

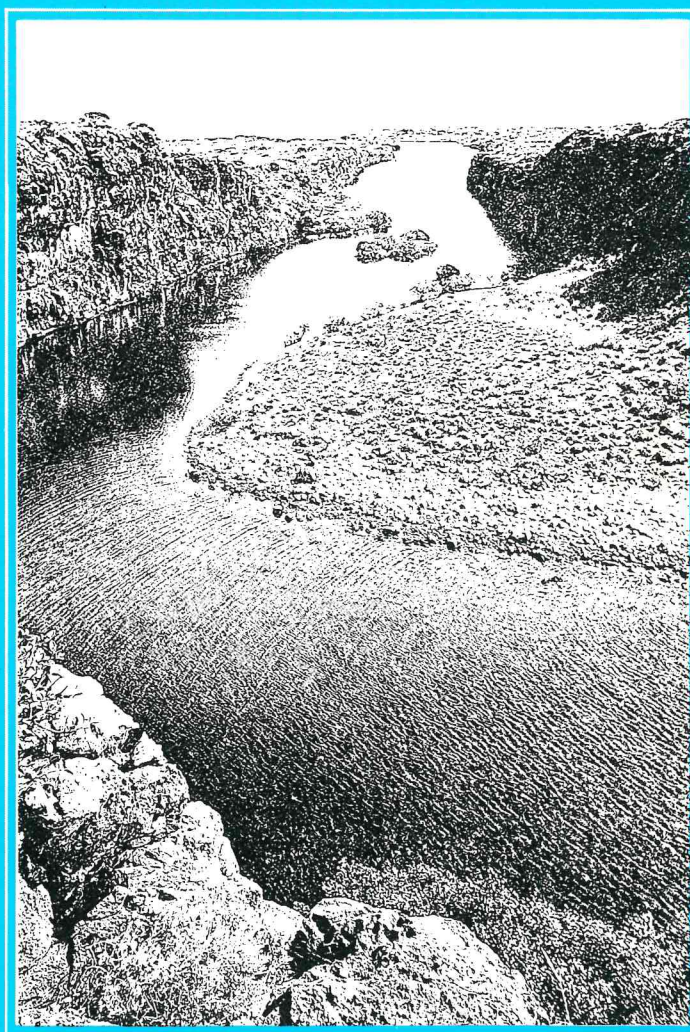
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# Cape Range National Park

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## Summary of Public Submissions

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MANAGEMENT PLAN No. 8



Department of Conservation  
and Land Management

CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

by

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Management Plan No. 8

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## INTRODUCTION

This document summarises submissions to the draft management plan (DMP) for Cape Range National Park. Comments have been detailed according to the section of the DMP to which they refer.

The DMP for Cape Range National Park was released for public comment by the Hon. Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Mr B. J. Hodge MLA, on 10 October 1986. A period of 2½ months was allowed for comments, however, they were accepted until February 1987, where prior notice was received from respondents.

The DMP was distributed to State and Commonwealth Government departments, tertiary institutions, conservation groups, local authorities and individuals. Copies of the DMP were available at Exmouth and Carnarvon at libraries and Council offices. Copies were available for purchase from the Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM) State Operations Headquarters at Como.

Copies were distributed as follows:

Government departments - State	23
Government departments - Interstate	8
Tertiary institutions	4
Individuals, Shire Councils and libraries	44

Following the release of the DMP, there was further public participation through informal discussions held between CALM staff and interested individuals and groups.

The Ningaloo Marine Park Advisory Committee provided considerable input into preparation of the DMP and in review of the Plan following the period of public comment.

The management plan for Cape Range National Park was approved by the Hon B. J. Hodge M.L.A., Minister for Conservation and Land Management on 1 December 1987.

## ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The public submissions to the Cape Range National Park DMP were reviewed in three stages:

- 1) Public submissions were summarised to allow analysis.
- 2) The submissions were assessed using the following criteria:

If the submission;

- A. provided additional information on the physical, biological, social economic or cultural resources of direct relevance to management, particularly the capacity of the park environment to sustain the proposed activities;
- B. indicated a change in Government legislation, management commitment, legislation or management policy;
- C. provided additional information on affected user groups;
- D. proposed the inclusion of additional strategies for a particular concern that would help to achieve the management objective(s); or
- E. referred to a lack of clarity in the existing strategies;

then the prescriptions given in the DMP were reviewed.

