



Department of Conservation and Land Management

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS TO LEAFLET

May 1988

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

A leaflet requesting information or comments on -

- . the values of the Park
- . issues of concern
- . new directions for management to take

was circulated over November-December 1987. Copies were sent to conservation and community groups, State and local Government and landholders adjacent to the Park. Leaflets were also available to the public at Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup Shire Offices, the 3 National Park Rangers' residences, major camping stores and the Environment Centre in Perth. Multiple copies were also given to members of the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee for distribution.

39 submissions were received. Their origin was:

Shire of Jerramungup	3	(2 Bremer Bay)
Shire of Ravensthorpe	11	(3 Hopetoun)
Other Country W.A.	6	
Perth	<u>19</u>	
	<u>39</u>	

Figures 1 and 2 indicate the issues and recreation sites of greatest concern, based on numbers of submissions received.

A summary of these submissions follows. This summary will be used in the preparation of the draft management plan for Fitzgerald River National Park. However, it must be emphasised that the comments in this report should not be taken as reflecting this Department's views.

FIGURE 1. MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBMISSIONS

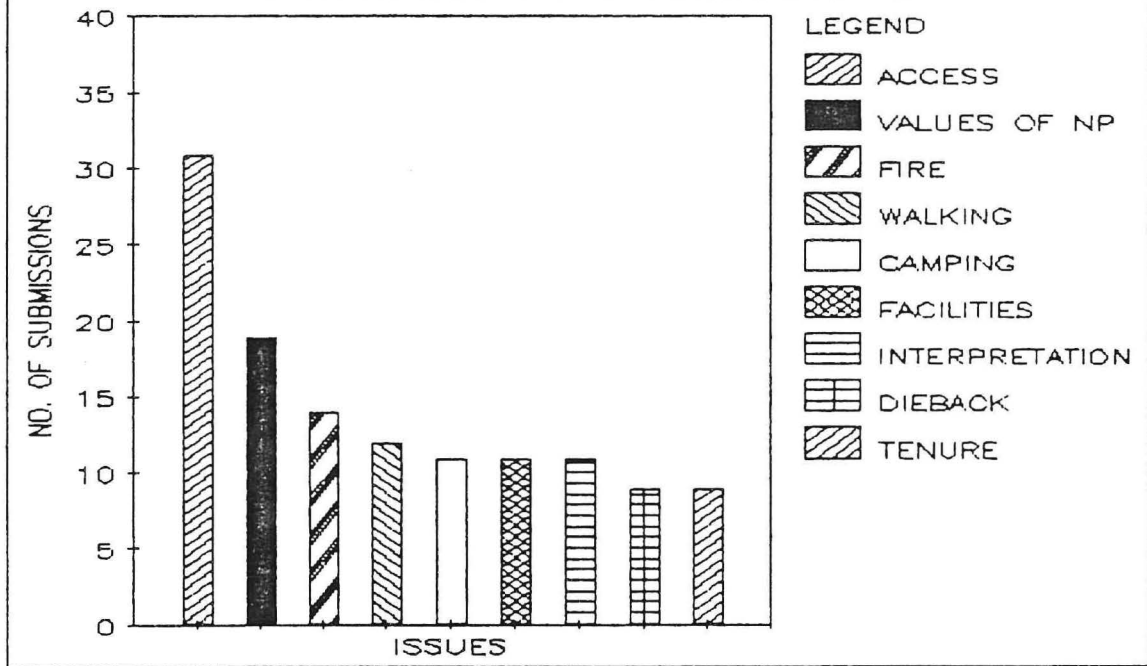
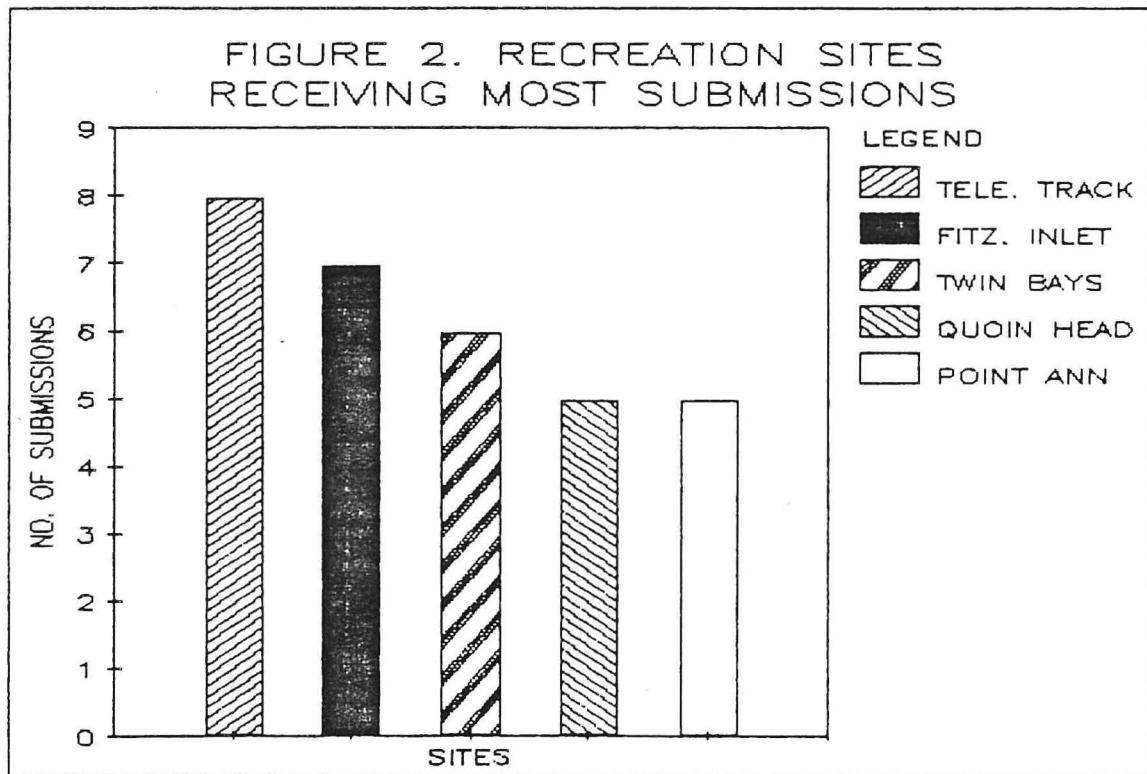


FIGURE 2. RECREATION SITES RECEIVING MOST SUBMISSIONS



1.0 PLANNING PROCESS

2 submissions refer.

