

# NT PARKS 10 YEAR ACTIVATION PLAN



Department of  
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND WATER SECURITY





Cover image (left)  
Rim Walk visitor information shelter, Watarrka National Park

Cover image (right)  
Ranger talking to a visitor at Berry Springs Nature Reserve  
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Inside cover image  
Old Victoria River Crossing, Judbarra / Gregory National Park



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## INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory's (Parks and Wildlife) 10 year Activation Plan (Activation Plan) is a key strategic document that provides a 10 year plan for development and improvement of infrastructure on parks and reserves.

The Activation Plan contributes to, and reflects the vision and goals of the 30 year Northern Territory Parks Masterplan 2023-2053 (Parks Masterplan). The Activation Plan and the Parks Masterplan are two separate stand alone documents with different planning cycles and scale and scope of targets and delivery, however the documents will be published together on their initial release with the Activation Plan forming an addendum to the Parks Masterplan.

The Activation Plan has been developed to identify projects derived from the principles, goals and targets identified in the Parks Masterplan. Projects that are included here have been drawn from many sources.

The priorities of the Activation Plan have been developed from what we already know about our infrastructure priorities and where we have engagement from Traditional Owners on Joint Managed parks and reserves. New ideas will require negotiation and agreement from Traditional Owners, custodians and Native Title holders and therefore it would be inappropriate to list them at this time. For this reason the list of projects does not comprehensively address all priorities and actions within the Parks Masterplan. It is also for this reason that the Activation Plan has a much shorter review period of every three years. This is to allow the priorities and list of projects to grow quickly as the Parks Masterplan begins to take effect and we are able to have more conversations with our partners and stakeholders. A provisional list of new ideas to start discussions and planning for has been included.

The projects identified in this plan are considered priorities for development in the next 10 years to support recovery and growth of the tourism sector and contribute to the Northern Territory economy. An important factor is that these priorities will need to drive real advancement in economic development for Aboriginal Territorians and improve the economic return to Aboriginal landowners from joint management arrangements.



## BACKGROUND

In November 2020, the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (TERC) released its final report. It provides advice on key strategies, approaches and actions that will increase private sector investment, leading to industry growth, business opportunities and sustained and sustainable jobs growth within the Territory. The TERC report recognises the Territory's parks as the backbone of the tourism industry and a key recommendation was for the development and implementation of a plan to further activate Territory parks.

There is no overarching strategy that sets clear principles for the management of Territory parks and reserves, or for the protection of natural and cultural values to balance the requirements of tourism, commercial and recreational uses of the estate. For this reason the decision was made to engage with a broader strategic planning process in the form of a 30 year Parks Masterplan.



Tjaynera Falls, Litchfield National Park



## WHY ACTIVATE TERRITORY PARKS AND RESERVES

The Northern Territory Government manages 85 parks and reserves, all of which are important to the Territory's environment, culture, society and future. They play an important role in the conservation of the Territory's biodiversity and are integral to the cultural identity and way of life for many Aboriginal people.

Our parks are also a major economic pillar for the Territory, forming the heart of its tourism industry. Territory parks and reserves are also a significant resource to the liveability of the Territory, with the recreation and nature based activity functions representing a significant factor in supporting people to stay, work and live in the Territory.

The Territory's parks estate is large and spans the breadth of the Territory with this combination providing its own challenges for management consideration.

The parks estate has limited access, in many cases with few roads, many of them 4WD only, limited power and water connectivity, restricted availability of communication providers and a lack of proximity to medical care and supply centres making private travel and enjoyment of parks and reserves more challenging and guided tourism extremely complex.

Whilst there are many impediments to ease of travel and enjoyment of Territory parks and reserves, many people are prepared to meet the challenge, with visitation in pre-COVID-19 years of about 3.5M visitors per annum. About 900,000 (visitors per annum) of these visits are to the urban parks in and around Darwin which means about 2.5M visitors are taking the opportunity to visit and engage with more remote parks across the Territory.

Activities and offerings on park relate to outdoor recreational activities such as swimming, sightseeing, day and multiday walking trails and the more adventurous activities such as fishing, camping, boating and 4WD experiences. Mountain biking is also bringing many visitors to our parks with high demand for new mountain biking experiences.

There are signs that some of our park offerings are at the limit of what they can sustainably support in visitor numbers. For example, Litchfield National Park is experiencing very high visitation to many of its visitor nodes, and there are starting to be problems associated with the number of people at sites and challenges managing and balancing tourism offerings and recreational usage. Products like the Jatbula Trail within Nitmiluk National Park book out, often on the same day that the trail opens for bookings each season. Wet season offerings are limited especially in the Top End and similarly, the brutal heat of Central Australia's midsummer means that parks and reserves further south also experience a markedly seasonal pattern of visitation.

