

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 18

RECREATION

MARCH 1991

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RECREATION POLICY

Objective

It is the Department's responsibility to conserve Western Australia's wildlife and to manage the public lands and waters entrusted to it for the benefit of present and future generations. In so doing, CALM recognises that W A has a beautiful and diverse natural environment which provides recreational, aesthetic and spiritual as well as material benefits for both residents and visitors alike.

This policy statement spells out the underlying principles, administrative controls and, where appropriate, operational guidelines and procedures relating to CALM's Recreation objective, which is:

To facilitate the public enjoyment of the natural attributes of public lands and reserved waters in a manner that does not compromise conservation and other management objectives.

Background

There is a substantial and rapidly increasing demand for access to lands and waters entrusted to the Department for recreation. For the purposes of this policy recreation is defined as those leisure time activities or experiences participated in through choice which bring enjoyment or satisfaction to the participants.

It is recognised that lands and waters entrusted to the Department have the capacity to satisfy an important portion of the public demand for outdoor recreation and in so doing contribute significantly to social, psychological, physical and economic well-being of people of this State. Furthermore the Department can and should use recreation to present the lands (and waters) and their care and management.

The demand for recreation is reflected in the legislation and has been established as a major objective of the Departmental Corporate Plan.

The policies outlined below will apply to all lands and waters entrusted to the Department, including classifications not yet established but which may be introduced.

The policies are based on knowledge and experience at this time and may change as further knowledge and experience is accumulated.

In development and interpretation of policies, it is useful to bear in mind the following general principles:

(i) Preservation of Land Values

The values of the land as a whole should be maintained. The natural systems (including landscapes, particular sites, biota) should be able to sustain the form of recreation, or ancillary activity, which is occurring or is proposed.

Consistent with preservation of land values, facilities associated with recreation should be carefully controlled. Facilities for organised sports for example, should generally be minimal on most categories of land (see (ii)).

Also consistent with preservation of land values, the CALM Act (Section 33) circumscribes the ability of the Department to carry out other than "necessary operations" unless there is an approved management plan in place.

The intensity of recreational activity should be controlled if necessary to insure that it does not destroy the value and nature of the activity.

(ii) Consistency of Recreation with Purpose of the Land

Recreational activity should be compatible with the purpose of the land or the established land use priority. This includes the relatively well known categories of land such as State forest, national park and nature reserve, but also includes allowance for new categories which may arise.

(iii) Equity

Generally the widest range of activities consistent with the purpose of vesting should be allowed, but uses which impair other forms of use to an unreasonable extent or place the safety of other users in jeopardy, should be controlled or eliminated. In certain instances, priority use may be allocated to specialised recreation activities at sites which are uniquely suited to those activities.

(iv) Management

The Department should provide any necessary degree of supervision of the activity, particularly where land values may be impaired. If this cannot be done the activity should where practicable be restricted, relocated or eliminated.

Policy

Policy statements have been developed in two broad categories, first those which can be applied to a number of different activities and categories of reserve and secondly those relevant to specific activities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Statements Which May Apply Across All Activities or Several Categories of Reserves

	Page
1.1 Recoupment - Fees & Charges	1
1.2 Commercial Concessions (tour operators, outdoor recreation programmes, guided activities, facility operators, etc.)	2
1.3 Leases for Associations and Clubs	8
1.4 Overnight Stays (accommodation, camping)	9
1.5 Visitor Safety	13
1.6 Special Groups/Events	15
1.7 Filming/Photography	16
1.8 Public Access	17
1.9 Facilities/Buildings	20
1.10 Protection of Recreation Site Values	22
1.11 Visitor Information	23
1.12 Domestic Animals	26
1.13 Visitor Interaction Skills	28
1.14 Research Monitoring (surveys)	29
1.15 Liaison with other Agencies (i.e. outdoor recreation groups, tourism groups, etc.)	31

2. Activity Specific

2.1 Vehicle Based Activities	33
2.1.1 Cycling	33
2.1.2 Off-Road Vehicles	35
2.1.3 Vehicle Rallying (Social)	38
2.1.4 Scenic Driving	40
2.1.5 Competitive Car Rallies and Other Motor Sports	41

	Page
2.2 Boating/Canoeing/Sailing	49
2.3 Swimming	51
2.4 Fishing/Marroning/Spearfishing/Crabbing	53
2.5 Picnicking and Barbecuing	56
2.6 Nature Study/Appreciation	58
2.7 Bushwalking	60
2.8 Equestrian Activities	64
2.9 Hunting, Fossicking and Collecting	68
2.9.1 Hunting	68
2.9.2 Fossicking	69
2.9.3 Collection of Marine and Intertidal Organisms	71
2.10 Aircraft	74
2.11 Rock Climbing and Abseiling	76
2.12 Orienteering/Roganing/Cross Country Running	78
2.13 Caving	81
2.14 Cave Diving	84
2.15 Shooting	85
2.16 Model Aircraft/Rockets	87
2.17 Hang Gliding/Parapenting	88

1.1 Recoupment - Fees & Charges

Introduction

The recouping of fees from users can offset the costs of management and raise funds for the provision of facilities and services for users. The charging of a fee also provides a management tool for redirecting a particular use or discouraging overuse. The charging of a fee can also add value to a place, or experience for the user.

Policy

--

- 1.1.1 Whenever possible and appropriate, fees will be collected from users when a service or opportunity is provided as long as the benefit to the Department exceeds the cost of collection.
- 1.1.2 A variety of alternative recoupment methods will be used including lease fees (see 1.2); permit fees (see 1.7); visitor entry fees, vehicle entry fees; program or service fees and voluntary donations.
- 1.1.3 The level of fees will be set from time to time by the Minister according to a number of factors including management costs, comparable fees for equivalent facilities and services, and the intention of encouraging or discouraging particular uses.
- 1.1.4 Opportunities should be taken wherever possible (through signs, brochures and verbal communication) to explain that fees are going towards management and facilities.
- 1.1.5 Waiver of fees is the prerogative of the Minister (or delegate). Fees will not normally be waived. Guidelines on waiver will be prepared for information of staff, and advice to the public.

1.2 Commercial Concessions

Definition

A commercial concession is a "right granted by way of lease, licence, or permit for occupation or use of part of an area of land or water entrusted to the Department, for the purposes of provision of appropriate facilities and services for visitors' use and enjoyment". (CONCOM Working Group Paper on Concession Management in National Parks and other Protected Areas, 1985). Although it is most commonly applied throughout the world in national parks, the definition is appropriate for general use on all lands and waters entrusted to the Department.

Policy

- 1.2.1 Each proposal for a concession by way of lease or licence will be considered by the Corporate Executive and will require approval of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and/or the Lands and Forest Commission and the Minister. It is necessary for the concession to conform to the management plan for the land or water in question.
- 1.2.2 Wherever development of opportunities for commercial activities is proposed on lands and waters entrusted to the Department, the Department will decide whether the activity will be managed by the Department itself or by commercial concession. The Department itself is likely to undertake those commercial activities which (i) are environmentally or socially sensitive, or (ii) are of important educative or interpretative value to visitors, or (iii) are likely to cause an overall financial loss to the Government if conducted by concession.
- 1.2.3 Concessions will be allowed only if they are consistent with the purpose of the Reserve and consistent with the preservation of values of the land, e.g. they do not impinge upon rare or fragile ecosystems or impair key features of the landscape, or increase visitor pressure on the land to an unacceptable level and do not detract from the reasonable enjoyment of the land by the public.

- 1.2.4 If adequate facilities or services exist or can be developed outside of lands and waters entrusted to the Department in a way which adequately meets visitors' needs, such facilities and services should not be provided as concessions on land or water under the control of the Department.
- 1.2.5 The use of the facility or service provided by the concession should enhance the appropriate use and enjoyment of lands and waters entrusted to the Department and should desirably ameliorate the impact of visitors.
- 1.2.6 All concession rights will be subject to conditions which may include specification of the requirements and standards of services and goods to be provided e.g. aesthetic standards, safety standards, hours of operation, restrictions on litter generating products, etc.).
- 1.2.7 All concession rights will be monitored. Failure of concession holders to comply with conditions may be subject to penalty or cancellation of the concession.
- 1.2.8 Maximum rates to be charged by concession holders may be imposed. Such rates will be subject to periodic review.
- 1.2.9 Advertising or promotion of the concession will be in harmony with the values of the land concerned and by approval of the Department.
- 1.2.10 Concessions will comply with all statutory and industrial requirements relevant to the operation, including regulations applying to the land under the CALM Act.
- 1.2.11 A register of concessions will be maintained by the Manager, Policy and Extension Branch while a register of leases under this policy will be maintained by the Manager, Land Administration Branch.
- 1.2.12 Concessions may be sold outright with the approval of the Department, but may not be subleased or otherwise assigned.

1.2.13 Concessions will be classified in the following way:

- Category 1 Major facilities and services;
- Category 2 Minor facilities and services;
- Category 3 Guided leisure and instruction activities.

There is some overlap in activity within this classification but distinctions can be developed as illustrated in Appendices 1 and 2. (Extracted from CONCOM Working Group Paper on Concession Management in National Parks and other Protected Areas, 1985.)

The operation of concessions within each classification should follow the guidelines shown in Appendix 2, but note that fees are specifically covered in 1.2.15. Attention is drawn to the duration of the concession in Appendix 2.

1.2.14 In principle, the concession will be for as short a term as possible concomitant with the amortisation of the invested capital.

1.2.15 Fees charged for concessions will be set from time to time by the Minister, in consultation with the Valuer General or the Treasury, as appropriate.

In most circumstances fees will at least recoup management and administration costs incurred by the Department. Lesser fees may be charged where the Department is materially assisted by the concession holder, e.g. by educational benefits, or by amenities provided for public use as a by-product of the concession.

1.2.16 All concession holders will be required to indemnify the Executive Director, NPNCA or LFC from any claims which may arise through their activities.

1.2.17 All concession holders will be required to carry public liability insurance. Rates will be set by the Department from time to time.

TABLE 2 - VARIOUS ACTIVITIES UNDER EACH CATEGORY OF CONCESSIONS IN NATIONAL PARKS

CATEGORY 1 MAJOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES	CATEGORY 2 MINOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES	CATEGORY 3 GUIDED LEISURE AND INSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
<p>Ski resort complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ski lifts - accommodation buildings - ski hire & retail outlets - restaurant & food outlets - operation buildings - municipal services <p>Motels/Taverns Hotels Caravan Park/Camping area complex Marina Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - boat storage - boat hire - retail outlets <p>Holiday cabins & huts Recreational Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public transport system e.g. Skitube - ski lifts, tows and gondolas - tourist trains - aircraft services <p>Associated Hire Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - canoes & row boats - holiday cruise craft - house boats - ski equipment & clothes <p>Restaurants Accommodation Lodges</p>	<p>Refreshment kiosks Tea rooms General stores Souvenir & craft shops Recreational transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oversnow transport services - water skiing - ski tows - boat launch tours - tourist trains <p>Small Hire Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ski equipment - toboggans - canoes - diving equipment - camping equipment - push bikes - wind surfers - wheel chains for snow conditions - water ski equipment <p>Itinerant vendors Commercial Utility Supplies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - petrol - L.P.G. <p>Picnic facilities Mooring facilities Facilities for showing films</p>	<p>Ski instruction Ski touring Horse riding tours & instruction Bushwalking tours & instruction Camping tours & instruction Caving tours & instruction Boating/rafting tours & instruction Rock climbing activities & instruction Underwater diving tours & instruction Fishing instruction Cruise boat tours Bus tours Four-wheel-drive tours Interpretative/cultural activities Commercial nature/historical programmes Filming (for park information or interpretation purposes) Public transport system</p>

FOOTNOTE: The distinction between major and minor facilities and services may not always be clear. However, as a general guide such distinction should be based on the degree of capital investment, scale of development, degree of patronage and amount of infra-structure in the park.

