

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET DECISION

No. 3581

Submission No.: 3061

Title: FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON

Cabinet -

- (a) approved in principle the proposed Development Strategy for the Kings Canyon National Park;
- (b) directed further consultation between the Conservation Commission, Tourist Commission, Department of Lands and Territory Development Corporation and preparation of a Cabinet Submission for the development of commercial facilities to service the Park, and that the Submission be submitted for Cabinet consideration within three months;
- (c) noted the preparation of a joint submission between the Office of Aboriginal Liaison and the Conservation Commission, covering proposals for accommodating Aboriginal interests within the Park; and
- (d) directed that the Cabinet Submission is to address -
 - . future electricity needs and costs,
 - . motel infrastructure,
 - . resolution of Aboriginal living areas within or near the park.



(M.R. FINGER),
Secretary to Cabinet.

31 May 1984

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FOR CABINET

SUBMISSION No: 3061

Title:	FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON
Minister	HON. C.N. PADGHAM-PURICH, M.L.A.
Purpose:	To determine in principle a five year development strategy for the new Kings Canyon National Park
Relation to existing policy:	Expanded initiative
Timing/ legislative priority:	Important to meet Budget timetable
Announcement of decision, tabling, etc:	Addressed in Submission
Action required before announcement:	Endorsement of Strategy by Cabinet
Staffing implications, numbers and costs, etc:	Four additional staff over the next five years
Total cost:	\$4.7M Cabinet funds and \$1.066M Salaries and Administrative costs of the five year period.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

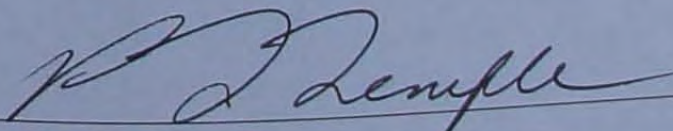
Department/Authority.....

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON
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.....

COMMENTS:

The submission is supported in principle.



SIGNED:

P.F. TEMPLE

DESIGNATION:

Deputy Under Treasurer

DATE:

21/5/84

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Department/Authority PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON
.....
.....

COMMENTS:

I have no objections to the proposal.



SIGNED: K S POPE
DESIGNATION: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER
DATE: 16 MAY 1984

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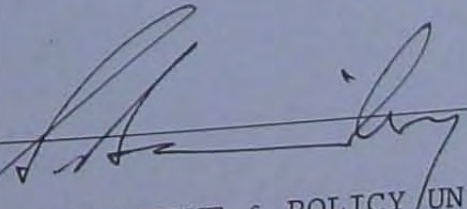
Department/Authority LAW

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON

COMMENTS:

There appear to be no constitutional or legal barriers to the proposal.

SIGNED: S.R. BAILEY 
DESIGNATION: DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE & POLICY UNIT
DATE: 15 MAY, 1984

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Department/Authority NORTHERN TERRITORY TOURIST COMMISSION

COMMENT ON CABINET SUBMISSION No.

TITLE: 5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON

COMMENTS:

SUPPORTS THE SUBMISSION.

SIGNED: *George Funnell*
DESIGNATION: *Development manager.*
DATE: *18/5/84.*

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NORTHERN TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Development House
76 The Esplanade
Darwin, Northern Territory

G.P.O. Box 2245 Darwin
Northern Territory
Australia 5794

Tel: 089 89 4211
Telex: AA 85397

16 May 1984

The Director
Northern Region
NT Conservation Commission
PO Box 38496
WINNELLIE NT 5789

Attention: Mr P A Fletcher

Dear Sir


RE

: CABINET SUBMISSION
5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KINGS CANYON

I refer to your request for comments on the above.

The Corporation supports the recommendations contained in the Submission.

