

WEST. AUST. NAT. RESERVE MANAGE. PLAN No. 5

(Audit of Public Submissions and Amendments to the Draft Plan)

NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN, VOLUME 1



by

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and

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN NO. 5
(AUDIT OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN)

NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN

VOLUME 1

BY

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INTRODUCTION : GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

This audit of public submissions is part of the "Western Australian Nature Reserve Management Plan" series. Each Plan in the series is published as a "Draft" for public comment. Following public comment an "Audit of Public Submissions" is prepared. A "Revised Draft" based on the original and influenced by the public submissions, is submitted to the Western Australian Wildlife Authority (WAWA) and the Minister for approval. Following this the Plan is published in its final approved form. The Draft Management Plan (DMP) for the nature reserves of the southern part of the Shire of Dandaragan is the fifth in the series, and the second to adopt a regional approach. Although the region is administrative, rather than geographic, it does allow the placement of nature reserves in the spatial context of landform, soils, geology and vegetation. Most importantly, the nature reserves in the southern half of the Shire of Dandaragan are recognised in a regional context as an integral part of the area's land use.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT PLAN

The Draft Plan for the south Dandaragan nature reserves was published in March 1982. The Plan remained open to the public for comments and submissions until 31 January 1983. Three extensions of time were necessary to cater for the interest in, and response to, the Draft Plan. An overwhelming demand for copies of the Plan exhausted supplies and this, combined with printing delays, made extensions necessary. The extended period enabled all interested parties to present their submissions.

Plans were distributed to three groups:

1. Standard Mailing List.

This is a standard list held by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. It includes Commonwealth and State Government organisations and conservation groups, plus naturalists and members of the public who have expressed a general interest in the Management Planning series.

2. Reserve Neighbours and Local Authorities.

This includes owners of land adjoining the reserve, plus all Local Authorities that might be affected by a subject reserve and its management.

3. Shire of Dandaragan Ratepayers.

This includes all ratepayers in the Shire of Dandaragan. This procedure informed all ratepayers in the Shire of the existence of the Draft Plan and invited them to request copies and subsequently to submit comments.

A total of 225 copies of the Draft Plan were distributed. Of these 73 went to people or organisations on the Department's standard mailing list, 31 went to reserve neighbours and 121 went to interested ratepayers in Dandaragan Shire.

The practice of distributing copies of the Draft Plan to reserve neighbours, and of encouraging interested Shire ratepayers to submit comments, encourages all concerned to consider nature reserves as an integral part of the Shire's natural environment. It also maximises opportunities for the local community to participate in the planning process.

Submissions were received from the following bodies and individuals.

1. Standard Mailing List

State Government Organisations

Department of Conservation and Environment
Forests Department
Bush Fires Board

Conservation Groups

W.A. Naturalists' Club
Conservation Council of W.A.

2. Local Authorities and Reserve Neighbours

Local Authority

Shire of Dandaragan

Reserve Neighbours

Mr W.R. Wedge
Ms E.H. Duggan
Mr M.L. Isbister
Mr S. Jakovich
Mr W.E. Hobden
Mr B.N. Sorenson

Local Bush Fire Brigades

Regans Ford Fire Brigade

3. Dandaragan Shire Ratepayers

Sir Ross Hutchinson Kt
Mr H. Frochter
Mr & Mrs K.E. Skelly
Mr W.M. Dermer
Mrs O.B. Innes
Mr B.W. Littler
Mr F. Hamilton
Rev'd K.D. Devereux

Mr J. Spurge
Mrs S. Harris
Mr & Mrs K.E. Smith

ISSUES RAISED IN THE SUBMISSIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN

The tone of all submissions was favourable, indicating a positive response to the DMP. The following comment by the Department of Conservation and Environment is a good example of the tone and sentiments expressed in many of the submissions:

"This Department is in general agreement with the management objectives detailed in the Management Plan and is particularly pleased to note the efforts to involve adjacent landowners in the reserve management process. Local involvement is considered to be an important aspect in the successful management of small and isolated reserves."

The following two extracts from submissions by reserve neighbours are also typical of the positive tone:

"The report is so comprehensive and carefully prepared that we feel that very little can be added to your plans for protection and use of these areas."

(Mr M.L. Isbister)

"I can see that a lot of time and effort has been put into the completing of the plan and I congratulate you and your staff for the positive and sensible approach to the management of these reserves."

(Mr W.E. Hobden)

In the remainder of this section specific issues and amendments suggested by respondents are discussed under the relevant reserve. A final section of general considerations covers issues of a less specific nature.

The majority of submissions concerned Eneminga (No. 27394), Namming (No. 28558), Minyulo (No. 27219) and Wanagarren (No. 31675) Nature Reserves. Fire protection strategies and control of public use were the major areas of concern.

Two general comments regarding reserve management and planning were made in the submissions. In the first, the Conservation Council and the Bush Fires Board acknowledged that successful implementation of the Management Plan will depend on the establishment of the Wongan Hills Reserve Management Team. Second, the W.A. Conservation Council and the Rev. K.D. Devereux called for the injection of more funds into reserve management activities.

1. RESERVE NO. 23934 (UN-NAMED)

Submissions regarding this reserve were directed towards fire protection and reserve size.

Firebreak Construction and Maintenance

The Department of Conservation and Environment made the following comment:

"The report makes no mention of maintenance of the firebreaks which it proposes be constructed, other than that which could result from a complaint by a neighbouring landowner."

This comment highlights the assumption inherent in any plan for management that, once constructed, firebreaks will be regularly maintained. This assumption will be explicitly stated in the final plan.

Nature Reserve Size.

This is one of three nature reserves (the other two are Minyulo and Jam Hill) dealt with in the Plan which the Western Australian Naturalists' Club suggested would not 'be viable on a long range basis'. While we agree with the philosophy which underlies these concerns such areas are important as they contain representative samples of habitats which once covered the Dandaragan Plateau. These small reserves now provide the only remnants of the original vegetation in a cleared agricultural landscape. Their small size means they will suffer greater change as a result of surrounding land-use than would larger areas. They will, however, retain some natural values. It is for future generations to assess the magnitude of these values.

2. MINYULO NATURE RESERVE (RESERVE NO. 27219)

Similar concerns for fire protection and reserve size were expressed about Minyulo. One submission was made regarding pest control problems. Comments regarding Minyulo were received from a wide range of people, including reserve neighbours, the Conservation Council and the Dandaragan Shire Council.

Firebreaks and Fire Protection.

The Dandaragan Shire Council suggested that the reserve firebreaks were not adequately maintained. As the complete perimeter firebreak is maintained annually, Council officers must have visited the reserve in mid-to late winter immediately prior to annual maintenance (which is carried out in August-September).

The Dandaragan Shire Council also referred to the Shire Firebreak Order which specifies firebreaks of 'not less than 20 m wide'. While 20 m breaks, if frequently maintained to control weed invasion, are more effective in terms of fire protection and control, constraints of cost and environmental damage preclude their construction and maintenance. Breaks of this width significantly reduce the effective area of a reserve - on Minyulo, 20 m breaks would reduce the area of this 200 ha reserve by 40 ha, which is a reduction in reserve area of 20%.

Mr & Mrs K.E. Smith, Minyulo reserve neighbours, raised several interesting points regarding fire control. Firstly, they suggested that the firebreak system on the reserve should include an internal east-west break bisecting the reserve. This suggestion is a good one and will be included in the final Plan.

Secondly, the Smiths drew attention to the need for periodical control burns, excluding the area of Wandoo, every 8 to 10 years. There are several reasons why a rigid schedule of controlled burning is unwise. Firstly, a considerable proportion of the reserve has Wandoo woodland occurring in a narrow strip along the full length of the reserve (Fig. 7 in DMP) which, with its sparse understorey, acts as a low fuel buffer. Secondly, the small size of the reserve minimises the probability of a fire originating on the reserve, and hence minimises the need for fuel reduction measures. However, if fuel loads on the reserve or parts of the reserve become excessive, fuel control measures will be implemented.

The potential fire protection problems of Minyulo are recognised in the Draft Plan:

"The long boundaries of the reserve, with farmland on one side and public roads on the other, and the need to maintain the reserve free of frequent fire, require that special attention be paid to developing and maintaining good relationships with neighbours of the reserve ... this Plan includes a provision for reserve neighbours to draw the attention of the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife to what they consider to be inadequacies in fire protection arrangements."

Therefore neighbours are encouraged to contact the Department over any management problems involving the reserve.

Nature Reserve Size.

