside of native title and Indigenous land use agreements, that may occur on the property. These may include Indigenous places such as sacred sites, artefacts, occupation sites or other Indigenous heritage. If you are aware that these type of Indigenous values occur on the land, please describe these values and your proposed plan of management.

## Section 8. Condition and landscape context

**8(a) What is the current condition of the property?**

Select from the list the most appropriate indicators of the condition of the property and estimate the proportion of the property in each type of condition.

In the comments provide a general description of the condition of ecosystems and significant natural values followed by an outline of land management history and its impacts upon the land today.

Please provide a map showing where each area(s), e.g. the 'Largely Intact' area, is on the property. This could be the same map as, or an overlay to, the map provided in response to question 5(b), if that works for you.

**8(b) What are the surrounding land uses and what is their likely impact on managing the property as a protected area? Please provide a map that shows surrounding land use.**

Briefly describe the surrounding land uses and their likely impact on managing the property as a protected area. It is helpful to provide a map as an attached file if one is available.

**8(c) How well positioned in the landscape is your proposed protected area?**

Select the most appropriate descriptor of the landscape context for the property from the menu.

**8(d) Describe the ecological connectivity of the property in a landscape context**

Comment on connections and / or proximity to other natural areas and the ability of animals to move through the landscape. Describe any environmental gradients, such as significant rainfall or altitude changes that effect the property. If you have provided a map against question 8(b), it will probably be helpful here as well.

**8(e) Please describe the risk of the property being affected by rising water tables and or salinity**

Comment on the current and / or likely impacts of rising water tables and or salinity on ecosystem health and the sustainability of a protected area.

**8(f) What percentage of the property is not able to be used primarily for nature conservation?**

Please estimate the percentage of the property that will not be used for nature conservation. Please describe how these areas will be used and provide a map as an attachment to show the location of these areas.

This could be the same map as, or an overlay to, the map provided in response to question 5(b) or 8(a), if that works for you.

**Section 9. Protection mechanism and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area management category**

**9(a) How will you formally protect the values of the property? Include the protection mechanism and the applicable state or territory legislation.**

**Mechanism:** The protection mechanism is the type of protected area that will be created and the legislation is the legal way of ensuring protection of the protected area that is created. Choose the mechanism from the drop down list. If the correct mechanism is not listed, you may type in your own response.

**Legislation:** Include the name(s) and relevant section(s)/clause(s) of the Act(s) under which protection will be secured (through gazettal, covenant or other specified means). Please mention if the land specified in this proposal is an addition to an existing protected area.

**9(b) How does this proposal meet the requirements of an IUCN definition of a “Protected Area”?**

Your answer needs to address two issues:

- That the land will be managed primarily for the long term conservation of nature and the method establishing the protected area is in perpetuity and secure.
- How the protected area will meet the Standards for inclusion in the National Reserve System. Refer to Appendix A for these standards.

**Note:** for Program purposes, management “in perpetuity” is interpreted as conservation management for a minimum of 99 years.

**9(c) What IUCN Protected Area Management Category will the property be managed in accordance with and why?**

**IUCN Category:** The management of protected areas included in the National Reserve System must be in accordance with an agreed IUCN protected area management category. There are seven different management categories under the IUCN. See **Appendix B** for a description of each category and their principle objectives.

The full guidelines for the application of the categories are available from the IUCN web site:

- Guidelines or Applying Protected Area Management Categories:  
<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>

**Reason for selecting category:** The reason for allocating your chosen Management Category should be based on which definition and set of management objectives best applies to your proposal. The guidelines for the application of the management categories will help you make that decision. Refer to **Appendix C** to read the management objectives for each protected area management category.

## Section 10. Protected area management

### **10(a) What experience do you have in protected area management and in developing plans of management for protected areas?**

Please provide an overview of your agency or organisation's experience in establishing and managing protected areas including developing and implementing management plans. If you are a non-government entity, please include details of the legal status, key office holders & membership of your organisation.

Please attach copies of any plans or links to plans available from the Internet. If more than a couple of plans have been produced attach a link to a few recent examples.

### **10(b) Outline the process (with major milestones) proposed for the development of Interim Management Guidelines and a Plan of Management.**

**Task/Who will be involved:** Please select the applicable tasks from the drop down list. The process being described should include consultation points with stakeholders, neighbours and Indigenous groups, drafts with public consultation periods and the final approval and adoption process.

**Period:** Indicate when draft and final documents will be made available to the NRS Section and when any Steering Committee meetings are likely to be held. Remember to indicate if interim management guidelines will be used. If a plan of management has already been prepared please provide a copy as an attachment when you submit your application.

**Note:** Guidelines for preparing a plan of management are available from the NRS: <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/nrs/pubs/guidemanagement.doc>

### **10(c) Describe the specific objectives for the management of the protected area?**

Using the management objectives in Appendix C as a guide, list the objectives specific to this protected area proposal.

### **10(d) In the long term, how are you proposing to manage this protected area?**

Briefly describe how effective management will be achieved. Please include:

- stakeholders likely to be co-opted to provide assistance, and the likely form of that assistance;
- monitoring and evaluation programs to support an adaptive management approach;
- review periods and processes for the management plan.

**Note:** It is a requirement that organisations other than state and territory governments establish a steering committee to oversee management of the property.

**10(e) How will you fund conservation management actions in the short and long term, e.g. initial establishment works and ongoing management?**

It is a condition of funding that you guarantee responsibility for management and management costs of the property as a protected area in perpetuity. Please select the funding source from the drop down list provided. Select multiple funding sources by adding lines to the table. If you select 'other' as a source of funding, you will be asked to briefly explain what the other funding source is.

**10(f) How will you ensure funding will be available for long-term management without additional Commonwealth funding?**

Briefly describe the duration of funding listed in question 10(e) and the contribution of volunteer and or corporate services towards the management of this protected area.

**10(g) How will you ensure that your management of the property fits in with other local management strategies and involves local stakeholders?**

Identify and describe the actions to be taken. For example, these actions may include strategies such as the use of advisory groups, holding community meetings, consultation with Indigenous groups and neighbours, meetings with local government and regional natural resource management groups, providing public information and management plans.

**10(h) List the forms of access and when they will be available to the public.**

Briefly describe the extent of public access in accordance with the IUCN management category for this property. Please give the date that the planned access will commence and include any comments on the nature of or restrictions to this access.

## Section 11. Restrictions on the use of the land

Throughout question 11, there is a potential for overlap whereby a particular issue could fit within more than one question. The matter to be described should be entered in response to the most relevant question.