Yours faithfully


P G BLAKE
General Manager
Primary Industry and Administration



NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

OFFICE OF ABORIGINAL LIAISON

G.P.O. BOX 4396
DARWIN, N.T. 5794

SAFETY HOUSE
45 Mitchell St.,
Darwin

16 April 1984

82/550

Director,
Conservation Commission of the N.T.,
P.O. Box 1046,
ALICE SPRINGS N.T. 5750

[Handwritten signature]
7/4

Attention: Mr C.D.R. Smith

Dear Sir,

CABINET SUBMISSION - KINGS CANYON

Thank you for your memorandum A/82/1379 of 28 March, to which you attached a draft Cabinet submission on a 5 year development strategy for Kings Canyon. I have no comment to make on this Cabinet paper. This Office's interest lies with the subsequent submission you propose covering Aboriginal interest in the area.

In this regard, I draw your attention to discussions I have had with Mr Bishaw on future development of the western part of Tempe Downs, and I note that you have kept Mr George Ormrod informed of discussions you have had with the Central Land Council on possible excisions from that area. I have asked Mr Ormrod to liaise with you on input from this Office into the separate Cabinet paper on Aboriginal interest.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Ian Pitman]

IAN PITMAN
Director





NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS

Telephone: 897238

Reference: 84/242

G.P.O. BOX 1680
DARWIN, N.T. 5794

Director,
Conservation Commission of the
Northern Territory,
P.O. Box 38496,
WINNELLIE. N.T. 5789.

Attention: P.A. Fletcher

DRAFT CABINET SUBMISSION:
5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR KING'S CANYON

The proposed Cabinet Submission and Development Strategy
are supported.

T.R. LAWLER
Head of Division
Policy & Administration

22/5/84



SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND WORKS
DARWIN

Director
Northern Region Office
Conservation Commission of the
Northern Territory
PO Box 38496
WINNELLIE N T 5789

CABINET SUBMISSION - 5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
KINGS CANYON

The Department supports the significant upgrading of tourist facilities in this area to satisfy the existing and predicted traffic growth.

In reference to the cost estimate on the main access road and one car park at Kings Canyon, the submission estimate of \$1.3 m (84/85) is based on a previous estimate from this Department. The present (T&W) Program Provision is \$1.05 m (84/85) however, action is being considered to increase the funding availability from \$1.05 m to \$1.3 m.

The additional item of \$0.400 (85/86) has been allocated for extra gravelling of the access road should it be required. Depending on the extent of development within the area, there may be a future requirement for funding for additional gravelling in later years.

In regard to the other three items outlined within the development cost proposal ie:

- . spur road to Reedy Rockhole etc (\$75 000)
- . Campground, picnic areas etc (\$75 000)
- . Parking areas, (\$75 000)

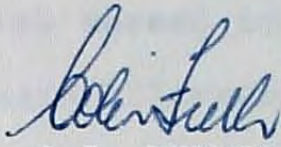
it is suggested that these items be undertaken at the same time as the access road, while plant and equipment are still in the area. This would minimise the cost of

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re-establishing camps and the redeployment of plant and equipment for each successive item. Funding for these items would not normally be sponsored by this Department, by virtue of the Commission's responsibility within the Park.

The Department is in the process of preparing a submission to Cabinet on an alternative access road to connect Alice Springs, Palm Valley, Kings Canyon and Ayers Rock via Lake Amadeus.

The proposed road which will increase tourist access within the area will not detract from the financial consideration of the access road to Kings Canyon.



C J FULLER

22nd May 1984

THE ISSUES

1. To determine in principle a five year development strategy, with attendant cost estimates, for the new Kings Canyon National Park.

BACKGROUND

2. In September 1983, the Tempe Downs lessees voluntarily surrendered 1061 square kilometres to the N.T. Government which agreed to lease back a portion of approximately 350 square kilometres for grazing purposes. Declaration of the remaining area, comprising Kings Canyon, for National Park purposes is underway.

3. Kings Canyon is a major attraction visited by an estimated 30,000 tourists in 1982. It is almost totally undeveloped, with no facilities and access by unformed, dirt road.

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES

4. This Submission primarily addresses the area as a National Park and proposes a strategy associated with its use for recreational pursuits and related management implications.

5. The Park is a significant attraction on an established tourist route. As such usage will continue to increase bringing with it increased demands for proper facilities and amenities. To ensure the increase in visitation does not have a deleterious affect on the values and features of the Park, a

strong management presence will be required. Already a degrading effect on particular areas of concentrated use are becoming manifest and the Conservation Commission has located two Rangers on site and provided some interim facilities on the Park.