APPENDIX 2 - Extracted from CONCOM Working Group Paper on Concession Management in National Parks and Other Protected Areas, 1985

NOTE: Terminology in this Appendix follow the CONCOM areas of responsibility, but can be applied to all lands and waters under the control of the Department.

TABLE 1 - CLASSIFICATION AND FEATURES OF CONCESSIONS IN NATIONAL PARKS

FEATURES	MAJOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES	MINOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES	GUIDED LEISURE AND INSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
TYPE OF AUTHORISATION	Lease	Lease or licence	Licence, permit or consent
DURATION OF CONCESSION	5 or more years	Usually 1-5 years	Usually 1 year or less
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY CONCESSIONAIRE	Usually major	Usually minor but in some cases nil	Usually nil
RENT OR FEES	Usually high but in some cases may be reduced in view of input of significant capital expenditure and/or provision of additional visitor facilities. Rental is usually based on certain percentage of gross revenue	Usually reflects the nature and size of the business - not high but realistic. In some cases it is low. Rental is usually based on a certain percentage of gross revenue	Usually low or nominal
PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL VISITOR FACILITIES	In a number of cases usually required of the concessionaire and in some cases provided in lieu of high rent	Not usually required of the concessionaire but in some cases some additional services or facilities may be provided	Not usually required of the concessionaire
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	Major investigation usually involving public input	Usually minor investigation but in some cases may not require investigation	Not usually required
SUPERVISION BY PARK AUTHORITY	Usually major	Usually minor but depends on the nature and size of business	Usually minor
SECURITY GUARANTEE	Required of the concessionaire in all cases and usually in large amounts	Usually required of the concessionaire in amounts which reflect the size of the business	Not usually required of the concessionaire except in some cases and then only in small amounts

SCALE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	Usually large and in some cases complex	Usually small but in some cases reflects the nature and scale of the business. In certain cases not applicable.	Not applicable
BUILDER OF STRUCTURES ETC.	Usually the concessionaire but in some cases the Park Authority	In some cases the concessionaire and other cases the Park Authority. In certain cases not applicable.	Not applicable
RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRUCTURAL -- REPAIRS	Usually the concessionaire	In some cases the concessionaire and other cases the Park Authority. In certain cases not applicable.	Not applicable
RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE	In all cases the concessionaire	In most cases the concessionaire and in certain cases not applicable.	Not applicable
BUILDING INSURANCE	Usually the responsibility of the concessionaire	In some cases the responsibility of the concessionaire and other cases the Park Authority. With the latter the concessionaire reimburses the Park Authority. In certain cases not applicable.	Not applicable
PUBLIC RISK	In all cases the responsibility of the concessionaire	In all cases the responsibility of the concessionaire	In all cases the responsibility of the concessionaire
PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES BY CONCESSIONAIRE	Usually only required in cases where major development complexes are involved e.g. ski-resort	Not usually required	In all cases not required
PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL RATES AND TAXES	Usually the responsibility of the concessionaire	Not usually required	Not applicable
EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR CONCESSIONAIRE	Given in some cases	Given in some cases	Not usually given
TENDERING OF CONCESSION	Usually carried out	Carried out in most cases	In some cases carried out

1.3 Leases For Associations And Clubs

Introduction

Several leases for clubs occur on national parks, reserves and State forests. These are mostly long standing and are often highly capitalised. Membership is often hard to obtain, and may be expensive. Whereas most leases do not preclude public access, several are located in ways which use up public space adjacent to scarce resources, e.g. waterfront.

Policy

1.3.1 New leases will be provided to clubs only where:

- (i) the applicant can demonstrate that it is not able to conduct these activities elsewhere;
- (ii) impact on landscape and environment generally is negligible;
- (iii) impact on public amenity and use of the area is negligible;
- (iv) the use is consistent with the purpose of vesting;
- (v) or the provision of the lease will benefit the land and water entrusted to the Department.

1.3.2 Existing leases will be reviewed according to the principles in 1.3.1 when they are about to expire or where the lessee requests renegotiation.

1.3.3 Fees for leases will be set by the Valuer General and will be reviewed at least every three years.

1.3.4 In the event that a new lease is issued it will be subject to conditions applying to concessionaires 1.2.

1.3.5 Where possible preference for leases in this section will be made to State organisations rather than local clubs.

1.4 Overnight Stays

Introduction

There are increasing demands by the public for opportunities to stay overnight in the attractive surrounding of lands and waters entrusted to the Department. Overnight accommodation is often a prerequisite for the enjoyment of the visit or for pursuit of other activities. Overnight stays can be catered for in two ways, in built accommodation or through camping. Policy on construction of facilities and buildings is discussed in 1.9.

Policy

1.4.1 Built Accommodation

- (i) Built accommodation on lands and waters entrusted to the Department should generally be provided by way of a concession (see 1.2). In this area attention will be given to co-operating with private enterprise in the provision of 'low cost' accommodation. There may be, however, instances where remoteness, seasonality or other factors necessitate the Department itself providing the built accommodation.
- (ii) Accommodation such as motels, hotels and formal caravan parks would generally be provided off lands and waters entrusted to the Department but nearby. There are some circumstances where such accommodation is not available or appropriate. In this event, visitor accommodation may be built on a concessional basis within an area of lands and waters entrusted to the Department (see 1.2.2). An example of such circumstances would be in large and remote national parks.
- (iii) Houses, cabins or huts or other forms of low cost accommodation where provided, whether by concession or otherwise should be available to the general public and not given over to any organisation for exclusive use.

- (iv) Where for various reasons the Department has inherited privately used built accommodation, e.g. "squatters' shacks", their continued presence will be reviewed in the course of management planning, with the view to eventual elimination of this use. Generally there will be no built accommodation for public use provided in nature reserves.

1.4.2 Camping Accommodation

- (i) Camping will be permitted in approved areas on lands and waters entrusted to the Department. Camping will be permitted on nature reserves only in special circumstances where there are no other options and the proposed activities are consistent with the reserve purpose. This will not be revised except through the management planning process.
- (ii) Camping takes place in several forms, which can be broadly categorised into designated site camping and that associated with back packing.
- (iii) Back packing may be permitted across a total reserve or limited to a specific space or time zone according to the management plan. Where necessary an area on which to camp and a length of tenure may be specified by the Regional Manager consistent with the plan, but camping should not normally be allowed within 2 km of designated sites or major roads.
- (iv) Designated Sites

Facilities will be established at selected sites in order to encourage campers to use sites acceptable to maintenance of land values. These sites may have limited development of facilities such as basic toilets, water supply and rubbish removal.

All such facilities will be well sited and designed to minimise user impact.

A variety of designated sites may be developed including those catering for vehicle based or pedestrian based camping.

Some designated sites may remain undeveloped until such time as facilities are necessary.

It should be noted that the Health Act specifically states that it does not bind the Crown. This allows for facilities to be provided on land entrusted to CALM which would not otherwise have been possible. It enables CALM to provide and manage camping facilities of a less sophisticated type.

Regardless, it is expected that close liaison will continue with the Public Health Department and local authorities as health surveyors have and should continue to contribute through comments on location and design of facilities as well as by inspection of works after installation.

Guidelines for development and maintenance of sites will be issued in due course.

- (v) Designated campsites will not normally be developed on lands entrusted to the Department of less than 1000 hectares in area unless the land is specifically entrusted to the Department for camping or recreation.
- (vi) Caravans and campervan sites may be permitted at sites which have suitable access and/or turn arounds. Formal caravan parks with full facilities will normally be developed off lands entrusted to the Department and operated privately.

Where appropriate, sites may be developed in conjunction with private enterprise on a concessional basis. This would be on the same general guideline as indicated in (ii) above.

- (vii) Portable generators or battery charging plants will be limited to specified sites and times of operation within designated sites.
- (viii) Fees will be collected for all camping at designated sites wherever practicable (see policy 1.1).
- (ix) No charges (beyond normal entry charges, where applicable) will be levied against back packers.
- (x) Information on the location of designated camping sites, facilities available and fees and charges will be made readily available in publications and through information services, sign posting, etc.
- (xi) Overnight accommodation on boats will be permitted subject to conditions appropriate to the water(s) concerned.

1.5 Visitor Safety

Introduction

There is always an element of risk in all outdoor recreation activities and so it is not possible to guarantee visitor safety absolutely. Nevertheless all efforts need to be taken to ensure that risks are minimised.

Safety is recognised in the CALM Act as an area where "necessary operations" may be carried out in the absence of a management plan. Departmental staff are generally trained to ensure that appropriate safety standards are met. This includes advice to the general public about safety in a variety of ways.

From a legal point of view, we are increasingly seen to be responsible for the safety of the public who visit CALM managed lands and waters. The law in Australia is based on two separate "systems".

- "Common Law" which has been inherited from Britain and
- "Statute Law" (i.e. legislation) which is created by the Parliament.

Up until 1985, the question of legal liability for visitors to Crown land was handled under Common Law, but in 1985, W A passed the "Occupier's Liability Act" which brings the matter into the realm of statute law.

Legally, CALM is an "occupier of premises" under this Act (defined as "person occupying or having control of land or other premises"). As occupiers, we owe to anyone entering our "premises" a "duty of care". This is defined as "such care as in all the circumstance of the case is reasonable to see that the person will not suffer injury or damage by reason of any ... danger". The meaning of the word "reasonable" is determined by the Courts.

Policy

- 1.5.1 Departmental officers will observe the principle of "duty of care". In so doing, all reasonable and practicable steps will be taken to help ensure the safety of visitors to CALM managed lands and waters. Where there are doubts about a particular activity, structure, etc., Departmental staff will refer the issue to the District Manager, or Branch Manager as appropriate, who may refer it to more senior staff.
- 1.5.2 Concession holders will indemnify the Department against their activities and will carry appropriate insurance cover (see 1.2.16 and 1.2.17).
- 1.5.3 Visitor safety will be promoted by means of education, information and signs about potential problems and dangers as well as by design (i.e. provision of facilities such as safety barriers, shelters, bridging where necessary and the removal of pathways to dangerous areas).
- 1.5.4 Structures other than buildings, but including bridges, will be subject to periodic inspection and check. Inspections will include checking for the presence of heavy flammable fuels around and close to structures, buildings and recreation sites. Checks for hazards such as overhanging trees, dead limbs, potholes, etc., will be made periodically in heavily used areas. Any faults will be promptly rectified. Where this is impracticable, facilities may be temporarily closed for repair.
- 1.5.5 In the interests of public health, care will be taken to protect water supplies and catchments from pollution and to provide adequate means of sewerage and garbage disposal.
- 1.5.6 Concessionaires operating programmes or tours on lands and waters entrusted to the Department will be expected to have adequate first aid care available to deal with minor accidents.
- 1.5.7 Pre-planned and signposted access will be provided at recreation sites to enable access in the case of fire and for use as evacuation routes for visitors and firefighters.

1.6 Special Groups/Events

Introduction

The Department receives periodic requests to accommodate diverse activities. Most special requests relate to commercial filming (dealt with in 1.7), but a wide range of others are also received.

Policy

- 1.6.1 The Department will attempt to accommodate special interest groups subject to Section 33 of the CALM Act (management plans, "necessary operations") and the general principles listed at the beginning of this document. The assessment of requests should give particular attention to maintenance of values of land and waters and to interference with other forms of recreation as well as the cost to management.
- 1.6.2 Approval of activities is generally the responsibility of Regional Managers. In the case of major events such as car rallies and festivals, however, Regional Managers should refer to the General Manager for consultation with the Corporate Executive of the Department.