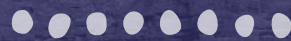
Activating the parks estate will address many of these issues. This initiative includes improving access to a greater collection of parks and visitor nodes, allowing existing sites to handle greater traffic flows, and increasing value added opportunities for the hospitality and tourism sectors. It also includes increasing accessibility to parks and reserves throughout the year and builds on the important role that our parks play in providing access to nature, which is so important for Territory lifestyles.





View over Kalarranga Amphitheatre, Finke Gorge National Park





## ACTIVATION PLAN THEMES

This Activation Plan includes 4 top level themes summarising projects to achieve the Parks Masterplan objectives:

- 1 Intensive tourism development in high visitation nodes and parks.**
- 2 Improving access to parks.**
- 3 Improving diversity of recreational opportunities.**
- 4 Refreshing existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences and products in identified parks.**

Each activation theme has been detailed below (see Tables 1 to 4) and visually (see Figure 1).

Projects have also been provided by location (see Appendix 1).

## INTENSIVE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN HIGH VISITATION NODES AND PARKS



Territorians are supportive of opening up new areas of parks and reserves however, have expressed a preference for infrastructure to be kept simple, sustainable and balanced with a view to ensuring natural and cultural values are not compromised. Territorians also want to look after what we already have, and new infrastructure needs to be supported by an appropriate budget for maintenance.

There is a case for balancing the Territory preference for low impact recreation and tourism products with a sustainable tourism offering and some visitor nodes in the Territory parks estate already provide high volume visitor offerings. These places are considered the most appropriate for improving utility infrastructure to support more intensive tourism development as the further intensification at existing sites may be more acceptable to the Traditional Owners and the broader community.

TABLE 1: PRIORITIES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN HIGH VISITATION AREAS

| Region              | NT Parks (NP) & Reserves | Development   | Timeframe (Years) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Savannah Gulf Parks | Nitmiluk NP              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitmiluk Gorge and Leliyn upgrades to water and power infrastructure to facilitate implementation of the Nitmiluk Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) are completed</li> </ul>  | 1 - 2             |
|                     |                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the recommendations of the VEDP priorities as approved by Traditional Owners and the Nitmiluk Board including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued expansion of short walks</li> <li>Continued expansion of mountain bike trail networks</li> <li>Continued development of swimming opportunities at existing and new locations across the park</li> <li>Development of glamping products associated with the Jatbula Trail in partnership with private investors and/or Traditional Owners</li> <li>Explore options for a completely new multiday walking experience in the park</li> <li>Redevelop the Leliyn visitor precinct to develop capacity for camper and caravan camping and revitalised car based camping experiences</li> <li>Explore options for private investment in a new eco-resort product on the escarpment associated with existing infrastructure at either Leliyn or Nitmiluk Gorge</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | 6 - 10            |



**TABLE 1: PRIORITIES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN HIGH VISITATION AREAS**

| <b>Region</b>                     | <b>NT Parks (NP) &amp; Reserves</b>               | <b>Development</b>   | <b>Timeframe (Years)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Savannah Gulf Parks (cont)</b> | Eley NP   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise completion of priorities in the VEDP for Eley NP including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carrying capacity issues addressed wherever possible</li> <li>Upgraded picnic and day use facilities</li> <li>New and upgraded all access paths</li> <li>New toilets and change facilities</li> <li>Upgraded car parking</li> <li>Improved swimming access points</li> <li>New paths, boardwalks, wildlife viewing decks</li> <li>New signage and interpretative experiences</li> <li>Revitalisation of the Jalmurark campground</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | 3 - 5                    |
| <b>Northern Australia Parks</b>   | Litchfield NP                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Tourism NT to develop a tourism management plan for Litchfield National Park including a new Litchfield National Park VEDP with a focus on managing high recreational and tourism visitation and addressing the associated issues</li> </ul>  | 1 - 2                    |
|                                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence implementation of the priorities in the new VEDP</li> </ul>  | 1 - 2                    |
| <b>Central Australia Parks</b>    | Tjoritja / West MacDonnell NP                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the Red Centre Adventure Ride</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                    |
|                                   | Watarrka NP                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise a new Watarrka multiday walking experience in partnership with Traditional Owners and private investors</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                    |
|                                   | Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope camping location and facilities in consultation with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   | Central Australia Parks                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with private investors to implement one innovative water harvesting and supply project in a Central Australian Park</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5                    |



## IMPROVING ACCESS TO PARKS



New visitation experiences on parks and reserves often require the establishment of new roads as many of the opportunities associated with existing roads have already been utilised.