6. The Park in future will complement the tourist appeal of the South-west of the Territory with Uluru and a number of other small parks all being inviting destinations.

7. Other aspects related to the Park's development and which this Submission will give rise to further planning, are:

A. Commercial Facilities

8. It is expected that the greater demand for facilities and accommodation will relate to on-Park activities associated with the "wilderness" experience that is the true value and character of the Park, e.g. bush camping, hiking.

9. There will, however, be a need for some motel-type accommodation close to the Park. This should not detract from facilities at Yulara and possible locations for future commercial developments have already been considered.

10. It would be premature at this stage of the Park's development to finalise plans for commercial development. It is therefore proposed that the provision of commercial accommodation and facilities be the basis of a later

Submission to Cabinet to be prepared jointly by the Conservation Commission, the Development Corporation, Department of Lands and the Tourist Commission.

B. Aboriginal Living Areas

11. Requests have been received for Aboriginal involvement in the Park, including some living areas for "traditional owners" and their families. It is in the interests of the Government to try and accommodate such interests and discussions are presently underway with the appropriate Aboriginal and Government authorities. A further Submission to Cabinet is in preparation as a joint Submission from the relevant Government authorities addressing this matter.

OPTIONS

12. The following options are available to Cabinet:

- a) To defer the development proposal;
- b) To reject the development proposal;
- c) To reduce the development proposal;
- d) To endorse the development proposal.

13. The first three options are not preferred. Visitor numbers to the area are increasing and options a), b) or c) will delay realisation of the tourist potential of the Park and lead to further degradation of the area by unmanaged usage.

14. Option d) is recommended.

PUBLIC IMPACT

15. The proposal may be expected to receive wide support from the general public and the tourist industry. It is also likely to generate national and international attention and enhance the conservation image of the N.T. Government.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Development and operational costs are estimated to be \$5.766 million over a five year period.

17. This is comprised of \$4.6 million Capital Works, \$.1 million Capital Items and \$1.066 Salaries and Operational Expenses.

18. Details of the annual funding requirements, which are sought in addition to the Commission's on-going programmes (particularly Capital Works), are enclosed in the attached proposed Development Strategy.

EMPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

19. In addition to the two positions now located on the Park, a further four Rangers will be required over the next five years for Park Management purposes. These will be supplemented by seasonal/casual workers as required.

CO-ORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

20. This Submission was developed in consultation with the Tourist Commission, N.T. Development Corporation and the Departments of Lands, Transport and Works and Chief Minister (Aboriginal Liaison Unit). Copies of their comments are enclosed.

21. Comments are also enclosed from the Public Service Commissioner and Departments of Law and Treasury.

LEGISLATION

22. No new legislation required.

PUBLICITY

21. To commence upon Cabinet reaching a decision on the proposal.

Timing

22. To commence at the start of the 1984-85 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) Approve in principle the proposed Development Strategy (attached) for the Kings Canyon National Park.

- 2) Approve in principle four additional Ranger positions subject to consideration by the Cabinet Committee on Establishment.
- 3) Approve in principle the allocation of \$5.766 million over a five year period, additional to the Conservation Commission's on-going programmes, subject to normal budget consideration.
- 4) Direct further consultation between the Conservation Commission, Tourist Commission, Department of Lands and Territory Development Corporation and preparation of a Cabinet Submission for the development of commercial facilities to service the Park;
- 5) Note the preparation of a joint submission between the Office of Aboriginal Liaison and the Conservation Commission, covering proposals for accommodating Aboriginal interests within the Park.