Guidelines for the conduct of car rallies are attached.

1.7 Photography and Filming for Private Purposes

Introduction

Photography is recognised as being an important activity on all CALM Act lands and an important part of recreation.

Policy

- 1.7.1 Photography for private purposes (including video taping and movie filming) will be encouraged except where unusually sensitive issues are involved, e.g. close to private residences or where modification of the environment is required.
- 1.7.2 Where photography is for commercial or documentary purposes, reference should be made to the separately issued policy on this subject.

1.8 Public Access

Introduction

Lands and waters entrusted to the Department are generally open to public use. There are some areas restricted to the public for reasons of safety, disease control, water quality, protection of species, maintenance, etc.

Whereas access may be generally open in principle, in reality the public uses only a very small proportion of available land for recreation. This is generally close to features of interest, e.g. water bodies, scenery. Access is generally determined by roads or pathways.

Policy

- 1.8.1 Access to all areas of lands and waters entrusted to the Department will be open to public use, except where this contravenes the general principles discussed at the beginning of this document. In practice this allows access on foot to most areas and access by vehicle to many parts of reserves (1.8.3).
- 1.8.2 Subject to Section 33 of the CALM Act, access on foot will be encouraged by construction of walking paths in areas where features of interest justify their construction. Where appropriate, interpretative trails will be constructed according to the principles laid down in 1.11. Construction standards will be determined from time to time by the Manager, Recreation and Landscape Branch. Construction will accord with policy on visitor safety (see 1.5) and will where possible allow for people with disabilities.

- 1.8.3 Vehicle access will be generally determined within the constraints of Section 33 of the CALM Act. In most areas a system of roads and/or tracks exists before a management plan is prepared. Generally access along such roads/tracks will be permitted until a management plan is prepared, but in circumstances where the values of the land are under threat (e.g. for disease control) it may be necessary to close or restrict vehicle access. In general vehicular access to nature reserves will be discouraged.
- 1.8.4 In some circumstances vehicles use beaches within national parks. Existing use of beaches will be allowed to continue until disallowed by a management plan, or as a necessary operation (for example on the grounds of safety). New access along beaches would be allowed only to holders of special licences (e.g. people with disabilities, or for commercial fishermen transporting equipment and produce to market), or by means of a management plan.
- 1.8.5 Subject to financial limitations, and subject also to urgency as "necessary operations" tracks will be upgraded, realigned or closed through the management plan process.
- 1.8.6 Road design standards will be established by the Department in conjunction with the Main Roads Department.
- 1.8.7 Access by vehicles off roads and tracks will be limited to designated areas.
- 1.8.8 Use of unregistered vehicles will not be permitted except in compliance with the Off Road Vehicles Act. Where a permit is provided under that Act by the Minister for Local Government, Departmental approval is required for use on lands managed by this Department. Such approval will be issued by Regional Managers. Guidelines for approval will be issued separately.

- 1.8.9 Access by aircraft is subject to regulation by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Communications. The Department may impose additional conditions for access. At other than established airstrips, access by aircraft, including helicopters, must comply with the conditions specified in Section 2.10 of this Policy.
- 1.8.10 Airstrips will be constructed only in accordance with an approved management plan.
- 1.8.11 Power boats will not be permitted in areas where their use is not already established, e.g. Lake Unicup, Lake Preston. Permission will not be withdrawn except through the Management Plan process. Management Plans may seek to vary existing use where such use is not in accord with the principles discussed at the beginning of this document.
- 1.8.12 Generally sailing boats, canoes and small rafts may be permitted in closed waters. However some areas such as Lake Clifton and water supply dams, are restricted to water craft for reasons of preservation of the resource, health, etc. Before new activities are established, Regional Managers should check these with the appropriate Divisional Director. In general, boating is discouraged on nature reserves.

1.9 Facilities/Buildings

Introduction

The Department provides a wide range of facilities and buildings for the assistance of the public. These vary in cost from several dollars (e.g. very simple signs) to hundreds of thousands of dollars in the case of large buildings. Construction of new facilities, and maintenance of existing facilities is subject to financial constraints, and to Section 33 of the CALM Act.

Policy

- 1.9.1 Buildings and other facilities will be maintained at as high a standard as possible with available finance. Where proper maintenance is not possible the removal of the facility or its replacement should be considered.
- 1.9.2 Subject to Section 33 of the CALM Act, new facilities will be considered where (a) replacement is considered to be a better alternative than maintenance of an old facility; (b) a new facility is justified in terms of levels of use, protection of the land values, or is necessary for the management of recreational use. In general a minimum of man made structures will be developed in nature reserves.
- 1.9.3 All new facilities funded through the Department are subject to available finance which will be generally sought in Regional Estimates programs. Decisions on priorities will be made according to (a) Ministerial direction; (b) Departmental finance policy; (c) advice from the Lands and Forest Commission or the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (d) approved management plan commitments; (e) factors mentioned in 1.9.2 (b) above.

- 1.9.4 Location and design of facilities will conform with standards, which include consideration of the needs of visitors with disabilities, as advised from time to time by the Manager, Recreation and Landscape Branch. Guidelines will conform with the general principles discussed at the beginning of this document, and in particular conform with landscape values of the area concerned.
- 1.9.5 Consistent with the general principles discussed at the beginning of this document, facilities for intensive sporting activities are not appropriate for nature reserves and are not generally appropriate for national parks and State forests. Whilst it is recognised that some such facilities are present in some instances, consideration will be given in management plans for elimination of the facilities or the reclassification of the land concerned. However, such facilities may well be accepted as being appropriate to some foreshadowed classifications of land.

1.10 Protection of Recreation Site Values

Introduction

Visitor use of lands and waters entrusted to the Department is often concentrated upon specific recreation sites. These sites are selected and developed according to various criteria including their attractiveness as well as their ability to withstand high levels of use without environmental degradation.

These recreation sites, according to their presentation and maintenance, are the most obvious focus by which the public evaluates the Department's achievements in land management.

Therefore the selection, presentation and maintenance of recreation site values is of great importance to the Department.

Policy

- 1.10.1 Recreation sites will be selected and developed according to the criteria and procedures laid down in the "Recreation Operations Manual" of the Department.
- 1.10.2 All recreation sites will be continually monitored to assess usage which may result in deterioration.
- 1.10.3 Where there is evidence of recreation site deterioration or it is anticipated; visitor use will be directed to another site, (i.e. rotation of use) and/or there will be temporary closure and rehabilitation of the site.
- 1.10.4 Recreation sites and facilities will be protected from wildfires by the development of fuel reduced zones, prescribed burning or mechanical means.

1.11 Visitor Information and Interpretation

Introduction

Dissemination of information is an integral part of management of the natural estate. It informs the public of opportunities for recreation and services available. As such, it is important to the marketing of recreation areas. Also, it is a most important tool for their management - selective dissemination can modify the demand on particular areas; and specific messages can foster appropriate behaviour. There is often a 'fine line' between promotion which places additional visitor pressure on the finite resources of the Department, and information which assists management and improves understanding of nature conservation.

The principles of communicating information about parks and forests are well developed and are embodied in the concepts "visitor information", "interpretation" and "community education". Definitions of each are useful. "Visitor information" constitutes the basic data about recreation areas; for instance, location and distances, facilities, code of practice, costs, attractions and what to do. Before the visit it offers choice, on-site it orients the visitor. "Interpretation" is the explanation of systems and processes in the natural environment and includes presentation of less obvious features of the area, such as cultural, historical and scientific information. "Community education" is more clearly teaching about the area in a more formal and comprehensive way, often involving considerable resource materials, presentations by experts, and field activities. There is a great deal of overlap between the three concepts but the thrust of each should be recognised.

Many communication channels are available for visitor information, interpretation and community education. They can be loosely divided into pre-visit, on-site and post-visit. While staff contact on-site is a most effective means of communicating to individuals and groups, it is labour intensive and must be augmented by pre-visit brochures, publicity and advice; on-site signage and displays and souvenir publications.

Policy

- 1.11.1 Visitor information and interpretation is the responsibility of all Departmental staff backed by the expertise of specialist staff.
- 1.11.2 Co-ordination of visitor information and interpretation and community education is the responsibility of the Recreation and Landscape Branch and the Corporate Relations Division, who will act in consultation with the appropriate Regional and District Managers and other senior staff as required.
- 1.11.3 The Department will disseminate information for the purposes discussed earlier and will avoid 'promotion' which places additional pressure on available resources without assisting management. Regional views will be sought on this matter.
- 1.11.4 There will be a hierarchy of pre-visit informational materials (books, magazines, brochures, etc) from 'statewide' cover to site specific. Resources for publication will be generally allocated on the basis of demand for recreational use of the area concerned, but other factors such as the need to protect specific areas will need to be taken into account.
- 1.11.5 Leaflets, brochures and other simple forms of information obtained at CALM offices and on-site will generally be available at no charge. More extensive publications, maps and other information materials will be priced, where appropriate, to recover costs and to be competitive in the marketplace. The cost of disseminating materials via mail and through non-CALM outlets will, where appropriate, be recovered.
- 1.11.6 Specialised visitor information centres may be developed on-site but only where the demand is sufficient, and resources allow.
- 1.11.7 Information dissemination, interpretation and community education carried out by staff is to be a high priority. Other media should support and complement personal contact with visitors. Staff will be trained in appropriate communication skills (see 1.13).

- 1.11.8 Interpretative displays will be designed and prepared according to standards laid down by staff of the Recreation and Landscape Branch. Normally Branch staff will be involved in production, in consultation with Regional and District staff.
- 1.11.9 Location and erection of interpretative displays should be in consultation with Recreation and Landscape Branch staff.
- 1.11.10 Signs and static displays should be worded to ensure a message of welcome to the area.
- 1.11.11 The guidelines on locations and maintenance of signs described in the "Department's Sign Manual" will be followed. Signs should be kept to the minimum necessary to convey information. In some locations careful thought will need to be given to eliminating less important messages.
- 1.11.12 Sign text, layout, construction, location and size will conform with directions in the "Sign Manual" of the Department.
- 1.11.13 The Department will promote a 'code of conduct' for visitor.

1.12 Domestic Animals

Introduction

This policy deals with presence of domestic animals as an adjunct to recreation and includes exercising of animals, horseriding, etc.

There are opposing and often strongly held views in the community about the presence of domestic animals on public lands. Many people believe it is fair for them to be accompanied by (or ride) a domestic animal as part of their recreation. Many other people resent the nuisance which is presented by other people's animals (by noise, personal injury, fouling, etc.).

Domestic animals can also have an impact on wildlife. For example, the smell and general activity of dogs and cats impedes activity of wildlife in areas which otherwise present ideal wildlife viewing opportunities for the public.

Policy

- 1.12.1 Dogs, cats and other domestic animals are prohibited from national parks and nature reserves, with the following exceptions:
- (i) use of dogs for the retrieval of game in those nature reserves defined as game reserves where hunting is authorised (see Policy 2.9.1);
 - (ii) seeing eye dogs for blind persons;
 - (iii) where specified zones are established in national parks.
- 1.12.2 Dogs and other domestic animals may be allowed on other types of reserves or specified zones in other reserves according to the management plan for that reserve.
- 1.12.3 Specially trained dogs for management (i.e. feral animal control), search and rescue, or security purposes may be permitted to be used on all classes of land.

- 1.12.4 Departmental staff resident on reserves may keep family pets (including watchdogs) with the approval of the Regional Manager, provided the animals are confined at all times to the area rented by the staff member.
- 1.12.5 Residents adjacent to reserve entrances where domestic animals are not permitted should be encouraged to provide boarding facilities on a commercial basis for visitors who inadvertently arrive with a domestic animal.
- 1.12.6 Horses, for the purposes of this policy statement, are deemed to be domestic animals and as such may be allowed on reserves or specified zones in reserves (including national parks) according to the management plan.