- 3) Stages one and two were then tabulated. Table 1 summarises the changes made to the DMP for major issues and indicates the degree of, and reasons for, revision and refers to the relevant assessment criteria. Minor editorial alterations suggested in submissions have been made.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO THE CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

SECTION OF PLAN	DEGREE OF REVISION	SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE	REASON FOR REVISION (OR COST OF)	RELEVANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA A
1. INTRODUCTION	Modification	Natural resources and management proposals	Clarification	E
3.1 Mineral Exploration	Addition	Petroleum exploration information expanded	Completeness	A
4.1 Historical Use	Addition	Aboriginal pre-history	Completeness	A
4.3 Physical and Environmental Conditions	Addition	Siting of roads	Completeness	A
6.1 Roads	Modification	Siting of roads	Clarification	E
6.1.1 Coastal Plain	Addition	Sealing of parking areas	Completeness	A
6.1.2 Range	Modification	Protection and Safety	Clarification	E
6.3 Camping Areas	Modification	Aboriginal Sites	Clarification	E
	Addition	Limits on camping	Completeness	A
	Modification	Low key facilities provided	Clarification	E



SECTION OF PLAN	DEGREE OF REVISION	SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE	REASON FOR REVISION (OR COST OF)	RELEVANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA A
6.3 Continued	Modification	Site capability and availability of resources	Clarification	A
	Addition	Advanced booking and equity for use	Completeness	A
6.4 Launching Ramps	Modification	Various requirements and safety	Clarification	E
6.5.1 Interpretation	Addition	Pre-history studies and bird hide	Completeness	A
6.5.3 Other Day Use	Addition	Entrance fees	Completeness	A
6.9 Feral Animal Control	Addition	Fox predation on rock wallabies	Completeness	A
	Modification	Feral animal control and budget	Clarification	E
6.11 Research	Addition	Monitoring management	Completeness	A
7. PARK EXTENSIONS	Addition	Water resources	Completeness	A
8.2 Staff	Modification	Staff requirements	Clarification	E
8.5 Strategy for funding Park Management	Modification	Day use fees and commercial tours	Clarification	E

SECTION OF PLAN	DEGREE OF REVISION	SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE	REASON FOR REVISION (OR COST OF)	RELEVANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA A
10.1 Water Resources	Addition	Water resources	Completeness	A
10.2 Vegetation and Flora	Addition	Biogeography and floral value	Completeness	A

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

### Number and Origin of Submissions

A total of 34 submissions were received from 31 sources (see Appendix 1).

	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Government departments	9	29
Public - CALM staff	7	23
Public - clubs or organisations	7	23
Public - individuals	5	16
Interstate	2	6
Local Government	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	31	100

No written comment was received from the Shire of Exmouth, however, verbal contact with the Shire in February 1987 indicated that they were in support of the Plan.

### General Comments

Most submissions generally supported the DMP or a specific issue. Many provided suggestions for minor change. A minority of submissions did not support some proposals on the basis that they were not qualified by references. The number of comments received for each issue is summarised in Appendix 2.

Typical comments of endorsement for the DMP as they were expressed in submissions were:

- Plan is excellent overall; a sound basis for future management.
- An excellent draft, clear and simple, enough technical information to whet the appetite for further enquiry.
- Proposals well related to resources.
- In general, draft plan is comprehensive.

- Integrated management essential.
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

In contrast a minority felt that the:

- Plan is disappointing on the whole. More detail, with references, should be given on procedures and data. Wilderness zoning and mining are not adequately addressed.
- Plan is self defeating as it acknowledges a fragile environment but proposes to bring in thousands more tourists and sightseers.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Two submissions refer.

- While welcoming the DMP for Cape Range, the failure to release one integrated plan for all parks (Ningaloo, Cape Range and Coastal Parks) rather than just Cape Range is disappointing.
- The statement, 'natural resources that will not be affected by the implementation of management proposals are generally not described', is rejected on the basis that, with increasing visitation, how could one determine which natural resources, if any, will not be affected by increasing people pressure.
- The section gave no indication of the Shire involvement or cost (comment related to Ningaloo Marine Park).