C. L. Padgham - Purich

NOEL PADGHAM-PURICH
Minister for Housing
and Conservation

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



CARMICHAEL CRAG



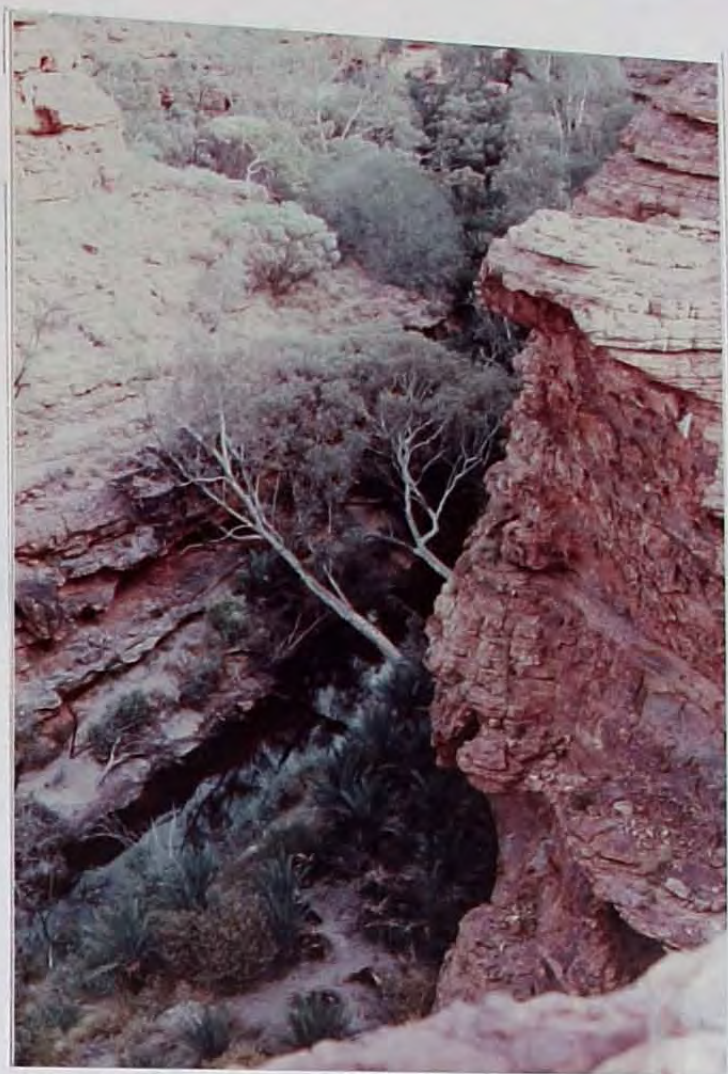
SOUTH WALL OF CANYON



TOP VIEW OF CANYON



ROCK FORMATIONS TOP OF CANYON



WATERHOLE KINGS CANYON



VIEW NORTHERN SIDE OF CANYON LOOKING TOWARDS
WATERFALL

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED 5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Access

1. Road development will include a two lane main access road of formed gravel, passing below the escarpment to Kings Canyon. A spur road, of the same grade, is proposed to Reedy Rockhole. In addition, service roads are needed from Kings Canyon around to the northern half of the park.
2. It is considered that the main access road to Kings Canyon could be called the Giles Highway to commemorate the explorer Ernest Giles who was the first European to traverse the route in 1872. This proposal will be followed up with the Place Names Committee.
3. In the long term, public access to the northern half of the park will be provided if park use increases as expected.

Walking Trails

4. Trails will be constructed from the bottom of Kings Canyon to the top of the escarpment in order to provide safe access to the unusual rock formations and the attendant waterholes (Area A on the map at attachment 2). Bushwalking tracks will also be constructed to waterholes along the top of the George Gill Range. Subject to the approval of Mr Cotterill at Wallara, it is proposed that the main walking

trail be called the "Cotterill Trail" in memory of his father who opened the area to tourism.

Visitor Facilities

5. Two picnic areas are proposed initially, one in Kings Canyon (Area A) and one at Reedy Rockhole (Area B). The picnic area in Kings Canyon will cater for those tourists planning on climbing the escarpment while the one at Reedy Rockhole will provide an alternative area near the actual rockhole. These two sites are currently being used heavily and need to be managed to prevent further degradation. A third picnic area may be developed at Bagot Springs (Area C) at a later date.