Every effort is made to keep links of likely information sources up-to-date. Your feedback advising changes would be welcomed.

**11(a) Are there any mining rights, including rights related to fossicking, prospecting, exploration or development over any parts of the property?**

List mining tenures over the property briefly describing the rights and the term of the rights. Provide a map if there is more than one mining tenement or if the whole property is not covered.

Information on property searches in general is provided in the guidance for responding to question 4. For further information about tenement, company, activity and coverage etcetera, see:

- NSW: Look at Notices of Determination  
Contact Department of Primary Industries.  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/environment/nod](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/environment/nod)
- ACT: not applicable.
- Victoria: Look at Current Licences and Work Authorities.  
[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nrenmp.nsf/LinkView/FF88A67F9FFF251ECA257304007C6C502850B26DD13590114A256DEA0027275Eht](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nrenmp.nsf/LinkView/FF88A67F9FFF251ECA257304007C6C502850B26DD13590114A256DEA0027275Eht)  
Contact Department of Primary Industries.  
<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/home>.
- Qld: Look at the [Interactive Resource and Tenure Maps](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/tenure_maps.cfmht).  
[www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/tenure\\_maps.cfmht](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/tenure_maps.cfmht)  
Contact Department of Mines and Energy.  
[www.dme.qld.gov.au/home.cfm](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/home.cfm)
- WA: No online databases found. Contact Department of Mines and Petroleum.  
[www.dmp.wa.gov.au/](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/)
- SA: Go to Department of Primary Industries and look at South Australian Resources Information Geoserver.  
[egate.pir.sa.gov.au/geoserver/sarig/frameSet.jsp](http://egate.pir.sa.gov.au/geoserver/sarig/frameSet.jsp)  
Contact Department of Primary Industries.  
[www.pir.sa.gov.au/](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/)
- NT: Look at Titles Information System (registration is free; unregistered users get limited information).  
Contact [Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/?CFID=24407694&CFTOKEN=34371043&jsessionid=f030fc7b8129$3Ft$25b).  
[www.nt.gov.au/d/?CFID=24407694&CFTOKEN=34371043&jsessionid=f030fc7b8129\\$3Ft\\$25b](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/?CFID=24407694&CFTOKEN=34371043&jsessionid=f030fc7b8129$3Ft$25b)
- Tas: Look at [Tenement Map](http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/portal/page?_pageid=35,832426&_dad=portal&_schema=P ORTALht).  
[www.mrt.tas.gov.au/portal/page?\\_pageid=35,832426&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=P ORTALht](http://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/portal/page?_pageid=35,832426&_dad=portal&_schema=P ORTALht)  
Contact Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.  
[www.dier.tas.gov.au/](http://www.dier.tas.gov.au/)

### **11(b) Is the property subject to a trust?**

If the land to be purchased is currently managed under a trust, then before funding could be granted, the Trustee will be required, among other things, to warrant that:

- it has the power to sell the Land;
- the sale of the Land conforms with the terms of the trust under which it holds the Land;
- the beneficiaries of the trust consent to the sale of the Land.

A *Trustee's Assurance Form* must be executed before funding will be provided for the acquisition of property currently held in trust. A template of this form is included for information at Appendix D.

### **11(c) Is the property encumbered to secure the repayment of a debt or discharge of an obligation?**

This question refers to whether the property is currently encumbered by a mortgage, charge, or security obligation.

Information on property searches in general is provided in the guidance for responding to question 4. Note that searches for some States do not provide details of unregistered encumbrances. For Vic, see also [Property Report](#).

### **11(d) Does any person or organisation have a right of way, right of access, right of passage or right of occupancy over any part of the property?**

This question refers to things such as easements, encroachments, *profits a pendre* or a statutory licence that is not covered by a more specific question.

Information on property searches in general is provided in the guidance for responding to question 4. Note that searches for some States do not provide details of unregistered encumbrances. For ACT, [ACTmapi](#) has some easement information.

You should consider the impact of the right on future plans for the property, for example, is the right inconsistent with the IUCN category you have indicated at question 9(c)?

### **11(e) Is the property subject to any planning schemes or planning orders? Provide details.**

This question refers to any local government or state government planning or zoning scheme that affects the property and any development applications. For:

- NSW: Contact the Information Centre within the Department of Planning.  
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/>
- ACT: See Territory Plan and [ACTmapi](#).  
[www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2008-27/current/default.asp](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2008-27/current/default.asp)  
Contact [ACT Planning and Land Authority](#).  
[www.actpla.act.gov.au/](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/)
- Victoria: Get Property Report and Planning Report. Look up Planning Maps Online. .  
[services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/map/PlanningMapsIntro.jsp](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/map/PlanningMapsIntro.jsp)

Contact Department of Planning and Community Development

[www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/)

- Qld: See relevant Local Government Planning Scheme (link also contains contact details for the Planning Group).

[www.dip.qld.gov.au/local-area-planning/local-government-planning-schemes.html](http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/local-area-planning/local-government-planning-schemes.html)

- WA: See relevant Regional Planning Scheme and [Local Planning Scheme](#).

[www.planning.wa.gov.au/The+planning+system/Region+schemes/Local+planning+schemes/default.aspx](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/The+planning+system/Region+schemes/Local+planning+schemes/default.aspx)

Contact WA Planning Commission.

[www.planning.wa.gov.au/default.aspx](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/default.aspx)

- SA: Look at Development Plans Online and Atlas of South Australia.

[www.atlas.sa.gov.au/](http://www.atlas.sa.gov.au/)

Contact [Planning in SA](#).

[www.planning.sa.gov.au/go/home](http://www.planning.sa.gov.au/go/home)

- NT: See NT Atlas and Spatial Data Directory. Contact [NT Lands Group](#).

[www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/imfPublic/imf.jsp?site=nt\\_atlas](http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/imfPublic/imf.jsp?site=nt_atlas)

- Tas: Look up [LISTmap](#) to find out applicable planning scheme. Contact Department of Primary Industries and Water.

[www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open)

#### **11(f) Is the property subject to any court or statutory orders?**

This question includes things like conservation notices, fencing notices etcetera. Information on property searches in general is provided in the guidance for responding to question 4. You may find this information by checking Certificate of Title and Check Searches.

Note that some court and statutory orders cannot be registered, and even ones that can be registered may not have been. We understand it is difficult to search for court and statutory orders, as they are often not on the public record. However, for some states Check Searches will indicate some unregistered dealings.