This is another of the reserves which the W.A. Naturalists' Club suggested "will not prove viable" in the long term. The Conservation Council of W.A. also draws attention to the "non-viability" of Minyulo. They add that ... 'It is a

sad reflection that this reserve, small and inadequate as it is, is designated a "key site". Again we agree with the philosophy behind the Naturalists' Club and Conservation Council's concerns. A larger area would be better, but none is available. Minyulo contains representative samples of the Dandaragan Plateau natural environment, an environment now dominated by an agricultural landscape, and as such it deserves key site designation and protection.

The Conservation Council's suggestion of giving adjacent land owners incentives to replant buffer strips of local indigenous trees and shrubs has merit and the idea and possible means of involving reserve neighbours in enhancing nature reserve values is being given active consideration.

Protection from Pests : Animal and Weed Control

Mr and Mrs K.E. Smith drew the attention of the Department to the rabbit problem on their land and the adjoining reserve. This problem has now been attended.

Similarly any other reserve neighbours are invited, to draw the attention of the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife to what they consider as inadequacies in the control of pest plants and animals on reserves adjacent to their properties. Then, such arrangements as may be necessary for organised pest control will be made by consultation between the Agriculture Protection Board and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

3. ENEMINGA NATURE RESERVE (RESERVE NO. 27394)

The majority of comments were directed towards fire protection and the inclusion of parts of adjacent Crown land within the reserve boundaries. A third area of concern was the need for a clearly defined access route for duck shooters.

Fire Protection

The Conservation Council agreed with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife that implementation of fire management is crucial.

The Bush Fires Board supported the Department's proposal that as part of the regional fire protection scheme for Dandaragan, a buffer of frequently burned vegetation be established. The buffer would be between 200 and 400 m in width, and located on vacant Crown land adjacent to the western and southern boundaries of the reserve. The Bush Fires Board expressed its willingness to construct and maintain these buffers to the Department's specifications as part of the Dandaragan Fire Protection Scheme. Mention of the Bush Fires Board's agreement with the Draft Plan's suggestions will be included in the final Plan.

The Regans Ford Fire Brigade made several pertinent comments regarding its views as to the impracticability of buffer strips, as suggested in the DMP, and the need for 20 m wide internal firebreaks. Construction of the 200-400 m wide buffer strips is a response to the recognition of the potential fire threat of the large tracts of uncleared land adjacent to Eneminga. In the event of a wildfire, these buffer strips should stop, or at least inhibit, the progress of a fire front, enabling satisfactory fire suppression measures to be put into operation.

Regarding fire breaks, a comprehensive system of external and internal breaks represents the optimal fire management solution. The Department believes six metre breaks are the best solution as they are sufficiently wide to allow safe easy access for fire fighting units and to enable back burning to be safely and successfully undertaken. At the same time they are narrow enough to keep maintenance costs to a realistic level, minimise weed invasion of the firebreaks and hence of the reserve itself and minimise wind and water erosion of the grey sands on which the reserve is based.

The W.A. Naturalists' Club gave the proposed fire protection strategy for the reserve its full support.

"The Fire Protection Policy envisaged for the Eneminga Reserve has our full support. We are very much aware of your obligation to protect the assets of neighbouring landholders. At the same time we reiterate the danger of changing plant communities for the sake of fuel reduction by too frequent prescribed burns."

This is the balance management seeks to achieve: adequate fire protection while maintaining the long-term stability of the vegetation and flora.

Extension of reserve boundaries.

Both the Department of Conservation and Environment and the W.A. Conservation Council recommend that the shape of Eneminga could be improved by including within the reserve the area enclosed by linking the south-western corners of the two blocks which form the reserve. The Department of Conservation and Environment suggested that the following benefits would be obtained:

- "vastly improved linkage between the two sections of the reserve resulting in more complete protection for the central portion of Eneminga Brook, and improved reserve viability.
- a shorter boundary length, reducing management costs.

- the proposed low-fuel buffer zone would be distanced from the significant wetland portions of the reserve, reducing the potential threat of weed invasion from areas disturbed by the repeated fuel reduction burning."

This recommendation has considerable merit, and such an extension of the reserve must add to its conservation values, at the same time rationalising management input. Some time ago, the Department developed a proposal to add land to Eneminga Nature Reserve to protect its wetlands, and to link Eneminga with Namming Nature Reserve in the south, via Guraga Lake. This proposal also involves joining the south-west corners of the two Eneminga blocks, and adding the south-western half of the triangle formed by linking the north-eastern corners of the blocks to the reserve area.

The Department has delayed formal submission of this proposal to the Department of Lands and Surveys pending consideration of possible alternative land uses and public reaction to the DMP.

Access for duck shooters

Mr B.N. Sorenson, an adjoining landholder, commented on the growing problem of duck shooters attempting to reach the reserve via his property. If use of the lake for this purpose increases, it may become necessary to channel access along the north-south orientated road (gazetted, but unmade) which runs south from Mimegarra Road to the northern boundary of Eneminga. Duck shooters could be encouraged to use this route by ensuring that where fencelines cross the road gates are provided. This would also assist research and patrol work on the reserve.

4. NAMMING NATURE RESERVE (RESERVE NO. 28558)

Three areas of concern were revealed by the submissions, these being reserve shape, protective burning and firebreaks.

Reserve Shape

The Department of Conservation and Environment recommended that ...'To consolidate Reserve 28558 and simplify management, it may be appropriate to include in the Reserve the section of disused stock route that bisects it.' This suggestion has merit, and we are currently seeking the addition to the reserve, of the section of disused stock route which passes through it.

Frequency of Prescribed Burning

The Department of Conservation and Environment agreed with the proposal that the reserve be burnt on a rotation of 'intervals of 15 years or such other period' as increasing

knowledge indicates. The Department of Conservation and Environment also suggested that some central portions of the reserve should be protected from fire for periods considerably longer than 15 years. Unfortunately the shape of the reserve may make exclusion difficult. An alternative may be to carry out a detailed survey of the reserve to determine the location of representative areas of flora, rare species and communities of special interest. Selected areas can then be managed accordingly. In this case, this means excluding fire from a selected area of highest value, at least until more is known about the fire ecology of the species or community upon which selection was based. Mention of the need for such surveys will be included in the final Plan.

Firebreaks

Following the construction of buffer strips and the regular maintenance of these strips and of the existing firebreaks, the fire hazard of the reserve should be much reduced. Both the Conservation Council and the Regans Ford Fire Brigade expressed concern about fire protection. The Conservation Council felt that visitor usage should not be encouraged until adequate reserve management, including fire protection as outlined, is implemented. The Regans Ford Fire Brigade was concerned about the fire risk of Namming and the effectiveness of the fire protection policies outlined. These concerns will be approached in a similar manner to that discussed in the preceding Section 3: ENEMINGA NATURE RESERVE - Fire Protection.

5. WANAGARREN NATURE RESERVE (RESERVE NO. 31675)

Submissions received regarding this reserve dealt with fire protection and public use.

Fire Protection

The construction of 200 m buffer strips of frequently burned vegetation on the reserve will significantly reduce the hazard of fire escaping from areas adjacent to the main track system, or from Wedge Island settlement, into the body of the reserve. The buffer system will also significantly reduce the likelihood of the movement of fire between the reserve, and Nambung National Park in the north, or the reserve and the naval artillery range in the south. Ms E.H. Duggan agreed with the perimeter buffer suggestion, as did the Conservation Council, which recommended that the construction of such buffers should be a matter of high priority.

The Conservation Council also suggested that management of the coastal strip was the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Defence Department and the National Parks Authority. This is in complete accord with the Department's views that management of Wanagarren and

of the burnt buffers on the reserve edges can only be successfully achieved by close liaison between the three Departments.

Public Use

In any discussion of public use, the following must be remembered.

"The very attractive and remote coastline of Wanagarren Nature Reserve has a history of fairly intensive use by fishermen, holiday-makers and off-road vehicle enthusiasts. This pattern of use was well established before the declaration of the area as a nature reserve."

(DMP)

Most of the comments regarding public use were directed at the excessive use of, and damage caused to, the reserve environment. All submissions agreed that the use of off-road vehicles on the reserve was a problem needing urgent attention. Both Harry Frochter and Ms E.H. Duggan agreed that vehicles should be restricted, if possible, to the major tracks, that is, the Cataby-Wedge Island road and the Wedge Island - Lancelin Road. These comments complement suggestions made in the Draft Management Plan.

Increasing public use of the area is also creating problems in fire protection and rubbish disposal. Both the W.A. Naturalists' Club and the Conservation Council recognise these management problems.

As emphasised in the management plan:-

"the sources of the management problems, particularly the settlement of Wedge Point and the developed patterns of access to, and through the area, are beyond the control either of the Department or the Wildlife Authority, while the effects of the resulting use of the reserve are equally beyond the present resources of the Department to regulate effectively."

