



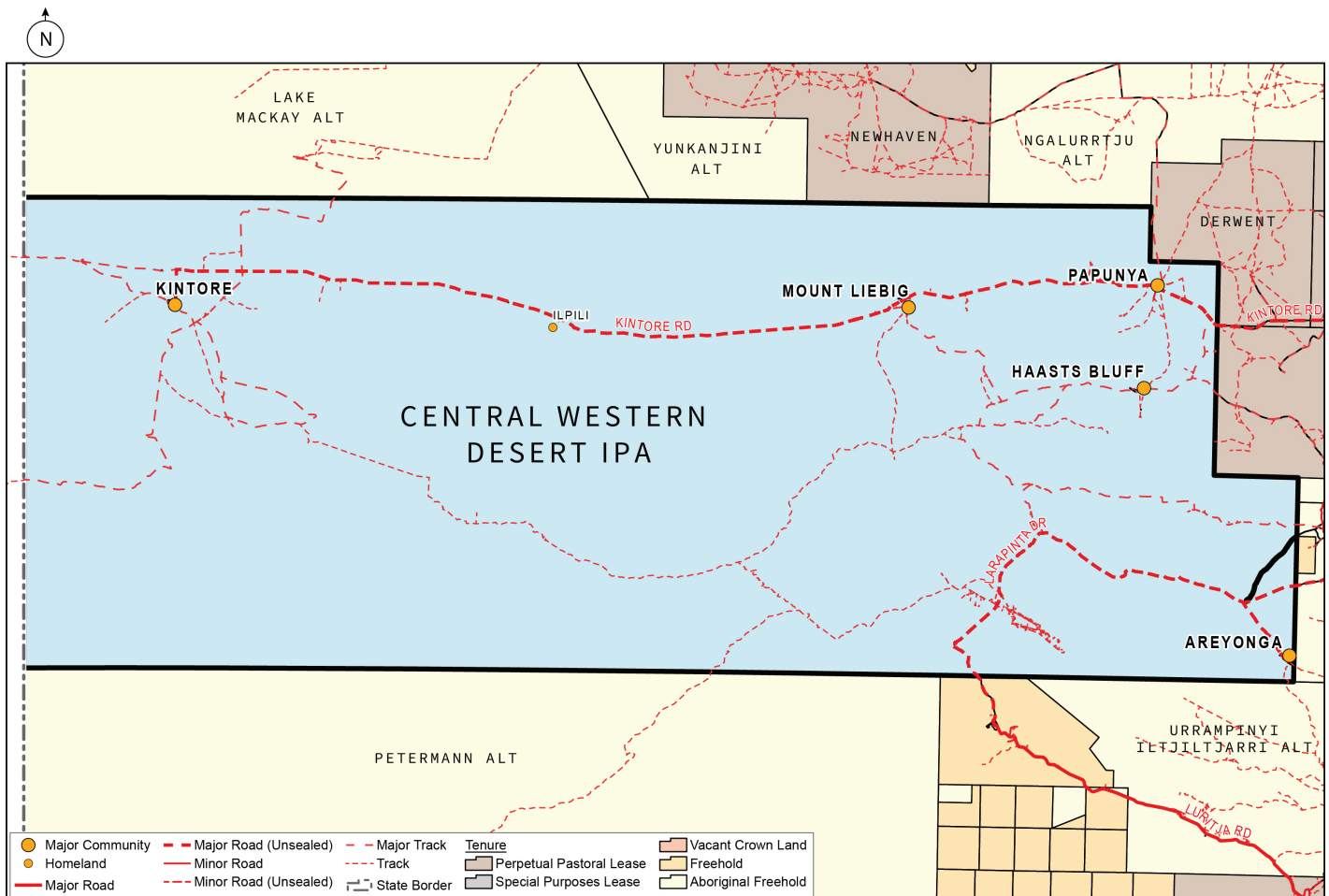
Fact Sheet

Central Western Desert Indigenous Protected Area

The new Central Western Desert IPA is on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory.

The IPA covers almost 40,000 square kilometres of the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust. In 1978 this land was handed back to the traditional owners who hold it as inalienable freehold title and manage it with the support of the Central Land Council.

It encompasses the remote communities of Utju (Areyonga), Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Warumpi (Papunya), Watiyawanu (Mount Liebig) and Walungurru (Kintore) and 40 outstations.