#### **11(g) Are there any water entitlement, water use or other water related implications for the property?**

This question refers to entitlements such as licences or permits to take water from waterways for irrigation or water supply, diversion of ground water for dams, work to divert waterways, recreational or commercial use of waterways, artesian works, floodplain mitigation etc.

Water entitlements that pass with the land will need to be considered as forming a component of your application to buy the land. This form of entitlement must be listed in question 11(g). You should also include details regarding how you plan to make use of those entitlements.

Where water access entitlements are separate from the title to the land, funding under the NRS component of Caring for our Country will not be granted for the purchase of those entitlements. However you should list any water use rights or licences that are relevant to the property including but not limited to those that permit the extraction of water from, or the construction or operation of work on, the property.

Note: Basic landholder rights for access to water are unaffected by NRS grants.

If you believe water rights need to be retained with the property for environmental purposes then you should address this in your response to question 12e.

There is information available at:

- NSW: Conduct a Water Access Licence search at Department of Lands  
[www.lands.nsw.gov.au/land\\_titles/public\\_registers/water\\_access\\_licence\\_register](http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au/land_titles/public_registers/water_access_licence_register)
- ACT: No data online. Contact Territory and Municipal Services
- Victoria: See Property Report and Planning Report:  
[services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/reports/ReportsIntro.jsp](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/reports/ReportsIntro.jsp)
- Qld: No data online. Some [searches available](#) for fees.  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au/services\\_resources/item\\_list.php?category\\_id=161&topic\\_id=23](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/services_resources/item_list.php?category_id=161&topic_id=23)

Contact the Department of Environment and Resource Management:

[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

- WA: No data online. Contact the Department of Water:  
[www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au)
- SA: Search NRM Register:  
[e-nrims.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/nrmregister](http://e-nrims.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/nrmregister)

Contact the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation:

[www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/index.html](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/index.html)

- NT: Contact the Department of Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport:  
[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/)
- Tas: Search WIST:  
[water.dpiw.tas.gov.au/wist/ui?command=content&pageSequenceNo=2&click=%5b4%5d.Name#fopt](http://water.dpiw.tas.gov.au/wist/ui?command=content&pageSequenceNo=2&click=%5b4%5d.Name#fopt)

Contact Department of Primary Industries and Water:

[www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open)

**11(h) Do you have any general comments about water issues on the property?**

Please note guidance at previous question.

**11(i) Are there any clearing, forestry or carbon rights over the property?**

Information on property searches in general is provided in the guidance for responding to question 4. For further information, see:

- NSW: Check whether Regional Forestry Agreement in place over area. Search Register of Authorised Plantations  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/private-forestry](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/private-forestry)
- ACT: No data online. Contact ACT Planning and Land Authority  
[www.actpla.act.gov.au](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au)
- Victoria: Check whether Regional Forestry Agreement in place over area  
[www.daff.gov.au/rfa/regions/map](http://www.daff.gov.au/rfa/regions/map)
- WA: Check whether Regional Forestry Agreement in place over area  
[www.daff.gov.au/rfa/regions/map](http://www.daff.gov.au/rfa/regions/map)
- SA: Look at ForestrySA map  
[www.forestry.sa.gov.au/maps.stm](http://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/maps.stm)
- NT: Search Approved Land Clearing Register and [Applications Under Consideration](#). Contact the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources  
[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/natres/natveg/applications/index.html](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/natres/natveg/applications/index.html)
- Tas: Check whether Regional Forestry Agreement in place over area.  
[www.daff.gov.au/rfa/regions/map](http://www.daff.gov.au/rfa/regions/map)

**11(j) Are there threats known that relate to the likely inundation of all or part of the property associated with the opening or construction of a dam?**

- NSW: No data online. Contact Department of Water and Energy  
[www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/home/index.shtml](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au/home/index.shtml)
- ACT: No data online. Contact Territory and Municipal Services.
- Victoria: See Property Report and Planning Report  
[services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/reports/ReportsIntro.jsp](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/landchannel/jsp/reports/ReportsIntro.jsp)
- Qld: No data online. Contact the Department of Environment and Resource Management  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au/](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/)
- WA: No data online. Contact the Department of Water  
[www.water.wa.gov.au/](http://www.water.wa.gov.au/)
- SA: Search NRM Register.

[e-nrims.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/nrmregister](http://e-nrims.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/nrmregister)

Contact the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

[www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/index.html](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/index.html)

- NT: Search [Water Licensing Register](#).

[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water/manage/register/](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water/manage/register/)

Contact the Department of Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/)

- Tas: Search [WIST](#). Contact Department of Primary Industries and Water.

[www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open](http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Home/1?Open)

## Section 12. Management infrastructure

### 12(a) How will feral animals be controlled?

**Animal:** List the possible species by selecting from the drop down list. If the animal species does not appear on the list, type in the name of the species

**Density:** Please select Low, Medium or High density for each species from the drop down menu.

**Extent:** Please select whether each species is widespread or localised.

**Action:** Outline the appropriate management approach for each species. Please indicate whether a feral animal management plan is required and comment on whether a coordinated approach with neighbours and regional NRM groups will be required.

### 12(b) How will weeds be controlled?

**Weed:** Select any weeds known to exist on the property from the drop-down menu of Weeds of National Significance.

**Density:** Please select Low, Medium or High density for each species from the drop down menu.

**Extent:** Please select whether each species is widespread or localised.

**Action:** Outline the appropriate management approach for each species. Indicate whether weed management plan is required and comment on whether a coordinated approach with neighbours and regional NRM groups will be required.

### 12(c) Please outline your fire management strategy.

Describe the property's response to fire, identifying fire sensitive or fire dependant ecosystems and species. Indicate whether a fire management plan and/or coordinated approach with neighbours and regional fire management groups are required.

### 12(d) Does the property require rehabilitation?

If the property requires rehabilitation, describe the area for rehabilitation and the activities you plan to undertake. Provide a map to show where the rehabilitation areas are on the property.

**Note:** Additions to the NRS should be in good condition. Areas requiring large amounts of rehabilitation may not be suitable.

**12(e) Is there a water dependent ecosystem of conservation significance on the property?**

This question tries to establish the management requirements of water dependent ecosystems. It is especially important to determine if the long-term survival of these ecosystems will be impacted by climate change and severe drought and if environmental watering is an option for long-term survival and ecosystem health.

**Water dependent site:** List all the water dependent sites on the property of significance this includes ecosystems that depend on flows of fresh or saline water, or periodic or sustained inundation/waterlogging for their ecological integrity (e.g. floodplains, wetlands, rivers, springs, karst and other groundwater dependent ecosystems, salt marshes and estuaries) but do not generally include marine waters.