1.13 Visitor Interaction Skills

Introduction

It is recognised that Departmental staff play a key role in visitor recreation. Staff in some areas have substantial experience in this field but others do not. Skills required for positive visitor contact are partly derived from personality and interest in this subject, but much can be done to improve involvement and enjoyment through training and personal development.

Policy

- 1.13.1 The Department will develop programs within the Departmental policy (Staff Training and Career Development - No.6) to improve visitor interaction skills of staff. This will include both formal training and other forms of personal development.
- 1.13.2 The Department will produce materials and information to assist and support staff in their interaction with the public.

1.14 Research Monitoring/Surveys

Introduction

Visitation and use of Departmental lands for recreation is increasing in many areas and in many ways. To assist in the planning and development of recreational opportunities there is a need to have measures of overall demand for outdoor recreation.

As well as predictive studies there is a need for information on current visitation levels, type of use, and frequency and duration of use. This information is essential for ongoing management and should lead to improved allocation of resources as well as to the identification of revenue opportunities.

Information on recreation is important to the establishment of the recreational value of the resources managed by the Department and therefore in demonstrating the contribution of recreation to the economy of the State as a whole.

Research is also required to establish the attitudes and preferences of users so that management can be responsive to user needs.

There is a requirement for the monitoring of the capacity of various environments to cater for various recreational activities and the impact of activities themselves.

Policy

- 1.14.1 Initiate and maintain a standardised system for collecting and processing information on levels and patterns of visitor use and public perceptions and preferences throughout the Department.
- 1.14.2 At the district and regional level all collections of information, i.e. ticket sales, traffic counts, registrations of visits from tour operators, etc. will be recorded and forwarded to Policy and Extension Branch for collation, processing and analysis.

- 1.14.3 Where possible specific case or site specific studies will be undertaken as the basis for estimating visitor use for management plans.

1.15 Liaison with Other Bodies

Introduction

Many other agencies are equally involved in the planning and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in this State. It is recognised that there is a need to plan with local authorities and State Government Departments to ensure that recreational developments are complementary to those planned by other agencies and that management objectives are not compromised by lack of co-operation.

Similarly consultation is required with groups having commercial interests to ensure that recreation developments and information services are compatible with management objectives.

User groups such as local clubs, State associations and community interest groups should have their aspirations represented in the planning and management of recreation resources. A considerable contribution to the ongoing planning and management of recreation on Departmental land can be achieved through effective liaison with such bodies.

Policy

- 1.15.1 In the development of area management plans opportunity for extensive input will be sought from other bodies; State instrumentalities such as the Department of Sport and Recreation, the WA Tourism Commission and the WA Water Authority; local government; and commercial and voluntary groups (clubs and associations). Such groups will be actively consulted. In development of such plans, other public lands will be considered so that recreation within regions is integrated to the greatest extent possible.
- 1.15.2 Where possible involvement in the ongoing management of Departmental resources will be encouraged by interested and affected bodies. (See also policy on advisory committees.)

- 1.15.3 Where proposed changes and or developments are to be implemented in recreation opportunities, active consultation will take place with those agencies and individuals likely to be affected.

2.1 Vehicle-Based Activities

Introduction

The vast majority of visitors to CALM managed lands and waters rely on some form of vehicle transport to reach their chosen destination(s). Apart from cars, other types of assisted access include 4 wheel drive vehicles, vans, buses, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles. In addition, motor sports such as trial and trail bike riding and competitive car rallies activities frequently take place in natural environments. The following policy statement provides the necessary management controls required to ensure that both motorised and non-motorised land-based vehicles are used in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner.

2.1.1 Cycling

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy, a bicycle is defined as a two-wheeled non-motorised vehicle which includes BMX and mountain or bush bikes as well as conventional bikes. There has been a rapid growth in the popularity of cycling as a leisure activity or, in the case of BMX bikes, as a site specific competitive activity. Similarly the use of bicycles for long distance touring is on the increase.

Cycling brings about considerable health benefits for users, enables closer interaction with the environment than is the case with motorised vehicles, and provides a relatively inexpensive means of accessing and exploring park and forest areas. The impacts of cycling on the natural environment are minimal, providing this activity is confined to roads and vehicle tracks which are appropriately located, designed and maintained.

Policy

- 2.1.1.1 Bicycle riding will be permitted on public roads and vehicle tracks through CALM lands and on specially designated bicycle trails. Where cycling is not permitted as in the case of management access only tracks, the tracks will be clearly signposted.
- 2.1.1.2 Riding of cycles off public roads and 4WD tracks will not be permitted unless a specifically designated area or bicycle trail is set aside. Such areas and/or trails will be established through the management planning process, but will not be designated in national parks or nature reserves.
- 2.1.1.3 Competitive bicycle events may be permitted within State forest and timber reserves and on public roads through other CALM managed lands subject to the conditions specified in Policy 1.6.
- 2.1.1.4 Commercial bicycle tours and the operation of bicycle hire businesses may be permitted (see Policy 1.2 and Guidelines for Guided Leisure and Instructional Activities).
- 2.1.1.5 Specifically designated tracks may be developed for bicycles where a demand justifies the provision.
- 2.1.1.6 Bicycle riding may be permitted as a dual use on walking tracks or other paths providing the safety and enjoyment of pedestrians is not jeopardised and the track surface can be adequately maintained. Dual use paths will be signposted accordingly.

2.1.2 Off-Road Vehicles

Introduction

This policy deals with the use of all vehicles off-road, whether they be four wheel drive or conventional vehicles, motorcycles, dune-buggies or other motorised vehicles. It is recognised that many people enjoy traversing the countryside off formed roads or 4WD tracks. At the same time, there has been considerable community concern expressed over the environmental damage caused by vehicles used in such a way. Considerable funds have been expended by all levels of Government to restore areas damaged by the use of vehicles off road, particularly in coastal and hilly areas. The Department recognises and accepts that in some instances, it may be necessary for unroaded areas such as selected beaches to be traversed in order for visitors to obtain access to a chosen recreation area.

Policy

2.1.2.1 Any vehicle used on land managed by CALM must be registered under the Road Traffic Act or the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act.

2.1.2.2 Only vehicles registered under the Road Traffic Act are permitted on public roads on CALM managed lands and their use and operation will be subject to the regulations of this Act. For the purposes of this policy, a "public road" is any highway, road or vehicle track through CALM lands open to the public. Roads may be closed to all public vehicle access or to selected classes of vehicles and will be signposted accordingly. These closures may be for restricting access in declared Disease Risk Areas, or as a temporary measure for management purposes, such as logging, maintenance or bridge repair. Roads may be designated as being for management purposes only and therefore not available to public access by vehicle.

2.1.2.3 Vehicles may only be used off a public road in State forest if an area or vehicle track has been designated and signposted for such use. Such designation will not be given in nature reserves and will only be given in national parks, marine parks, conservation parks and 5 g reserves by way of a management plan or interim management guidelines. Road registered vehicles can use such areas as designated. Vehicles registered under the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act can only use such areas when permission has been obtained from the CALM District Manager for that specific area.

2.1.2.4 There may be instances where permission will be sought to use motorised vehicles off-road to allow a disabled person access or accommodate a particular event or activity. The District Manager may issue permission for the use of a vehicle for such a purpose, as long as the vehicle is registered under the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act or Road Traffic Act. Conditions of use attached to that permission will include consideration of the length of time the permit is required for and the designated area where any vehicles can be used.

Approval will be contingent on:

- (i) The driver holding a current and appropriate motor drivers licence.
- (ii) The Executive Director of CALM being indemnified from any liability arising from the use of the vehicle.
- (iii) The permit being carried by the user when the vehicle is being used on CALM managed land.

- (iv) There not being significant impact on the natural environment and the use and enjoyment of other visitors.

Permission will be withdrawn if any of the specified conditions are not adhered to.

- 2.1.2.5 Areas may also be established as off-road vehicle areas consistent with the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act. These areas will be established for the operation of vehicles licensed under the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act. They will cater for motorised recreation on that site. Sites will only be established on State forest and timber reserves consistent with the Management Plans and on 5 g reserves consistent with an approved management plan for that reserve. Adjoining landholders will be consulted prior to the designation and establishment of such areas.

2.1.3 Vehicle Rallying (Social)

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy, rallying involves the driving of road licensed motor vehicles over a preplanned route past selected checkpoints, generally within a specified period of time. Vehicle rallies may vary from casual, social outings to highly competitive events requiring expert driving and navigational skills and the use of specially equipped vehicles. This policy statement addresses the non competitive or social forms of vehicle rallying.

Family, social and community groups often conduct vehicle rallies as an organised recreational activity on CALM managed lands. Often such events are associated with a barbecue or picnic meal at the conclusion of the event. As this type of activity is conducted with road registered vehicles on public roads, the regulations of the Road Traffic Act apply.

Policy

- 2.1.3.1 Social vehicle rallies are a legitimate use of public roads. Providing road traffic regulations are adhered to and the roads are open to public use by vehicles, there is limited need to control or regulate this activity.
- 2.1.3.2 Groups wishing to conduct such an event should be encouraged to contact local CALM offices for approval and planning of the event. Safe routes can therefore be suggested to the event conveners. Routes can also be directed away from areas of conservation value, or popular recreation sites where there is the possibility of a nuisance being created to other visitors.

- 2.1.3.3 Managers may establish a booking system so that large groups, such as those attending a social car rally, can be allocated a site prior to the event. Booking procedures established in this way may assist in avoiding conflicts which can occur when large groups arrive at a site late in the day and impose on small informal groups of visitors.

2.1.4 Scenic Driving

Introduction

Driving for pleasure and sightseeing using public roads on CALM managed lands is an important recreational pursuit for many interstate and overseas visitors as well as the majority of Western Australian residents. A large proportion of the recreating or touring public who annually visit W A's parks, reserves and forest areas could aptly be termed "windscreen" visitors, as much of their experience and enjoyment of the natural environment is derived from scenic driving.

Policy

- 2.1.4.1 All roads through CALM managed lands have the potential to provide pleasurable and scenic driving experiences. The Department will endeavour in its planning and management to preserve and/or enhance the inherent scenic values of all public travel routes.
- 2.1.4.2 Selected public roads on CALM managed lands which have important scenic values and which afford outstanding views of surrounding landscapes may be identified, promoted and managed as scenic drives. The identification and selection of such roads will be based on the Department's Visual Resource Management System criteria (see Policy Statement No. 34) as well as other considerations such as available interpretative opportunities, driver safety and the resources required for management.
- 2.1.4.3 Information on selected scenic drives or tours through CALM managed lands will be prepared and promoted through Departmental recreation directories and guides and/or signposting.

2.1.5 Competitive Car Rallies and Other Motor Sports

Introduction

There is considerable demand by organised groups to access and use Departmental lands for competitive car rallies and trial, trail and enduro motorcycle events. The State currently hosts several major events each year, including an international rally. Motorised recreation is an exciting sport for competitors and spectators alike. Apart from the recreation and social benefits associated with this form of leisure, rally events are also capable of generating considerable economic activity.

The impact of competitive motor sports on the physical environment and on the experience and enjoyment of other visitors to CALM managed lands can be significant and is largely dependent on how well such events are planned and managed. The Department's policy on competitive car rallies and other motor sports is designed to provide the necessary planning controls and management procedures to enable this activity to occur while ensuring that detrimental impacts on the environment and the enjoyment of other visitors is minimised to the maximum extent possible.

Policy

- 2.1.5.1 Competitive rallies and other motor sport events will not be permitted in nature reserves, conservation parks or national parks. Such activity is inconsistent with the primary purpose of protecting conservation values for which such lands are reserved or with the enjoyment and safety of the public who visit these areas.