It was suggested that the planning process should:

- document relevant data, list present and future uses, assess constraints, identify management issues, develop guidelines, ensure that recommendations can be implemented, develop guidelines for resolving future issues and list research and monitoring programs.

Also, management plans should ensure that:

- the purpose of the area and district, and state relevance are clearly understood; there is a suitable range of input from scientists, managers and local people; policies are defined; there is a basic understanding of physical, biological and social aspects; methods and tools of policy achievement are understood; management plan is presented clearly to the Park Manager and interested people; and the management plan is flexible enough to incorporate the changes necessary as a result of research and monitoring.

The importance of public involvement in the planning process was emphasised:

- public workshops suggested
- process should be organised so that there is effective input from people external to CALM so ideas can be "tested" with people closely associated with the Park.

2.0 PURPOSE OF NATIONAL PARKS

4 submissions refer.

All submissions referred to the dual purpose of national parks - conservation and recreation:

- main purpose is the value of flora, fauna and scenery; secondary purpose is allowing (and sometimes encouraging) use by people (K. Newbey)
- national parks are relatively large areas set aside for their natural landscapes, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for

public enjoyment, educating and inspiration (South Coast Recreation Association)

- . national parks are established to preserve for all time scenic beauty, wilderness, wildlife, plant life and areas of scientific importance, and to provide for the appreciation and enjoyment of those things by the public in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the future (Shire of Ravensthorpe)
- . primary objective is to allow and encourage the continuation of previously more widespread natural processes in as natural a form as possible. Secondary to this is allowing and encouraging the enrichment of human life without risking the primary objective (Fitzgerald River National Park Association).

3.0 VALUES OF FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

19 submissions received.

This large number of submissions is primarily the result of a specific request in the leaflet for information and ideas on the values of the Park. Many comments were made about the unspoilt beauty of the Park and its special plants and animals:

- . wilderness and flora, matchless coastline and wonderful fishing (South Coast Recreation Association)
- . unique and fragile area, unspoilt (Great Southern Recreational Fishing Association)
- . unspoiled beauty and great abundance of flora and fauna
- . aesthetic beauty, uniqueness, size, flora and fauna
- . lack of disturbance, uniqueness, diversity of landforms (dunes, hills and peaks, rivers and inlets) and vegetation (representing over 20% of the State's vegetation types)
- . Fitzgerald River National Park richest area for mammals in south-west W.A. (22 species, 6 of these rare and endangered).

Submitters also emphasised the recreation and scientific values:

- . historically (for more than 100 years) coast has served as a 'playground' for local people
- . Park has great recreational values to traditional users
- . recreation potential of the Park is important, given that the population is likely to double by the year 2000 and the demand for

outdoor recreation is conservatively estimated to treble in that period

- . Lightweight 4WD Club visits Fitzgerald River National Park at least once a year
- . nature study by naturalists, photographers and artists
- . scientific value for research.

Three submissions placed the Park's values in a broader context:

- . inestimable value, to the State and as part of the world ecosystem, to present and future generations
- . certain parts of Australia should be conserved and protected for future generations. Fitzgerald River National Park is of particular interest due to its wealth of rare fauna and flora
- . one of only two International Biosphere Parks in W.A.

One submission drew attention to the special interaction between the Park and the local community:

- . the Park enjoys a unique relationship with the local community, with groups such as the Fitzgerald River National Park Association and Fitzgerald Man and Biosphere Project.

Another submission referred to the rateable value of the Park:

- . Valuer General should rate Fitzgerald River National Park and rates paid to the Shire Councils.

4.0 ACCESS

31 submissions refer.

The vast majority of submissions (75%) were devoted to access. The discussions ranged from the best "mix" of 4WD and 2WD access to track design and safety.

4.1 Purpose of Access

- . main purpose is reaching coastal spots for relaxation and recreation
- . local people have frequented coastal spots for nearly 100 years, although they may only use them 2-3 times a year

- . 4WD club noted that once they reached a coastal campsite vehicle use was minimal.

4.2 Types of Access

This facet of access received much discussion. Suggestions ranged from upgrading all tracks in the Park to 2WD, to closing the central part to vehicles.

A number of submissions requested that the status quo be maintained:

- . the existing system of tracks is 'sufficient for now - there are still plenty of good spots that require a day's hard walk to get into'
- . allow continued access to all areas of beaches and headlands
- . maintain traditional routes
- . Pabelup and Hamersley Drive and Old Ongerup Road (with minor alterations) provide ample opportunities to experience the Park and its different landscapes
- . access should be provided for visitors and management only, not for through traffic (ie. not as a main road from Hopetoun to Bremer Bay)
- . existing 4WD tracks should remain as such, with upgrading and realigning only done in areas where there is extreme risk to the Park or users. 'To upgrade the tracks will only put pressure on a fragile coastal environment which will not stand overcrowding by tourists, who generally do not respect or look after the Park like traditional users'
- . improved access may lead to such an increase in visitation that it may be beyond CALM's resources to successfully manage the Park.

Several submissions included upgrading proposals:

- . access should be improved to accommodate vehicles other than 4WD
- . upgrade to 2WD Telegraph, Colletts (Pabelup Dr) and Drummond Tracks, and tracks to Edwards Point, Quoin Head, Marshes Beach, Twin Bays, Fitzgerald Beach and Point Charles. Other 4WD tracks to coastal spots should remain open.

Other submissions suggested restrictions on future development:

- . limit 2WD to major points
- . restrict vehicle access to gravel all-weather roads
- . main visitor roads should blend into the landscape and be gravelled all-weather 2WD, or 4WD with their number and length being kept to an absolute minimum
- . upgrade certain roads to a limited number of sites, on roads that can support the traffic. Restrict vehicle access elsewhere
- . restrict 4WD access to prevent further environmental damage
- . restrict access to coastal dunes, wilderness and areas containing large numbers of rare and endangered species.

