Building Nature's Safety Net
Top 10 reserves of the first decade of the National Reserve System

Gungahlin and Dunlop Grassland Reserves

Location: ACT Canberra
Location: ACT Canberra
northern-most suburbs
Area: 640 ha
Year proclaimed: 1995, 1997 (part of Canberra Nature Park)
Online: http://www.environment.act.gov.au/bushparksandreserves/parksandreserves/canbnaturepk
Priority of bioregion: 5
Bioregion(s): South East Highlands.
Owner: Australian Capital Territory Government
Management: ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services

Fauna protected include:

- Species listed as threatened known or likely to occur on the park include the Striped Legless Lizard (Vulnerable), Golden Sun Moth (Endangered), Perunga Grasshopper (Vulnerable)

Flora and ecosystems protected include:

- Natural Temperate Grassland (Endangered)
- Species listed as threatened that are known or likely to occur include a native daisy (Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides, Endangered)
Paroo-Darling National Park and State Conservation Area

Location: West central NSW
Area: 227,200 ha
Year proclaimed: 2000

Bioregion(s): Darling Riverine Plains, Murray-Darling Depression, Mulga Lands.
Priority of bioregion: 1,2,2
Owner: New South Wales government.
Management: Department of Environment and Conservation

Fauna protected include:
- 55 waterbird species protected under China or Japan Migratory Bird Agreements and Commonwealth EPBC Act
- Thick-billed grasswren (Vulnerable)

Flora and ecosystems protected include:
- Salt pipewort (Endangered)
- Paroo Overflow terminal drainage wetlands, listed on Directory of Important Wetlands.
- Saline lakes
- Mound springs (Endangered ecological community)
West MacDonnell National Park

Location: NT, Central Australia west of Alice Springs.
Bioregion(s): MacDonnell ranges.
Priority of bioregion: 3
Owner: the Tyurretye-arrenye, leased back to Northern Territory government.
Area: 205,564 ha
Year proclaimed: 2002
(Amalgamated from several separate parks with addition of Alice Valley in 2002)
Management: Jointly Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service and Tyurretye-arenye.

Online: www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/find/westmacdonnell.html

Fauna protected include:

• 28 native mammal species, 152 bird species, 83 reptiles, 7 amphibians and over 9 fish species
• Species listed as threatened known or likely to occur on the park include the Thick-billed Grasswren (Endangered), Desert Sand-skipper butterfly (Endangered), Great Desert Skink (vulnerable) and mammals like the Mulgara (Vulnerable), Warru or black-footed rock-wallaby (Vulnerable) and Central Rock-rat (Endangered)
• Rare or unusual species include the Finke River Hardyhead, a fish only known from the Finke River and the isolated Central Australian population of the common brushtail possum

Flora and ecosystems protected include:

• 697 species of plants recorded, 31 of national significance
• Species listed as threatened known or likely to occur include Desert Flannel-flower, MacDonnell Ranges Cycad and Minnie Daisy all Vulnerable under Australian law
• Rarities like Maiden Hair Fern, Skeleton Fork Fern, the Mountain Hakea and the Glory of the Centre Wedding
• Saline mound spring communities
• Hummock grasslands and mulga woodlands - two of the five broad vegetation types most poorly represented in NT protected areas
• Mulga shrubland with spinifex understory is only represented inside West MacDonnell NP
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Diamantina and Astrebla Downs National Park aggregation

Location: Central western Queensland
Area: 507,000 ha + 176,000ha

Bioregion(s): Channel Country, Mitchell Grass Downs
Priority of bioregion: 2,1
Owner: Queensland government.
Management: Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Fauna protected include:
• Bilby (Endangered)
• Plains wanderer (Vulnerable)
• Kowari (Vulnerable)
• Migratory water birds in seasonal wetlands of the Diamantina river

Flora and ecosystems protected include:
• Myall native fuschia, Eremophila tetraptera (Vulnerable)
• Mitchell Grass downs are poorly represented in reserves
• 39 regional ecosystems, nine of which not represented in any other reserves
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Gawler Ranges National Park

Location: Eyre Peninsula, South Australia
Area: 166,300ha
Year proclaimed: 2002
Bioregion(s): Gawler, Eyre Yorke Block.
Priority of bioregion: 3
Owner: South Australian government
Management: South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage

Fauna protected include:

• Threatened mammals and reptiles protected include the central long-eared bat, hairy-nosed wombat, yellow-footed rock-wallaby and Penatty knob-tailed gecko
• Notable bird species protected include Major Mitchell cockatoo, rufous treecreeper, malleefowl, scarlet-breasted parrot, Gilbert’s whistler, inland thorn-bill and thick-billed grass wren
• A significant wildlife corridor between northern and southern parks

Flora and ecosystems protected include:

• Threatened species protected include Gawler Range crimson mallee, Woolly spinifex and Victoria Springs mallee
• 976 plant species including 53 of conservation significance
Savage River National Park

Location: Northwest Tasmania
Area: 17,980ha
Year proclaimed: 1999
Bioregion(s): Tasmania West
Priority of bioregion: 4
Owner: Tasmanian government.
Management: Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service

Fauna protected include:
Nationally listed species likely to occur include the wedgetailed eagle (Endangered), Spotted-tail quoll (Tasmanian population, Vulnerable), Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Vulnerable), Tasmanian Devil (Vulnerable), and Australian Grayling (Vulnerable)

Flora and ecosystems protected include:
Major refuge for myrtle (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) dominated temperate rainforest.
Terrick Terrick National Park

Location: Northern Victoria
Area: 3,880ha
Year proclaimed: 1998 (previously a State Park for 10 years), expanded 2002.
Bioregion(s): Riverina
Priority of bioregion: 1
Owner: Victorian government.
Management: Parks Victoria