**List source of water:** Try to be specific regarding the sources of water providing the name of catchments and or aquifers. Some water dependent ecosystems may have very localised rain-fed or small confined aquifer sources.

**Reliability of water:** Comment of the reliability of water for the site to maintain it's natural condition.

**Strategy to ensure sufficient environmental water:** Many water dependent sites will be operating naturally and do not need strategies to ensure environmental water except to maintain the ecological health of the catchment. In areas where there is water regulation and extraction formal plans and strategies may be in place on need to be negotiated to ensure sufficient environmental water. Please describe what is needed for each site.

**Risk of insufficient of water:** Please try and estimate the risk of insufficient water. A **high** risk would be a site that is already regularly suffering from lack of water and it is likely to be sustained or become worse, a **moderate** risk is if there are occasional times when there is insufficient water and **low** risk is where the ecosystems are functioning well under an intact water regime.

**Impact of insufficient of water:** Try to describe the impact in terms of the risk for each site and consider the of loss of ecosystems or ecosystem health, function as an evolutionary, climatic or drought refuge, loss of species, impact on migratory or nomadic species, use as a breeding and feeding site for water dependent species.

**12(f) Are there any immediate threat abatement actions required to protect the native ecosystems and significant species reported in question 5b and 5c?**

If there are immediate threat abatement actions required, such as erosion control or weed and pest management actions, list the threat, the nature and extent of immediate management requirements and their likely outcome in the table. Please include information on when these actions are anticipated to occur.

**12(g) Please list any immediate management actions required to help establish the protected area and minimise the impacts of previous use or activities.**

**Action:** Provide details of immediate management action needed to secure and stabilise the property such as fencing, destocking, rationalising access, securing buildings, etc.

**Outcome/Timing:** Describe the outcome expected from this action and when the action will be taken.

**12(h) Please provide details of intended infrastructure required to efficiently manage the property.**

**Item:** Provide a list of items required, e.g. staff, accommodation, visitor facilities, roads, plant and equipment, etc.

**Details:** Please provide details on how these items will be funded and when they are likely to be completed.

### Section 13. Monitoring and evaluation

**13(a) How will you monitor the success of your management of the protected area and its contribution to the NRS?**

This question seeks information on how you propose to monitor and evaluate the success of the establishment and management of the protected area in accordance with the management objectives and management plan for the protected area.

Please briefly describe the outcomes of management you propose to monitor and evaluate to demonstrate a contribution to the National Reserve System. For example a management objective might be to protect habitat for a threatened species. One way of measuring success might be to monitor the population of that threatened species.

**Note:** The level of monitoring will depend on the organisation, the location of the protected area, and how the biodiversity values are being protected.

**13(b) How will you collect and report this information?**

Please describe the methodology for the monitoring and evaluation program including how you will establish the baseline information, the method for collecting monitoring information, how you will analyse and report on the results of the monitoring program and how you propose to respond to the emulation of the monitoring program for adaptive management and be more effective with future management.

## Section 14. Communications plan

### **14 How will you communicate the establishment and existence of your protected area? Please include to whom the communication will be directed and the anticipated timing.**

Please briefly outline the target audience, actions and timing for informing the people of your region about your protected area. Actions may include, for example, a formal opening by your organisation, a brochure, an article in your group's newsletter, local newspaper or other media or consultation during the planning process.

**Note:** If your application is successful it is a requirement of your funding agreement to provide the Caring for our Country initiative and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts with opportunities to publicise the Caring for our Country initiative and its significant outcomes. If public announcements or openings are planned please inform the NRS Section so that involvement of the Caring for our Country initiative and or the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts can be determined. All publicity material must acknowledge the involvement of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative and the National Reserve System. Please see Conditions for receiving NRS funding for Land Purchase, particularly the first dot point in part 5 available at:

[www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/getting-involved/funding.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/getting-involved/funding.html)

## Section 15. Community support

### **15(a) Are there any known community views that support or oppose this proposal?**

Where there are known community views, list the community group and briefly summarise their position regarding this project. If the group are known to be supportive, please check the support box. Where there is opposition suggest mechanisms to increase support or avoid opposition.

### **15(b) Has the regional NRM body (or bodies) been involved?**

If the regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) body have been involved, please name the NRM group and briefly summarise their position(s) regarding this project. In your summary include an outline of the NRM body's involvement. If the group are known to be supportive, please check the support box. Where there is opposition suggest mechanisms to increase support or avoid opposition.

**15(c) How will the local community be involved in decision making about the property and long-term management?**

Describe the mechanisms you propose to involve the community in the management of the protected area. Please include how you will build constructive relationships with the local community.

**15(d) What mechanisms will be established to ensure that good neighbourly relations are maintained?**

Describe the mechanisms you propose to involve neighbours in the management of the protected area.

**15(e) Are there existing public uses of the property? How will these be affected by your proposal?**

**Existing public use:** List the known public uses of the property.

**Impact:** Describe the potential impact this proposal may have upon these existing public uses. Describe how you will manage these uses in the future.

## Section 16. Public benefit and socio-economic impacts

**16(a) Public Benefit**

Please outline how your project will deliver a substantial public benefit. Your response to this question should identify how your proposal will achieve a substantial and enduring public benefit. Your response should identify the expected legacy of your proposal and how you expect to maintain the benefits after the project is completed.

**16(b) What commercial opportunities might be generated either directly or indirectly?**

List commercial opportunities that may be generated by the proposal. They may be opportunities such as for the development of a nature-based recreation and tourism business, opportunities for employment directly in the protected area or indirectly through support industries. If possible provide comment on the scale of the opportunity.

**16(c) What social opportunities might be generated either directly or indirectly?**

Briefly describe social opportunities that may be generated by the proposal. They may be opportunities for the improved access to natural areas, opportunities for new education activities and opportunities for jobs. If possible provide comment on the scale of these opportunities.

**16(d) With a change of land use/tenure to nature conservation, what is the likely social and economic impact on the community?**

If your proposal will result in a change of land use and/or tenure, please describe likely regional social and economic impacts. Consider, for example, whether the change may result in the loss of production from a farming property or loss of rate revenue to the local council. Comment on how social and economic opportunities, such as improvements in ecosystem services or employment opportunities in conservation and tourism sectors, may counter these changes.

## Section 17. Risk Management

Identify any risks that may impact on the timely and effective completion of your proposal, the level of risk and your strategies for minimising and dealing with these risks.