One submission suggested a decrease in vehicle access to the central part of the Park:

- . the area bounded by Fitzgerald River in the west and Hamersley Inlet or Quoin Head in the east should be foot access only. 'This will decrease current problems associated with dieback and provide an area ideally suited for extended walk trails.'

4.3 Track Closures

Comments ranged from support for current track closures to strong criticism:

- . closing of old tracks is impressive
- . temporary closure of 4WD tracks during wet times to prevent dieback spread should continue
- . once public access tracks have been decided they should be re-routed and upgraded if necessary so that closures after rainfall are not required.
- . diminishing amount of access to the coast is the complaint most received at the Shire of Ravensthorpe "front counter"
- . traditional access is being denied by current road closures; traditional users have been disadvantaged
- . all 4WD tracks to all beaches and traditional fishing spots should be re-opened.

4.4 Road and Track Design

A number of comments were made regarding drains and drainage:

- . drains associated with dieback protection on re-opened tracks (eg. Quoin Head track) are unacceptable
- . 4WD tracks are dangerous due to improper construction of "spoon drains". The present drains are more like spur drains which extend across the track. 'They probably create greater erosion by people braking suddenly, then cars gouging their way out. They also seem to be creating an erosion hazard because they are constructed too steeply. Conventional spur drains, from each side of the road and not across it, surveyed at a non-erodable grade (1 in 150 to 200) would do a far better job of water control and erosion prevention, as well as making a safer road.'
- . the piped culverts in the creek lines are inadequate as they can't pass the volume of water created by their catchments in heavy rainfall
- . future roads should be placed so that they follow contours and avoid damage by storm water run-off
- . 'road slopes should be minimal with a greater awareness of slope molding techniques to produce a natural landform. Table drains should be of minimal dimensions, to protect the vegetation and impose least interference with the landscape' (Main Roads Department)
- . some 4WD tracks need re-locating due to erosion.

A number of submissions referred to other design aspects of roading:

- . ' a design philosophy for a hierarchy of roads in national parks is essential. It should conform to natural contours and take advantage of places of interest, geological features and vistas. The hierarchy should include a philosophy for appropriate construction and maintenance techniques' (MRD)
- . if new roads are constructed, they should not visually dissect the landscape, as does Hamersley Drive.

Several final comments related to road and track design were:

- . gravel should be added to clay areas which are presently very slippery
- . track re-routing shouldn't be done without careful searching for rare plants.

4.5 Beach Access

Views ranged from maintaining current level of vehicle access onto a limited number of beaches, to a complete exclusion of vehicles from beaches:

- . vehicle access to and along beaches be maintained, thus keeping people out of fragile dunes. The dunes of the Fitzgerald Inlet Beach are particularly fragile - they were extensively damaged by storms in 1984 and June 1987
- . vehicles should be banned from beaches as 'cars zooming up and down' is incompatible with relaxation and peace. Most beaches are small enough to walk in less than an hour. Driving up dunes creates additional environmental damage
- . fishermen should walk rather than drive along beaches.

4.6 Safety

Safety was an issue of concern in a number of submissions, particularly in relation to dangerous corners and speed limits:

- . if dangerous corners must be constructed they should be signposted as such
- . ridiculously sharp bends mean that the beauty of the Park is lost to drivers who have to run the risk of collision
- . roads should follow contours, thereby producing natural bends with better visibility
- . narrow roads with loose gravel and poor visibility are dangerous. Speed signs are needed. Should make roads safe or keep tourists out
- . '80 km/hr should be the uppermost speed limit, reducing to 60 km/hr where steep grades and crests occur. On these latter features sealing to 7.4 m width may be considered' (MRD).

4.7 Types of Vehicles

A number of people referred to vehicles which should be banned:

- . trail bikes present a serious threat to dunes and dieback spread and 'should be restricted at least'
- . 3 wheelers, dune buggies and trail bikes should be banned

- . unlicensed trail bikes and buggies shouldn't be permitted, however 3 wheelers for beach use should be allowed
- . car rallying, 4WD touring and trail bike and horse riding should not be permitted as they are potentially damaging to the Park environment.

5.0 TENURE

9 submissions refer.

One submission referred to the number of small reserves within the National Park boundaries:

- . all enclaves be included in the Park and managed within the one management plan.

Other submissions covered a number of areas next to the Park. Moving from east to west:

- . private property on the north-east boundary of the Park, at the southern end of Moir Road is being overgrazed by goats. Can the Government do anything about it?
- . Hamersley Inlet Shire Reserve should revert to CALM
- . proposed northern extension (51 000 ha VCL) should be added to the Park and the coastal area south of Telegraph Road released for recreational purposes
- . triangular piece of Reserve 33258 and northern part of Reserve 32666 should be added to the Park
- . 'purple title' land (Kent Locations 1307 and 1326) which lies between the Doubtful Islands and the south-eastern corner of FRNP is a mess. CALM should buy it and provide management.

A number of submissions covered the large area of VCL on the north-eastern corner of the Park (the "5g reserve"):

- . 'should be managed as a multiple use area where activities including mining, seed and wildflower extraction and trail bike and horse-riding are acceptable, subject to constraints imposed by the occurrence of rare flora and fauna and dieback. It should not be a de facto extension of Fitzgerald River National Park'
- . close area to commercial pickers but allow some local picking - should not have similar restrictions to the National Park

- . CALM should maintain areas where bees can be kept, and seeds and flowers collected from Crown land. The Government could be made more unpopular by closing off some of the opportunities for diversifying the local economy.

6.0 ZONING

7 submissions refer.

A methodology for zoning was suggested:

- . zone based on geomorphology, vegetation, rare and endangered species. Zones could include wilderness, light traffic and access, heavy traffic.

Two submissions provided maps and zoning proposals (both based on 3 zones, Fig. 3):

- . Zone 1 (94 000 ha): for conservation of rare fauna, all 22 species of native mammal found in Fitzgerald River National Park occur in this zone, including the 6 rare and endangered species. Zone 2 (120 000 ha): limited access with some low impact facilities. Zone 3 (20 000 ha) uncommitted (A. Chapman).
- . Zone A: high use, good access. Zone B: non-vehicle zone, foot access. Zone C: non-vehicle zone, conservation (L. Sandiford).