(DMP).

6. A NATURE RESERVE WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSES VESTED IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY (RESERVE NO. 27216)

The management of this reserve is the responsibility of the Shire of Dandaragan, and flora conservation is a purpose secondary to recreation and camping. The reserve was considered in the plan to review its biological features, to help alert the vesting authority to its values for the conservation of indigenous flora, and to point out management measures that may be desirable to ensure its continuing value as a nature reserve.

Various problems received attention in the submissions relating to this reserve. These included fire protection, pest control and several general considerations, including rubbish dumping.

Fire Protection

The Conservation Council agreed with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife that there is a need for adequate fire control management.

Protection from Pests : Animal and Weed Control

Provision will be retained within this plan for reserve neighbours to draw the attention of the Department to pest control problems such as the rabbit and kangaroo problems mentioned by Mr W.M. Dermer.

General Management Considerations

The Conservation Council, Mr W.M. Dermer and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife agreed that the area needs management measures which will reduce the incidence of fires, rationalise the system of access tracks, rehabilitate areas degraded by rubbish dumping, and prevent rubbish dumping. Probably the best way to combat the problem of rubbish dumping on the reserve is by consultation between the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Dandaragan Shire Council, followed by action by the latter.

7. THE UNVESTED RESERVES

Vesting, reserve viability and fire protection were the main discussion topics in these submissions.

Vesting

Both the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Conservation Council recommended that the unvested reserves, in particular Jam Hill and Wongonderrah, be vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority and managed by this Authority. The Department of Conservation and Environment concluded their submission with:-

"In view of the regional significance of these reserves and the desirability of a continuing management input, it is considered that further efforts to obtain vesting are 'justified'."

Viability

Jam Hill Nature Reserve is one of the three small reserves which the W.A. Naturalists' Club suggested would not be "viable" in the long term. As mentioned earlier, although we agree with the ideas underlying these reservations,

such areas are important as representative samples of the original vegetation in a now primarily agricultural landscape.

Fire Protection

The Dandaragan Shire Council mentioned the necessity of provisions for consultation between the Department, neighbouring landholders and the Shire concerning fire control measures. This provision is implicitly given for each reserve within the plan. The following extract appears under ('MANAGEMENT - FIRE PROTECTION'). Adequacy of Control Measures' for each reserve covered in the plan:

"...this Plan includes the formal provision for Reserve neighbours to draw the attention of the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife to what they consider to be inadequacies in fire protection arrangements for the reserve"

(DMP)

The above statement applies to reserve neighbour and local authority alike as all individuals or groups in the reserve locality are affected by reserve management decisions.

Until the reserves are vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority, the Department does not have a direct responsibility to implement fire protection measures. As such, consideration can only be given to the fire suppression measures suggested by the Dandaragan Shire Council.

8. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

A number of submissions dealt with general problems of management. These range from comments on fire protection, to the problems of "dieback" (Pythopthora cinnamomi), and to the need for better ways of informing the community about nature reserves.

Fire Protection

The Conservation Council raised several points of importance regarding fire protection strategies:

"The adverse effects of too frequent fires on reserved land and Crown land are increasingly evident and widely acknowledged in the scientific community and no more so than in the Dandaragan area and northern heathland. The implementation of a fire regime which protects the ecological values of nature reserves must be considered as a matter of urgency."

The Council continues by stating that:-

"The concern of the local community to protect their properties is understood ...it appears that most fires commence outside the reserves. There is a need for a public education programme to make known that the reserves themselves, given adequate management, do not generally pose a fire risk."

The Bush Fires Board, as part of its general comments, felt that the approach taken in the Draft Plan should alleviate many of the existing fire management problems.

"It is noted that in all cases provision is made for consultation and on site inspection between yourself (the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife) and your (reserve) neighbours on perceived inadequacies in the fire protection plan. This should remove many of the problems encountered in the past."

Inter-agency agreements

Proposals in the Draft Plan for inter-agency agreements covering fire protection were met with whole-hearted agreement by the Bush Fires Board in their submissions. Such inter-agency agreements are vital to the successful management of large tracts of Crown land. This is especially true where Departments with different responsibilities such as the Defence Department and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, exist side by side. Liaison and joint management is particularly important to the successful maintenance of burnt buffer strips such as those suggested for Wanagarren.

Biological Surveys

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife agrees completely with the Conservation Council's suggestion that surveys should be undertaken when funds become available. Surveys are currently under-way in various parts of the south-west. to map the distribution of, and describe, populations of gazetted rare flora.

Dieback

The Conservation Council highlighted the problem of Phytophthora caused dieback, a consideration of which must centre on the need to minimise vehicle movement into the body of reserves. This is best achieved by minimising the accessibility of internal firebreak systems to the public.

Signs

In their submission the Conservation Council expressed some uncertainty as to what are the standard specificat-

ions for Departmental signs. These specifications were not given in the Draft Plan, however they are detailed in Crook, I.G. (1983). Management Plan Supplement No 2 : A Signs Standard for Use in the Management of Nature Reserves in Western Australia. W.A. Dept. Fish. Wildl. : Perth. In general terms this standard is based on wooden signs with routed yellow lettering on a green background.

Community Support and Involvement in Planning

Numerous submissions emphasised the need for closer community involvement in the early stages of planning, an emphasis with which the Department completely agrees. Extracts from some of these submissions follow:

"The Conservation Council believes that it would be of considerable assistance if the Fisheries and Wildlife Department could arrange tours of inspection with the non-government voluntary conservation organisations prior to publication of the draft management plans.

Such tours would cover the reserves to be included in the draft management plan, and would include key personnel from the non-government organisations so that these organisations could undertake further study of the reserves and at the very least familiarise themselves with the areas under consideration.

The Conservation Council also believes that many people in the district are aware of the irreplaceable and intrinsic value of conservation reserves and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in planning and management and promoting nature reserves. Management plans should also include realistic avenues for involving the local community in understanding the reserves".

(Conservation Council)

The following extract is taken from the submission by the W.A. Naturalists' Club:

"Unfortunately, we will not be able to draw upon experience, observations or excursions in the areas under consideration. The reasons being lack of knowledge or stimuli to visit those reserves and the subsequent failure to include them into our annual programs of activities. Why not send us a list of reserves which require looking into or visiting for the purpose of management planning?"

A final extension of the community support idea is the very real need for the Department to actively implement the management prescriptions detailed in the Draft Plan. Mr J.G. Spurge's submission indicates that active management is essential if an appreciation of the value of the nature reserve system is to be achieved.

"From talking to farmers in the district, one gets the impression that most of them would be happy if there were not reserves, mainly because they see them as a refuge for kangaroos and emus, as well as a fire hazard. If they could see an effort being made by the Western Australian Wildlife Authority or some other body, to improve fencing and fire control, this attitude would change."

(Mr J.G. Spurge)

The Department recognises this very real need.

APPENDIX I : COPIES OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS



Department of
CONSERVATION and ENVIRONMENT

DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND
WILDLIFE

your ref:
our ref. 42/80 GW:RNF
enquiries: Gary Whisson

Attention: Dr I Crook

WA NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN NO 5 (DRAFT)
NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN, VOLUME 1

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above
draft Management Plan.

This Department is in general agreement with the
management objectives detailed in the Management Plan
and is particularly pleased to note the efforts to
involve adjacent landowners in the Reserve management
process. Local involvement is considered to be an
important aspect in the successful management of small
and isolated Reserves.

Comments and suggestions relating to specific Reserves
are as follows.

Reserve 23934

The Report makes no mention of maintenance of the firebreaks
which it proposes be constructed, other than that which
could result from a complaint by a neighbouring landowner.

Reserve 27394 - Eneminga Nature Reserve

The management concepts proposed for this Reserve are
supported. It is, however, considered that some thought
could be given to rationalizing the Reserve boundaries by
including in the Reserve, the area enclosed by linking the
south-western corners of the two former Reserves. If this
was achieved now, while this area is vacant Crown land
and still retains vegetation in good condition, the
following benefits would be obtained:

...2/

1 Mount Street, Perth, W.A. 6000 tel. 322 2477

- Vastly improved linkage between the two sections of the Reserve resulting in more complete protection for the central portion of Enemunga Brook and improved Reserve viability.
- A shorter boundary length, reducing management costs.
- The proposed low-fuel buffer zone would be distanced from the significant wetland portions of the Reserve, reducing the potential threat of weed invasion from areas disturbed by the repeated fuel reduction burning.

Reserve 28558, Namming Nature Reserve

The plan proposes that the Reserve be burnt on a rotation basis at intervals of 15 years or other such period as increasing knowledge indicates. It is suggested that some central portions of the Reserve should be protected from fire for periods considerably longer than 15 years. This would maximise the range of fire succession stages represented, add to the overall habitat diversity of the Reserve and is more likely to represent the situation under the 'natural' fire regime.

