



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Interim Management Guidelines for National Reserve System funded land purchases

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.

If your organisation applies for *Caring for our Country* funding to purchase land for inclusion in the National Reserve System (NRS) (an 'NRS grant'), you are successful in your application¹, and you agree to accept the NRS grant, then (once a contract is negotiated and signed) you will be required to prepare Interim Management Guidelines (IMG).

The IMG covers the management of the land for the period from land purchase to approval of a plan of management by the Department of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the Department). The guidelines must be written to comply with the Caring for our Country Funding Deed and the Schedules and Annexures attached to the Funding Deed. IMG are usually required to be prepared within three months of the land being purchased. All planning must be completed under the guidance of the steering committee (wherever a steering committee is required). The IMG are submitted to the Department for approval.

The Department reserves the right to modify or add to these conditions.

¹ The decision-maker is the Minister for the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Annexure XX to funding deed

INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The content of the Interim Management Guidelines will be guided by the Steering Committee and in consultation with the Department.

The general requirements of the IMG are outlined below:

Description of the protected area (location and values)

Location and access to the protected area (includes maps and boundary information)

Natural values description

- Species – flora and fauna – regional, state and national conservation status
- Native Ecosystems
- Significant biodiversity places such as wetlands, refugia etc.

Cultural values description

- Indigenous – archaeology and social
- Non-indigenous – archaeology, recreation, tourism

Integrity of the values

Condition of values at the commencement of the project

Bioregional and landscape context of the property

- IBRA
- Catchment
- Local Planning context – any known complementary protected areas in the region

CAR contribution - How does the property contribute to the CAR system?

- Comprehensiveness at an IBRA level
- Representativeness at an IBRA Sub region level
- Adequacy of the protected area system within the IBRA subregion
- Adequacy of the protected area in its landscape context

Immediate threats and threatening processes

- Invasive Species (animals and plants)
- Over-abundant species
- Fire
- Erosion
- Salinity/Acidity
- Mining
- Timber extraction
- Visitor use and impact
- Total grazing pressure

Management Framework

Protection mechanism (e.g. details of any covenant, legislation, management agreement or caveat, legislative requirement in respect to endangered species)

IUCN management category, management objectives and a statement of how the objectives will be achieved

Complying with the Native Title Act 1994

Joint management arrangements

- Partners
- Traditional Owners
- Neighbours

Steering committee

- membership
- Terms of Reference
- Meeting schedules
- Reports and other outcomes of the steering committee

Communications Plan

- Announcement of funding
- Launch of the property
- Publicity about the values and achievements
- Consultation with neighbours and stakeholders
- Public information about visiting the property

Immediate Management Issues

- Existing uses and transitional arrangements
 - Removal of domestic stock
 - Rationalisation of public access
 - Securing and defining the property boundary
- Removal of unwanted management infrastructure (fences, yards, dams etc)
- Identification of any urgent pest control works required and a strategy for implementation
- Public use and access provisions
- Rehabilitation

Management Actions – Actions arising from discussion of the management issues that need to be undertaken before the plan of management is adopted. Clearly identify who is responsible for undertaking the action and milestones for monitoring progress and completing actions.

- Actions to achieve the legal protection and establishment of the protected area.
- Actions to prepare and adopt the plan of management including information about the public consultation process for the management plan.
- Include details of the resources required to carry out the work in the form of a realistic budget.

Management infrastructure

- Existing infrastructure and maintenance requirements
- New infrastructure

Monitoring

- Describe how you will measure that you have achieved the project objectives.
- Describe how you will measure changes to the values of the property in response to your management actions.

Key milestones

- Settlement
- Occupation of the property by the organisation and property manager
- Application for a conservation covenant
- Interim Management Guidelines adopted
- Adoption of the management plan
- Registration of the covenant
- Conditions of the Funding Deed met

Appendices

It may be necessary to attach detailed programs and or operational plans as they become available such as fire, weeds, pests, visitor management, native title, etc.