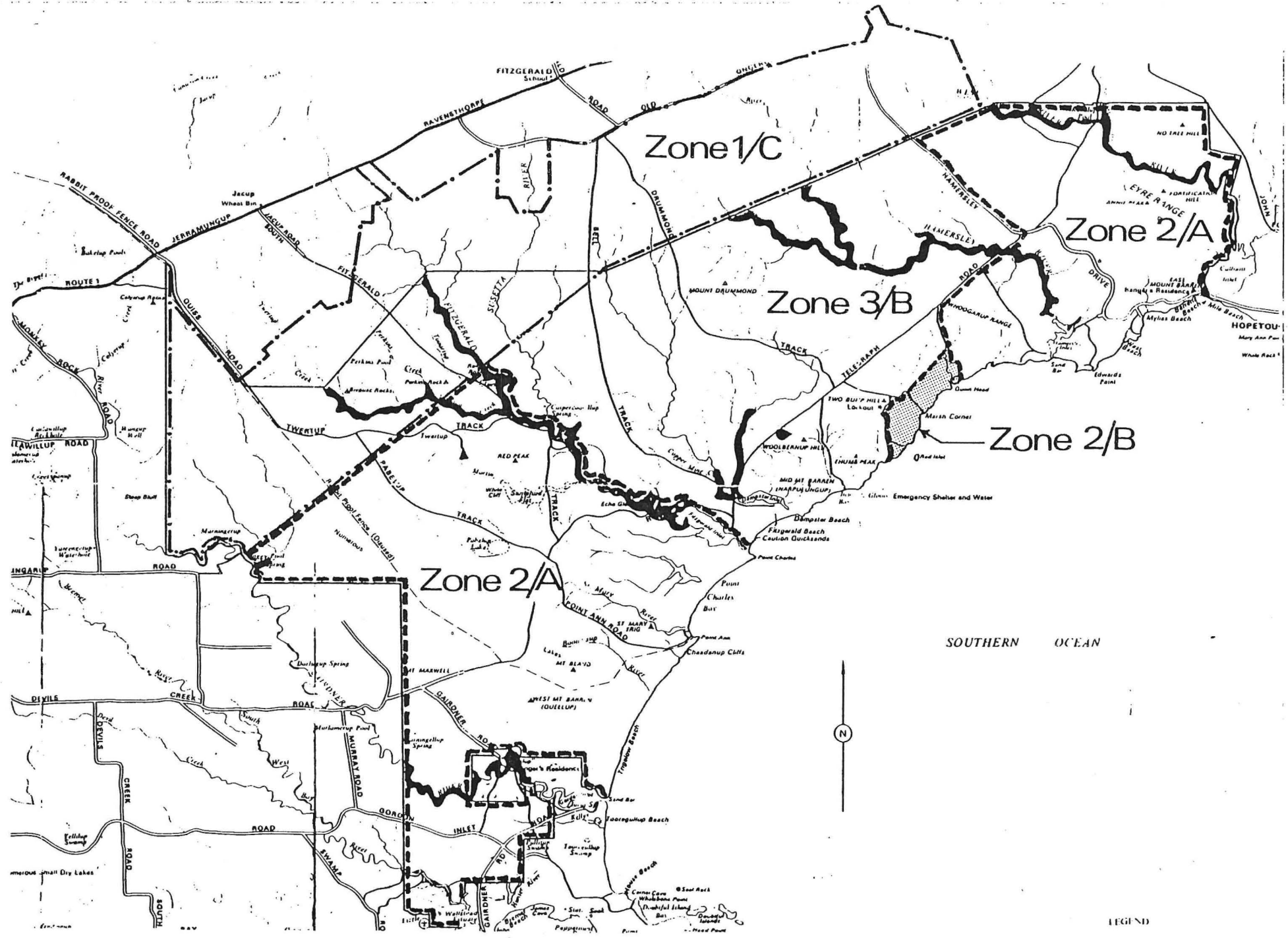
The boundaries used in the two submissions are almost identical (Fig. 3).

One comment referred specifically to rare species:

- . create isolation zones for endangered species.

A number of other comments were directed towards wilderness requirements:

- . important to keep 'wilderness feeling' of the Park (Shire of Ravensthorpe)
- . wilderness areas can be maintained for the benefit of both enthusiasts and researchers. It should be acknowledged in the plan that the massive area of country inland from Telegraph Road remain "wilderness" as indeed would Eyre and Whoogarup Ranges and the



country to the south-east of Fitzgerald Inlet (Shire of Ravensthorpe).

- . wilderness area should be identified so it is readily recognisable.

One person noted the disadvantages of zoning:

- . there should be no zoning given the lack of security of tenure for our Parks. Any weakening of an area (eg. general purpose) will provide a lever for access by the mining industry.

7.0 CONSERVATION

7.1 Rare Flora and Fauna

One submission refers:

- . Fitzgerald River National Park richest area for mammals in south-west W.A.

7.2 Management for Conservation

One submission refers.

The following research directions were suggested:

- . urgent research and management is required as 'some mammal and 2 bird species are dependent on vegetation types that are uncommon within the Park. They can also only use their required habitat within a certain fire age range.'
- . appoint a co-ordinator and planner for rare and endangered species, and establish priorities for research.

8.0 RECREATION

8.1 Activities

8.1.1 Camping

11 submissions refer.

Several noted the fragility of coastal areas:

- . the coast is not usually a good place to camp - it is exposed,

fragile and there is often little shelter and no firewood. Inland campsites would service overflow campers in the beach season and in winter/spring they could be used by day walkers and wildflower enthusiasts. Rehabilitated gravel pits on Pabelup and Hamersley Drives and yate woodlands would be suitable

- . spots such as Quoin Head and Point Ann have been extensively damaged through removal of trees for firewood and by erosion
- . over-use of existing campsites is 'forcing traditional users to other places which are not equipped to take the numbers'.