Improving access also incorporates increasing access for different user groups, therefore a consideration of a greater two wheel drive offering is required. Increased access in shoulder seasons or during traditional low periods of visitation is also a way to increase access to the parks estate and different experiential offerings.

Improving access and facilities will make parks more inclusive for people who have physical or cultural factors that make the traditional configuration of park facilities unsuitable.

TABLE 2: PRIORITIES FOR ACCESS

| Region                   | NT Parks (NP) & Reserves  | Development  | Timeframe (Years) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| All                      | NT wide                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify new visitor hubs in the Top End, Savannah Gulf, Barkly and Central Australia Regions</li> <li>Complete a review and identify priorities for improving two wheel drive access to parks within two hours of urban centres</li> </ul> | 3 - 5             |
|                          |                           |  |                   |
| Savannah Gulf Parks      | Nitmiluk NP               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options for a completely new multiday walking experience in Nitmiluk National park</li> <li>Establish new swimming opportunities at Nitmiluk Gorge and Leliyn</li> </ul>  | 6 - 10            |
|                          | Keep River NP             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road access is provided to the northern boundary of Keep River National Park and Spirit Hills extension</li> <li>Enhance access to natural attractions in the Park (e.g. Bungle Bungle formations)</li> </ul>                               | 6 - 10            |
| Northern Australia Parks | Litchfield NP             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road access is provided to the south-eastern sector of Litchfield National Park</li> <li>Completion of the Central Valley development</li> </ul>  | 6 - 10<br>1 - 2   |
|                          | Casuarina Coastal Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and redevelop Lee Point areas of the park to cater for adjacent residential developments</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5             |
| Central Australia Parks  | Watarrka NP               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise a new Watarrka multiday walking experience in partnership with Traditional Owners and private investors (see also Table 1)</li> </ul>  | 1 - 2             |
|                          | Finke Gorge NP            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise detailed design and Traditional Owner approvals to establish a walking track linking Ntaria / Hermannsburg to the Finke Gorge National Park</li> </ul>   | 3 - 5             |





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Opening up new areas  
of parks and reserves is  
favoured by Territorians.

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## IMPROVING DIVERSITY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Parks that provide for camping, fishing, 4WD, mountain biking and walking opportunities within a few hours' drive of Darwin, Katherine or Alice Springs are of great importance for liveability in the Northern Territory.

There is increasing pressure on existing swimming holes and day use areas across the Northern Territory. In the Top End, swimming locations are limited by the requirement to manage waterholes for saltwater crocodile risk, and any further expansion of swimming opportunities requires analysis of locations and very intensive management to keep swimmers safe. New swimming opportunities in Central Australia are obviously limited by the availability of water and water quality at particular times of the year. This is important as feedback from public consultation has indicated that people prefer to visit locations where they can safely swim and seek respite from the heat.

TABLE 3: PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION

| Region              | NT Parks (NP) & Reserves | Development  | Timeframe (Years)  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| All                 | NT wide                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend walking track offerings and upgrade existing walking tracks:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five new bushwalking tracks &lt;15kms as identified in the VEDPs for Nitmiluk, Elsey and Litchfield NPs</li> <li>Three multiday bushwalking tracks (Includes some all seasons trails) including:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the Tabletop Track at Litchfield NP</li> <li>A new walking track at Nitmiluk National Park</li> <li>A new walking track at Watarrka National Park</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify at least one additional safe swimming opportunity in each geographical region across the Parks estate</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 - 5</li> <li>1 - 2</li> <li>6 - 10</li> <li>1 - 2</li> <li>3 - 5</li> </ul> |
|                     |                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade four new areas to provide access opportunity for people with a disability including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simpsons Gap 400m pathway to the Gap</li> <li>Simpsons Gap Toilet and access</li> <li>Limited mobility access to the water at Berry Springs</li> <li>Disability access path from furniture to walkways at Charles Darwin NP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 - 5</li> </ul>  |
|                     |                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade infrastructure in at least two urban parks to reflect the Northern Territory's multi-cultural society</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - 2</li> </ul>  |
|                     |                          |  |  |
| Savannah Gulf Parks | Nitmiluk NP              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dry season – Jetty 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd crossover access improved to provide greater pedestrian movement at the downstream end of the 3rd and 2nd Gorge and upstream at the 2nd and 1st gorge</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - 2</li> </ul>  |