2.1.5.2 Competitive rallies and other motor sports may be approved in State forests, timber reserves and 5 g reserves subject to the procedures and conditions outlined in Section 2.1.5.3 being met. If areas for this purpose are allocated by way of lease, priority in provision will be given to State or Regional associations rather than local clubs.

2.1.5.3 The following procedures and conditions will apply to groups/organisations who wish to conduct any motorised recreational events on Departmental lands. The term "motorised" includes competitive car rallies, trail and enduro motorcycle events and trial bike/hillclimb events and associated activities deemed to be compatible with the management of the event. Other activities involving the off-road use of motocross/scramble bikes, 4WD vehicles, dune buggies and other motor vehicles will not be permitted on CALM managed land except on areas specifically set aside and managed for this purpose (see Policy 2.1.2).

Procedures:

1. Where a group or club is a member of a state or national organising body such as the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (C.A.M.S.), the written approval of the parent body should be obtained prior to seeking permission from the Department to conduct that event.
2. Acceptance of the conditions contained in the Department's standard application form (CLM 768) is necessary before planning of the event can proceed.

3. It will be the organiser's responsibility to ensure that applications to conduct motorised events are submitted sufficiently in advance of the date of the event to enable proposed routes and wet weather alternatives to be negotiated and inspected. As a general rule, a minimum of 3 months will be required to process applications for major rally events.
4. In the case of competitive car rallies, the proposed routes to be used will be inspected by an officer of each District in which the rally is to be conducted and an official of the organising club. This inspection will be carried out at the last practical time prior to the event to assess and carefully document road conditions and identify any safety hazards so that appropriate action can be taken.

Conditions:

1. In the case of competitive events, the organising body is required to possess public liability insurance to indemnify the Minister, Executive Director and their respective agents/servants against any claim for compensation to cover property damage, personal injury or death which occurs as a result of the event (see CALM Form 768). A copy of the indemnity is to be forwarded to the appropriate Regional or District Manager before approval to conduct the event will be given.
2. Only vehicles registered/licensed under the Road Traffic Act or Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act are to be used. Noise level emissions of competitor's machines must comply with the Noise Abatement (Neighbour and Noise) Regulation 1979.

3. Only District approved routes/areas are to be used. These will be clearly indicated on a plan attached to the application. The Department reserves the right to cancel this permission at short notice for particular sections of the approved route should changes in weather conditions and other factors dictate such action. Alternative routes shall be nominated and approved to cover this situation.
4. The organiser(s) of the event shall check by telephone with the relevant CALM District Manager that this approval still stands on the day prior to the event.
5. Where an approved route traverses roads/tracks frequented by the public, adequate warning signs shall be erected just prior to the event. Spectator control and management including the provision of temporary ablution facilities as required in the conduct of the event will be the responsibility of the event organiser. The organiser will be required to provide details of spectator control provisions and procedures and may be required to provide marshalls in areas where public safety considerations dictate.
6. Nails or spikes shall not be used to secure signs, markers or bunting to trees. All signs, route markers and litter resulting from the event shall be removed by the organiser immediately after the event.
7. Any damage to public property or serious accidents from the event shall be reported as soon as practicable to the officer in charge of the local District.

8. Adequate fire precautions shall be observed in accordance with the provisions of the Bush Fires Act. No fires may be lit except where authorised or where a properly constructed fireplace has been provided as part of an existing recreational facility.
9. Hygiene requirements to minimise the risk of disease introduction and spread may be specified and must be observed. Any accidental entry into a Disease Risk Area (DRA) shall be reported promptly to the officer in charge of the local District.
10. Most Department roads and 4WD tracks are designed for low to moderate speed travel as opposed to high speed competitive rallying. Consequently, the Department will not guarantee that the roads/tracks are or will be suitable and safe for the purposes of the event. Accordingly, each person who uses these roads/tracks does so entirely at his or her own risk.
11. The roads and tracks used during any competitive event are to be inspected by an organising official and a representative of the District as soon as practicable following the event. All roads/tracks used in the competition will be restored to a condition which existed prior to the event. Where road/track restoration involves work in addition to that required under routine road/track maintenance, costs of this additional restoration are to be borne by the event organisers. The Department may require the payment of a bond to finance such repairs if it is anticipated that significant damage may occur during the conduct of the event.

12. Failure to adhere to these conditions may result in the denial of permission to the organisation concerned to conduct future events on CALM managed lands.

2.1.5.4 The following guidelines are provided as an aid to both organisers of motorised recreational events and the Department in:

- * identifying and selecting suitable areas/routes on which to conduct such events;
- * regulating when and how these events are conducted.

Identification and Selection of Suitable Areas

To assist in the preparation and processing of applications for motorised recreation events, CALM managed lands will be zoned to identify those areas which are:

- * not available for motorised activities. These will include national and conservation parks and nature reserves.
- * generally suitable for motorised activities under dry weather conditions only.
- * generally suitable for motorised activities under all weather conditions.

In addition to this zoning plan, motorised events should be planned with the following principles in mind:

1. As far as practicable, each motorised event should be confined either to dieback infected or uninfected areas. Where a route unavoidably passes from a predominantly dieback infected area to a predominantly dieback-free area, vehicle wash-down facilities may, at the discretion of the Department, be supplied at the organiser's expense.
2. Where existing 4WD tracks or roads are used, preference should generally be given to those that are low in the landscape.
3. In the case of off-road motorcycle events, sensitive environments where disturbance is more likely to occur and/or where the rate of recovery is slower should be avoided. Such environments include:
 - * wetlands or seasonally waterlogged sites (i.e. soils with impeded drainage);
 - * stream/river embankments;
 - * steep slopes with erodible soils. As a general rule, sandy and lateritic soils are preferable to clay, which is more prone to erosion and compaction, particularly under wet conditions.
4. Assembly areas, starting lines, checkpoints, refuelling and service areas should be located on relatively flat, open sites which are well drained. Refuelling areas will not be permitted within 500 metres of any permanent stream or waterbody.

5. Events should be organised so that they have minimal impact on or interference with other forms of public recreation, either directly or indirectly (i.e. noise impacts). Important areas to avoid include picnic and camping areas, walk paths, horse trails and scenic drives.
6. Events should be organised so as not to unduly disrupt other operations (e.g. commercial logging operations, beekeepers, etc) and/or users on Department managed lands.
7. Events should be located sufficiently distant from adjoining properties so as not to create noise and dust problems for those residents or unduly interfere with their land use activities.
8. In competitive events, mass starts where large numbers of competitors leave simultaneously from the same point should not be permitted. Instead, staggered starts (e.g. 2-3 competitors leaving at 1 minute intervals) are to be used.
9. All events, whether on or off-road, will be subject to periodic monitoring by the Department to identify any impacts resulting from such activity and to subsequently carry out at the organiser's expense any rehabilitation which might be required.

2.2 Boating/Canoeing/Sailing

Introduction

The level of boat ownership in Western Australia is one of the highest in the world. This policy covers boating in all its forms, whether powered by human exertion, wind or by mechanical power.

Boating occurs in marine and estuarine areas as well as inland waters. It is recognised that Western Australia is not well endowed with inland waterways and therefore those that exist which are suitable for boating are generally placed under high use pressure. However, more boating occurs in and around the coastline where the majority of the population resides. Boating can be an end in itself as in the case with kayaking or sailing or may provide the means to undertake other recreational activities such as fishing, diving and water skiing. The use of canoes, house boats and other pleasure craft also provide access for water-based sightseeing and nature appreciation.

Boating activities are controlled in terms of vessel and operational safety by the Department of Marine and Harbours under the Navigable Water Regulations of the Marine Act 1982 or under the Marine Act itself. The CALM Act empowers CALM as managers of land and water to determine where boating may occur on the estate which it manages. Thus CALM can direct where boating activities may occur although the Navigable Water Regulations still apply and vice versa.

Policy

- 2.2.1 Boating will only be allowed on nature reserves by way of a management plan or interim management guidelines after consideration of the likely environmental impacts of any activity or where there is a pre-existing arrangement/agreement in place.
- 2.2.2 Generally boating on nature reserves will be limited to those activities which are directed toward the appreciation of the natural values of the reserve.

- 2.2.3 Power boating on CALM controlled water bodies within national parks will only be permitted by way of an approved management plan. Particular consideration will be given to the environmental impacts of boats including disturbance of wildlife, fuel pollution as well as the disturbance created to other park users.
- 2.2.4 Where special boating events such as the Avon Descent occur within the CALM managed estate or on CALM managed water bodies, recreation policy statement 1.6 which applies to special events will be adhered to.
- 2.2.5 Boating is particularly relevant to the use and management of marine parks. In conjunction with the Department of Marine and Harbours, CALM will seek to control or regulate boating activity, particularly in sanctuary zones of marine parks and marine nature reserves. The location of launching and mooring areas and "no anchorage" zones will be determined by the management planning process.
- 2.2.6 Much of the impact of boating on natural values occurs at the point of access to the water body. Launching areas should therefore be carefully selected, planned and controlled to minimize compaction, erosion, removal of vegetation and littering.
- 2.2.7 Given the limited areas available to boating in comparison to the level of demand, congestion is likely to occur at some time at most boat launching areas. Priority should be given to site selection and design to minimize management effort and visitor conflicts.
- 2.2.8 Commercial interest in providing boating opportunities is high. There are currently canoe, paddle and row boat hire, launch trips and glass bottom operations undertaken on CALM managed areas. Commercial activities will be assessed and approved according to recreation policy statement 1.2.

2.3 Swimming

Introduction

Swimming is one of the most popular of outdoor recreational activities in this State. Swimming is used as a means of cooling during hotter periods of the year, as exercise, as well as a form of therapy.

A large proportion of the population can swim as acquiring the skill is actively supported by most parents and widely encouraged through Ministry of Education and private classes.

A wide variety of opportunities for swimming are provided on the CALM managed estate ranging from an Olympic size purpose built pool at Yanchep National Park, through ocean beaches to waterholes in the North of the State.

Policy

- 2.3.1 Public swimming areas may be designated subject to an assessment of the suitability of the water body to accommodate this activity being made. Such factors as the potential impact of swimming on biophysical resource values and the risk posed to public health and visitor safety will be considered.
- 2.3.2 Where major conflict between uses such as swimming, boating and fishing is likely, areas may be zoned. Zoning will be temporal, spatial or both.
- 2.3.3. Where there is the possibility for unsafe behaviour in designated public swimming areas e.g. diving from rocks, measures will be used to limit that behaviour including signage and restricting access.
- 2.3.4 Where there are concerns about water quality issues such as pollution and amoebic meningitis in designated public swimming areas, the Public Health Department or other appropriate authorities will be asked to periodically monitor and assess water quality and known dangers will be signposted as required.

- 2.3.5 The condition and safety of water access points, platforms, rope swings and other swimming related facilities in designated public swimming areas will be regularly assessed and maintained, replaced or removed as required. Where rope swings are permitted, the water body should be maintained free of obstacles and should be deep enough to accommodate this activity.

2.4 Fishing/Marroning/Spearfishing/Crabbing

Introduction

For the purposes of this policy, fishing includes spearfishing, marroning and crabbing. It is a year round activity spread across all age groups. As an industry, recreational fishing is of considerable importance in this State. Fishing involves large numbers of people who participate on their own in a spontaneous manner as well as others who join clubs and associations and participate in competitions.

Fishing can have a number of impacts. These can range from the depletion of species at a local or even wider level to the loss of vegetation and soil erosion along river banks and coastal dunes. Litter from bait and equipment used can also create an environmental impact, particularly where there is a high concentration of activity.