A number of submissions requested more camping areas:

- . presently insufficient sites; adequate number of sites should be provided
- . camping facilities should eventually be constructed at Edwards Point, Quoin Head, Marshes Beach, Twin Bays, Fitzgerald Beach and Point Charles.

Several further comments apply to camping:

- . small overnight camping areas should be provided for all to use on a limited basis
- . most 4WDers prefer camping at sites inaccessible to conventional vehicles
- . road closures have increased pressure on still-accessible "bush-camp" sites. Often 3-4 4WD clubs, plus non-club members and other recreationists are vying for camping areas.

Several comments related specifically to caravans:

- . facilities at Bremer Bay and Hopetoun for caravan camping should be upgraded
- . caravan camping in the Park should not be encouraged - 'modern caravaners' with enormous vans, annexes, boats plus vehicles require unreasonably large camping areas. There are 5 caravan parks on the periphery of Fitzgerald River National Park.

Two submissions referred to the need for control and policing:

- . uncontrolled camping could contribute to degradation of the Park
- . designated camping areas should be set aside, with policed management, 'to cater for large groups of non-resident type visitors'

8.1.2 Walking

12 submissions refer.

A number of comments were made regarding the range of walking opportunities which should be provided:

- . need both short walks off major vehicle routes and longer cross-park hikes. The question of limits to foot access should be considered especially with regard to fragility and dieback
- . existing vehicle tracks such as Telegraph Track and those to Marshes Corner and Twin Bays would form an ideal inland loop trail and more could be established along river valleys such as the Hamersley and Dempster
- . walking tracks should be developed at eastern and western ends.

Several submissions referred to coastal walks, particularly an extended coastal walk trail:

- . 'coastal walk trail from Pt. Ann to East Mt. Barren should be officially routed and marked. Existing diverging and converging paths are confusing and lead to environmental damage'
- . short walking trails along coast needed.

Provision of water for walkers was a popular discussion point:

- . water tanks and shelters should be provided for walkers
- . improve coastal walking route by provision of water supplies
- . lack of fresh water is a major deterrent against extended hiking. Overnight huts should be constructed which collect roof run-off
- . water is available at many sites although you have to dig for it. These sites could be marked or welled providing vehicle access is banned (people not relying on the water are more likely to abuse and vandalise equipment than those whose survival depends on it). As an alternative, water tanks could be provided at Twin Bays.

Several submissions discussed signposting and interpretation:

- . markers on trails should not be obtrusive
- . if paths are steep or potentially dangerous they should be marked as such
- . walks with labelled flora are important.

8.1.3 Boating

3 submissions refer.

Comments ranged from general to site-specific:

- . suitable facility for launching boats should be provided in the Park
- . power boats should be restricted in speed and to certain areas to minimise environmental impact. Unpowered boats should be unrestricted
- . if boat launching is to be accommodated in the Point Ann area, the only appropriate place is the second bay just north of the headland. A single gravel track could service it. All other tracks should be closed.

8.1.4 Fishing

5 submissions refer.

Submissions referred to commercial and recreational, plus coastal and inland fishing:

- . limited commercial fishing occurs in the Gordon, Dempster, Hamersley and Culham Inlets, mainly for mullet and bream (Fisheries Department)
- . recreational fishing occurs in the above four estuaries, plus St Marys and Fitzgerald
- . all six estuaries are normally closed
- . should be no restrictions on taking fish and other marine life from the ocean adjacent to the Park
- . concern expressed regarding uncontrolled netting in the Gairdner River - 'the fish population is decimated on a fairly regular basis by setting multiple nets from bank to bank. The river should be used for rod and handline fishing only'
- . net and hand fishing should be allowed to continue under existing regulations.

8.1.5 Picnicking

1 submission refers:

- . Park has many suitable sites which could be made more accessible for casual picnickers.

8.2 Administration and Servicing

8.2.1 Facilities

11 submissions refer.

Requests for no further development had a slight majority:

- . the Park's isolation and wilderness will be spoilt if facilities such as toilets and barbecues are provided
- . do not want roads, parking areas, ablution blocks or barbecues and picnic facilities
- . toilets not recommended as they might attract vandals; traditional park users have not required facilities
- . large scale development of showers and toilets should not occur as it encourages use by tourist buses
- . 4WD clubs are not pursuing facilities such as barbecues, showers and toilets as they appreciate that these facilities are expensive to construct and maintain.

All development requested was low key, and related to either firewood problems or toilets:

- . firewood and gas barbecues should be provided at certain spots. Currently, trees are being chopped down and burnt and soon camping areas will become exposed
- . consider installation of gas barbecues at West Mt Barren and Point Ann
- . existing toilets are inadequate for the number of users - people are using the bush even where toilets are provided.

Another submission noted that:

- . the Park cannot accommodate separate camping areas and tracks for fishing enthusiasts, 4WDs, 2WDs and bushwalking. Groups will need to compromise and share facilities.

8.2.2 Entrance Fee

2 submissions refer.

These suggested:

- . levying a small charge per vehicle
- . charging an entrance fee to help meet costs of Park management.

8.2.3 Permits

1 submission refers:

- . introduce a permit system for 4WD "bush-campers" to facilitate management.

8.2.4 Policing

2 submissions refer:

- . policing necessary to protect areas, like Point Ann, from damage
- . Shire of Jerramungup should police their coastal areas to deter anti-social visitors who are damaging coastal areas by 4WD use of dunes bordering the Park.

8.2.5 Rubbish

1 submission refers:

- . lots of rubbish, particularly cans, along 4WD tracks.

8.2.6 Safety (refer also to 4.6 Safety)

4 submissions refer.

Most of these noted equipment or information requirements:

- . service organisations should be permitted to erect life buoys; any emergency safety equipment is better than none
- . leaflets on dangerous rocks and emergency procedures be available at Park entrances
- . provide suitable warning signs on steep walk trails, such as Mt Barrens - helpful to older or sick people.

One more general comment was made:

- . local emergency services are expected (by Government departments) to provide their full services every time emergencies occur.

8.3 Recreation Management

7 submissions refer.