Please consider risks associated with the proposed inputs, including financial, resources, staff risk and implementation delays; risks associated with the delivery of identified outputs and the expected results of your activities, and any time critical issues (such as likelihood of the property being purchased) that may have a bearing on the full and timely completion of your proposal.

**Note:** The development of an effective risk management approach will provide assurance to the Australian Government and other investors that their investments in your proposal will achieve worthwhile environmental and sustainable management returns. The identification of a robust risk management approach forms an important part of the assessment of proposals.

Complete the table for each individual risk you identify.

**What are the risks:** List each significant risk that you can identify for this project. It is not realistic that there are no risks.

**Consequence of the risk:** Choose from one of these five ratings

- Insignificant
- Minor
- Moderate
- Major
- Catastrophic

**Likelihood of it occurring**—Choose from one of these five ratings

- Almost certain
- Likely
- Possible
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

**Mitigation strategy**—Detail what actions you will take to manage and reduce the risk

## Section 18. Valuation

### **18(a) Have you received a valuation by a registered valuer of the property?**

If you have received a valuation please answer questions 18(b) to 18(d).

It is not essential that applicants obtain a valuation prior to submitting an application. If however, your application is successful, you will be required to furnish a valuation before a financial agreement can be entered into by the Commonwealth.

### **18(b) What is the date of valuation?**

Please enter the month and year of the valuation.

### **18(c) Is the valuation an official State or Australian Government valuation?**

Check the box to indicate yes to this question.

### **18(d) What is the valuation range?**

Please give the high and low range of the valuation.

**Note:** The Commonwealth must establish that a fair price is being paid for the property. The best way is to get a professional opinion from a suitably qualified and experienced valuer. The purchase price should be negotiated as low as possible and should not be more than 10% above the valuation advice you have received. If it is more than 10% above the valuation advice, then you may need to provide additional information to justify the difference.

## Section 19. Current status of proposal

### **19(a) What is the status of this proposal?**

**Status:** Please indicate the status of the land purchase. Status examples include:

- The property is on the open market or due for auction
- The property is for sale by tender
- Negotiations have commenced with the vendor
- The property has been purchased

**Details:** Please give details about the property status. For example, if the property is for private sale or is available on the open market, please indicate the status of negotiation, i.e. has an offer been made and accepted by the vendor?

**Date:** Please give the agreed or predicted settlement date for the property. If the property is for sale by tender please indicate the date tenders are due.

### **19(b) Are there other items included in the purchase besides the land?**

Please choose from the list provided and outline the item, details and estimated value.

**19(c) Is your contribution in hand or dependant on fundraising activities or future budget appropriation?**

**Applicant Contribution:** Please state whether your contribution is in-hand or dependant on future activities

**Details:** If the purchase money is not currently available please indicate when it is expected to become available and the process by which it will be achieved. Also indicate if availability of purchase money is subject to other approval processes and its status within that approval process.

**Amount:** Please list the amount that you are contributing.

**Note:** Matching funds from non-Australian Government sources **must** be in cash. The Australian Government will contribute up to two-thirds of the costs of purchasing and establishing the protected area for all successful proponents.

**19(d) Does your project involve sub-division?**

**Status and Details:** If yes please give details, including the outcome of any discussion you have had with the responsible authority and the expected time it will take to undertake the survey, get plans approved and gain the necessary planning approvals for the subdivision.

**Date:** Please provide an estimated date for the transfer of the property into your ownership.

Section 20 Project work plan

**20(a) Please identify milestones for the project up until the management plan is adopted**

**Activity to be undertaken:** Please select the activity from the drop down list. Add other steps to the table if necessary.

**Who will be responsible:** Identify who is responsible for each step

**Start and finish dates:** Enter the start and end date for each step. It may be useful to relate these steps to the purchase date (if this is known).

**Note:** Land purchases are expected to be completed within the first 12 months of the project..

Section 21. Detailed project budget

**21(a) Detailed project budget**

The land purchase budget may include provision for the cost of the land as well as necessary on-costs. Matching funds from non-Australian Government sources **must** be in cash. The Australian Government will contribute up to two-thirds of the

costs of purchasing and establishing the protected area for all successful proponents.

You should specify the direct costs of the land purchase price as well as the associated establishment costs by selecting the cost type from the list in the proposal form.

**List all costs as exclusive of GST, and round all financial values to the nearest \$100.**

You should note that all costs need to be acquitted and only the actual cost will be used to determine the Australian Government's contribution, so please be as accurate as possible when estimating costs. If these costs will occur in 2011–12 and/or 2012–13, please enter the amount sought in those years.

**Note:** The table is designed to align information against the capital cost type you identify in the left-hand column. You should therefore ensure that all the information you enter is aligned against its correct capital cost type.

**Capital cost type:** Only the Land Purchase price is required.

**Establishment Cost:** Enter those of the following establishment cost types that are applicable to your proposal: Land Purchase; Legal Fees; Signage; Management planning; Survey; Fencing; Access rationalisation; Urgent fire management; Urgent threat abatement.

**Total costs:** Total costs are automatically calculated on a GST exclusive basis. The Australian Government will approve funding to successful proposals on a GST-exclusive basis. However, the GST component of your approved proposal will be included within Australian Government payments in accordance with the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Act 1999* and determined during the negotiation process for your funding agreement if your application is successful.

**Caring for our Country funding: Funding sought:** Identify the Caring for our Country funding you are seeking in relation to the total cost of each capital cost type. Under the NRS national priority area the Australian Government will provide up to two thirds of the cost of purchasing land and establishing a protected area for inclusion in the NRS.

**Applicant funds:** Identify the amount of funding from all sources other than Caring for our Country (including from the lead proponent and its partners) that will be contributed to the cost of each item. Other funding sources should be identified and detailed in Question 2(a).

**Financial year of proposed expenditure:** Specify the financial years in which the expenditure for the capital cost items will be made. You should enter this information in the format of years only e.g. 2010/11.

## **21(b) Details of establishment costs from part B of the detailed project budget**

The items will be populated in a drop down list generated from itemising the establishment costs in Question 21(a). In the detail provide information on how the cost of the item was determined for each item.

## Section 22. Applicant declaration

The Applicant Declaration is pre-populated with information provided in the application form.

Print the last page of the application and have it signed by the appropriate office holder/s.

## Lodging Applications

This declaration must be given by:

- the project manager if you are a State/Territory agency; or
- two executive officers if you are a community group, local government, non-government or other organisation.

Please print and sign the last page, then either scan and forward it as an attachment with the emailed application or fax it to (02) 6274 2735. The scanned option is preferred.