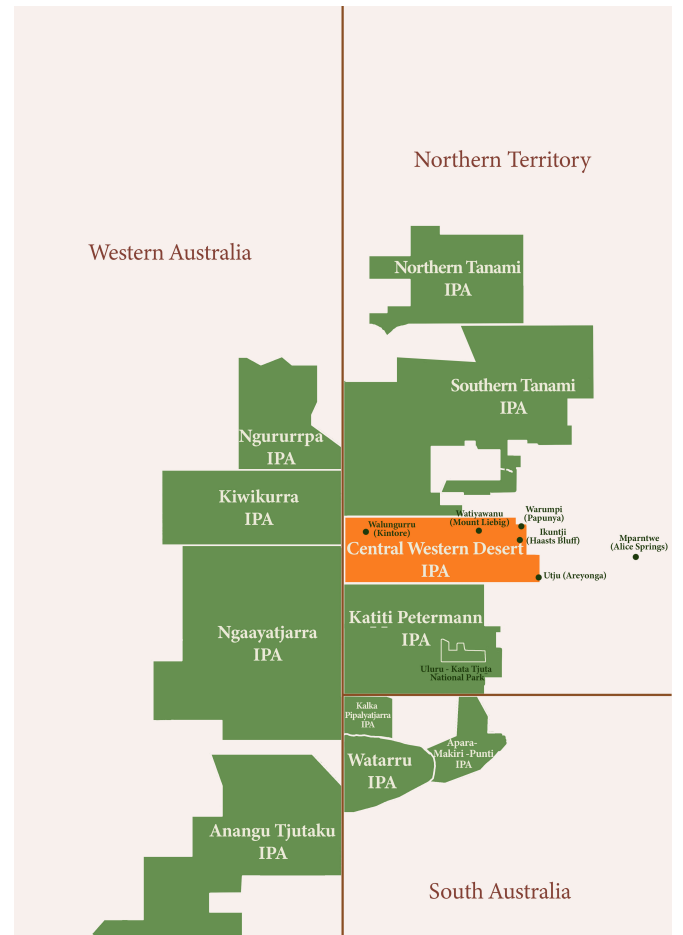
The new IPA will become part of a much larger network of protected areas in the cross-border region.

Connecting the desert

The new IPA is a missing piece in the puzzle of protected areas at the heart of the nation.

It is located between the CLC-managed Southern Tanami, Northern Tanami, Kaṭiṭi Petermann and Angas Downs IPAs. Together these five areas are bigger than the state of Victoria and connect to a larger network of 10 IPAs in Western Australia and South Australia.

This network protects a massive 435,000 square kilometres of desert landscapes. It is further strengthened by neighbouring national parks, such as the Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Watarrka national parks under joint management by traditional owners and governments.



The new IPA protects 435,000 square kilometres of desert landscapes.



Traditional owners celebrating the new Walunguru ranger Hub.



The critically endangered central rock rat (*Zyomys pedunculatus*).

Cultural values

The IPA is home to more than 1,000 residents of remote communities and outstations where Pintupi, Pitjantjatjara, Luritja, Warlpiri and Western Arrernte are among the first languages.

It features rich cultural landscapes which contain many sites of cultural significance for Anangu (Pitjantjatjara and Luritja for Aboriginal people of the Western Desert). They include sacred sites and songlines connecting places, old camps where Anangu lived, bush graves of their ancestors, rock art and petroglyph sites.

Its native plants and animals are bush foods and medicines of great spiritual significance for Anangu.

During the tjukurpa, when ancestral beings created the country, people, plants and animals, they also laid down the law that guides everyday life for Anangu.



Clearing invasive weeds such as buffel grass helps reduce the chances of destructive wildfire and encourages native growth.

Natural values

Many plants and animals on the IPA are rare or endangered. Over the past 20 years, nine threatened animal species have been found here. The critically endangered central rock rat, for example, survives only in mountains in the east of the IPA the adjacent Tjoritja (West MacDonnell) National Park. The badge of the CLC's Anangu Luritjiku Rangers features a princess parrot, another threatened species.

The IPA covers parts of the Great Sandy Desert, Central Ranges, MacDonnell Ranges and the Burt Plain bioregions. It features sandstone mountain ranges in the east that hold many springs and water sources, and desert dunefields and sandplains in the west.



The new IPA will become part of a much larger network of protected areas in the cross-border region.



Aaron Collins at a meeting of the working group that prepared the Central Western Desert IPA management plan.

Threats

There are number of threats to country and culture outlined within the management plan.

These threats include loss of traditional knowledge, increased presence of feral animals, destructive wildfires and people doing the wrong thing by the traditional owners.



Managing feral camels is an integral part of protecting the area

Indigenous Protected Area program

The IPA program is an Australian government initiative that has helped Aboriginal people look after the unique natural and cultural values of their land since 1997. It currently supports 89 IPAs.

Traditional owners and rangers develop and manage these areas based on their IPA management plans. Under the Central Western Desert IPA agreement the CLC will receive approximately \$1.7 million for four years to protect country and culture on the new IPA.

IPA governance and management

The CLC's Anangu Luritjiku Rangers based at Papunya and the Walungurru Rangers at Kintore and other staff are working on the Central Western Desert IPA under the guidance of nguraritja and in collaboration with an IPA co-ordinator.

Senior knowledge holders among the nguraritja contribute an intimate understanding of their country and culture that has been passed down for thousands of generations. They have helped to develop an IPA management plan and the rangers and other CLC staff are using a mix of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal knowledge to implement it, for example through collaborative research with scientists.

Traditional owners and CLC staff play distinct roles in the management of the IPA.

Groups of traditional owners own and manage specific country within the IPA. They decide on projects for their areas and carry out work on them.

The IPA consists of five management zones. Committees of traditional owners from each zone, develop annual work plans for these zones. The IPA management committee decides about the overall, long-term management of the IPA.

Traditional Owners