To consolidate Reserve 28558 and simplify management, it may be appropriate to include in the Reserve the section of disused stock route that bisects it.

Reserves 25254 (Jam Hill Nature Reserve) & 26248 (Wongonderrah Nature Reserve)

In view of the regional significance of these Reserves and the desirability of a continuing management input, it is considered that further efforts to obtain vesting are justified.

C. F. Porter

C F PORTER
DIRECTOR

1 October 1982

FORESTS DEPARTMENT

50 HAYMAN ROAD, COMO, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
P.O. BOX 104, COMO, 6152. TELEPHONE (09) 367 6333

Address all correspondence: Conservator of Forests

Your ref: Our ref: 103/80 PJMcN:LH

Enquiries: Mr. McNamara



DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

WEST AUSTRALIAN NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN NO. 5
NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF DANDARRAGAN VOL. 1

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above document.

I have asked my officers with experience in conservation and fire protection to comment on it.

Their joint opinion is that the document is well thought out and relevant to the conditions in the Shire of Dandaragan.

However, this does not mean that we would necessarily adopt the same approach to the management of the reserves under our control in the higher rainfall regions of the South West, where both the climatic and biotic conditions are markedly different.

Some indication of our approach is given in recent numbers of Forest Focus.

P. J. McNamara

ACTING CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

August 18, 1982

P.J.M.



BUSH FIRES BOARD

ALBERT HOUSE, 10 VICTORIA AVENUE,
PERTH, W.A. 6000. Telephone 325 8588 Area Code 09

1384 P
Robley

The Director
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
108 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH WA CDO

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NATURE RESERVE MANAGE PLAN NO. 5 (DRAFT)
NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN VOLUME 1.

Thank you for your memo of 16 July 1982 and the opportunity to comment on Plan No. 5.

Fire management aspects of the plan generally reflect discussions and points agreed between officers of our respective organisations.

Fire Protection of Reserves 27394 and 28558 includes buffer zones on adjacent vacant Crown land and I wish to confirm that the Bush Fires Board is willing to construct and maintain these buffers to your specifications as part of the Dandaragan Fire Protection scheme.

The Bush Fires Board also offers to assist with prescribed and buffer burning on reserves 28558, and 31675 and co-ordinate local brigade and farmer assistance in support of your Reserves management team if you so wish.

With respect to the buffer burning on vacant Crown land as part of the protective scheme for reserves 27394 and 285598 any assistance you may be able to afford when burning is carried out would be greatly appreciated.

It is noted that in all cases provision is made for consultation and on site inspection between yourself and your neighbours on perceived inadequacies in the fire protection plan. This should remove many of the problems encountered in the past.

The Bush Fires Board considers that the plan sets out a satisfactory basis for fire protection strategy for these reserves.

However at Part 9 paragraph 2 pages 76 and 77 of the plan it is noted that establishment of a Reserves Management Team based at Wongan Hills is a pre-requisite to success of the proposals. Presumably implementation of new fire protection measures must await the establishment of this management team.

DIRECTOR

9 August 1982

JAWR:DC



Western Australian Naturalists' Club (Inc.)

FOUNDED 1924

All correspondence to be addressed to
PO Box 156, Nedlands WA 6009

Naturalists' Hall
65 Merriwa Street
Nedlands WA 6009

24th September, 1982

To the
Director,
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife,
103 Adelaide Terrace,
Perth 6000

Dear Sir,

Comments on NATURE RESERVES of the Shire of Dandaragan, VOL. No. 1
MANAGEMENT PLAN No. 5 (DRAFT)

this club is pleased to submit its comments to the above plan.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to draw upon experience, observations or excursions in the areas under consideration. The reasons being lack of knowledge or stimuli to visit those reserves and the subsequent failure to include them into our annual programs of activities. Why not send us a list of reserves which require looking into or visiting for the purpose of management planning?

We appreciate the efforts by your department to further the cause of nature reserves in producing at least a plan for management of those areas. Obviously, a lot of work is required to finalize a plan acceptable to all parties for each reserve.

It is unfortunate that very little is reserved on the Dandaragan Plateau, and we doubt whether reserves 23934, 25254 and 27219 will be viable on a longrange basis. Reserve 25254 could possibly be extended to the east and south (uncleared land) and perhaps to the west (to include Jam Hill, since it is probably of little agricultural value).

The Fire Protection Policy envisaged for the Eneminga Reserve has our full support. We are very much aware of your obligation to protect the assets of neighbouring landholders. At the same time we reiterate the danger of changing plant communities for the sake of fuel reduction by too frequent prescribed burns.

Nanning Nature Reserve appears to be an important wetland. Only the eastern edge adjoins farmland. Efforts should be made to avoid any further clearing (e.g. Crown Land to the west) and water usage. The demand for water based recreation is not understood by us and attempts should be made to minimize it as far as possible.

In respect to Reserve 31675 we suggest to approach the Shire of Dandaragan for support. Perhaps they are able to exert a certain amount of control over the off-road traffic, camping, rubbish dumping and other mis-uses of the Wedge Point area and beyond in conjunction with your department. If this proves unfeasible and the trail blazing activities of recreation vehicles continue to grow one might as well be realistic and change the emphasis of the reserve from FAUNA AND FLORA to RECREATION. Reviews as proposed on Page 63 in 12 Management/General might take years to finalize. Conversely a continuous strip of coastal reserves would be ideal from a faunistic point of view.

- 2 -

In respect to the unvested Reserve 26248 it is interesting to note that it is apparently surrounded by uncleared crown land, yet for some reason attracted mineral claims. There is no indication in your draft whether these claims a) extend into the adjacent land or b) whether they have lapsed or have been withdrawn in the meantime. If the department considers it a key site it should then follow the matter up.

We do agree with your management strategy under part 9 as outlined and can see that realization of the strategy's objectives do hinge on the necessity to have manpower available at Wongan Hills.

When does that come about?

Are organisations like ours able to provide back-up or pressure to speed up the attainment of the stated objectives?

It would add more weight to this draftplan in general if the authors could research the available literature more closely to include pertinent work by others. Only wildlife officers' reports seem to have been the basis for many observations. We feel that there is more data available from this area than indicated in the appendices. Are there no reptiles or frogs or invertebrates represented in any of those key sites?



Otto Lueller,
President W.A. Naturalists' Club



CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

537 Wellington St, Perth W.A. 6000
Telephone: 3214507

NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN, VOLUME 1
W.A. NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN NO. 5 (Draft)
BY THE FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

SUBMISSION BY CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Conservation Council believes that it would be of considerable assistance if the Fisheries and Wildlife Department could arrange tours of inspection with the non-government voluntary conservation organisations prior to publication of the draft management plans.

Such tours would cover the reserves to be included in the draft management plan, and would include key personnel from the non-government organisations so that these organisations could undertake further study of the reserves and at the very least familiarise themselves with the areas under consideration.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

(a) Purpose of nature reserves

Concern is expressed at the emphasis placed on amenity and recreation usage of nature reserves. While in some cases this is justified, National Parks should fulfil this purpose, rather than nature reserves. Small nature reserves are particularly susceptible to people damage and, while education and research are compatible with conservation, it is thought that some nature reserves may need to have areas designated "restricted" or "limited access".

(b) Reserve Management

The Wongan Hills Reserves Management Team should become a reality as a matter of urgency.

(c) Funding

The Government must set aside financial and human resources to ensure that

/2...

(c) Funding (Continued)

reserve management needs can be met. We cannot stress too strongly the futility of drawing up management plans that cannot be implemented. The provision of funds for reserve management must be given a high priority by the State Government, above that of greyhound racing, above that of the building of freeways, and above that of tourism promotion.

(d) Surveys

When funds permit, thorough ecological surveys of the reserves should be undertaken to rectify the large gaps which exist in present knowledge.

(e) Paucity of nature reserves in Dandaragan Plateau and Dissected Region

This is a matter of grave concern. Should any land be considered suitable for nature reservation in these geomorphological zones, it should be acquired and reserved.

(f) Additions to Existing Reserves

Where the ratio of reserve area to perimeter is unsatisfactory, adjacent land considered suitable should be added to the reserve.

(g) Fire

The Conservation Council endorses the management plans proposed for fire control. The adverse effects of too frequent fires on reserved land and Crown land are increasingly evident and widely acknowledged in the scientific community, and no more so than in the Dandaragan area and northern heathlands. The implementation of a fire regime which protects the ecological values of nature reserves must be considered as a matter of urgency.