When the form has been completed select the “Submit by email” button to email the responses direct to the National Reserve System Section of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. This produces an xml file of the data from the application form and will appear attached to the automatically generated email to the NRS.

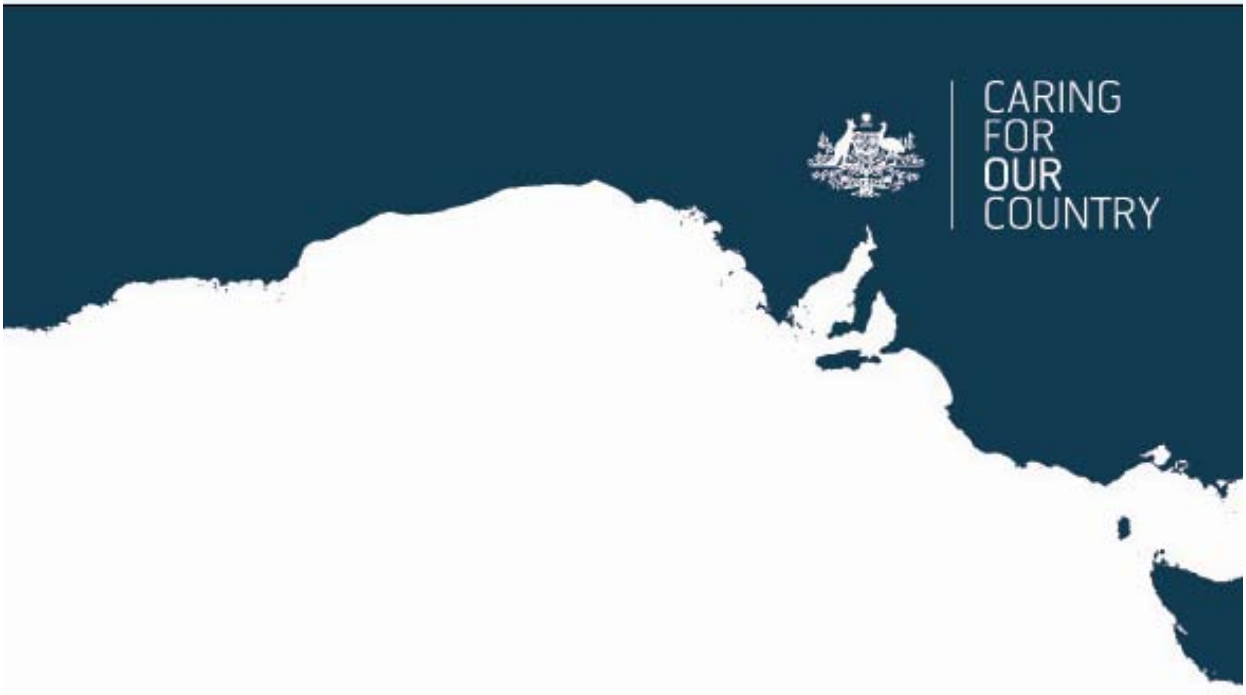
Please ensure the appropriate maps, documents and images required to support your application are attached to the email before sending the email.

<b>Attachments Required (all applicants)</b>	<b>Additional Attachments Required  (non-government organisations)</b>	<b>Additional Items (optional attachments)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Map of property location</li> <li>▪ Map of property</li> <li>▪ Map of property</li> <li>▪ Signed applicant declaration</li> <li>▪ Search copy from Lands Title Office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Constitution of your organisation</li> <li>▪ Rules of Incorporation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previous management plans</li> <li>▪ Valuation</li> <li>▪ Letters of support</li> <li>▪ Relevant strategies and plans</li> <li>▪ Map of surrounding land use Office</li> <li>▪ Photographs of property</li> </ul>

**For help with filling in, saving or emailing the PDF application form,  
contact the National Reserve System Section on 02 6274 1753.**

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010.**

## Appendix A



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM

# Standards for inclusion in the National Reserve System

A fundamental requirement of any area's eligibility for inclusion within the National Reserve System is that it must meet the IUCN definition of a 'protected area'.

This is defined as:

'A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dudley 2008, *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland.

## Standards for inclusion in the National Reserve System

<b>VALUABLE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must enhance the comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the National Reserve System</li> <li>• must be established and managed for the primary purpose of protection and maintenance of biological diversity with associated ecosystem services and cultural values</li> </ul>
<b>SECURE THROUGH LEGAL OR OTHER EFFECTIVE MEANS</b>	<p><b>Public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be statutorily defined and resourced</li> </ul> <p><b>Private</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be reserved in perpetuity</li> <li>• any change in management status must have Ministerial or statutory approval</li> </ul> <p><b>Indigenous</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must have customary law protection with Traditional Owners holding a non-transferable interest in the land with a commitment to its long-term protective management</li> <li>• must be a commitment from Traditional Owners to discuss any changes with the Minister</li> </ul>
<b>WELL- MANAGED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• must be classified and managed in accordance with one or more IUCN management categories (I–VI)</li> <li>• must be adaptively managed to minimise loss of biodiversity values</li> <li>• effectiveness of management must be monitored and evaluated in a manner open to public scrutiny</li> </ul>
<b>CLEARLY DEFINED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the area must be able to be accurately identified on maps and on the ground</li> </ul>

The terms *legal or other effective means* are used in describing how a protected area is established under the National Reserve System, as follows:

### Legal means:

Land is brought under control of an Act of Parliament, specialising in land conservation practices, and requires a Parliamentary process to extinguish the protected area or excise portions from it.

### Other effective means:

For contract, covenant, agreements or other legal instrument, the clauses must include provisions to cover:

- long-term management—ideally this should be in perpetuity but, if this not possible, then the minimum should be at least 99 years
- the agreement to remain in place unless both parties agree to its termination
- a process to revoke the protected area or excise portions from it is defined; for National Reserve System areas created through contribution of public funding, this process should involve public input when practicable
- the intent of the contract should, where applicable, be further reinforced through a perpetual covenant on the title of the land
- ‘well-tested’ legal or other means, including non-gazetted means, such as through recognised traditional rules under which Indigenous Protected Areas (community conserved areas) operate or the policies of established non-government organisations.