**TABLE 3: PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION**

| <b>Region</b>                     | <b>NT Parks (NP) &amp; Reserves</b>  | <b>Development</b>  | <b>Timeframe (Years)</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Savannah Gulf Parks (cont)</b> | Judbarra / Gregory NP  | • Identify infrastructure developments and conduct planning for a VEDP, including further expansion of adventure experiences in partnership with Traditional Owners | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   |  | • Extend the Bullita campground and walking tracks  | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   |  | • Finalise construction at Matt Wilson campground   | 1 - 2                    |
|                                   | Giwining / Flora River Nature Park   | • Design, construct and install viewing platforms at Djarrung Falls   | 3 - 5                    |
| <b>Northern Australia Parks</b>   | Casuarina Coastal Reserve  | • Design and redevelop Lee Point areas of the park to cater for adjacent residential developments   | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   | Litchfield NP  | • Enhance the Central Valley visitor experience by completing the walking trails and mountain bike trails in the precinct   | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   |  | • Expand the Wangi Falls campground   | 6 - 10                   |
|                                   |  | • Expand and upgrade the Surprise Creek Falls campground and walking track  | 1 - 2                    |
|                                   | Mary River NP  | • Build three new composting toilet blocks to cater for increased demand as a result of recent boat ramp upgrades   | 1 - 2                    |
| Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve     | • Plan and complete upgrades to Fogg Dam visitor infrastructure in partnership with Traditional Owners                                       | 3 - 5   |                          |
|                                   | • Upgrades to sluice gate and additional flood spill way to maintain condition of the dam wall and road edges                                | 1 - 2   |                          |
| <b>Central Australia Parks</b>    | Tjoritja / West MacDonnell NP  | • Ormiston campground redevelopment improving capacity and amenity  | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   |  | • Upgrade Redbank day use to gorge track  | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   | Finke Gorge NP   | • Convert Kunanan Creek day use area to dual use/ camping overflow for Palm Valley campground and upgrade facilities  | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   |  | • Negotiate agreement with Traditional Owners, design and establish a walking track linking Ntaria / Hermannsburg to the Finke Gorge NP                             | 3 - 5                    |
|                                   | Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve   | • Create the reflective garden (Stage 4) in collaboration with Traditional Owners to provide a cultural experience  | 3 - 5                    |
| Watarrka NP                       | • Complete Kings Creek interpretive project as endorsed by Traditional Owners to complete the cultural experience and new visitor experience | 1 - 2   |                          |

## REFRESH EXISTING FACILITIES TO ENHANCE VISITOR EXPERIENCES



Currently\* our parks have:

- 1644 km of public access 4WD tracks
- 433 km of short walks
- 331 km of multiday walking trails (includes Larapinta Trail, Jatbula Trail and Tabletop Track)
- 159 campgrounds
- 110 day use areas
- 143 toilets

Maintenance and revitalisation of the existing infrastructure is as important as seeking new opportunities for people to enjoy parks.

*\*As of 30 June 2022*

TABLE 4: REVITALISATION PRIORITIES

| Region                          | NT Parks (NP) & Reserves             | Development  | Timeframe (Years)        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Savannah Gulf Parks</b>      | Nitmiluk NP                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalise the Leliyn visitor precinct in accordance with VEDP priorities</li> </ul>  | 6 - 10                   |
|                                 | Elsely NP                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalisation of Bitter Springs, Mataranka Thermal Pools and Jalmurark infrastructure (see also Table 1)</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5                    |
|                                 | Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh cave entrances</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                    |
|                                 | Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a new bore</li> <li>• Revitalise camping infrastructure</li> </ul>  | 1 - 2<br>3 - 5           |
| <b>Northern Australia Parks</b> | Litchfield NP                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace Florence Falls day use area ablution block</li> <li>• Redesign and rebuild Wangi Falls ablution block</li> <li>• Continue to refresh infrastructure at major visitor nodes as identified in a tourism management plan for Litchfield National Park including a new Litchfield National Park VEDP</li> </ul> | 3 - 5<br>1 - 2<br>6 - 10 |
|                                 | Howard Springs Nature Park           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to refresh infrastructure</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                    |
|                                 | Berry Springs Nature Park            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh and upgrade swimming entries</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                    |