Comments ranged from the value of recreation, through broad planning considerations, to the capability of the Park environment to support recreational use:

- . recreation not only gives up pleasure, it also helps to renew the mind and body. If used wisely it can enrich one's life
- . should be limited to study and enjoyment of all natural science subjects
- . should provide a range of experiences that do not interfere with the Park's main purpose
- . high quality, low impact recreation should be the aim. Good quality education and information material should be provided
- . limit number of recreation areas in the Park, taking into account opportunities outside the Park
- . certain forms of recreation are incompatible with conservation of the Park. All recreation needs can not be met without detriment to the Park's conservation values
- . suitability of a site to support a given activity depends on topography, geology, climate, vegetation, size, scenery, wildlife, water availability, access and safety. Natural values such as ecosystem fragility and potential for weeds and pests to be introduced must also be considered
- . all facilities should be in place before an area is made more accessible
- . recreation areas should be monitored
- . Park is not suitable for orienteering.

8.4 Tourism and Promotion of the Park

7 submissions refer.

Two very divergent views were presented in the submissions. Those

supporting tourism:

- . tourism should be catered for
- . unless Fitzgerald River National Park is displayed to the public, and long term interest encouraged and catered for, the public will ignore the Park

And those opposing tourism and promotion of the Park:

- . tourism should not be encouraged
- . stop promotion of the Park as a tourist attraction
- . 'CALM should take steps to minimise the availability of tourist information'
- . camping opportunities should not be advertised
- . no commercial development - let tourism and the dollar be catered for by Bremer Bay and the myriad of other coastal towns needing funds, and preserve our Park.

One person believed that the National Park and the associated tourists had not benefitted the local community:

- . local towns have been unable to expand because of the National Park - chief costs to tourists ie. food, fuel and accommodation, only benefit local businesses to a very small degree.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

9.1 Fire

14 submissions refer.

9.1.1 General Approach

Several general suggestions relating to fire management were made:

- . basis of fire management should be ecological
- . fuel reduction burning should be restricted to the eastern and western ends; rest of Park should only be burnt after careful research (limited data currently available on heathlands)
- . broad-scale prescribed burning should be developed, particularly to protect "no burn areas"
- . if fires start strenuous attempts are made to extinguish them.

Consequently fuel levels get worse each year and when fires do start they burn over far larger areas.

- . because of rare species, long intervals of 20-25 years between burns are recommended.

9.1.2 Establishing Blocks

A number of comprehensive submissions refer:

- . 'Fitzgerald River National Park should be divided into self-sustaining duplicate areas (fire ecology sections). A wildfire in any section would be left to burn itself out, though some back-burning would be required to contain it in that section. Firefighting would not be required unless extreme conditions indicated a hop-over into an adjacent section. This approach has 2 advantages: (1) expensive, environmentally damaging construction of firebreaks requiring rehabilitation will be avoided, (2) local brigades and private units will not be morally obliged to... "wreck their gear in rough country fighting someone else's fire". Each fire ecology section should as far as possible duplicate rare species. For this reason they are aligned roughly NW/SE across the Park's long axis. The proposed fauna conservation priority area (Zone 1) includes 5 fire sections for this reason. The boundaries should be roads, augmented by wind driven buffers (as achieved on Drummond Track)' (A Chapman)
- . existing fire management plan as approved by Ravensthorpe Shire Council, be incorporated in the management plan, with provision for rotational controlled burning of blocks
- . use cold winter burns to break the Park up, thus preventing the Park being destroyed by a large uncontrolled hot fire
- . should allow "strips" of hot summer fires to continue. These have a self-regulating effect on fire size and allow animals to escape into unburnt strips. Very intense fires have no long term effect on the flora and promote vigorous new growth
- . internal wind driven buffers should continue to be used.

9.1.3 Perimeter Buffers

- . low fuel buffers should be established adjacent to private property, public access routes and other areas of public use.

- . Chaining allows earlier burning with fewer people.

9.1.4 Access

- . access must always be available for fire control
- . Park should be divided into approximately 15 000 ha compartments by tracks trafficable all year (Bush Fires Board)

9.1.5 Liaison

- . liaison through Bush Fires Board should be used to secure volunteer assistance for fire-fighting and buffer burning
- . 'fire management plan should be agreed to by CALM, local government and the Bush Fires Board - a plan which burns areas of the Park as close to the natural way as possible is best'.

9.1.6 Water Points

- . water sources required - either natural or 25 000 litre tanks, both with maximum fill and turn-around time of 45 minutes.

9.1.7 Wildflowers

- . wildflowers should be stimulated by cool burning
- . burning in February and March is good as it promotes good wildflowers, particularly orchids (Calyerup Creek area), whereas burning in spring prevents plants setting seed.

9.1.8 Quaalup Private Property

- . fire control within this enclave is 'moderately well undertaken'.

9.2 Dieback

9 submissions refer.

Several general comments were made:

- . concern expressed that dieback is present in the Park

- tourists are more likely than locals to bring in dieback from other areas. The dieback infection on Bell Track was not caused by traditional users
- summer rainfall complicates dieback management. This makes control of access to wet areas difficult. Track construction needs careful research and tracks must be constructed so they do not spread dieback.

A number of solutions were offered:

- more money from Government needed for research
- any future occurrences should be identified and isolated and the areas closed to prevent further spread
- dieback should be controlled by limiting vehicles to western and eastern ends
- vehicle washdown bays or dips be constructed and maintained at strategic locations
- hot fires would remove dieback risk
- education should focus on visitors who are travelling from other infected areas.

9.3 Pests and Weeds

6 submissions refer.

Comments ranged from general to area and species specific:

- 'exploding fauna populations, which CALM make no effort to control, harass local farmers'
- feral animals in the Park need to be controlled
- kangaroos are a problem - an area with a 6 km radius should be cleared in the centre of the Park; sown to pasture and a dam provided. This would keep kangaroos within the Park and allow monitoring of numbers
- farming land should be resumed and allowed to revegetate to protect the Park from weeds, salinity and fires
- rabbits, foxes, fleabane and bridal creeper are a problem in Quaalup enclave. Some control measures are instigated by owners, but these could be upgraded.

9.4 Utilities

2 submissions refer, both saying that:

- . any future provision of SEC power to the Quaalup properties would involve considerable length of transmission lines across the Park. This is not acceptable.