## Appendix B: Revised IUCN Protected Area Management Categories (2008)

Category name	description	primary objective
<b>Category Ia:</b> <b>Strict nature reserve</b>	Strictly protected areas set aside to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable reference areas for scientific research and monitoring	To conserve regionally, nationally or globally outstanding ecosystems, species (occurrences or aggregations) and/or geodiversity features: these attributes will have been formed mostly or entirely by non-human forces and will be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact
<b>Category Ib:</b> <b>Wilderness area</b>	Protected areas are usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, which are protected and managed so as to preserve their natural condition	To protect the long-term ecological integrity of natural areas that are undisturbed by significant human activity, free of modern infrastructure and where natural forces and processes predominate, so that current and future generations have the opportunity to experience such areas
<b>Category II:</b> <b>National park</b>	Protected areas are large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities	To protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and to promote education and recreation
<b>Category III:</b> <b>Natural monument or feature</b>	Protected areas are set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, submarine cavern, geological feature such as a cave or even a living feature such as an ancient grove. They are generally quite small protected areas and often have high visitor value	To protect specific outstanding natural features and their associated biodiversity and habitats

<p><b>Category IV:</b> <b>Habitat/species management area</b></p>	<p>Protected areas aim to protect particular species or habitats and management reflects this priority. Many category IV protected areas will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category</p>	<p>To maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats</p>
<p><b>Category V:</b> <b>Protected landscape/seascape</b></p>	<p>A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values</p>	<p>To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices</p>
<p><b>Category VI:</b> <b>Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources</b></p>	<p>Protected areas are generally large, with much of the area in a more-or-less natural condition and where a proportion is under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area</p>	<p>To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial</p>

## Appendix C Detailed description of the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories

### Category Ia: Strict nature reserve

Category Ia are strictly protected areas set aside to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological/ geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable reference areas for scientific research and monitoring.

#### Primary objective

- ✓ To conserve regionally, nationally or globally outstanding ecosystems, species (occurrences or aggregations) and/or geodiversity features: these attributes will have been formed mostly or entirely by non-human forces and will be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact.

#### Other objectives

- ✓ To preserve ecosystems, species and geodiversity features in a state as undisturbed by recent human activity as possible;
- ✓ To secure examples of the natural environment for scientific studies, environmental monitoring and education, including baseline areas from which all avoidable access is excluded;
- ✓ To minimize disturbance through careful planning and implementation of research and other approved activities;
- ✓ To conserve cultural and spiritual values associated with nature.

### Category Ib: Wilderness area

Category Ib protected areas are usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, which are protected and managed so as to preserve their natural condition

#### Primary objective

- ✓ To protect the long-term ecological integrity of natural areas that are undisturbed by significant human activity, free of modern infrastructure and where natural forces and processes predominate, so that current and future generations have the opportunity to experience such areas.

#### Other objectives

- ✓ To provide for public access at levels and of a type which will maintain the wilderness qualities of the area for present and future generations;
- ✓ To enable indigenous communities to maintain their traditional wilderness-based lifestyle and customs, living at low density and using the available resources in ways compatible with the conservation objectives;

- ✓ To protect the relevant cultural and spiritual values and non-material benefits to indigenous or non-indigenous populations, such as solitude, respect for sacred-sites, respect for ancestors etc;
- ✓ To allow for low-impact minimally invasive educational and scientific research activities, when such activities cannot be conducted outside the wilderness area.

## Category II: National park

Category II protected areas are large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.

### Primary objective

- ✓ To protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and to promote education and recreation<sup>1</sup>.

### Other objectives:

- ✓ To manage the area in order to perpetuate, in as natural a state as possible, representative examples of physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources and unimpaired natural processes;
- ✓ To maintain viable and ecologically functional populations and assemblages of native species at densities sufficient to conserve ecosystem integrity and resilience in the long term;
- ✓ To contribute in particular to conservation of wide-ranging species, regional ecological processes and migration routes;
- ✓ To manage visitor use for inspirational, educational, cultural, and recreational purposes at a level which will not cause significant biological or ecological degradation to the natural resources;
- ✓ To take into account the needs of indigenous people and local communities, including subsistence resource use, in so far as these will not adversely affect the primary management objective;
- ✓ To contribute to local economies through tourism.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the name “national park” is not exclusively linked to Category II. Places called national parks exist in all the categories (and there are even some national parks that are not protected areas at all). The name is used here because it is descriptive of Category II protected areas in many countries. The fact that an area is called a “national park is independent of its management approach. In particular, the term “national park” should never be used as a way of dispossessing people of their land.

### Category III: Natural monument or feature

Category III protected areas are set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, submarine cavern, geological feature such as a cave or even a living feature such as an ancient grove. They are generally quite small protected areas and often have high visitor value.

#### Primary objective

- ✓ To protect specific outstanding natural features and their associated biodiversity and habitats.

#### Other objectives:

- ✓ To provide biodiversity protection in landscape or seascapes that have otherwise undergone major changes<sup>2</sup>;
- ✓ To protect specific natural sites with spiritual and/or cultural values where these also have biodiversity values;
- ✓ To conserve traditional spiritual and cultural values of the site.

### Category IV: Habitat/species management area

Category IV protected areas aim to protect particular species or habitats and management reflects this priority. Many category IV protected areas will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.

#### Primary objective

- ✓ To maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats<sup>3</sup>.

#### Other objectives:

- ✓ To protect vegetation patterns or other biological features through traditional management approaches;
- ✓ To protect fragments of habitats as components of landscape or seascape scale conservation strategies;
- ✓ To develop public education and appreciation of the species and/or habitats concerned;
- ✓ To provide a means by which the urban residents may obtain regular contact with nature.

<sup>2</sup> Noting that protection of specific cultural sites can often provide havens of natural or semi-natural habitat in areas that have otherwise undergone substantial modification – e.g. ancient trees around temples

<sup>3</sup> This is a change from the 1994 guidelines, which defined category IV as protected areas that need regular management interventions. The change has been made because this was the only category to be defined by the process of management rather than the final objective and because in doing so it meant that small reserves aimed to protect habitats or individual species tended to fall outside the category system.

## Category V: Protected landscape/seascape

A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

### Primary objective

- ✓ To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.

### Other objectives

- ✓ To maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values;
- ✓ To contribute to broadscale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in heavily used landscapes;
- ✓ To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism;
- ✓ To provide natural products and environmental services;
- ✓ To provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain;
- ✓ To encourage the conservation of agrobiodiversity and aquatic biodiversity;
- ✓ To act as models of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application.

## Category VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources

Category VI protected areas are generally large, with much of the area in a more-or-less natural condition and where a proportion is under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area.

### Primary objective

- ✓ To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial.