Fauna protected include:

- Nationally listed threatened species include striped legless lizard (Vulnerable), plains-wanderer (Vulnerable) and growling grass frog (Vulnerable)
- Terrick Terrick is one of only a handful of conservation reserves in Australia where striped legless lizard is currently known
- 20% of the known Victorian population of plains-wanderer use the grasslands in the park
- 100 species of birds, including grey-crowned babbler, bush stone curlew, barking owl, spotted nightjar and brolga

Flora and ecosystems protected include:

- 200 species of native plants including buloke (*Allocasuarina leuhmannii*), rock correa, snowy mint bush, swan greenhood, woolly cloak fern, dwarf bluebush and rye beetle-grass
- Nationally listed threatened species include the plains leek orchid (Endangered), lowly greenhood (Endangered), ridged water-milfoil (Vulnerable), red Swainson’s pea (Vulnerable)
- The largest known Victorian populations of the endangered species *Leptorhynchos scabrus*, *Swainsona murrayana*, *Prauphyllum suaveolens* and *Panicum laevinode*
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Francois Peron National Park

Location: Peron Peninsula, Shark Bay World Heritage Area, Western Australia
Area: 52,586 ha
Year proclaimed: 1993.
Online: http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/national_parks/previous_parks_month/peron.html
Bioregion(s): Carnarvon
Priority of bioregion: 2
Owner: Western Australian government.
Management: Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management

Fauna protected include:

- 10 mammal species including the common dunnart, common wallaroo (euro), greater long-eared bat, white striped mastiff-bat, spinifex hopping mouse, sandy inland mouse, the bilby and woylie (last two reintroduced: at least 18 mammal species used to occur)
- Park is home to Project Eden aimed at restoring the original fauna of the peninsula and eradicating feral pests
- Over100 bird species including yellow white-eye at its southern range limit. South west species at their northern range limit are the mallefowl and the southern scrub robin
- Over 44 species of reptiles and amphibians likely occur including the nationally threatened woma or Ramsay's python

Flora and ecosystems protected include:

- Bowgada scrub (Acacia ramulosa)
- Acacia and Lamarchea hakeifolia thicket. The entire WA pre-European extent is protected in the park
- Rare hummock grasslands, grass steppe (spinifex Triodia plurinervata). The entire State pre-European extent falls within the park
- Rare Acacia ligulata x rostellifera thickets
- Wetlands (Coastal birridas) are also represented in the park
Booderee National Park

Booderee is a Dhurga word for ‘bay of plenty’ or “plenty of fish”

Location: Jervis Bay Territory, southern coast of New South Wales
Area: 6,312 ha
Year proclaimed: 1992 (Previously a nature reserve and botanic gardens)
Online: www.deh.gov.au/parks/booderee
Bioregion(s): Sydney Basin
Priority of bioregion: 5
Owner: Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council, leased to Australian Government since 1995.
Management: Jointly Parks Australia and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community
Visitor numbers: about 400,000 per year.

Fauna protected include:
- 26 native mammal species, 200 birds species; including 40 waterbirds, 17 reptiles, 14 amphibians and 308 fish species.
- 16 animal species listed as threatened, including the eastern bristle bird (Endangered) and green and golden bell frog (Vulnerable).
- Ground parrot and Eastern snake-necked turtle
- 108 migratory or marine species like bottlenose dolphins, the little penguin, Eudyptula minor, and breeding colonies of three migratory shearwaters protected under Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and China-Australia MBA.
- Jervis Bay tree frog and Tyler's tree frog have their type localities in the park.

Flora and ecosystems protected include:
- 625 native plant species occur on the park
- Magenta lilly pilly or scrub cherry (Threatened)
- The largest Posidonia seagrass meadows in NSW.
- Eucalypt forest, relict rainforest, woodland, dry heath, wet heath, coastal scrub, wetlands and grassland; littoral communities of mangroves, saltmarsh, rainforest and intertidal rocky platforms; and marine communities such as seagrass beds.
- Diverse landscapes, outstanding scenic locations, diversity of flora, fauna and cultural sites, recreational value as listed on the Register of National Estate.
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Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary

Location: Kimberly region, Western Australia.
Area: 312,000ha
Year proclaimed: 2001
Online: http://www.australianwildlife.org/
Bioregion(s): Central Kimberly
Priority of bioregion: 1 (very high)

Fauna protected include:

• 202 bird species, up to 40 mammal species.
• Habitat for purple-crowned fairy-wren, Gouldian finch and red goshawk, all nationally listed threatened species.
• Northern Quoll (nationally endangered) plus several mammal species listed as rare and threatened under State law
• At least 70 reptile species.

Flora and ecosystems protected include:

• Over 600 plant species occur in the reserve
• Over a dozen plant species listed as threatened under national or State law such the endangered King Leopold mallee (Eucalyptus mooreana), Acacia gloeotricha and Livistona victorae
• Much of the upper catchment of the Fitzroy River including riparian forests, the magnificent Diamond and Sir John gorges with fern and palm forests and a Wetland of National Importance Lake Gladstone
• At least seven broad ecosystems that are not found in any other reserve. Beard vegetation types with low or no representation in reserves include: Savanna woodland (high grass savanna), Low tree savanna (curly spinifex), Low tree savanna (tall bunch grass), Tree steppe scattered low trees (spinifex).
• Only 0.02% of this bioregion was protected in reserves prior to the purchase of Mornington This has now increased to about 4% due to creation of Mornington and another state government reserve.

Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary is a former cattle property now owned and managed by Australian Wildlife Conservancy