



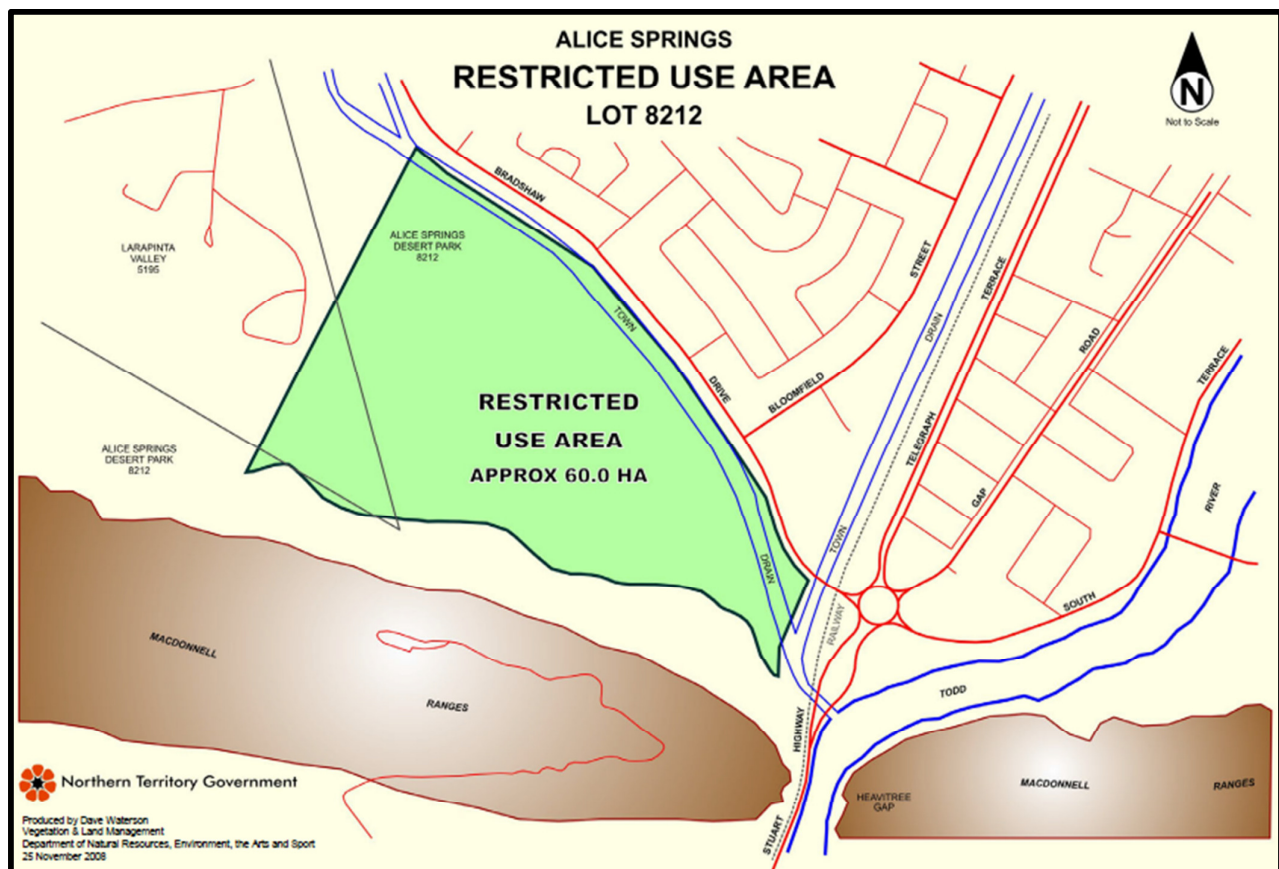
The Alice Springs Restricted Use Area, declared to protect the prescribed area from soil erosion, restricts inappropriate land uses or activities in that area.

The Restricted Use Area (RUA), as indicated on the map was declared under the Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act in July 1980. The Declaration was made to protect the area adjacent to the MacDonnell Ranges and Bradshaw Drive drain from further soil erosion through continued use of it by the public.

Under Section 20C of the Act, unless provided with written authority, a person within the Restricted Use Area shall not:

- Possess or use a motor vehicle (including motorcycles);
- Remove or damage any vegetation;
- Take or remove any sand, gravel, rock, clay or earth;
- Interfere with any erosion prevention works;
- Cause water or other fluid to be drained or to flow over the area.

PENALTIES APPLY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE



HISTORY OF THE RUA

Prior to the declaration in 1980, The Restricted Use Area was severely eroded and degraded through continued use by the public for recreation and grazing. The then Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory undertook rehabilitation works in the area, including hand-planting salt bush to stabilise the soils. In recent times, the area is relatively stable with good ground cover and negligible soil erosion. The DLRM Land Management Unit oversees the continued management of the area and reiterates that the area is still susceptible to soil erosion and that the restricted use declaration in this area still needs to be observed.



MANAGEMENT OF THE RUA

There are a number of management issues, associated with maintaining the natural landscape within the Restricted Use Area, which users of the land need to be aware of. These are:

- **Soils** – the soils in the RUA are classified as Dermosols, have a fine texture (powdery) and are poorly structured. This means that they have a severe erosion risk, create dust problems during dry times and are generally saline.
- **Vegetation** – mainly consists of harlequin fuchsia bush, old man salt bush (hand-planted) and buffel grass. These species are tolerant to salt and are important in protecting the soil surface from erosion and increasing salinity. Removal of vegetation is not permitted in the RUA.
- **Earthworks** – removal of earth is not permitted within the RUA. Earthworks disturb the soil surface and removes vegetation which leaves the area susceptible to wind and water erosion. Earthworks have the potential to inadvertently interfere with natural drainage and erosion control works.
- **Vehicle Use** – driving vehicles and riding motorbikes is not permitted in the RUA. Vehicles damage vegetation and create deep tracks in the powdery soils. This leads to erosion.

The Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) is responsible for the enforcement of these conditions, however we rely heavily on the local community to both support the declaration and to report any breaches to the Department as soon as possible. Reports can be made to the DLRM Land Management Unit (details below).

Contact Details

For further information contact the
DLRM Land Management Unit (Alice Springs):
Phone: (08) 8951 9208
Tom Hare Building- Alice Springs