## 2. CONSERVATION AND RECREATION VALUES

Three submissions refer.

- Section should highlight the importance of having a biophysical cross-section from Ningaloo Reef, Cape Range and Exmouth Gulf represented in a reserve. Could include examples of biophysical regions.



- Suggest rewording of item 2 to emphasise that many tourists are attracted to this arid peninsula because of the variety of wildlife and landform, and to express the regional significance in terms of natural environment and recreation.
- The statement that cooler summer temperatures make this area particularly attractive, appears to contradict with the statement on temperature on page 12. Item 5 on page 6 could be improved by the addition of figures for marine recreation.

### 3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

One submission refers.

- Section could be improved by indicating present and anticipated levels of use.

#### 3.1 Pastoral Use and Mineral Exploration

Five submissions refer.

- Considered inadequate; more information needed for pastoral use and mining.
- Plan refers to historical oil and gas exploration but not to future activities.
- Suggest historical approach of permitting exploration using EPA guidelines continue. Exploration may not conflict with the management objectives and in some instances could assist with development of facilities.
- Oil and gas potential should be stated and petroleum exploration be accommodated in the existing and proposed extensions to the Park.
- The area (including the Park and proposed extensions) contains large deposits of good quality limestone which would be essential to any Pilbara-based steel industry.

- There is adequate evidence to support the case for not mining the Range for industrial development.

### 3.2 Establishment of the Park

Two submissions refer.

- Historical detail is not related to objectives unless it provides a reason for establishing the Park. Was it only for scenic benefits.
- In Figure 1, the tenure and present use of the land and the reserve No. of the Park should be included.

### 3.3 Park Extension Proposals

Three submissions refer.

- The extensions put forward previously (in earlier documents) and those proposed in Section 7 of this Plan are supported. Surprise was expressed that the previous proposals had not already been implemented.
- The DMP should state if the Park is subject to petroleum exploration and if so, the Park should be closed to that activity.
- Extension would provide protection of important features as the area is important biologically and culturally.

### 3.4 Park Management

Three submissions refer.

- Section is too brief and should be referenced.
- Past and present management practices would influence Park and fringe areas.
- Historical impacts and implications of increasing access to the area should be mentioned.

- Firewood is limited and the use of gas stoves should be stressed.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT ARISING FROM HISTORICAL USE, PAST MANAGEMENT PRACTISE, PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND MARINE PARK PROPOSALS.

Two submissions made general comments.

- The section needs more detail. Impact of vehicles needs to be addressed. Roads should not establish the direction of management.
- Information contained in various reports concerning Aboriginal use should be considered in planning.

4.1 Historical Use

Two submissions refer.

- Evidence of past Aboriginal use is entirely prehistoric and only sites of occupation may reflect past climate change.
- Dramatic changes in climate should be qualified in terms of relative difference to elsewhere in the region or State.

4.2 Management Practice

No comment made.

4.3 Physical and Environmental Conditions

Two submissions refer.

- Roads and walk trails should preferably be sited away from physical features which may be dangerous.
- Statement on temperatures in the Range appears to contradict with the point made on temperatures on page 6 (See Section 2).

#### 4.4 Marine Park Proposal

One submission refers.

- The inclusion of coastal sections of pastoral land CALM will require liaison with Pastoralists and (Carnarvon) Council (referred to Ningaloo Marine Park, not Cape Range).

#### 5. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Three submissions refer.

- Objectives are confusing to anyone not familiar with the CALM Act or policies. The purpose of the Act should be quoted. Policies need to be published to enable interpretation of the Plan.
- Safety could become a major problem.
- General objectives are accepted but specific objectives are inadequate. Objectives should be conservative and cautious while management resources are scarce. Objective 6 is inappropriate. Objective 8 should incorporate land as class A.

#### 6. MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

##### 6.1 Roads and Associated Developments

##### 6.1.1 The Coastal Plain

Eight submissions refer.

- Do not support the new coastal road and will not accept unsubstantiated claims on the design criteria used.
- New road may increase visitor access to archaeological sites on the terrace(s). Some physical protection may be required.
- Pre-construction assessment should state reference to ecological linkages, especially roads in mangroves and drainage areas.



