

Guide to the State of the Parks report

The State of the Parks report presents systematic and consistent background information on each Commonwealth reserve proclaimed under the EPBC Act and on Calperum and Taylorville Stations.

The following information is common to the reports on each place:

- **Area and locational information** is derived from the Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database and from a departmental Marine Protected Areas dataset which includes data sourced from Geoscience Australia.
- The World Conservation Union (**IUCN**) **protected area management category** is identified for each reserve, and where parts of a reserve are assigned to different categories this is indicated. The IUCN categories are formally assigned under the EPBC Act, and schedule 8 of the EPBC Regulations defines the Australian IUCN reserve management principles applying to each category.
- Where possible, each reserve's **biogeographic context** is described by reference to the national biogeographic regionalisations: terrestrial (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia or IBRA) or marine (Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia or IMCRA).
- The report summarises the relevance of **international agreements** to each reserve, recognising both the international significance of the reserves and the Director's legal responsibility to take account of Australia's obligations under each agreement.
- The report summarises the occurrence in each reserve of **species listed under the EPBC Act** as threatened, migratory or marine, and the status of relevant recovery plans.
- Information on the **total number of different types of plant and animal species** recorded for each place is included, to the extent of available knowledge. Species numbers for marine reserves are likely to be underestimated.
- Monitoring is a key aspect of successful park management, and **major monitoring efforts** for the year are reported.
- Future planning is ongoing, and **future challenges** are reported for each area.
- **Management arrangements** (such as boards of management, committees and management agreements with state agencies) are described.
- The report provides information by **key result area** on major issues, actions and performance results for 2009–10.

Also included in this section are **case studies** that provide more detailed reporting on management of specific issues.

The Director of National Parks is included in the Portfolio Budget Statements for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio and contributes to the achievement of Outcome 1 (Environment). The Director contributes to this outcome through the sub-outcome *Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves through the provision of safe visitor access, the control of invasive species and working with stakeholders and neighbours* and Program 1.1 Parks and Reserves. Detailed reporting against the Portfolio Budget Statements 2009–10 targets is provided at Appendix A.