6. Two large campgrounds are proposed, one out from Reedy Rockhole (Area B) and one on Kings Creek, south of Kings Canyon (Area D). These will be minimum facility campgrounds, providing only water, toilets, tables and fireplaces for the camper who prefers the more primitive type of bush camping. A third campground may be developed at a later date in the valley north of the George Gill Ranges (Area E).

7. A number of primitive campsites will be located at bushwalker destinations accessible by walking tracks, where rockholes are present on top of the range. These will incorporate pit toilets, tables and fireplaces.

Management Facilities

8. Accommodation for up to six rangers will be required.

These houses will be constructed as a complex in conjunction with the entry station (Area F), in order to rationalise power and water.

9. Bores will be required in the vicinity of Kings Creek and the Ranger residence complex in order to provide water for the residences, picnic areas and campgrounds.

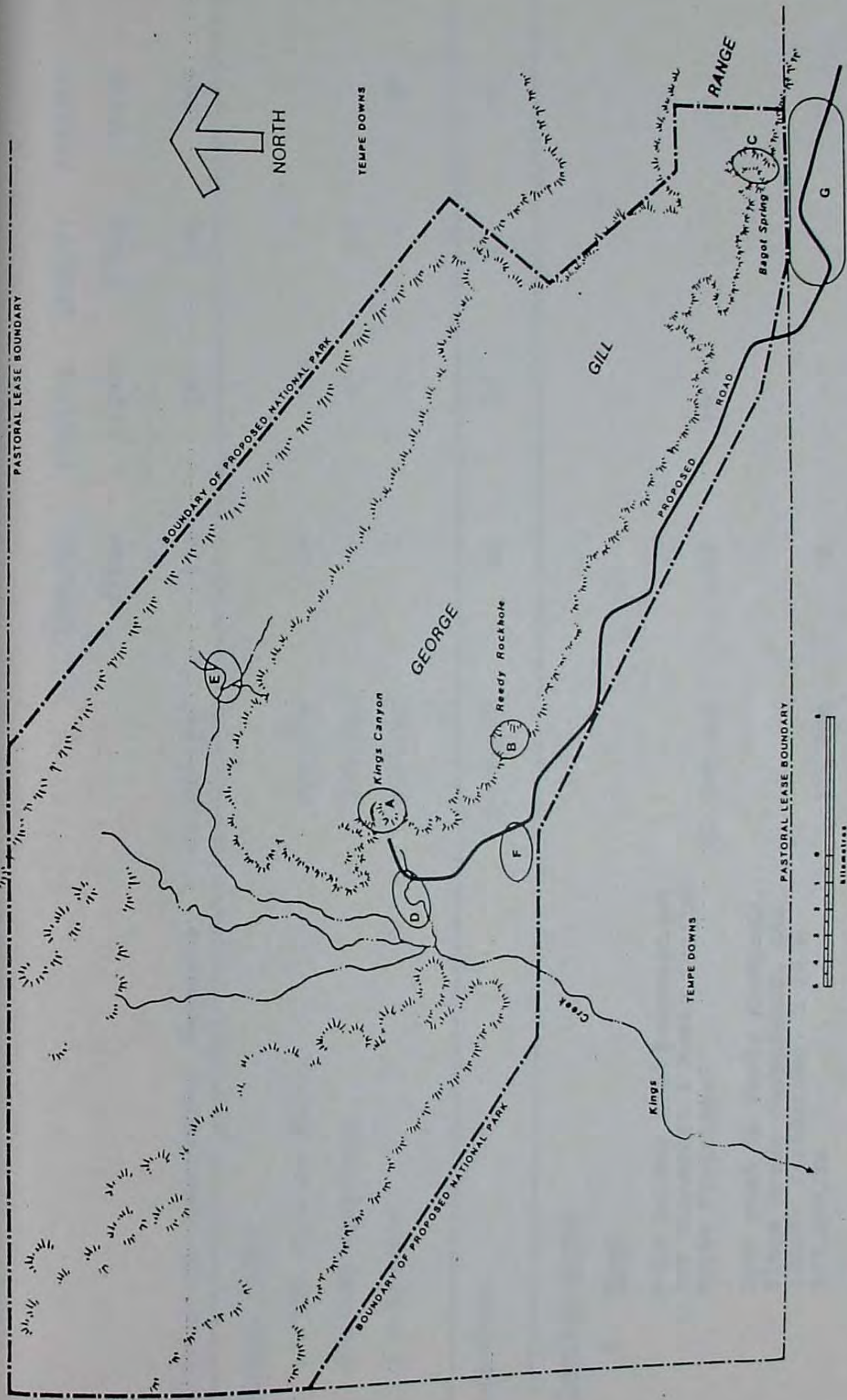
10. An entry station is proposed adjacent to the residence complex (Area F) in order to provide a visitor control point to disseminate publications, sell maps, allocate campground sites, and monitor intending bushwalkers.