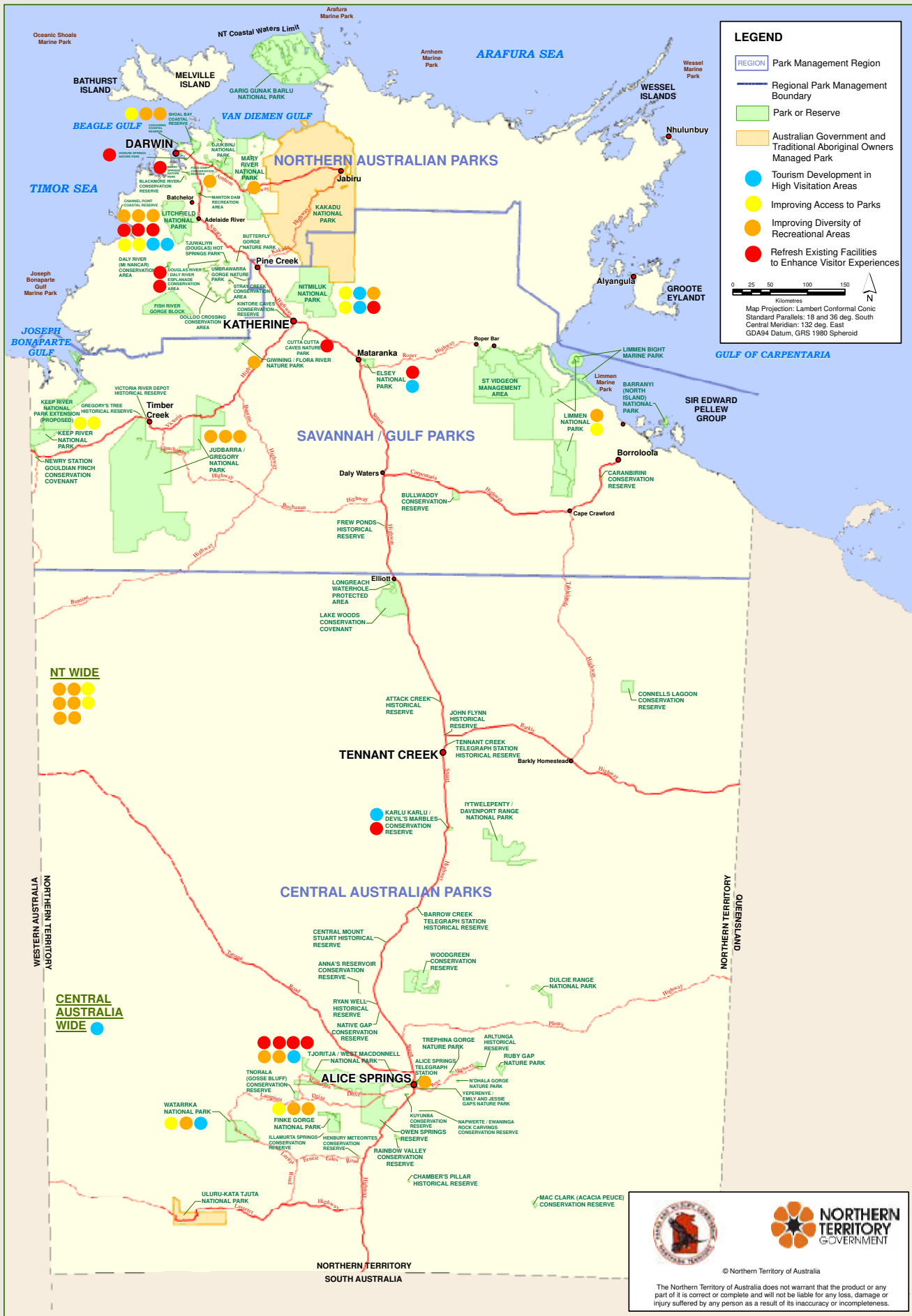


**TABLE 4: REVITALISATION PRIORITIES**

| Region                  | NT Parks (NP) & Reserves                         | Development   | Timeframe (Years) |
|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Central Australia Parks | Karlukarlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope camping location and facilities in consultation with Traditional Owners</li> </ul>   | 3 - 5             |
|                         | Tjoritja / West MacDonnell NP                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larapinta Trail remote toilet amenities</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2             |
|                         |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ormiston Gorge campground redevelopment</li> <li>• Reconfigure the Ellery Creek Big Hole Visitor area including sealing of the carpark and pathways</li> </ul> | 3 - 5<br>6 - 10   |



FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF ACTIVATION THEME PRIORITY PROJECTS.







## HOW WE FUND THE DEVELOPMENT

It is envisaged that all of the developments outlined in this Activation Plan will be completed during the 10 year life of the plan, however progress is dependent on funding to complete works.