9.5 Pets

2 submissions refer.

Two divergent views were presented:

- . continue to ban pets
- . 'allow responsible people to take selected dogs through the Park under certain conditions, perhaps with the dog confined to the vehicle or kept on a leash. Would gladly pay a fee for a special "park dog permit".

10.0 GEOLOGY AND MINING

4 submissions refer.

Submissions ranged from general comments relating to mining in national parks to potential mineral deposits in Fitzgerald River National Park.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) suggested that it will support a ban on mining in national parks if:

- . boundaries of Parks include only the land necessary for preservation
- . buffer zones are accorded a lesser tenure, allowing mineral research and development under special guidelines
- . economic analyses of the impact on the community are carried out before new parks are declared
- . geological surveys (by Geological Survey) are prepared before new parks are declared.

Several other general comments were made:

- . mining industry has considerable experience in land resource management to offer CALM

- . AMEC supports the policy of preservation of unique and interesting landforms and geological features
- . geologic sections of plans in past have been poorly written; they should be 'prepared and presented by professional people'

Comments specific to Fitzgerald River National Park were:

- . no exploration or mining in Fitzgerald River National Park, plus previously worked tenements should be resumed
- . identify core and buffer areas, map new boundary and commence geological survey of the buffers
- . mineral research must be accommodated within the management plan, because as technology and the economy changes different minerals will become available and valuable
- . Park is prospective for commercial minerals
- . potential deposits are: gold and base metals in Archaean Granulites and bedded lead-zinc ores in Mt Barren group. Lead-zinc occurrences are known at Bremer Bay, Hamersley Gorge and Naendip. Minor copper is present at the last two localities.
- . absence of mining and farming in the National Park area is resulting in losses to W.A.s income and social restrictions in the Fitzgerald area due to a smaller population.

11.0 COMMUNICATION AND INTERPRETATION

11.1 Communication

2 submissions refer, noting that:

- . it is important for the general public to be consulted and kept informed about management of their Park
- . involvement of local groups in the Park welcomed.

11.2 Interpretation

11 submissions refer.

One submission referred to the existing demand for interpretive material:

- . caravan parks and shops are repeatedly approached for leaflets on walk trails.

The remaining submissions suggested approaches to interpretation of the Park:

- . provide education and information material at popular sites in the outer zone of the Park to help visitors gain a better understanding of the Park and the need to conserve it
- . should encourage people to get out of their cars and walk
- . provide more stopping places, some with interpretation displays, along existing roads. Suggested locations - Pabelup Drive where it overlooks Fitzgerald River valley to the east, Old Ongerup Road at West River, Susetta River and Bald Rock Creek, and Hamersley Drive where it runs east-west between the two buffer firebreaks
- . provide parking bays, particularly on northern section of Hamersley Drive, with short walks and plaques describing plants, birds and animals
- . provide an easy-grade Banksia walk, say from East Mt Barren carpark
- . provide display shelters with labelled photos of flora and fauna
- . 'provide in-depth pamphlets describing structure and functioning of the diverse ecosystem and vast problems associated with managing and maintaining it in a reasonably pristine state'
- . produce educational brochures on geologic aspects
- . booklet giving information about the whole region, with Fitzgerald River National Park as its focus, would be invaluable. Initiated and partially sponsored by CALM with help from the Tourism Commission and local businesses, it would enable locals to recognise the benefits of the Park as well as travellers who don't usually stop in the Fitzgerald area (G. Craig).

Another submission noted that:

- . the value of the National Park for education is boundless: fishing, camping and picnicking are learning exercises for both children and adults.

11.3 Field Studies Centres (refer also to 14.2.4 Twertup)

1 submission refers.

Several suggestions for suitable study centres, in addition to Twertup, were made:

- . old Maringerup homestead site on the Gairdner River is ideal for Education Department type camp-outs for large numbers of children
- . Wellstead's lambing flat, near Fitzgerald Inlet, although not as good a location, has the advantage of being about ½ hour drive from the coast.

12.0 RANGERS AND STAFFING

7 submissions refer.

Comments ranged from ranger numbers and transfers to policing and training.

- . as more tracks are upgraded it will be necessary to provide more rangers
- . existing rangers are helpful. Pamphlets on the Park and its future management from them would have been appreciated
- . rangers should not be transferred during the fire season to ensure that a fire control officer is available during the fire risk season .
- . all work within the Park should be done by staff living locally
- . need more rangers to see that rules for protection and preservation are observed
- . important that rangers are able to prevent uncontrolled recreational activity
- . ranger's training should be more biased towards natural history and the environment and rather less towards office work, road maintenance, sign boarding, track building and litter control.

13.0 RESEARCH AND MONITORING

4 submissions refer.

Research on rare and endangered species and the range of vegetation types, plus monitoring of riverine salinity, were advocated.

- . greatly accelerated program of research and management aimed at continuing survival of rare and endangered species is urgently needed. Management priorities should be set. The areas used by each species, extent of similar habitat and required fire age are most important questions

- . species at particular risk need to be identified and taken into consideration before a final management plan is drawn up
- . detailed vegetation mapping will be necessary to develop the special fauna management fire plan
- . range of vegetation types and varied disturbance regimes (eg. fire) provide a good basis for study
- . monitoring of salinity in Park's rivers should continue with view to review use of catchments. Catchment re-vegetation should be considered.

One comment was made regarding existing research:

- . Fitzgerald River National Park Association should outline and summarise work already done.

14.0 SITE-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

14.1 Eastern

14.1.1 Hamersley Drive

2 submissions refer:

- . 'because Hamersley Drive is being promoted as a through-road, design standard must be higher than spur roads; 6.2m wide pavement with 2/1.2m shoulders if road is to be sealed in the future' (MRD)
- . Hamersley Drive provides an excellent example of diverse landforms, geology and vegetation. Visitors could be encouraged to view the Park along this road and discouraged from using other more fragile areas.

14.1.2 Moir Track

1 submission refers:

- . retain potential for developing Moir Road between the Park's north boundary and Telegraph Track.

14.1.3 Hamersley Inlet

4 submissions refer.