The concern of the local community to protect their properties is understood. However, reading the Draft Plan No. 5, it appears that most fires commence outside the reserves. There is need for a public education programme to make known that the reserves themselves, given adequate management, do not generally pose a fire risk.

(h) Dieback

No mention is made of the susceptibility of the flora to dieback and control measures needed. We understand that use of reserves by apiculturists is reasonably well controlled and does not pose a great threat to dieback spread in the area. However, off road vehicles,

/3...

(h) Dieback (Continued)

Mineral exploration and provision of public utilities are matters of concern in relation to dieback spread. These matters should be dealt with in the plan.

(i) Off road vehicles

The effect of the use of these vehicles on nature reserves is not accorded adequate emphasis in the draft management plan. It is our experience that the widespread and virtually uncontrolled use of these vehicles in reserved land poses a very serious threat to the viability of conservation reserves.

(j) Mining and exploration activities

Only one mention is made of mining tenements, yet many tenements exist in the area. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife should enunciate in general or specific terms its policy to mining and petroleum exploration and production on nature reserves.

(k) Public utilities

The effect of power lines, roads, gas pipelines etc. on nature reserves is not assessed in the plan.

(l) Protection from Pests: Animal and weed control

The effect of using herbicides and pesticides on adjacent land or on the reserves is not mentioned. We would appreciate clarification of this point. The burning of road reserves adjacent to nature reserves needs to be better managed to avoid both excessive weed growth on the road reserve and invasion of weeds into the nature reserve. We believe problems of stock entering reserves can be overcome once the Reserves Management Team is working.

(m) Litter

The dumping of rubbish either in pits or generally in nature reserves should not be tolerated. Where camping and recreation are included in the purposes of the reserves, then provision must be made for rubbish disposal. It is suggested that the Reserves Management Team consult with the Shire of Dandaragan to overcome the litter problems at Reserve No. 27216. We would like to see the camping area, Reserve 12473, remain compatible with conservation of the larger reserve.

/4...

(n) Signs

It is not known what the standard specifications of the Department's signs are. It would be helpful if information such as area, importance (i.e., for plants and animals), responsibility, could be included. Also contact for further information.

(o) Community support

The Conservation Council of W.A. believes that many people in the district are aware of the irreplaceable and intrinsic value of conservation reserves and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in planning and management and promoting nature reserves. Management plans should also include realistic avenues for involving the local community in understanding the reserves. We use the example of Mr. Clem Burns of Geraldton and the Burma Road Reserve to illustrate this point.

3. SPECIFIC COMMENTS(a) Reserve No. 31675

The use of off road vehicles in the reserve is a problem needing urgent attention. We would suggest that approved roads be used but remain unsealed, to provide necessary access to Wedge Point from Cataby, and from Lancelin and Nambung National Park. The Wedge Point enclave of vacant crown land should be vested in a Government authority for camping, recreation, and fishing with the power to lease. The use of the camping/recreation reserve should be in accordance with coastal management policies as enunciated by the working party which we understand was set up by the Environment Protection Authority. It is suggested that funds for the roads be sought either through normal allocations or through applying for a tourist grant. The leasing arrangement would ensure that the Authority received sufficient funds to manage the reserve. Management should include provision of ablution facilities, rubbish disposal, water supply and a resident caretaker. All monies raised from the lease should be returned to the reserve, with management being in harmony with the natural environment.

It is accepted that the coastal stretch of Reserve No. 31675 will be increasingly used for recreation. With the enclave at Wedge Point becoming an official camping area and approved roads as above, the Reserve Management team should be able to better control fire, illegal camping etc. and uphold the Wildlife Conservation regulations. While we agree

/5...

(a) Reserve No. 31675 (Continued)

the construction of fire buffers should be a matter of high priority, we ask if the Defence Department does not have some responsibility for providing or funding fire breaks. National Parks Authority should also be consulted so that fire management for Reserves 31675 and 28393 is compatible.

(b) Netlands

The integrated management proposed for the south Dandaragan wetlands is endorsed. The Conservation Council believes that in catering for a wide range of user interests there will be conflicts with conservation interests. It also believes that, given adequate resources, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife should be able to resolve these conflicts.

(i) Reserve No. 28558 (Namming)

From the information provided, this important wetland is considered "at risk". We would suggest that while apiculture should continue, visitor usage should not be encouraged until adequate reserve management, including fire protection as outlined, is implemented.

(ii) Reserve No. 27294 (Eneminga)

Implementation of fire management is crucial.

The possibility of improving the shape of these two Reserves by the addition of adjacent crown land should be pursued, especially Eneminga by the addition of land on the south west. We refer to "Memorandum on the Size, Shape and Disposition of Nature Reserves, National Parks and Similar Conserved Areas" by P.H. Armstrong.

(c) Reserve No. 27219 (Minyulo)

It is a sad reflection that this reserve, small and inadequate as it is, is designated a "key site". Viability could be improved by adjacent land owners being given incentives to replant buffer strips of indigenous species of trees and shrubs. The South Australian Heritage agreements scheme or the Victorian assistance scheme for tree planting are models for Western Australia to draw from.

(d) Reserve No. 27216 (See Page 3 for note on Litter)

Provision of facilities should be contained within Reserve No. 12473. Adequate fire control management is the highest priority.

/6...

6.

(e) Unvested Reserves

Reserves Nos. 25254 and 26248 should be vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority and also Reserve No. 27993 if the Authority considers it viable. Protection is needed if further inroads into No. 27993 are to be prevented. While it appears insignificant, it could be a useful link in the wetland system.

The possibility of extending Reserve No. 25254 should be investigated. Vesting of Reserve No. 26248 with the Western Australian Wildlife Authority is a priority. Following this, a management plan should be produced for the Reserve.

4. CONCLUSION

While it is difficult to comment on reserves in isolation, we thank the Fisheries and Wildlife Department for the opportunity to comment on Draft Management Plan No. 5.

The lack of opportunity to proclaim nature reserves in the Dissected Region and Dandaragan Plateau should serve to highlight the general need to reserve, with A Class classification, land for conservation, and for conservation and recreation. This classification is essential. Much of the area is under mineral exploration and therefore available for development.

The Conservation Council strongly endorses the vesting of reserves in appropriate authorities which have adequate powers to manage in accordance with the purpose of the reserves. In addition to adequate powers, these authorities must be provided with funds and manpower to implement sensitive management.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.
537 Wellington Street,
PERTH, W.A. 6000.

29th Sept 1982

SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN

COUNCIL OFFICES: DANDARAGAN, W.A. 6507

Telephones: General Enquiries 095 44 1010, Health Building 095 48 1020



All correspondence to be addressed
to the SHIRE CLERK.

In reply refer to: Res 1

IFR:KAC

24th November 1982

Your reference:

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
108 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir,

RE: NATURE RESERVES OF SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN, VOLUME ONE

Council has considered the above mentioned report and wishes to submit the following comments in relation to the report.

Unvested Reserves - 25254, 26248 and 27993

The plan does not offer any proposals as to fire protection of these areas. Council submits that fire protection measures for the unvested reserves include construction and maintenance of perimeter firebreaks which are of a standard not less than as required by the Shire Firebreak Order for rural lands. The order reads as follows:

1. Clear of all inflammable material, firebreaks at least 3 (three) metres wide inside and within 50 (fifty) metres of all external boundaries of all improved land owned or occupied by you. For the purpose of this section, all road reserves are to be taken as boundaries.
2. Where the bush on the land owned or occupied by you has been bulldozed, chained or prepared in any similar manner for clearing by burning (whether you intend to burn the bush or not), clear of all inflammable materials, firebreaks not less than 20 (twenty) metres wide immediately inside the external boundaries of the land on which the bulldozed, chained or otherwise prepared bush is situated.
3. Where there is standing timber on land owned or occupied by you and it is intended to burn such timber, to clear of all inflammable material, firebreaks not less than 20 (twenty) metres wide immediately inside the external boundaries of the land on which the timber is standing.
4. Landowners and/or occupiers adjoining vacant Crown Land are, in addition to the above, encouraged to maintain external firebreaks where their property adjoins the vacant Crown Land.

...2

Provision should be made for consultation between the Department, neighbouring landholders and the Shire concerning this and other fire control measures from time to time.

Reserve 27219 - Minyulo Nature Reserve

Refer Page 32 - Clause 8.2.

This paragraph refers to "maintenance of a firebreak system on the Reserve to its present standard". It is felt that the present standard is not satisfactory. It is suggested that firebreaks be maintained to a standard not less than as specified in the Shire Firebreak Order.

Council is also of the opinion that no more Fisheries and Wildlife Reserves should be created without prior reference to Council for comment. Council would also like greater consultation on planning of additional reserves.