- Upgrading Yardie Road will increase demand for 2WD access south of Yardie creek. It should be bridged to give equity of access to all.
- Most submissions clearly felt that there should be no road upgrading south of Yardie Creek and there should be no southern access to the Park.
- Concerned with upgrading and retainment of road to Yardie creek. Support upgrading and sealing to Mandu Mandu with no access southwards.
- Pilgramunna is mentioned in the text but not illustrated on the map.
- Sealing of the new road should be implemented as soon as funds permit.
- Philosophy of controlling access by defined roads is commended.

#### 6.1.2 The Range

Six submissions refer.

- Disagree with road over Range. All roads should be spurs.
- Road will require careful location to avoid sinkholes.
- Regular patterns of access needed for control of visitors.
- Additional road loop needed from Yardie Creek to Minilya Road.
- Text implies the Learmonth to Sandy Bay track will be promoted for 4WD use. Has a potential for long term damage to the country and is a danger to users who may become lost.
- Learmonth - Sandy Bay track should be kept low-key.
- New road not in the spirit of a national park.

## 6.2 Operations and Visitor Centre At Milyering

Five submissions refer.

- Difficult to comment not knowing intentions for Ningaloo ie. zoning, integration of management.
- General layout satisfactory with developments off the primary road.
- Field study centre as illustrated on concept plan may not be feasible.
- Siting of Milyering developments supported.
- Support concept but if staff requirements are not met, it is paramount that development of the Centre not proceed.
- No references or reasons given why Milyering is the most suitable site. A breakdown of expenditure should be provided.
- Support centre including amphitheatre.

## 6.3 Camping Areas

Twelve submissions refer.

- The location of some of the existing campsites in dune areas may conflict with Aboriginal middens.
- Management should be on a competitive basis with existing caravan parks outside Park.
- Where camping is a problem, the area should be closed. Remove exotic trees.
- Agree with recommendations but suggest that options need to be kept open as the provision of facilities and financial resources may not be readily available.

- Not necessary to provide good facilities as existing ones are adequate.
- Not necessary to re-locate Neds Camp inland nor build a boat ramp.
- Wish to see some areas left 'as is'.
- Proposals supported but more detail needed on location of alluvial soils, waste disposal and water supply.
- Development should be kept to a minimum to retain naturalness.
- Two new campsites may not be adequate.
- Some seek low key camping in Park in preference to Exmouth.
- Stream-lines should be avoided because of restricted habitat.
- Support proposals. Demand for isolation will grow. Additional areas needed inland from dunes.
- Only short stays should be allowed to give equity for all users.

#### 6.4 Launching Ramps

Four submissions refer.

- Reference is made to Pilgramunna without illustration on a map.
- Milyering might not be a suitable site.
- Boat launching could be limited to Exmouth and Coral Bay.
- No substantiation made for proposals.
- No need for ramp at Neds Camp as only car-top dingies are used.
- Unsafe to construct proposed ramps, not because of sites proposed, but because inexperienced people will venture out in unsafe

conditions. Only install ramps opposite large (safe) passages in reef.

## 6.5 Interpretation Sites and Other Day-Use Facilities

### 6.5.1 Interpretation

Four submissions refer.

- Welcome the establishment of the Milyering centre and the associated interpretation proposals.
- Mangrove Boardwalk not supported on the basis that it could lead to vandalism of the mangrove.
- Support programmes, but no reference made to the homestead and to need for maintenance (confusion between Yardie Creek, in the Park, with the old Yardie Station homestead, north of the Park).
- Aboriginal pre-history information should be considered in interpretive programmes.
- Support interpretation proposals.

### 6.5.2 Fauna Observation Sites

One submission refers.

- Reject artificial watering points for fauna observation on the basis that research is needed to determine the ecological balance of animal populations before developing such facilities.

### 6.5.3 Other Day Use

Four submissions refer.

- Support proposals but seek clarification of the wording 'boat launching points and interpretive sites'.



- May be appropriate to charge for day use as well as for camping.
- Proposal discourages day use in camping areas. Consider that a few campers should not have privilege of access to beaches. Other opportunities should be provided.
- Walk trails need to be adequately marked.

#### 6.6 Rehabilitation

Three submissions refer.

- Support the use of local genotypes.
- Procedures and policies need to be listed.
- Support proposals but reject the placing of road material pits in the Park.