The developments will be staged and funded through 4 main sources:

- Funding allocated through the Departmental works program either in Minor New Works, Repairs and Maintenance, Capital Works, Cyclic Maintenance or Unforeseen Maintenance
- A request for new funding through a Capital Works Project
- Private investment or public/private investment
- Funding from the increased revenue derived from the introduction of walking fees, increased camping fees and a parks pass

Some of the listed projects in the plan are already funded however many are not. The Parks and Wildlife Commission is committed to seeking creative methods to ensure that all projects listed in this plan are funded and completed at the end of the 10 year period.

It is important to note that there will be many projects that will not be listed in this Activation Plan as there are a variety of works that are undertaken on a cyclic basis.

Other works are unforeseen and are also undertaken when infrastructure is damaged due to human or physical elements and need repair or replacement at a particular point in time so as to minimise the impact on the environment or on visitation to a particular park or reserve, or a visitor node.

Furthermore, this plan limits itself to a 10 year time frame whereas many priorities for future development and investment on the parks estate will occur over a longer time period.



## REVIEW AND REPORTING

The Activation Plan will be reviewed every 3 years and approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission Chief Executive Officer or nominated delegate under the *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act 1980*.

As part of each review, items completed will be moved to a separate list and marked as completed to provide accountability and a record aligning to the priorities. New projects and developments identified will be included as a rolling program to align with overarching priorities.

A number of projects on joint managed parks have not been listed in the Activation Plan themes until the support of Traditional Owners on joint managed parks is sought. Their agreement and involvement is crucial on these projects which will be further considered as part of the 3 year review of the Activation Plan.

Future projects for consideration and discussion with Traditional Owners and other stakeholders include:

- East MacDonnell parks and reserves
  - New hiking trails
- Watarrka NP and Tjoritja / West MacDonnell NP
  - Visitor's centre / cultural base within each park – consider Ormiston Gorge for Tjoritja
- Tjoritja / West MacDonnell NP
  - Ellery Creek Big Hole campground and facilities expansion
  - Improve 4wd track and facilities at Birthday Waterhole
- Arltunga Historical Reserve
  - Visitor Centre interpretation upgrades
- Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
  - Improved visitor experience including interpretation upgrades
- Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park
  - Develop new camping opportunities
- NT wide
  - Improve and increase visitor interpretation

Pending discussion outcomes, the plan and themes will be updated as necessary.



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## ACRONYMS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4WD   | Four wheel drive  |
| COVID-19  | Coronavirus Disease of 2019<br>– SARS-CoV2              |
| ED  | Executive Director                                      |
| DMP   | Destination Management Plan                             |
| Parks and Wildlife                                    | Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory |
| NTG   | Northern Territory Government                           |
| NT  | Northern Territory                                      |
| NP  | National Park   |
| NT Parks 10 Year Activation Plan                      | Activation Plan   |
| 30 year Northern Territory Parks Masterplan 2023-2053 | Parks Masterplan  |
| TERC  | Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission            |
| TNT   | Tourism NT  |
| VEDP  | Visitor Experience Development Plan                     |





APPENDIX 1:  
**SUMMARY OF ALL DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS (PER REGION/PARK)**

Tolmer Falls lookout platform, Litchfield National Park

| Region | NT Parks & Reserves | Program Theme |
|--------|---------------------|---------------|
|--------|---------------------|---------------|