I hope the foregoing comments are found to be constructive and I wish to thank you for the opportunity of making a submission in relation to the report.

Yours faithfully,

I.W. Stubbs

I.W. Stubbs
Shire Clerk

per
J/R

Regina Ford Fire Brigade
Dandaragan 6507,
27/1/83.

Kane Hurst. (Sec.).
c/o Dandaragan P.O.
6507. W.A.
telephone: 095 442015.

Dear Sir,

Regarding locations 28558 and 27394, and proposed suggestions for the wildlife and fauna protection of these reserves.

It is of the opinion of the members of this brigade that the biggest problem is of management from the proposed Wongan Hills Reserves Management team.

In the past this brigade has spent days in these areas extinguishing fires lit by lightning to protect free-hold land adjoining the said reserves.

To suggest that a buffer zone of 400 metres be burnt around the perimeters of these reserves is ludicrous;

In theory a perfect idea but in practice an impossibility.

The crown land adjoining these reserves are the obvious and main danger.

In comparison the areas of the reserves are minute.

To protect and preserve the said species mentioned in your report is of as much concern to us as it is to the state. As a majority of landholders have been established here for 30 odd years and others longer it is of the brigades suggestions that the said reserves be divided into manageable sections by 20 metre breaks. This will enable the Management Team and this Brigade more chance of controlling a fire under reasonable conditions if the need arises.

It would be much appreciated by this brigade, if a person of qualified knowledge of these areas would personally discuss these problems with this Brigade.

Looking forward to a co-operative reply,

Yours faithfully,

L. Hurst

For on and behalf of The Regans Ford Fire Brigade.

Engin-6503
25-70-82

The Nature Reserves Management
of Sandaragan

Dr. Bowen
Dept of Fisheries & Wild life
Perth.

Dear Sir

Re: letter of 16 Sept '82.
Having known a few of the last-surviving
aborigines their offspring in
the best Sandaragan Country about
1918-20, I was familiar with their
tendency, & need, to burn natural Bush
as often as possible, i.e. every three to
four years, to attract the natural
Game onto the younger regrowth.

History suggests the present-day Flora
survived that Era of Management.

There followed the advent of the
Kangaroo shooters mainly white men
on horseback, who carried on the method

for the

same reason, but their motive was to increase their daily Roo-skin tally.

This had the desired effect of preventing "over-stocking" of young flora, thus avoiding the elimination of the more attractive species promoted by firing and more palatable to animal life.

With some assistance from the Dingo, there was established a 'Balance of Nature' due above relates to ~~seasonal~~ growth.

As for the larger & perennial species, they become 'burnable' only after longer periods between fires. If left too long, the burn becomes more fierce and consequently more damaging, & re-establishing slower.

The Coastal treeless Country will burn more often than generally, than timber country, - being open to hot dry winds. This is largely avoided if firing is done in late afternoon, when cooler winds prevail from the sea.

Yours sincerely

W. B. Wedge

09

35 Haver St

Cottesloe 6011

24th Oct 82

Mr B. H. Bauer

Director

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Dear Mr Bauer

Thank you for the copy of Nature Reserves of Shire of Dandaragan Vol 1, and also your letter following same.

Firstly would you record my address as 35 Haver St, Cottesloe (It was previously Yeneadin.)

Concerning Managarna Reserve, I agree with observations made in the report.

The settlement at Wedge Point seems to be a responsible one and not to create many problems. Experience points rather to shooters where vandalism is concerned - at least in the case of private property.

Indiscriminate formation of tracks

set the scene for wind erosion, especially over the tops of dunes. It has proved expensive to re-establish the natural vegetation in the wake of trawlers. Access roads to Wedge Point from Cataby on crown land would be an improvement and hopefully deter the use of numerous tracks. Naturally, I am interested in regard to M.L.C. 3379. Strategic usable tracks through the reserve would be an advantage to the public wishing to enjoy the flora and fauna.

I was interested in the proposed 200m main road to cut off the south-west corner of 3379. Though not scheduled to be constructed in the near future, it would have a bearing on internal roads, as it proceeds through the reserve. I would be interested to know the course it will take after leaving my property.

Regarding the hazards of fire, I support the perimeter buffer plan. Would you consider that controlled burning

of various sections at fairly long intervals would be an advantage in preventing uncontrolled fires from sweeping through large areas?

If done at the correct time, there may not be lasting damage, as vegetation is quickly re-established in early summer.

Best wishes for preservation of nature reserves

Yours sincerely
Hope Huggan
(Mrs E.H.)

**RANFURLY PASTORAL
COMPANY**
AND
RANFURLY PARK PTY. LTD.
Registered Stud:
POLL DORSET - BORDER LEICESTER
POLL SHORTHORN

Ranfurlly Park
P.O. Box 9, Moora,
Western Australia 6510
TELEPHONE 095 41 1354

28th Nov 1982

The Director
Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife
107 Adelaide St.
Perth.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the copy
of reserve draft plan No 5 of reserves in the
Shire of Landisburg.

The report is so comprehensive &
carefully prepared that we feel that very little
can be added to your plans for protection &
use of these areas.

We note your methods of preventing
brush fires & fully concur. In large reserves
it would be necessary to have widest
say 20 metre breaks through the middle to
control fires on hot windy days.

In the Moora Shire reserve No 25256
- 3637 which adjoins us has not been
burnt since 1940 & may be of interest

**RANFURLY PASTORAL
COMPANY**
AND
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Ranfurlly Park
P.O. Box 9, Moora,
Western Australia 6510
TELEPHONE 095 41 1354

in evaluating a non learning program.

It is often claimed that kangaroos do considerable damage, they are easily controlled & their damage is minimal compared with an incompetent landholder.

Wishing you every success
Yours sincerely
Whitton L. Smith

S. & M. JAKOVICH

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3 MAHLBERG AVENUE,
WOODLANDS, W.A. 6018
TELEPHONE 446 1736

26th November 1982

Mr B.K. Bowen,
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH, W.A. 6000.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of September 16, 1982, inviting comments re the proposed Nature Reserves in the Shire of Dandaragan. Hence, we take the opportunity to put forth suggestions on the clearing of fire-breaks.

Firstly, we feel that a 45 metre width fire-break needs to be cleared around the entire perimeter of the reserve.

Secondly, fire-break strips of 30 metre width need to be spread out across the reserve at approximately two kilometre intervals.

No doubt, you have already included in your plan the excavation of several water holes throughout the reserve.

If you are seeking advice or costing re the undertaking of such earthworks development, please feel free to contact us as we have the appropriate machinery as well as years of experience in this type of work. Also, we have cleared fire-breaks for the Department's Nature Reserves in the past.

Yours faithfully,
S. & M. JAKOVICH

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Jakovich'.

Sam Jakovich,
Manager.

P.O. Sendarogan,
1-1-1983

B. H. Bowen,
Director,
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife,

Re. Draft Wetland Reserves Management Plan;
Wetland Reserves of the Mire of Sendarogan Vol. 1.

Dear Sir,

You have requested comment on the above document. Insofar as the plan for Reserve No 27219, which affects an area neighbours to the reserve, I can only say that I have no objection to the planned management as tried out.

I can see that a lot of time and effort has been put into the compiling of the plan and I congratulate you and your staff for the positive and sensible approach to the management of the reserves.

Yours faithfully

W. E. HODDEN

The Director
B. K. BOWEN

19/1/83
B. N. SORENSEN
5/11 OUTRAM ST
WEST PERTH.

Dear Sir

Re Draft Nature Reserves Management
Plan (ENEMINGA)

I agree with your suggestions as to
the management of A 127394.

My only concern is that if the public
is made aware of the advantages of the
area then access must be clearly
defined. As port owner of MELB LOC 3353
I have experienced cut fences and
have seen tyre marks along our fence
line and straggling through our property.
I assume that these people have lost
their direction and have caused damage
to our wildflower farm. I have also seen
cases where people have been hopelessly
bogged in this area. These instances will
surely multiply with the inexperienced
adventurer.

The vegetation grows rapidly and I
have noticed most of the major plants
have practically grown over.

Last weekend I estimated sixteen duck shooters on the lake. These were in one group and came from Perth. They gained access somehow from the North West. Many more are bound to follow so it would seem that a defined camping area may be desirable.

The area is particularly beautiful in spring and should attract many people. Canoeing of light sail boats would be ideal at that time of the year and should not affect the breeding habits of the willow owl.

With increasing leisure activity demands will be placed on areas such as Ereminga and it is most important to protect such a valuable asset.

Yours sincerely

B. M. Conway

P.S. Please note change of address.