11. Some boundary fencing will be required to control the entry of livestock.



DWG No.
K.C. 5

5 YEAR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK



KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK - DEVELOPMENT COSTS

	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Salaries and Operational Expenses	115	152	199	269	331
	\$1,066,000				

Capital Items

1 x 4WD Station Wagon	\$20,000	20	-	-	-
2 x 4WD Tray Tops	\$30,000	-	15	-	-
1 x Tractor	\$50,000	-	-	50	-

Sub-Total

	\$100,000	20	15	50	-
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Capital Works

1. Road

Main access road (recommended for Transport & Works Capital Works Programme)

	\$1,700,000	1300	400	-	-
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Spur road to Reedy Rockhole, Kings Creek campground, and ranger residences, 3 km @ \$25,000/km

	\$75,000	75	-	-	-
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Campground, picnic area and residence complex internal roads, 5 km @ \$15,000/km

	\$75,000	75	-	-	-
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KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK - DEVELOPMENT COSTS

	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<u>2. Trails</u>					
Access to the top of Kings Canyon and walking tracks along the range - 40 km @ \$2,000/km	20	20	20	20	-
	\$80,000				
<u>3. Picnic Areas</u>					
Picnic sites at:					
- Kings Canyon	20	-	-	-	-
- Reedy Rockhole	-	10	10	10	10
	\$20,000				
	\$40,000				
<u>4. Campground</u>					
Minimum facility campgrounds at:					
- Kings Creek, 80 camp sites at \$1,000 each	15	15	15	15	20
- Reedy Rockhole, 40 camp sites at \$1,000 each	10	10	10	10	-
	\$40,000				
<u>5. Bushwalking Campgrounds</u>					
Eight primitive campgrounds (10 sites per campground, 6 at rockholes along the top of the range and 1 each at Stokes and Kathleen Springs) - 8 @ \$5,000 each	10	10	15	5	-
	\$40,000				

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK - DEVELOPMENT COSTS

	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<u>6. Toilets</u>					
Wet toilets at Kings Canyon picnic area, Kings Canyon campground and Reedy Rockhole picnic/campground - 3 @ \$80,000 each	160	80	-	-	-
Pit or chemical toilets at bushwalking campgrounds - 16 @ \$10,000 each	20	70	60	10	-
<u>7. Ranger Complex</u>					
Residences - 6 @ \$135,000 each	135	270	135	135	135
Power	40	80	-	-	-
Workshop, sheds, etc.	-	-	150	-	-
Entry Station	-	-	-	75	25
Communications	5	5	30	-	-
<u>8. Water</u>					
Bores, tanks, pipes, etc. Estimated cost	200	200	-	-	-
<u>9. Boundary Fence</u>					
Approx. 40 km sole cost, plus 60 km shares 50/50	10	15	30	-	-

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK - DEVELOPMENT COSTS

1984/85 1985/86 1986/87 1987/88 1988/89
 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000 \$'000

10. Parking Areas

Parking areas for picnic areas
 and bushwalkers at

- Kings Canyon 60 - - -
 - Reedy Rockhole 15 - - -

11. Rehabilitation of Old Road

30 km @ \$10,000/km - 100 100 100

Sub-Total

\$4,600,000 2,170 1,185 575 380 290

TOTAL

\$5,766,000 2,305 1,352 789 699 621