#### 6.7 Fire

Two submissions refer.

- Support proposals, particularly the banning of campfires.
- Explain 'slip-on units'.
- Support a total ban on ground fires.

#### 6.8 Safety

Four submissions refer

- Proposals for speed restrictions are supported.
- Prohibit hiking in the Range when temperatures exceed 37°C.
- Imposition of speed restrictions not favoured as it is impossible to police. Prefer a series of warning signs.

- Road has not been designed to control speed as plan suggests.
- Support speed restrictions but suggest it should be 40 kph not 60 kph.
- Query if safety can be included as risk rests with visitors.

#### 6.9 Defence Land

No comment made.

#### 6.10 Feral Animal Control

Six submissions refer.

- Suggest more information be provided on numbers of feral animals in Park. Research must be increased.
- Aggressive campaign needed for goats and other feral animals.
- Mention should be made of control methods for noxious weeds and feral animals.
- Plan is too vague in formulating goal control measures - a permanent budget item should be established for Statewide application.
- Foxes have been a major factor in extinction of Rock Wallabies in the Range; fox baiting should be continued.
- Need co-operation from Shire and others on a policy for feral animal control.
- Use helicopters for control.

#### 6.11 Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites

One submission refers.

- There is a need for further research.

## 6.12 Research

Four submissions refer.

- Should expand on research.
- Suggestions should be made for specific research proposals where data are required to predict impacts of management proposals.
- Data sources should be cited.
- Effect of management actions should be monitored.
- Need to obtain data to enable better planning for management at time of review.
- Proposals need time scales and costing.
- Research of karst in peninsular needed.

## 7. PARK EXTENSIONS (See also Section 3.3)

Four submissions refer.

- Support proposals for addition.
- Extensions desirable and will enhance management of the peninsula.
- Fully support proposals for extension. Will provide a greater representation of natural resources.
- Have no objection to proposal.

## 8 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### 8.1 Administration

No comment made.

## 8.2 Staff

Three submissions refer.

- Two full-time rangers should be stationed in the Park. The recommendation is too low.
- Rangers should be trained in biological assessment techniques and interpretation.
- Support appointment of an interpretive officer.

## 8.3 Budget

Five submissions refer.

- Need to inform public of service costs, why charges are necessary and why works take time to achieve.
- Expenditure priorities should be stated.
- Adequate budget essential.
- Support user-pays principle, but revenue should be retained by the Department.
- Benefits to Park users are high between April and October. Charges should reflect these benefits, possibly be double that charged in Exmouth.
- Annual costs and 5 year budget required.
- Agreements with concessionaires should not pose a threat to the Park.

## 8.4 Implementation

One submission refers.

- Suggest rewording to read, "will be continued".

## 8.5 Strategy for Funding Park Management

Two submissions refer.

- Commercial interests could assist with funding and staff for the information centre.
- Object to charges being levied for interpretive activities.

## 9. MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION OF CAPE RANGE AND NINGALOO

One submission refers.

- Plan needs to provide substance to integration proposals.

## 10. IMPLICATIONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES ARISING FROM MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

### 10.1 Water Resources

Three submissions refer.

- Who is developing a 'water harvesting program'.
- Options for use should be made eg. re-cycling, bio-loos, etc.
- Water resource in Park and proposed extension could be important for future development. Plan needs to recognise need for public water supply. Abstraction should not conflict with Park objectives.

## 10.2 Vegetation and Flora

Four submissions refer.

- Little is said about natural resources of the Park.
- Section is too brief - flora deserves more detailed study.
- Cape Range is important biogeographically and contains many range-end populations.
- DMP should state immense floristic value of Park.
- Generally satisfactory. Maps should be provided. Buffel grass invasion should be reversed.
- 'Steppe' should be referenced to Beard's classification.

## 10.3 Fauna

Three submissions refer.

- This assumed that techniques exist to ensure animal populations are not increased artificially and the natural balance upset.
- Should not extract more ground water than necessary.
- Urgent need for surveys before development.
- Species lists should be included.

## 10.4 Landscape

One submission refers.

- General principles supported. More emphasis needed for harmonising developments and landscape.



## 10.5 Landform Stability

Two submissions refer.

