

TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVES

Pathways to the past

Can you imagine setting up camp right here 100 or more years ago after a long day in the saddle? In front of you is a Travelling Stock Reserve, one of many that once lined this road, providing overnight camps for drovers.

Positioned on parcels of Crown Land 8-12km apart (about a day's ride), these reserves created a string of camp sites all the way from the southern NSW grazing lands to market. A trip could be hundreds or even thousands of kilometres long.

Stock reserves were treasured for their reliable shelter, water supplies and ample grazing grass, and so escaped being turned into farmland. These days they protect woodland and grassland habitats that have almost disappeared from the rest of the local landscape.



Walter Withers, *The Drover*, 1912, oil on canvas. Collection Bendigo Art Gallery.

A droving we will go

The life of a drover has long been romanticised as part of Australia's colonial history, of which Travelling Stock Reserves play an important part and have never been more poetically portrayed than in AB 'Banjo' Paterson's epic poem *Clancy of the Overflow*.

*As the stock are slowly stringing,
Clancy rides behind them singing,
For the drover's life has pleasures that the
townsfolk never know.
And the bush hath friends to meet him, and
their kindly voices greet him
In the murmur of the breezes and the river
on its bars,
And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit
plains extended,
And at night the wond'rous glory of the
everlasting stars.*

Clancy of the Overflow by AB 'Banjo' Paterson (1864-1941)

Connecting with Country

Wiradhuri peoples have occupied and maintained an intimate connection to the land you are standing on that extends back tens of thousands of years.

In the past, Wiradhuri peoples from this area established and maintained valuable pathways that were essential for economic, social and spiritual life. They were often used for moving between different camps, maintaining important ceremonial cycles, and as access points to certain resources and special places such as those associated with Creation and Dreaming events. Many of those pathways were also vital for trade between different groups while some others closely follow traditional Song-lines and act as 'map' points for landscape navigation.

Many of the pathways belonging to Wiradhuri peoples from this area were surveyed by early British colonists and considered ideal stock reserves. Other ancient Wiradhuri pathways were regarded as optimal routes across Country and eventually became the roads and highways we know today.



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Habitat corridors

Surrounded by farmland each Travelling Stock Reserve is now an important environmental refuge for threatened plants and animals.

They often contain habitat now rare in NSW, including endangered Box-Gum Woodland and Temperate Grasslands.

Spaced at regular intervals stock reserves are often part of habitat corridors, stepping stones that make it easier for native animals, plants and insects to move across the landscape, exchanging genetic material.

Looking after our reserves

Travelling Stock Reserves are an important window into our past and protect many threatened plant and animal species.

You are welcome to use this reserve during daylight hours for picnics, bushwalking and running, fishing, photography and mountain bike riding.

Off-road driving (4WD), felling

trees, dumping rubbish and cutting and removing firewood is illegal, and will incur a fine.

We use remote camera monitoring and community reporting to protect these special places.

To report an illegal activity, call 1300 795 299.