One submission provided detailed information on the conservation values of the area:

- . contains two rare or poorly collected plant species: *Zygophyllum* sp. has been collected once near Shark Bay and at 3-4 places between Hopetoun and Hamersley Inlet; and *Beyeria* sp., which occurs between Gaidner River and Ravensthorpe Range (6 known populations, each of 15-20 plants)
- . coastal moort low dwarf woodland (3-8 m) is not well represented in conservation reserves
- . no rare vertebrates known.

Another submission suggested a change in management:

- . Hamersley Inlet Shire Reserve should revert to CALM.

Several other people commented on the access road:

- . congratulate CALM on access to the Hamersley River
- . road construction by the Shire of Ravensthorpe in the Park (part of access road to the reserve) is the second example of outside interference in Park administration recently (road construction in Frank Hann was the first).

14.1.4 Edwards Point

1 submission refers:

- . develop access to a 2WD standard.

14.1.5 Quoin Head

5 submissions refer.

Access and existing use were discussed:

- . CALM congratulated on access
- . upgrade to 2WD
- . given current level of degradation, foot access only is one solution, upgrading to 2WD and no camping is another
- . favourite site with Lightweight 4WD Club of W.A.
- . has been slowly destroyed by non-resident campers, most of whom just went for a look.

14.2 Western

14.2.1 Pabelup Drive

3 submissions refer:

- . recent upgrading is shocking, the road is too narrow and people are unable to pass
- . improve to 2WD standard
- . access to Point Ann and West Mt Barren should be further developed.

14.2.2 Point Ann

5 submissions refer.

All submissions refer to site degradation and fragility:

- . Pt Ann overcrowded - upgrading of road was a mistake. Serious damage will occur from off-road vehicles, clearing more camping sites and rubbish
- . fencing should be used to limit camping and further expansion; toilets should be provided
- . Pt Ann is very fragile, upgrading access has assured an 'avalanche of tourists' and associated demands for more and more camping areas
- . footpath to the beach should be fenced and stepped
- . vehicle access to the beach should be closed and boat launching accommodated two bays to the north
- . steps to rehabilitate the massive gully erosion is an urgent necessity
- . carpark and turn-around areas should not be placed on east side of recently upgraded access road. It would be visually obtrusive and create drainage problems. West side of road is better.

One submission suggested that:

- . a caravan park be established.

14.2.3 Saint Marys

1 submission refers:

- . prevent proliferation of eroding 4WD tracks.

14.2.4 Twertup

4 submissions refer.

A range of comments were made:

- . within 20 years the Twertup Field Studies Centre will require extensive maintenance. This is likely to be beyond the resources of the FRNP Association
- . availability of Twertup should be advertised
- . access track should be made safe by adding gravel to slippery clay sections.

14.2.5 Fitzgerald Inlet and Beach

7 submissions refer.

Submissions covered access and use of the site itself:

- . access track 'should be left as it was before ie. strictly 4WD track'. It now seems to spend more time closed than open
- . recent upgrading (high crown and steep gutters) means that vehicles cannot safely pass
- . develop 2WD access to Fitzgerald Beach
- . upgrade to 2WD to provide good access to a reasonable sized camping area on the inlet. Increased use of 4WD track will lead to track deterioration; there is also a dieback risk associated with existing 4WD track
- . Fitzgerald Beach dunes are fragile. Keep vehicles out of them
- . keep development away from this inlet
- . Inlet is a preferred campsite by the Lightweight 4WD Club.

14.2.6 Point Charles

1 submission refers:

- . improve access to 2WD standard.

14.3 Central

14.3.1 Drummond Track

2 submissions refer:

- . track should be re-opened immediately
- . develop to 2WD standard.

14.3.2 Telegraph Track

8 submissions refer.

A divergence of views was expressed, from track closure to upgrading to 2WD:

- . use Telegraph Track as walk trail only
- . 'should not be upgraded - those people who complain most bitterly about lack of access are those who haven't and probably never will, use the access already available'
- . 'Conservation Council considers that under no circumstances should Telegraph Track be opened as it will become a thoroughfare for locals and visitors'
- . close central part of Track, while providing access to Two Bump Hill, Marshes and "the lagoon" by a new spur off Quoin Head Track. There is a high ridge along much of this route though there might be difficulty crossing the creek which flows into Quoin Head
- . provide rough 4WD tracks through to coast off 2WD Telegraph Track
- . upgrade to 2WD through-road (Bremer Bay to Hopetoun).

14.3.3 Twin Bays

6 submissions refer.

Again a divergence of views was apparent, from closure to vehicles to upgrading to 2WD access:

- . walking access only
- . use existing track as part of a walk trail
- . keep development away from Twin Bays
- . track should be re-opened immediately
- . provide 2WD access.

14.3.4. Marshes Beach/Corner

3 submissions refer:

- . continue to provide 4WD access
- . upgrade to 2WD access.

14.3.5 Two Bump Hill

2 submissions refer:

- . Two Bump Hill track was pushed through only 20 years ago
- . majority of campsites south of Two Bump Hill are still undamaged.

14.3.6 Kent Location 12

1 submission refers:

- . reasonable access should be afforded to the owners.

APPENDIX 1. SUBMITTORS

INDIVIDUALS

Caporn, R & J
Chapman, A
Clarke, B
Craig, G F
Dawa, G
Davis, G
Daw, R
Gadsby, A M
Gordon, D
Hancock, C M & W R
Hannig, K M
Jamieson, R & F
Jasper, R & Richards R.
Lee, P
Lilford, H C
Little, M & Bolton, D
Marden, T P
McCulloch, J M
Mueller, O
Newbey, K R
Sandiford, L
Scott, D A & V A
Taylor, H
Williams, D B
Yates, J A

ORGANISATIONS

Association of Mining and
Exploration Companies
Australian Underwater
Federation
Conservation Council of
Western Australia
Fitzgerald River National
Park Association
Great Southern Recreational
and Fishing Association
Institute of Recreation
Land Management Society
Lightweight 4 Wheel Drive
Club of Western Australia
South Coast Recreation
Association
Western Australian Association
of Four Wheel Drive Clubs

GOVT. DEPARTMENTS

Bush Fires Board
Fisheries Department
Main Roads Department
Ravensthorpe Shire
Council