Fishing is controlled in this State by the Fisheries Act and Regulations. Limitations are placed on species caught, number taken, areas that fish can be taken from and type of fishing involved as well as seasons in which catches may be taken.

CALM cooperates with the Fisheries Department in using its powers to control fishing activity.

Policy

- 2.4.1 Fishing is permitted in marine parks, State forest and timber reserves according to the relevant fisheries regulations and approved management plan for the area. Limitations may be placed to restrict the species and number of fish taken and the methods of capture, depending on environmental or safety factors.

- 2.4.2 Fishing may be permitted in a national park if provided for in an approved management plan. Restocking of non-native fish species will only be permitted in inland waters of national parks by way of an approved management plan where it can be demonstrated that the ecology of the area will not be harmed. ‡

‡ *The implementation of these policies is dependent upon the application of powers contained in the Fisheries Act and Regulations.*

- 2.4.3 Fishing is not permitted in sanctuary zones in marine parks, nor is it generally permitted in nature reserves (terrestrial and marine).

- 2.4.4 Access to fishing sites will be regulated to ensure that environmental degradation of river banks and foreshores is prevented. Consideration will be given to the impact of ancillary activities such as camping, cooking fires and rubbish disposal when determining access provisions.

- 2.4.5 Safety factors, particularly potential risks to swimmers should be considered when setting aside areas for fishing.

- 2.4.6 Consideration should be given to zoning areas in both time and space if there is high congestion which is likely to arise in conflicts.

- 2.4.7 Spear guns and gidgies etc are not permitted in nature reserves or national parks. Where spearfishing is permitted, spear guns are to be carried in an unloaded condition out of the water.

- 2.4.8 Spearfishing while using compressed air will not be permitted in marine parks.

- 2.4.9 Spearfishing may also be restricted to designated areas within marine parks and other reserves depending upon the likely impact on the ecology of the reserve and the safety of other visitors.

- 2.4.10 Contact will be established and maintained with recreational fishing clubs and associations to ensure that management information concerning the activity is shared and the needs of recreational fishermen are fully understood.

2.5 Picnicking and Barbecuing

Introduction

The opportunity to relax and socialise with family or friends over an outdoor meal in the bush has become something of a tradition for many Australians. The bush picnic or barbecue often provides the central focus for other nature-based leisure activities such as driving for pleasure, sightseeing, bushwalking and collecting firewood in State forest.

If unmanaged, picnicking and barbecuing can result in various localised impacts including the trampling and loss of understorey plants, soil compaction and erosion, littering and removal of both live and dead vegetation for kindling and cooking fires. These impacts can be largely eliminated or minimised through careful site selection, facility placement and design and the provision of firewood or alternative heat sources.

Policy

- 2.5.1 The provision of picnic and barbecue areas on CALM managed lands will be subject to established planning procedures and approvals.
- 2.5.2 Where practicable, picnic and barbecue areas should be situated within reasonable proximity of major public roads or tourist routes and/or important visitor destination points.
- 2.5.3 Picnic and barbecue areas will be located in stable landscapes which are capable of sustaining intensive visitor use over the long term. Particular attention will be given to ensuring sites are situated so that they do not unduly impact on environmental, cultural or scenic values. The site planning and design guidelines as outlined in Policy Statement 1.9 will be adhered to.
- 2.5.4 Picnic/barbecue areas and associated facilities such as parking, walkways, tables and toilets will, wherever practicable, be designed and constructed to a standard suitable for use by disabled persons.

- 2.5.5 The practice of encouraging visitors to remove their own litter will be promoted at the discretion of the local District Manager.
- 2.5.6 Where firewood supplies are limited and/or where the lighting of cooking fires may result in an unacceptably high risk of wildfire, the use of wood fires may be prohibited. In such instances, gas or electric barbecues may be provided by the Department and/or visitors will be encouraged to bring their own fuel stoves.
- 2.5.7 Regulations pertaining to litter disposal, the lighting of cooking fires and other management concerns will be conveyed through the use of pre-visit guides and brochures supported by on-site signs.
- 2.5.8 The lighting of all fires will be subject to the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act. Ground fires (that is fires lit in other than authorised fireplaces) are prohibited in national and conservation parks, nature reserves and other areas as may be specified.

2.6 Nature Study/Appreciation

Introduction

The basic human desire to explore, experience and study nature first hand is fundamental to the notion of setting aside relatively undisturbed areas in parks and reserves. Western Australia's system of nature reserves, conservation, marine and national parks and State forest areas contains an incredible diversity of landscapes, plants and animals, each with its own unique qualities and appeal. These representative areas of W A's biota afford unlimited opportunities for a range of nature study and appreciation activities such as bird watching, photography and landscape painting.

Policy

- 2.6.1 The Department will encourage, promote and facilitate public awareness, appreciation and study of W A's natural systems and conservation values. This will be achieved through the provision of appropriately designed nature interpretation and visitor facilities, the development of field-based interpretative programs, the production and distribution of visitor information and interpretation documents such as maps, brochures, posters and resource notes and through personal contact with CALM staff.
- 2.6.2 Visitor interpretation facilities and productions will be designed to raise community awareness about conservation values and management programs and to promote the wise use of the natural environment. Where possible, preference will be given to those facilities which enable the public to directly experience and interact with the environment on a personal level.
- 2.6.3 Self-guiding nature walks, dive trails and tracks will be developed in order to provide controlled access through interesting or sensitive environments.

- 2.6.4 Natural and cultural features will be interpreted where appropriate using various techniques such as signs and brochures. Where possible these should be prepared in accordance with an overall interpretation plan/program for the particular area. Identification and interpretation of sensitive features such as Aboriginal cultural sites or rare flora will only be permitted when necessary internal and external approvals have been obtained.
- 2.6.5 Opportunities for viewing wildlife in their natural environment will be provided where this can be done safely and without undue disturbance to the species being observed or their habitat. Viewing facilities such as boardwalks, bird and animal hides will be developed in conjunction with other visitor facilities and in accordance with accepted design standards for structures in natural environments. Access for visitors with disabilities will be provided where practicable.
- 2.6.6 The Department will undertake to train its own staff and, where appropriate, volunteers in the principles and procedures of public communications and the planning and effective presentation of nature interpretation programs.

2.7 Bushwalking (Including Backpacking)

Introduction

Bushwalking is an activity that can be enjoyed by people of varying ages, interests and levels of physical fitness and mobility. In its various forms, bushwalking can encompass everything from a short, leisurely stroll or a more strenuous hike of several hours duration to a major trek lasting days or even weeks. In comparison with motorised or other assisted types of access, bushwalking enables visitors to explore and appreciate the natural environment at close quarters.

Opportunities for bushwalking on Departmental lands are extensive and diverse. For those visitors primarily interested in more passive outings, there are the short self-guiding nature trails. Typically such trails utilise signs and/or brochures to describe and interpret various natural or cultural features. Often such trails are developed in conjunction with or as an ancillary attraction to other recreation facilities such as camping and picnic areas.

At the other end of the spectrum are the longer distance walking paths which may traverse a range of landscapes and which offer visitors the opportunity to explore the natural environment free from most comforts and luxuries of modern day living. The use of these long distance paths need not be restricted solely to the fit and hardy. By using carefully planned access points, feeder and circuit routes, the long distance path can also cater for walkers interested in shorter outings or those who wish to complete it in sections over an extended period of time.

The impact of bushwalking on the physical environment, while generally low, can be quite variable depending on soil conditions, landform, vegetation type and intensity of use. Where use levels are high, bushwalking can lead to the loss of vegetation as well as localised soil compaction and erosion problems. Other impacts such as the introduction and/or spread of weeds and plant diseases or the escape of fires from overnight campsites may also occur. Usually these problems can be effectively minimised through the sensitive location and design of paths and the careful selection of backpack campsites.

Also of concern are the potential safety problems associated with long distance hikes through remote back country areas. In the event of a wildfire or a walker becoming lost or injured, the resultant search and rescue operations could also lead to more substantial environmental impacts. Such problems can be largely overcome through the provision of a self registration system and visitor information programs designed to ensure walkers are adequately informed about and equipped to handle the conditions they will encounter.

Policy

- 2.7.1 A range of bushwalking opportunities will be provided and maintained on Departmental lands. Three categories of paths or foot access will be provided where appropriate as follows:

Walk - a relatively short, well-formed path with a stable walking surface constructed to "shoe" standard. Walks require limited skill or experience to negotiate and are suitable for persons of all ages and fitness levels.

Track - a path constructed to "boot" standard which requires some skill or experience to comfortably negotiate. Tracks are generally well designed and clearly marked and suitable for persons of at least average physical fitness.

Route - a lightly marked path or unmarked route for use by well-equipped and experienced hikers only. The only construction is for environmental protection purposes.

Each of these categories may be further subdivided into various walking level classes in order to assist in the provision and management of the full range of bushwalking opportunities.

- 2.7.2 The provision of bushwalking opportunities on CALM managed lands will be based on a careful appraisal of visitor needs and environmental impacts as well as the availability of resources for construction and on-going maintenance. The construction of all paths will be subject to the preparation and approval of a path management plan in accordance with established planning procedures and environmental controls.

- 2.7.3 The development of future bushwalking opportunities will be considered in conjunction with other visitor and management access requirements. Where practicable, paths on Department lands will be located so as to complement or link up with tracks on adjoining public lands.
- 2.7.4 Paths will be located so as to enhance visitor experiences and interpretation opportunities. Alignments and grades will be selected so as to provide safe access with minimum disturbance to the natural environment and minimum maintenance.
- 2.7.5 Priority will be given to the development of self-guiding nature walks and loop paths along major tourist routes or at popular visitor nodes. Access points or starting points should be carefully linked to other visitor facilities to facilitate path use and management.
- 2.7.6 Where practicable, nature walks and shorter loop paths will be constructed to a standard suitable for use by people with disabilities.
- 2.7.7 Where bushwalking paths are provided in remote or back country areas, these should be low-key and of a standard which does not adversely impact on nature conservation values. In wilderness areas or zones, paths and other ancillary facilities will not generally be constructed.
- 2.7.8 Where the intensity of hiking in back country areas threatens resource values or the enjoyment of other uses, various management controls including the issuing of permits, the temporary resting or closure of paths and backpack campsites may be introduced.
- 2.7.9 The decision whether to designate and develop specific backpack camping areas in conjunction with bushwalking paths and routes or to allow "free-range" backpack camping will be generally made within the context of a regional, area or issue management plan.

- 2.7.10 Where backpack camping areas are provided, these will be located in protected, stable landscapes with well-drained, non-erodible soils. Where possible, designated camping sites should be situated within reasonable proximity (200-300 metres) of potable water, but not so close that camping will lead to pollution problems.
- 2.7.11 Backpack camping sites should not be located within areas of heavy fuels where the risk of accidental ignition could place unacceptably high risks on either human life or conservation values. Where use of such areas is unavoidable then the Department may act to reduce the build up of heavy fuels.
- 2.7.12 Where backpack camping areas are provided, these will be located in close proximity to designated routes at intervals which can be comfortably traversed in one day (generally 15 to 20 km). Minimum sanitary facilities (borehole toilets) may be provided where appropriate.
- 2.7.13 Back country walkers will be required to adhere to the "clean, crush and carry" philosophy of rubbish disposal. In other words, all litter must be carried out. Disposal by burying is not permitted.
- 2.7.14 The Department will promote the adoption of the minimal impact or "no-trace" camping code of ethics by all remote area users through the use of signs, brochures, track registration stations and the provision of suitably structured training courses on outback safety and bushcraft skills.

2.8 Equestrian Activities

Introduction

The use of horses in natural areas is part of the European cultural heritage of Australia and a source of pleasure and enjoyment for many visitors. Horse-riding is accepted as an appropriate means of appreciating and enjoying some areas of CALM managed estate, where environmental and social impacts are acceptable.