All

NT wide

● Improving access to parks

● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities

**Central  
Australia Parks**

Alice Springs  
Telegraph Station  
Historical Reserve

● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities

Finke Gorge NP

● Improving access to parks

● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities

Karlu Karlu /  
Devils Marbles  
Conservation  
Reserve

● Tourism development in high visitation areas

● Refresh existing facilities to enhance  
visitor experiences



| Development Project   | Timeframe (Years) |
|---|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify new visitor hubs in the Top End, Savannah Gulf, Barkly and Central Australia Regions</li> <li>Complete a review and identify priorities for improving two wheel drive access to parks within two hours of urban centres</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend walking track offerings and upgrade existing walking tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>five new bushwalking tracks &lt;15kms as identified in the VEDP's for Nitmiluk, Eley and Litchfield NP</li> <li>three multiday bushwalking tracks (Includes some all season's trails) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the Tabletop Track at Litchfield NP</li> <li>A new walking track at Nitmiluk National Park</li> <li>A new walking track at Watarrka National Park</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify at least one additional safe swimming opportunity in each geographical region across the Parks estate</li> <li>Upgrade four new areas to provide access opportunity for people with a disability including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simpsons Gap 400m pathway to the Gap</li> <li>Simpsons Gap Toilet and access</li> <li>Limited mobility access to the water at Berry Springs</li> <li>Disability access path from furniture to walkways at Charles Darwin NP</li> </ul> </li> <li>In at least two urban parks install infrastructure and furniture that represents the Northern Territory's multi-cultural society</li> </ul> | 3 - 5             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create the reflective garden (Stage 4) in collaboration with joint management partners to provide a cultural experience</li> </ul>   | 3 - 5             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise detailed design and Traditional Owner approvals to establish a walking track linking Ntaria / Hermannsburg to the Finke Gorge National Park*</li> </ul>   | 3 - 5             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert Kunanan Creek day use area to dual use/camping overflow for Palm Valley campground and upgrade facilities</li> <li>Negotiate agreement with Traditional Owners, design and establish a walking track linking Ntaria / Hermannsburg to the Finke Gorge National Park*</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope camping location and facilities in consultation with Traditional Owners at Karlu Karlu</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope camping location and facilities in consultation with Traditional Owners at Karlu Karlu</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5             |

\*Note: Duplication of projects occurs as one project can be noted under two or more program themes.

| Region   | NT Parks & Reserves  | Program Theme  |
|--|--|--|
| Central Australia Parks                        | Tjoritja / West MacDonnell NP                                | ● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences |
|  |  | ● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities          |
|  |  | ● Tourism development in high visitation areas               |
|  | Central Australia  | ● Tourism development in high visitation areas               |
|  | Watarrka NP  | ● Improving access to parks                                  |
|  |  | ● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities          |
| ● Tourism development in high visitation areas |  |  |
| Northern Australia Parks                       | Berry Springs Nature Park                                    | ● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences |
|  | Casuarina Coastal Reserve                                    | ● Improving access to parks                                  |
|  |  | ● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities          |
|  | Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve                                | ● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities          |
| Howard Springs Nature Park                     | ● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences |  |

| Development Project  | Timeframe (Years)                       |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larapinta Trail remote toilet amenities</li> <li>Ormiston Gorge campground redevelopment</li> <li>Reconfigure the Ellery Creek Big Hole Visitor area including sealing of the carpark and pathways</li> </ul>                         | <p>1 - 2</p> <p>3 - 5</p> <p>6 - 10</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ormiston Gorge campground redevelopment improving capacity and amenity</li> <li>Upgrade Redbank day use to Gorge track</li> </ul>   | <p>3 - 5</p> <p>3 - 5</p>               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the Red Centre Adventure Ride</li> </ul>   | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with private investors to implement one innovative water harvesting and supply project in a Central Australian Park</li> </ul>  | <p>3 - 5</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise a new Watarrka multiday walking experience in partnership with Traditional Owners and private investors (see also Table 1)</li> </ul>  | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Kings Creek interpretive project as endorsed by joint management committee to complete the cultural experience and new visitor experience</li> </ul>   | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise a new Watarrka multiday walking experience in partnership with Traditional Owners and private investors</li> </ul>   | <p>3 - 5</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refresh and upgrade swimming entries</li> </ul>   | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and redevelop Lee Point areas of the park to cater for adjacent residential developments</li> </ul>  | <p>3 - 5</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and redevelop Lee Point areas of the park to cater for adjacent residential developments</li> </ul>  | <p>3 - 5</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and complete upgrades to Fogg Dam visitor infrastructure, in partnership with Traditional Owners</li> <li>Upgrades to sluice gate and additional flood spill way to maintain condition of the dam wall and road edges</li> </ul> | <p>3 - 5</p> <p>1 - 2</p>               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to refresh infrastructure</li> </ul>   | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |



| Region                           | NT Parks & Reserves                  | Program Theme  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Northern Australia Parks (cont.) | Litchfield NP                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities</li> </ul>  |
|                                  |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving access to parks</li> </ul>  |
|                                  |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences</li> </ul>   |
|                                  |                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tourism development in high visitation areas</li> </ul>   |
| Savannah Gulf Parks              | Mary River NP                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities</li> </ul>  |
|                                  | Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences</li> </ul>   |
|                                  | Elsley NP                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences</li> <li>● Tourism development in high visitation areas</li> </ul> |

