



Nomination for **COMMENDATION**

Boolcoomatta Conservation Reserve

For conservation of artefacts of Aboriginal and European history



Boolcoomatta landscape from Wiperaminga Hill.
Date 20170415 N° 7349



Boolcoomatta bush campground with hot and cold showers using roof runoff and groundwater
Date 20170414 N° 8038 Photo DM Trebilcock

Boolcoomatta Station is near the New South Wales border, north of Mingary on the Barrier Highway. It is a former sheep station with an abandoned copper mine, covering 63,000 hectares and was established as a conservation area in 2006.

It has protected area status within the Australian National Reserve System and is classified as an IUCN Category II protected area, which requires conservation of the natural ecosystem. Conservation activities carried out by Bush Heritage Australia, the subject of this commendation, include destocking, controlling feral animals such as goats and rabbits, and research into the grazing effects of kangaroos.

It is heartening that economic stimulation of Boolcoomatta has been achieved through:

- Accommodation and administration at the adapted homestead and shearers' quarters;
- 4 wheel drive tracks, many also passable by 2 wheel drive vehicles, mostly following existing station tracks. Tourists would pass through Broken Hill or Yunta;
- A basic campground with hot showers (a luxury in the arid climate, although the toilets are not water-using) constructed and maintained by volunteers.

Tourist attractions other than nature conservation and natural beauty have been increased by interpretation of the indigenous culture and European economic development, which is beyond the conditions of the conservation listing.