Potential horse-riding impacts include; soil erosion, trampling and grazing of native vegetation, introduction and spread of plant diseases and weeds, siltation and fouling of watercourses and the potential for conflict with other visitors. Consequently, horse-riding is best suited to State forest areas where it can be dispersed or directed to non-conflicting areas. It is inappropriate for Nature Reserves, wilderness areas and other reserves and parks with fragile environments or which are highly susceptible to the spread of weeds or fungal disease, especially Dieback.

There are a variety of horse-riding activities which may be permitted on CALM managed lands, ranging from casual rides along defined tracks to extended trail rides lasting several days or more. Other activities including hunting from horseback or equestrian sports such as gymkhanas will not be permitted as they are either illegal or in conflict with nature conservation objectives.

Policy

- 2.8.1 Horse-riding is an appropriate activity in some areas managed by CALM, provided it does not conflict with the protection of the natural and cultural environment, other users or management operations.
- 2.8.2 Horse-riding is permitted in State Forest and timber reserves but not in Nature Reserves, wilderness areas or in areas of special scientific or cultural value.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 18

RECREATION, TOURISM AND VISITOR SERVICES

Statement 18.2.8

EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES

December 1994

Introduction

The use of horses in natural areas is part of the cultural and historic heritage of Australia, and is a source of pleasure and enjoyment for many people. Horse-riding is recognised as a suitable means of appreciating and enjoying those natural areas where environmental and social impacts can be kept to acceptable limits.

The use of natural areas for active recreation, however, always carries some risk of overuse and disturbance that may lead to deterioration of the natural values. Some of the potential impacts associated with horse-riding include: possible introduction of weeds or parasites, spread of disease, such as die-back, trampling or browsing of native flora, soil erosion, siltation or fouling of watercourses, disturbance of native fauna and the potential for conflict with other users.

CALM believes that horse-riding activities should only be allowed on the conservation estate in those locations where the impacts are considered manageable. Generally this will mean that horse-riding may be approved in multiple use areas such as land reserved under Section 5(g) of the CALM Act, or State forest, provided that such activities will not detract from the overall values of the area. Horse-riding will not be allowed in areas of special scientific or cultural value such as nature reserves or wilderness areas or other areas requiring special protection.

Horse-riding on gazetted public roads within the CALM-managed estate must comply with the *Road Traffic Act*, but horse-riding on tracks and roads which are vested as national park, nature reserve or State forest disease risk area (DRA) is subject to regulations administered by CALM. Regulation of horse-riding on other tenures managed by CALM will be enforceable under new CALM Act regulations which are in preparation.

Consideration of horse-riding activities on CALM managed lands might cover a range of opportunities, including: day-use trails, long distance trails, designated areas and free-range riding.

Evaluation of proposals to ride horses on conservation lands will take into account any previous history of horse-riding and will also recognise situations of undue hardship where riders may claim a prior "right of access" to cross through CALM lands.

Objective

To manage equestrian activities on the conservation estate so that such activities will not detract from the overall values of the area.

Policy

- 2.8.1 Horse-riding is recognised as an appropriate activity in some areas managed by CALM and is managed in accordance with approved administrative instructions where environmental and social impacts are considered manageable and where the activity does not conflict with other management operations.

- 2.8.2 Horse-riding will not be permitted in wilderness areas, areas of special scientific or cultural value or other areas requiring special protection.
- 2.8.3 Horse-riding will not generally be permitted in nature reserves.
- 2.8.4 In the absence of an approved management plan for a national park, nature reserve or conservation park, the CALM Act allows for approval by way of compatible operations by which horse-riding may continue along defined tracks, firebreaks and roads for as long as it is not found to be causing environmental damage or conflict with other users, or as a necessary operation when the activity is reviewed in the preparation of a management plan for the reserve.
- 2.8.5 Horse-riding may be provided for in national parks and conservation parks, and in some circumstances in nature reserves, by way of an approved management plan where "right of access" is recognised or where such activity has been previously allowed and the impacts of the activity can be minimised and controlled.
- 2.8.6 Horse-riding is permitted in State forest and timber reserves subject to Forest Management Regulations and operational guidelines and provided it does not present a conflict with other users.
- 2.8.7 To control the spread of dieback and other diseases, horses are subject to the same restrictions as vehicles in disease risk areas (DRA), i.e.
- i) Horses may use public open roads that pass through DRA, but must not leave the road surface;
 - ii) In dry summer months, horses may be allowed to enter DRA on road surfaces if an access permit has been issued by the local CALM office.
- 2.8.8 Proposals to conduct special equestrian events such as endurance rides or historical enactments through CALM managed lands will require the approval of the relevant Regional Manager(s).
- 2.8.9 Where horse-riding is permitted on CALM managed lands, horses must be controlled at all times, including yarding or tethering overnight or during rest periods, and must be kept within specified zones or on designated horse trails, as indicated by signs, markers or brochures or as authorised by permit.
- 2.8.10 Where practicable, paths and trails for horse-riding, cycling and bushwalking will be separated to minimise any conflicts between these activities.
- 2.8.11 In areas where camping is permitted with horses, riders should camp at approved campsites, preferably where yards or tethering rails are available. If designated horse campsites are not provided, camps must be kept as small as possible and at least 30 meters from lakes, rivers and streams. Manure should be collected and removed from the site or, if this is not possible, buried in the horse holding area.
- 2.8.12 Where it is necessary to feed horses in CALM managed areas, the use of processed, weed-free feed may be required. Horses are not permitted to graze in national parks and conservation parks and grazing may also be restricted or disallowed in other areas as determined by area management guidelines.
- 2.8.13 Commercial horse-riding activities must comply with CALM's Commercial Tour Operator Policy and Guidelines.
- 2.8.14 Horse-riding zones, trails or campsites may be closed if weather conditions, erosion, disease, degradation of vegetation or water sources, conflict with other users or lack of compliance to conditions of use warrant such closure.

- 2.8.3 Horse-riding will only be permitted in national parks, conservation parks and other reserves if provided for in an approved management plan or where use was previously authorised. In the case of the latter, the Department may redirect, restrict or prohibit horse-riding activity where there are sound reasons for doing so.
- 2.8.4 Proposals to conduct special equestrian events such as endurance rides or historical enactments through CALM managed lands will required the approval of the relevant Regional Manager(s).
- 2.8.5 Where horse-riding is permitted outside of State forest areas, horses must be ridden only on designated horse trails or within specified zones as indicated by signs, markers or brochures or as authorised by permit.
- 2.8.6 Horses shall be controlled at all times, including tethering overnight or during rest periods, to avoid causing unnecessary damage or interference to any vegetation or ground surface.
- 2.8.7 Where practicable, paths and trails for horse-riding and bushwalking will be separated to minimise any conflicts between these activities.
- 2.8.8 Horse riders will be encouraged to camp overnight at approved campsites where yards or tethering rails (permanent or temporary) are available or provided by the users. Horses should be watered and fed in such a way as to minimise impacts on streams, indigenous plant or animal communities, or water supplies for other users.
- 2.8.9 Where it is necessary to hand feed stock, riders will be required to use processed, pelletized feed (free of weeds) on CALM managed lands.

- 2.8.10 Commercial horse-riding activities must comply with CALM's Commercial Tour Operators Policy and Guidelines.
- 2.8.11 Horse-riding zones, trails or campsites may be closed if weather conditions, erosion, dieback, degradation of vegetation or lack of compliance to conditions of use warrant such closure.

PROCEDURES

1. Limits on horse-riding in an area may be set by restricting the amount of car and float parking provided or the number of permits issued. Permits also offer a mechanism for enforcement and raising revenue for management.
2. When considering the location of a horse-trail, the following factors must be considered:
 - * presence and/or risk of dieback introduction and spread; the "Seven Way Test" must be applied;
 - * occurrence of unstable soils on trails likely to be used and subsequent maintenance costs;
 - * presence of rare, threatened or susceptible plants, animals or wildlife communities;
 - * presence of trails used by other users, especially walkers;
 - * whether or not there is scope for cross-country riding and if so the occurrence of fragile areas which should be avoided, e.g. moss beds;

- * maximum appropriate size of a riding group;
- * amount of fees to be charged if any;
- * suitability of campsites for use by horse-riders and by other users and the need for tethering rails or horse yards;
- * access and parking requirements and accessibility for support vehicles and floats;
- * level of supervision and/or patrols required, if any;
- * location of historical, including Aboriginal, or cultural sites;
- * historical/traditional use of an area;
- * identification of suitable watering sites;
- * needs of different types of horse-riders.

2.9 Hunting, Fossicking and Collecting

2.9.1 Hunting

Introduction

The term "hunting" in this policy is defined as the recreational trapping or shooting of mammals, birds and reptiles using any type of trap or weapon such as a firearm, bow, crossbow, sling, gidgie or other projectile. This policy does not address hunting by Aboriginal Groups or individuals in traditional areas.

Policy

- 2.9.1.1 Hunting will not generally be permitted on CALM managed lands or waters with the exception that under provisions in the Wildlife Conservation Act, the Minister for the Environment may declare an open season on ducks and/or quail. In the event of such a season being declared all shooters must be licensed. Licences specify dates and locations of the open season, and include such conditions as bag limits, game species, and methods of capture.
- 2.9.1.2 The Department may, subject to Executive Director approval, authorise the shooting or trapping of declared vermin and feral species such as rabbits, foxes, pigs and goats on CALM managed lands and waters.

2.9.2 Fossicking

Introduction

Fossicking is defined, for the purposes of this policy, as the recreational search for bottles, coins and other artefacts using hand tools only (e.g. pick, shovel, metal detector, panning dish).

Prospecting (which is defined under the Mining Act) is a more systematic activity involving the search for minerals. Fossicking for gold or other minerals is considered to be prospecting. A prospector must operate in accordance with the Mining Act.

The search for and indiscriminate removal of artefacts and relics can result in localised disturbance of the environment as well as the loss of cultural and historical records. For these reasons, fossicking needs to be carefully controlled and managed.

Many fossicking clubs have a code of ethics which involves minimal disturbance of the environment and replacement of soil removed during their activities. Where such activities are permitted fossickers will be required to replace soil, rocks and debris. Fossickers will also be encouraged to hand in items of possible importance to the history of a site or the area in general. In the case of registered archaeological sites and wrecks, this is a statutory obligation. Removal of the surviving components of historic sites such as bricks, mining machinery and other relics, or disturbance to them is not permitted.

Policy

2.9.2.1 Nature Reserves, National, Conservation and Marine Parks

Fossicking is not permitted in Nature Reserves, National Parks, Conservation Parks or Marine Parks without the written approval of the Executive Director.

State Forests/Timber Reserves

Fossicking is generally permitted, except in designated areas/sites such as those maintained and managed for interpretative purposes.

2.9.2.2 Hand tools only may be used for fossicking. These include pick and shovel, metal detector, panning dish, and portable cradle. No horses or motor driven devices may be used.

2.9.2.3 Relics and artefacts that are part of the historical feature of an area, particularly above ground items such as bricks, building stones and mining machinery, must not be dislodged or removed. Such sites should not be included in areas available for fossicking.

Fossickers will be encouraged to report the discovery of any relics of European settlement (such as old bottles and coins) on CALM managed lands and waters to the Department. Such relics will subsequently be referred to authorities such as the W A Museum or the University of W A Department of Prehistory so that their historical significance/value can be assessed. Items of significance may be retained for interpretive and educational purposes.

2.9.2.4 The discovery of Aboriginal relics should be reported to the Department of Aboriginal Sites, W A Museum. Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1970-1980), Aboriginal relics are not to be disturbed, removed or tampered with.

