

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 4 - DEPARTMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES -
DECEMBER 1985

Introduction

Advisory Committees were established by the former Forests Department and the National Parks Authority for several locations. They have also been discussed in the context of the Conservation and Land Management Act since the formation of the Department, as one means of allowing greater participation by the public in the activities of the Department.

Although Advisory Committees will obviously need to operate in different circumstances, it is considered that there should be an overall policy for their operation. This may need to be varied as experience in their operation is gained.

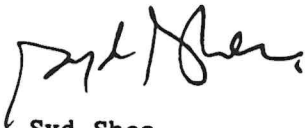
Advisory Committees have sometimes been confused with 'Management Committees' (which have an executive role) and 'Consultative Committees' (which are merely for exchange of information). Both concepts will need to be avoided if Advisory Committees are to succeed in the envisaged role. This is addressed in (5) below.

There has also been public airing of "friends of" particular National Parks and other areas. These are clearly bodies which operate outside the Department (but with which the Department will seek to co-operate). They should not be confused with Departmental Advisory Committees.

Policy

- 1 Advisory Committees will be advisory to the Executive Director through the appropriate Regional Manager, (i.e. not to the Minister, or the Lands and Forests Commission or the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority). Members will however be appointed by the Minister.
- 2 Membership will be selected on the basis of expertise and experience. Such expertise and experience will include that gained in local government. (In practice this will probably mean that at least one representative of relevant Shires is included in the Committee).
- 3 Government representation will be kept to a minimum and will normally be confined to one officer of this Department.
- 4 Non Departmental membership should generally be for a two year period, with a view to rotating membership to ensure that the committee includes people who have an understanding of current community concerns and interests.
- 5 Role of Advisory Committees should be to:
 - (a) advise the Department on preparation of Management Plans for the Authority and the Commission, and to assist in their development;
 - (b) advise on the implementation of Management Plans;

- (c) provide advice on issues referred to the committee (through the Regional Manager) by the Department, or the Minister, or the Authority or Commission;
- (d) bring before the Department matters of concern or interest to their responsibilities;
- (e) assist the Department in promulgation of information to the public;
- (f) provide liaison between the Department, local government and the community.



Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 December, 1985