"Rosami"
42 Grider St.,
Cottosloe,
W. A. 6011
15 12 82

B. K. Bowen
Director
Dept. Fisheries

Dear Mr. Bowen,
re Draft Nature Reserves Manage-
ment Plan: Nature Reserves of the
Shire of Dandenong Vol. I.

I refer to the above and
your most recent letter dated
Dec. 10 and to the final para.
in that letter.

From the somewhat cursory
study I have made of the Plan
it appears to me that my
property on the North (or the South)
side will not be affected.

However I am enclosing
a simple copy of my land

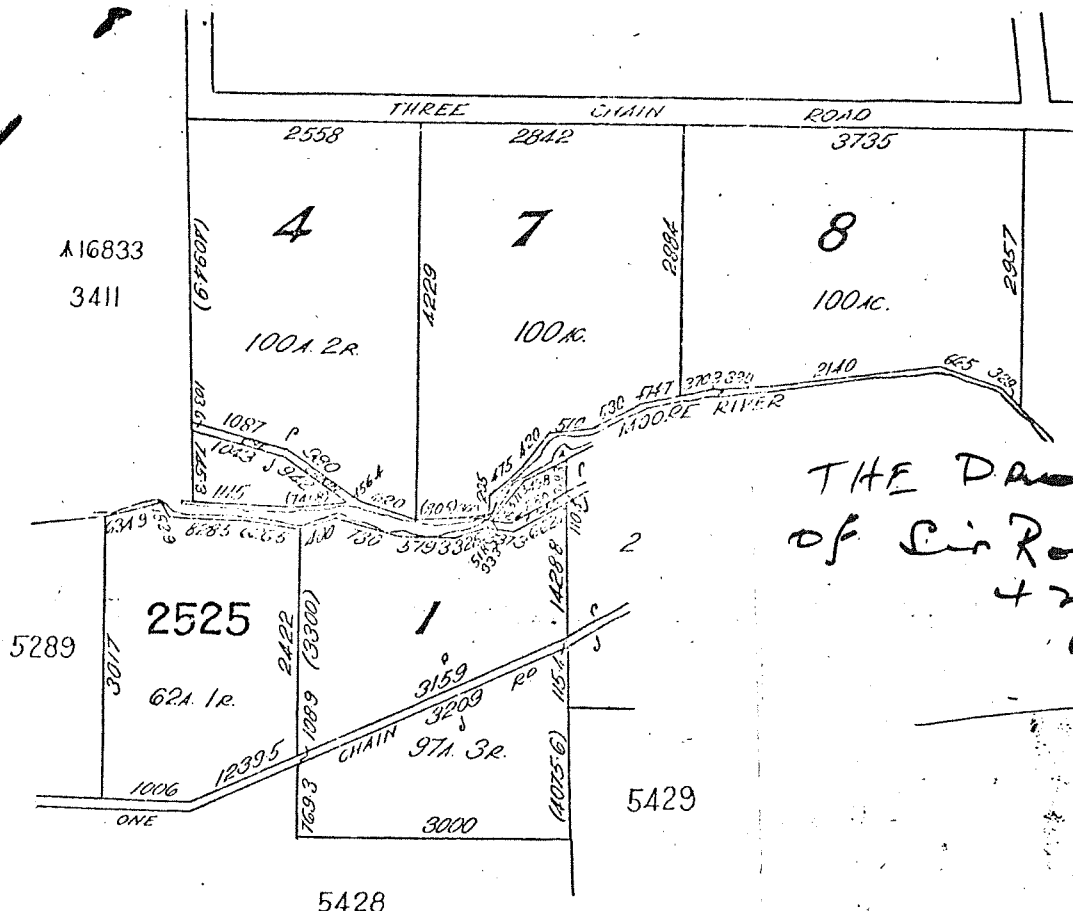
holding on the Moon
River and prevent the trust
that my understanding is a
correct one. Should this not
be the case I would be strong
in my protest against any
possible resumption or indeed
any government action to
deprive me of the small area
I now own

I would be pleased to
hear of your reassurance
in this matter.

Your faithfully

Rose H. Hutchinson

Location 2525 and Muchamulla Agricultural Area Lots 1, 4, 7 and 8.



THE PROPERTY
 of Sir Ross Hutchins
 + 2 Grives St
 Cottages

May One thousand nine hundred and sixty-three.

[Signature]
 Registrar of Titles.

14 Dallwin St,
Dianella, 6062.
29th September, 1982.

To Mr Bower
4. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Dear Sir,
Re: Shire of Dardavagan
Native Reserves.

Herewith are my views on the above.
Overall the current management
plan related to conserving areas for flora
and fauna are commended and should be
continued.

However, it appears that Reserve
No. 31675, the Waragora Native Reserve, is
deteriorating at a progressive stage due
to off road usage and through lack of
regular deterrent patrols.

If this unofficial public usage
of ill defined tracks continues other parts
of the coastal regions within this reserve
may be destroyed in years to come. This
is not wanted by the majority of people
coming to the area and stronger management
to safeguard the fragile areas is strongly
urged. It appears the inland parts of
this reserve require little management, but
obviously there is no current usage of
the area. The same can not be said for
the coastal strip.

Yours faithfully,
Harry Frochter.

To the DIRECTOR,
EXTENSION + PUBLICITY OFFICE,
DEPT. FISHERIES + WILDLIFE,
108 ADELAIDE TCE,
PERTH

K+R SKEWLEY
P.O. Box 30,
BADGINGARRA
W.A. 6521.
Sept. 20th, '82.

Dear Mr Bowen,
Thank you for the copies of the
draft management plan; which we find most informative
and interesting. Greatly illuminating my inferior
knowledge.

There is nothing we feel requires a submission
on our part. The matter appears to have been
admirably thought out, and in the interest of the
public, and district residents in particular.

Yours Sincerely,
Rhonda Skewley.

Mr. W.M.Dermer,
13 Overton Gardens,
COTESLOE.

6th October, 1982.

Mr. B.K.Bowen,
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife,
108 St. George's Tce.,
PERTH WA 6000.

Dear Sir,

re: RESERVE 27216

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to make a few comments and suggestions in regard to the management of the above reserve which forms the Western boundary of our property Melbourne Loc. 3900.

Our main worry is regarding bushfires and we would like to see a firebreak, 1 chain wide, 10 chains in from the boundary made, surrounding the reserve. This could be burnt back yearly as a protection to our property, our neighbours and the Reserve itself.

I feel the Reserve should be divided into sections and burnt in rotation in order that the fire does not become hot enough to destroy the native seeds thereby keeping the natural foliage and improving it. It is in my opinion that more burns will maintain the environment as it was before roads and firebreaks went in. This country (low scrub) caught fire about every five years in its natural state. Now the breaks allow the scrub to grow too dense choking out the flora and feed for the fauna. This is why the Macropus is destroyed by the fierceness of the fires when the reserve is set alight which could be from many causes eg. several years ago a fuel truck ran off the road and exploded. We are also worried that in the advent of it being developed as a campsite, campers, dogs and cats will stray (the fellow who left the car bodies in the area, believe it or not, had eight dogs when he lived there some two years ago) and destroy our stock as has happened in the past when it was used as a campsite, and just recently we have had a spate of killings of young sheep, 8 young weaners, in the paddock bordering the Reserve. The Reserve is also full of wildcats which are creating havoc on the bird life especially the beautiful finch nests that are destroyed when the young are fat. The bush rabbits are devastated by them too.

The Kangaroo population has got out of hand and need thinning out and we have at least 20 on our boundary every day. They are also a danger to traffic on Mulling road dividing the Reserve.

Hoping these comments and suggestions will be of use to you.

I remain,

Yours sincerely.

B. Dermer
William M. Dermer.


P.S.

I would like to take you to lunch one day if you are ever in Fremantle as we have a lot more thoughts which are hard to express in a letter.

attached to Draft Mgmt Plan
Request (Dandaragan)
16/11/82 gw

O. E. INNES
6 Malba Cres
Diannelu
6062

Dear Sir, Re 343 sq mtrs Shire of Dandaragan
As I have been unable
owing to the death of my husband
to contact you earlier If its not
too late I would appreciate seeing
the draft.

However, in general I feel
the reserves where possible should
have accessibility for enjoyment of
viewing the flora with a view to
extension to Tourist buses which
cover the Pinnacles area & many have
wildflower tours perhaps at a central
point a long covered cool area
where people could alight & sit
 & at some vantage points
perhaps a facility with toilets
& water could be available & barbecue

2

equipment & if within a reasonable distance from a town & the various service industries of Apex, towns, schools etc could utilise these venues. Promotion of what is available to see & use is always necessary & should be a priority its surprising how lacking is the knowledge of what & where to visit by the general public & departments.