| Development Project   | Timeframe (Years)                       |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the Central Valley visitor experience by completing the walking trails and mountain bike trails in the precinct</li> <li>• Expand the Wangi Falls campground</li> <li>• Expand and upgrade the Surprise Creek Falls campground and walking track</li> </ul>  | <p>3 - 5</p> <p>6 - 10</p> <p>1 - 2</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road access is provided to the south-eastern sector of Litchfield National Park</li> <li>• Completion of the Central Valley development</li> </ul>   | <p>6 - 10</p> <p>1 - 2</p>              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace Florence Falls day use area ablution block</li> <li>• Redesign and rebuild Wangi Falls ablution block</li> <li>• Continue to refresh infrastructure at major visitor nodes as identified in a tourism management plan for Litchfield National Park including a new Litchfield National Park VEDP</li> </ul>  | <p>3 - 5</p> <p>1 - 2</p> <p>6 - 10</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Tourism NT to develop a tourism management plan for Litchfield National Park including a new Litchfield National Park VEDP with a focus on managing high recreational and tourism visitation and addressing the associated issues</li> <li>• Commence implementation of the priorities in the new VEDP</li> </ul>  | <p>1 - 2</p> <p>1 - 2</p>               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build three new composting toilet blocks to cater for increased demand as a result of recent boat ramp upgrades</li> </ul>   | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a new bore</li> <li>• Revitalise camping infrastructure</li> </ul>   | <p>1 - 2</p> <p>3 - 5</p>               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh Cutta Cutta cave entrances</li> </ul>  | <p>1 - 2</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalisation of Bitter Springs, Mataranka Thermal Pools and Jalmurark infrastructure</li> </ul>  | <p>3 - 5</p>                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise completion of priorities in the VEDP for Elsey NP including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Carrying capacity issues addressed wherever possible</li> <li>– Upgraded picnic and day use facilities</li> <li>– New and upgraded all access paths</li> <li>– New toilets and change facilities</li> <li>– Upgraded car parking</li> <li>– Improved swimming access points</li> <li>– New paths, boardwalks, wildlife viewing decks</li> <li>– New signage and interpretative experiences</li> <li>– Revitalisation of the Jalmurark campground</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>3 - 5</p>                            |

| Region                      | NT Parks & Reserves                | Program Theme  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Savannah Gulf Parks (cont.) | Giwining / Flora River Nature Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities</li> </ul>  |
|                             | Judbarra / Gregory NP              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities</li> </ul>  |
|                             | Keep River NP                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving access to parks</li> </ul>  |
|                             | Nitmiluk NP                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving access to parks</li> </ul>  |
|                             |                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving diversity of recreational opportunities</li> </ul>  |
|                             |                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refresh existing facilities to enhance visitor experiences</li> <li>● Tourism development in high visitation areas</li> </ul> |



| Development Project  | Timeframe (Years)       |
|--|-------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design, construct and install viewing platforms at Djarrung Falls</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify infrastructure developments and conduct planning for a VEDP, including further expansion of adventure experiences, in partnership with Traditional Owners</li> <li>Extend the Bullita campground and walking tracks</li> <li>Finalise construction at Matt Wilson campground</li> </ul>  | 3 - 5<br>3 - 5<br>1 - 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road access is provided to the northern boundary of Keep River National Park and Spirit Hills extension</li> <li>Enhance access to natural attractions in the Park (e.g. Bungle Bungle formations)</li> </ul>   | 6 - 10<br>6 - 10        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options for a completely new multiday walking experience in Nitmiluk National park</li> <li>Establish new swimming opportunities at Nitmiluk Gorge and Leliyn</li> </ul>  | 6 - 10<br>6 - 10        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dry season – Jetty 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd crossover access improved to provide greater pedestrian movement at the downstream end of the 3rd and 2nd Gorge and upstream at the 2nd and 1st gorge</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revitalise the Leliyn visitor precinct in accordance with VEDP priorities</li> </ul>  | 6 - 10                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitmiluk Gorge and Leliyn upgrades to water and power infrastructure to facilitate implementation of the Nitmiluk VEDP are completed</li> </ul>   | 1 - 2                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the recommendations of the VEDP priorities as approved by Traditional Owners and the Nitmiluk Board including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued expansion of short walks</li> <li>Continued expansion of mountain bike trail networks</li> <li>Continued development of swimming opportunities at existing and new locations across the park</li> <li>Development of glamping products associated with the Jatbula Trail in partnership with Traditional Owners and private investors</li> <li>Explore options for a completely new multiday walking experience in the park</li> <li>Redevelop the Leliyn visitor precinct to develop capacity for camper and caravan camping and revitalised car based camping experiences</li> <li>Explore options for private investment in a new eco-resort product on the escarpment associated with existing infrastructure at either Leliyn or Nitmiluk Gorge</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | 6 - 10                  |



## NT PARKS 10 YEAR ACTIVATION PLAN

Department of  
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND WATER SECURITY

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