- Suggest re-wording of section to keep options wider.
- Support principles, but ORV's not discussed adequately.

## 11. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

One submission refers.

- Provides useful information, but references would be valuable.

### 11.1 Exmouth

No submissions.

### 11.2 Regional

No submissions.

## 12 REVIEW PROCESS

Two submissions refer.

- Procedure for review and mechanism for monitoring implementation should be clearly stated .
- Plan does not provide for on-going consultation.

APPENDIX 1      List of Submitters

Government Departments

Department of Conservation and  
    Environment  
Department of Land Administration  
Department of Mines  
Department of Resources Development  
Department for Sport and Recreation      (2)  
Main Roads Department  
Water Authority of Western Australia  
Western Australian Museum      (3)  
Western Australian Tourism Commission

Public - CALM Staff

J. Blythe  
A. H. Burbidge  
I. R Darragh  
G. J. Keighery  
P. Kimber  
J. E. Kinnear  
G. W. Mercer

Associations and Clubs

Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation  
Conservation Council of W.A. Inc.  
Exmouth and Districts Chamber of Commerce  
Greening Australia (W.A.) Inc.  
Western Australian Heritage Committee  
W.A. National Parks and Reserves Association (Inc)  
Western Australian Speleological Group (Inc)

Public - Individuals

V. Bennett  
E. W. Hardy  
G. King  
P. J. McNamara  
O. Meuller

Interstate

Department of Conservation Forests and  
Lands (Victoria)  
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW)

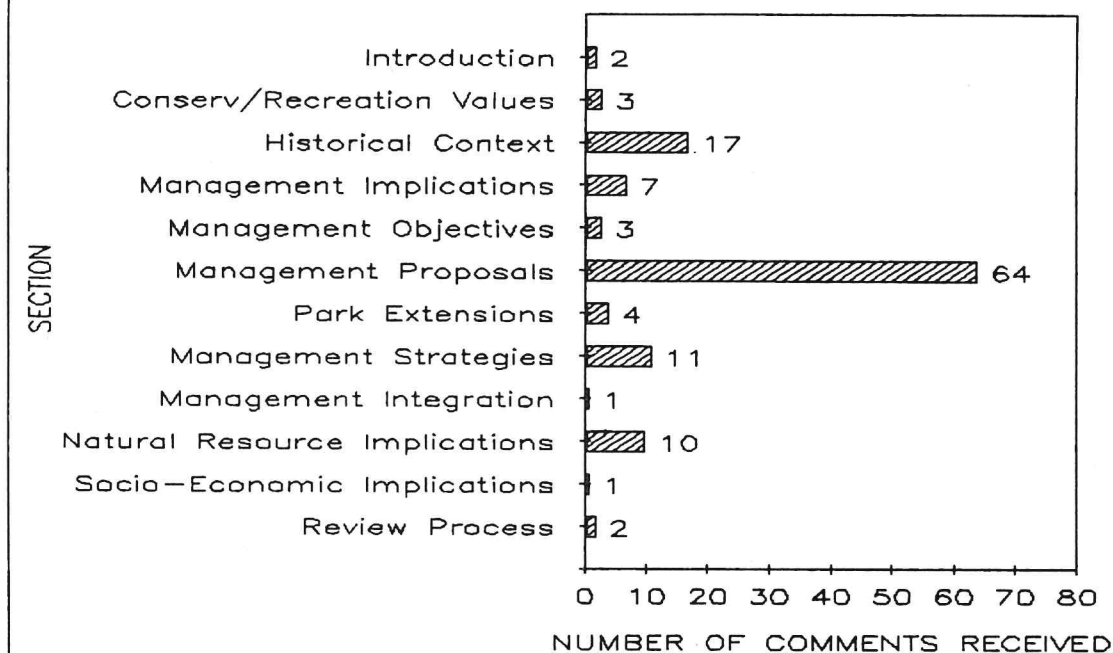
Local Authorities

Shire of Carnarvon

## APPENDIX 2

Number of comments made in public submissions on each section or sub-section in the Cape Range National Park DMP.

**TABLE 1.  
NUMBER OF COMMENTS PER SECTION**



**TABLE 2.  
NUMBER OF COMMENTS FOR  
SECTION 6 – MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS**