If any areas abound still with Wildlife how wonderful if a lodge could be established with the view of people being able to see the life & habitat of the animals & the only weapon allowed being a camera. (Light in South Africa) the municipalities at what could be done of interest as there.

Yours faithfully
O.E. James



TELEPHONE: 098-46 7013

**NYLAGARDA BIRD PARK
AND SHELL MUSEUM**

LOT 9446 CANTABILING RD. EAST JURIEH BAY. POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 20, JURIEH, W.A. 6516

20-12-82.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your draft

Nature Reserves Management Plan I find practically all aspects very well covered. I do however have one suggestion.

When shires, or main roads dep'ts move into an area to upgrade or make or repair roads they invariably choose an area of good gravel, from which to obtain their base. They carelessly bulldoze off the top soil and then dig, sometimes quite deep holes, and in cases hectares large. These areas leave ugly scars on which nothing can possibly grow, and catching the eye of all who pass with their starkness.

My suggestion is that as an area is used up the loose topsoil should be dozed back. It would of course be deeper than the surrounding area but at least in time the scrub will grow back.

Yours sincerely
D. L. Little.

"WARWICK PARK"
MOORA,
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6510

Jan 10th 1983

The Director,
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife
Perth.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter
of Dec. 10th re management plan for Native
Herons of the Shire of Mandurah.

I agree in principle with the recommendations
and consider the benefit on the total
study and production of the Volume.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Hamilton



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Synod of Western Australia

MOORA PARISH

Manse: 54 Lefroy Street,
Moora 6510

Tel. (095) 41 1423

26 January 1983

The Director
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
108 Adelaide Tce
Perth W.A. 6000

SUBMISSION in response to "NATURE RESERVES OF THE SHIRE OF
DANDARAGAN, Volume One: Western Australian Nature
Reserve Management Plan No. 5 (Draft)"

The reports on the nature reserves in the southern portion of the Dandaragan Shire indicate that a significant amount of care and research has been given to establishing a base level of information about these environments, which is pleasing to see. I believe the importance of establishing and maintaining representative samples of the country in a healthy natural state is urgently in need of re-affirmation.

Whilst it is important for private land-holders to be encouraged to respect the natural ecosystem and to preserve pockets of it, it is imperative that government agencies ensure that reserves are kept throughout regions like this one.

The condition and treatment of the land in this region clearly is determined by human needs and interests. But this does not mean we may treat non-human nature as of no value except for its usefulness to us. As a Christian, my understanding is that all of God's creation has value and is therefore to be treated with reverence for the sake of its Maker, who accounted it "good". Individuals, communities and governments are to be responsible stewards of the earth - both as we work it to gain a livelihood through food or other products, and as we use it for interest and recreation. As well as harnessing the natural world in a sustainable way so that we and our descendants may live in it, I believe it is important to preserve some parts of the natural environment because it can give aesthetic enjoyment and spiritual enrichment as the life of non-human living things and the inanimate situation are respected for themselves. But as well as what we can 'get out' of the experience of nature, protecting the right to exist for sections of natural landscape is a way of honouring the design of God the Creator.

Accordingly, I would encourage the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Western Australian Wildlife Authority to maintain and extend their work of preservation and conservation, especially as proposed in the Dandaragan Shire.

.... / 2

In our pluralistic society there are many different views about proper priorities for the conservation or development of natural resources. Conflict about needs and priorities for land use needs to respect the existence of sectional interests of groups such as farmers, fishermen, 'developers', tourists, off-road trail riders and so on, and appropriate opportunities for consultation needs to be safeguarded so that one power-group does not necessarily over-rule other interests - possibly for ever. The existing policy of consultation and co-operation with neighbouring land owners is to be endorsed. There would also appear to be scope for co-operation with the National Parks Authority in this region.

With respect to Namning Nature Reserve (No. 28558) it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to establish an integrated management policy across boundaries of tenure for the best care of the whole wetlands system (ref. paragraph 7).

With respect to Managarren Nature Reserve (No. 31675) it is disappointing to note that uncontrolled public use has resulted in the deterioration of the natural environment (paragraph 5). It is regrettable that a plan for future programmes of information education and supervision, as well as for co-operation between appropriate public authorities and local groups has not been proposed. Perhaps the W.A.W.A. could seek more staff and funding from the government. I think it is an abdication of responsibility to be content with improving fire control yet ignore the ever extending impact of irresponsible people using that area.

Section 9 - Conclusions. Rather than continuing the present system of minimal management activity I would like to see an increase in the level of active management. It seems that the establishment of a Reserves Management Team at Wongan Hills is an urgent priority for the Department and the Government and I hope the Department will do all possible to effectively implement it. I also hope that full backing of the plan will include sufficient financial allocation for it to be implemented.

In a time of massive unemployment it would be a cruel irony if proper management and control of our nature reserves was ignored because of a shortage of manpower. It is to be hoped that the Government will be urged to allocate more funds for the employment of people who will help to conserve the national heritage throughout the nation, including the Dandaragan Shire, and I hope the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife presses this point home.

I hope that submissions on the Draft Management Plan No. 5 will be speedily considered, the final plan decided promptly and then efficiently implemented.

Yours faithfully,

K. D. Devereux

(Rev'd K. D. Devereux)

120 Watsonia Rd.
Gooseberry Hill
W.A., 6076.
7.2.83.

Director, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Tce,
Perth, 6000.

Dear Sir,

Having read the 'Nature Reserves of the Shire of Sandaragan' Volume 1, it seems to me a very well thought out document, with a realistic view about what needs to be done in the future.

All I would wish to add is that reserves such as '1576', which is vested in the local shire, should, if possible, be re-vested in the W.A. Wildlife Authority. I think this also applies to ~~and~~ Key-Site Ecosystem Reserve which is unvested.

It also seems to me that on a reserve like '27394' hunting should be discouraged if possible. Also where a reserve bordering undeared crown land could be enlarged, this would be a good idea.

From talking to farmers in the district, one gets the impression that most of them would be happy if there were no reserves; mainly because they see them as a refuge for kangaroos and emus, as well as a fire hazard. If they could see an effort being made by the W.A.W.A., or some other body, to improve fencing and fire control, this attitude, I'm sure, would change.

It also seems sensible to use reserves for beekeeping and wildflower harvesting, because of the immediate economic gain - which is an argument governments understand, as long as these two uses do not affect the reserves in the long term.

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this survey.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. Spurge.

"Nammen"
Pandalanagar
6507
27-1-83.

Mr B. K. Bowen.

Dear Sir,

I have to hand your letter of 10/12/82. concerning Reserve no. 28558.

With reference to the Draft Nature Reserves management Plan, you will have received a letter from the Regan's Ford Fire Brigade, which covers the opinion of, we, the members.

Personally, the reserves you have placed under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries & Wildlife Dept are quite large enough & I would hope there are not ideas of taking up any more.

Paragraph 9.6 suggests it should only be burned at intervals of 15 yrs. From experience this just wouldn't be feasible.

However, I hope we will discuss these things more fully, when we meet as suggested by the Regan's Ford Fire Brigade.

Yours faithfully
Mrs. Shirley Harris.

K.E. & A.C. Smith,
"Mt. Misery",
Cataby Road,
DANDARAGAN 6507

Mr B.K. Bowen,
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH 6000

27th September, 1982.

Dear Sir,

RE: Management of Nature reserves of the
Shire of Dandaragan.

We are in receipt of your letter dated, 16th instant,
and are pleased to have the opportunity to submit a
written comment of the above.

There are two main areas of concern to us, from a
farming point of view: 1. Fire
2. Rabbits

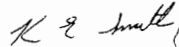
The fire risk we consider the greater of the two
listed. The reserve joining our property is number 27219,
"Minyulo Nature Reserve", and stretches along approximately
one third of our boundary, exposing our property to a
serve fire hazard. Further enhancing the hazard is the
restricted road access to our property, shown clearly of
your map, page 29. We suggest the following for fire
prevention;

1. In addition to the boundary fire break,
approximately half way down the reserve
a fire break running east to west.
2. A periodical control burn, excluding the
area of Wandoo, every eight to ten years.

With regard to the rabbits, the reserve appears to
be acting as ideal breeding grounds, with the rabbits
feeding on the neighbouring pastures. We requested the
Agriculture Protection Board to poison the rabbits on
the reserve and because it was necessary to include a
poison trail on our property, to have an effective
poisoning, we had to bear the cost. We consider the
cost should be met in full by the appropriate government
body and that the poisoning should be carried out annually,
as allready the rabbits are increasing in number from
the summer 1982 poisoning.

We thank you for this opportunity to state the above.

Yours faithfully,



K.E. SMITH for
K.E. & A.C. SMITH