### Other objectives

- ✓ To promote sustainable use of natural resources, considering ecological, economic and social dimensions;
- ✓ To promote social and economic benefits to local communities where relevant;
- ✓ To facilitate inter-generational security for local communities' livelihoods – therefore ensuring that such livelihoods are sustainable;
- ✓ To integrate other cultural approaches, belief systems and world-views within a range of social and economic approaches to nature conservation;

- ✓ To develop and/or maintain a more balanced relationship between humans and the rest of nature;
- ✓ To contribute to sustainable development at national, regional and local level (in the last case mainly to local communities and/or indigenous peoples depending on the protected natural resources);
- ✓ To facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring, mainly related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- ✓ To collaborate in the delivery of benefits to people, mostly local communities, living in or near to the designated protected area;
- ✓ To facilitate recreation and appropriate small-scale tourism.

## Appendix D: Template of Trustee's Assurance form



### Australian Government

### Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

**Land:** <NRS to insert lot numbers and description of location of land, e.g. Lot 1234, located approximately 567 km North of Citysville, commonly known as Placename>

**Trustee:** ..... ABN .....

**Purchaser:** ..... ABN .....

1. The Purchaser has applied to the Commonwealth of Australia for funding to purchase and manage the Land for conservation purposes.
2. The Trustee warrants that:
  - a. it has the power to sell the Land;
  - b. the sale of the Land conforms with the terms of the trust under which it holds the Land;
  - c. the beneficiaries of the trust consent to the sale of the Land.
3. The Trustee agrees to:
  - a. release the Commonwealth of Australia and its servants and agents (**released parties**) from all claims that the Trustee might at any time have or have had against the released parties, in respect of injury, loss or damage that may be suffered by the Trustee arising from the sale of the Land, except to the extent that an act or omission involving fault on the part of the released parties caused or contributed to the relevant injury, loss or damage;
  - b. indemnify and keep indemnified the Commonwealth of Australia and its servants and agents (**indemnified parties**), against all actions, proceedings, claims and demands brought against the indemnified parties, in respect of injury, loss or damage arising from the sale of the Land, except to the extent that an act or omission involving fault on the part of the indemnified parties contributed to the relevant liability, loss or damage.

Executed by the Trustee or the Trustee's duly authorised representative on the ..... day of ..... 2010.

SIGNED ..... by .....  
*(print name and, if the Trustee is a company or other body, position)*

WITNESSED ..... by .....  
*(print name)*

## Appendix E:



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM

# Minimum requirements for contributing to comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness for the National Reserve System through Caring for our Country funding

As part of the [Standards for inclusion in the NRS](#) a proposed protected area must contribute to a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) National Reserve System (NRS). The tool below can be used as a guide to determine if a proposed site contributes to CAR sufficient to be included in the NRS.

What is CAR?

**Comprehensiveness** is the aim to protect the full range of regional ecosystems within an IBRA region in the NRS.

**Adequacy** is the aim to protect at least the minimum area of ecologically functional ecosystems needed to provide ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and ecological communities at an IBRA subregional scale in the NRS.

**Representativeness** is the aim to protect the variability of regional ecosystems in a bioregion by protecting the full range of regional ecosystems within an IBRA subregion in the NRS.

## CAR elements

For a site to be added to the NRS it needs to contribute to at least one of the five elements of CAR:

CAR ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
<b>1. Under represented regional ecosystem</b>	<p>Regional ecosystems are the primary building block for the NRS. Protecting the full range and diversity of regional ecosystem types is one of the key strategies for native biodiversity adapting to changing climate.</p> <p>As a minimum, a regional ecosystem is considered to be under represented if less than 10% of the original extent of the ecosystem within the IBRA subregion is protected in the NRS.</p>
<b>2. Core habitat for threatened species or ecological community</b>	<p>Core habitat is an area used by listed* threatened species or ecological communities to survive (shelter, disperse, breed and feed) in the landscape where they are likely to naturally occur.</p>
<b>3. Core habitat for marine or migratory species</b>	<p>Core habitat is an area used by listed* marine or migratory species to survive (shelter, disperse, breed and feed) in the landscape where they are likely to naturally occur.</p>
<b>4. Place of environmental significance</b>	<p>Places that are key areas for the survival and evolution of Australia's native biodiversity may be considered to have environmental significance. As a minimum, places of environmental significance are important for inclusion in the NRS if they are of significance at the IBRA subregion scale. They are places that may have one or more of the following attributes: climatic refuge, species endemism, high species or ecosystem diversity, aquatic ecosystem, ecological gradient, important for migratory or nomadic species or critical for the lifecycle of key species.</p> <p>Examples of some of the places of environmental significance that contribute to CAR may be places listed* for their natural values like a World Heritage Area, Ramsar wetland or National Heritage site or equivalent state or territory natural heritage place.</p>
<b>5. Improved adequacy</b>	<p>A site improves adequacy of the NRS if it helps maintain the integrity and viability of populations, species and/or ecological communities in an IBRA subregion or improves 'ecological functionality' of the reserve system in the IBRA subregion. Adequacy can be improved by: replicating the protection of biodiversity values, improving ecological connectivity and/or re-configuring protected area boundaries to allow for better management of threats to other CAR elements. These sites improve the NRS by increasing the resilience and capacity for adaptation to climate change.</p>

\* listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or similar state or territory legislation.

Definition of terms used in the tool

Ecosystem	a community of organisms, interacting with one another, plus the environment in which they live and with which they also interact.
Ecological community	the living component of an ecosystem.
Ecological connectivity	the location of natural areas in the landscape to provide species and populations with access to resources (food, breeding sites and shelter), increase habitat availability and facilitate population processes (dispersal, migration, expansion and contraction) and enable better functioning ecological processes (evolution, water, fire and nutrients).
Good condition	ecosystems that are relatively intact with good native vegetation and soil structure, ecological function and a full suite of species that would normally occur at this locality.
IBRA	the Interim Biogeographical Regionalisation of Australia is a broad ecological description of Australia as 85 IBRA regions, which are split into 403 IBRA subregions.
Native ecosystem	an ecosystem that would naturally occur in this locality. It includes native vegetation, bare rock, soil and sand communities and open water aquatic communities.
Regional ecosystem	native ecosystem and its associated land form(s) mapped at a scale of at least 1:50,000 in the intensive land use zone and at least 1:100,000 scale in the extensive land use zone.
Self sustaining	an area large enough for a regional ecosystem to function and populations of species to survive given the level of ecological connectivity and the landscape position of the protected area.

# The minimum requirement for contributing to a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) NRS through Caring for our Country funding

- 1. Under represented regional ecosystem
- 2. Core habitat for threatened species or ecological community
- 3. Core habitat for marine or migratory species
- 4. Place of environmental significance
- 5. Improves adequacy