2.9.3 Collection of Marine and Intertidal Organisms

Introduction

Marine collecting is defined as the gathering of biological material from the sea bed or waters for educational, recreation or commercial purposes. Intertidal collecting is defined as educational, recreational or commercial gathering of biological material from the area between Spring High Water Mark and Mean Low Water Mark.

Activities included in this policy are collection of living marine organisms for food, bait, marine aquariums, observation etc and non-living (e.g. shells, cuttlebones) or dead material (e.g. stranded seaweed). The collection of material of mineral origin and the collection of material for research are covered in other policies as is angling (recreational fishing for fin fish) and commercial fishing for fin fish and shell fish. Nor is this policy intended to cover the collection or harvesting of marine and intertidal organisms for food by Aboriginal groups or individuals in traditional areas.

Collecting from marine and intertidal areas may conflict with conservation values as damage can occur through carelessness, even if no specimens are taken i.e. through leaving rocks upturned and exposing the biota to dessication, predation and other hazards.

Policy

2.9.3.1 Marine and intertidal collecting for any commercial purposes (except commercial fishing)

Generally, commercial collection of living marine organisms or non-living material is not permitted in any areas managed under the provisions of the CALM Act. In exceptional cases, collecting may be permitted by the Executive Director when the material required cannot be easily obtained outside the park or reserve, when the impact on natural

populations is assessed to be negligible and when its collection is of demonstrable public benefit rather than simply providing commercial gain to an individual or group.

2.9.3.2 Marine and intertidal collecting for food (except recreational fishing)

Apart from species such as abalone and crayfish which are protected and managed under the Fisheries Act, the collection of marine and intertidal organisms for food will normally not be permitted.

2.9.3.3 Marine and intertidal collecting for bait

Where recreational fishing is specifically allowed for in the approved management plan for the area, bait collecting may be permitted under strict guidelines as set out by the Regional Manager. When making this decision, consideration is to be given to the proximity of other suitable areas outside the area for gathering bait, the proximity of commercial outlets selling bait and the vulnerability and/or significance of the intertidal communities in question. The public should be encouraged to obtain bait from outside CALM managed lands and waters.

2.9.3.4 Marine and intertidal collecting for educational purposes

Non-destructive educational activities (such as on-site observation and brief removal and replacement of organisms) should be encouraged. Student projects involving sampling, plot establishment and similar exercises are to be discouraged, particularly in heavily visited areas. Where allowed, a permit may be issued by the Executive Director to bona fide educational groups and restrictions will be placed on the numbers of specimens taken.

Conditions of the permit would include the submission of a report on the activity to the Department.

- 2.9.3.5 Amateur marine and intertidal collecting of living or dead organisms, seaweed or non living remains of organisms such as shells for private marine aquariums or for observation will not normally be permitted. Non-destructive activities involving on-site observation and photography should be encouraged through education and interpretation programs.

2.10 Aircraft

Introduction

This policy addresses both powered flight using fixed-wing and ultra-light planes, helicopters and paragliders and unpowered flight with gliders, balloons and parachuting (see Policy 2.17).

The use of powered and unpowered aircraft on or over natural areas can have various impacts, both on the biophysical environment itself and on the quality of visitor experience. The recreational use of Departmental lands and waters often involves the search for peace and quiet, particularly in remote areas, and the safe enjoyment of the sounds and visions of nature. The flight over, landing and departure of powered craft may constitute a significant intrusion for some users and disturb and endanger wildlife. There is also the matter of user safety and the potential impacts and costs of search and rescue operations in the event of an accident.

On the other hand, it is recognized that sightseeing of remote areas by aircraft is often the most feasible way to experience the grandeur of a unique area and that it is less physically impacting than a road.

Policy

- 2.10.1 The operation of all aircraft, both powered and unpowered, on or over CALM managed lands and waters must comply with the relevant federal and state air safety regulations and procedures.
- 2.10.2 Permission to operate commercial recreation or scenic flights from the CALM managed estate will be subject to an approved management plan or, in the absence of such a plan, will require the approval of the Executive Director or a delegated officer.

- 2.10.3 Aircraft pilots and/or commercial operators will be requested to abide by flight guidelines which may be developed for particular areas of the CALM managed estate such as wilderness or wildlife viewing areas. Implementation of such guidelines and restrictions will be by voluntary agreement. Should this prove unsuccessful, the Department may seek enforcement through the Civil Aviation Authority and/or the Department of Transport and Communications.
- 2.10.4 As a general rule, the operation of powered recreational aircraft over nature reserves, wilderness areas and other areas of scientific interest will not be encouraged if such activity is likely to adversely impact on visitor enjoyment and/or disturb and endanger wildlife.
- 2.10.5 Except in an emergency, all rotary and fixed wing aircraft departing from or landing on Departmental lands must use established airstrips or landing sites designated and maintained for this purpose. Non emergency aircraft takeoffs and landings will only be permitted where the purpose is considered to be compatible with the management aims and objectives for the area in question.
- 2.10.6 Permission to operate all unpowered aircraft such as gliders, hot air balloons and sport parachutes from CALM managed lands will, as with powered aircraft, require Executive Director or management plan approval.

2.11 Rock Climbing and Abseiling

Introduction

There are many areas in WA managed by CALM where rock climbing and abseiling already occur. Undoubtedly there are a number of other potential sites suitable for such activities, especially in the more remote areas of the CALM managed estate.

The Climbers Association of W A (CAWA) was established in the late 1960's at which time the sport was in its infancy in Western Australia. In 1989, the CAWA adopted a "code of ethics" which addresses safety, environmental and social impact considerations associated with climbing. CAWA remains as the major Perth-based focal point for recreational rock climbing while a smaller groups exists in the Albany area. Other organisations which participate in rock climbing include the S.A.S., school and university outdoor adventure groups and several commercial operators.

Abseiling is a skill learnt by rock climbers in order to safely retreat from rock faces or mountainous terrain by sliding down a rope. In the early 1980's, abseiling began to develop as an activity in its own right in W A. Naturally many of the sites popular with rock climbers are also attractive to abseilers. However, abseilers have more scope to use old quarries and even buildings to enjoy their activity.

Policy

- 2.11.1 Rock climbing and abseiling are recognised as legitimate forms of public recreation on lands managed by CALM and will be permitted subject to the recognition and adequate maintenance of conservation values, safety standards and the rights and enjoyment of other visitors. Area management plans or interim management guidelines will specify any restrictions on rock climbing or abseiling activities.
- 2.11.2 The Climbers Association of W A Code of Ethics (1989) is endorsed by the Department. All climbers will be required to observe the code when climbing on CALM managed lands.

- 2.11.3 Special access to climbing or abseiling areas will not generally be provided, but paths to more popular sites will be maintained and upgraded if erosion becomes a problem.
- 2.11.4 Restrictions may be introduced limiting the times, numbers and sites in which climbing and abseiling can be undertaken, should such activities threaten or conflict with conservation of the natural or cultural environment, e.g. breeding sites, significant flora or fauna, track erosion, Aboriginal rock paintings, special geological features. The danger of rocks falling on walkers or spectators using paths or areas below climbing sites may also require restrictions to be imposed or paths to be realigned. Restrictions will be appropriately publicised.
- 2.11.5 People conducting commercial rock climbing and abseiling in parks must obtain a commercial tourist activity permit. Approval will generally be subject to the following conditions:
- * Adequate safety precautions must be taken, including the provision of appropriate rock climbing helmets for all participants.
 - * Areas to be used are to be approved by the Regional manager, who may vary the location of such areas from time to time to provide protection to the environment.
 - * Group size is generally limited to a maximum 20 people using an area at any one time. All groups must be accompanied and supervised by a qualified instructor(s).

2.12 Orienteering/Rogaining/Cross Country Running

Introduction

ORIENTEERING is an organised activity which requires participants to visit on foot a set number of control points in the bush in a given sequence in the shortest time. There are usually multiple courses per event.

ROGAINING is a long distance cross country navigation event which is generally 12-24 hours in duration. Participants visit control points on a course in any order, the aim being to accumulate the highest number of points possible. Each control has a value according to its ease of location and access. Competitors carry packs and there is a large number of participants visiting particular control points. There is only one course per event and it involves less running and greater use of roads and tracks than Orienteering.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING is a footrace that occurs outdoors over a variety of surfaces along a single, marked course. The object is to complete the course in the shortest time. All competitors follow the same course.

Policy

- 2.12.1 Orienteering, Rogaining and Cross-country Running are appropriate on Departmental lands where they do not conflict with the protection of the natural and cultural environment, with other park visitors or management operations.
- 2.12.2 Orienteering, Rogaining and Cross-country Running are not permitted in Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, sites of scientific or cultural significance or camping areas.
- 2.12.3 The decision about whether or not Orienteering, Rogaining or Cross-country Running will be permitted in an area will be addressed in the management plan. Where such a plan does not exist, the responsibility for the decision rests with the Executive Director or a delegated officer.

- 2.12.4 Decisions on the suitability of an area to cater for these activities will in part be based on the proposed intensity, frequency and timing of events so that unacceptable environmental impact or interference with other users or management operations does not occur. Limits, modifications and conditions may be set, particularly with respect to maximum numbers of participants and location of courses, to make an event acceptable in a desired area.
- 2.12.5 Any permanent course marking must have the approval of the District Manager before erection and all temporary marking must be removed after each event.

PROCEDURES

1. If a management plan allows for these activities, applications for mapping and staging an event will be dealt with by the District Manager. If no management plan exists for the area, applications must be forwarded to the District Manager for approval at least 3 months prior to the event to enable thorough evaluation.
2. All applications should include details of the event status (club, state or national), timing and number of competitors and observers expected.
3. Assessment of suitability of these activities in an area should include the following considerations:
 - * protection of flora and fauna;
 - * susceptibility of soils to erosion and disturbance in general, and under certain conditions, e.g. after rain, after prolonged dry weather;
 - * potential conflicts with other visitors;
 - * availability of facilities suitable for the event, e.g. car parking areas, toilets, BBQ areas;

- 102
- * potential to spread Dieback or any other plant or animal diseases;
 - * availability of suitable campsites in the case of overnight events;
 - * potential to damage structures on the proposed course e.g. jumping fences, heavy use of bridges.
4. Care should be taken to ensure that sensitive environments are not subject to overuse when selecting areas and/or approving orienteering, rogaining or cross country running events, particularly where it is proposed to conduct multiple events in the same area.

2.13 Caving

Introduction

Western Australia has a remarkable diversity of caves and other karst features. These range from the 350 million year old limestone gorges and caves of the Kimberley Devonian Reefs to the vertical "wells" of Cape Range and the myriad of sinkholes, collapsed dolines and massive caverns and underground tunnels of the Nullarbor. Along the west coast, the aeolian limestones which extend from approximately 200 kilometres north of Perth to 300 kilometres south contain a wealth of caves, many with impressive decorations. A significant number of these caves and karst formations are situated on Departmental lands and several are important tourist attractions.

Caves have special scientific, aesthetic and recreational values, all of which require careful protection. Once damaged, cave formations can take thousands of years to reform and thus they must be treated and managed as a non-renewable resource. To assist in this process, a cave classification system has been developed by the W A Working Group on Cave Protection and Management (henceforth referred to as the Cave Working Group). This management classification currently recognises 3 categories of caves as follows:

Classification	User Group	Recommended Management
Restricted entry	Experienced and responsible speleologists, scientists	Maximum protection - access restricted for research, monitoring or management purposes
Adventure or Wild	Speleologists, other cavers and general public who discover the cave	General protection; requires the caver to either register at the cave entrance or to obtain a written permit prior to planning an excursion

Classification	User Group	Recommended Management
Tourist	General public	Developed and managed for tourist use and/or as an educational resource; clearly signposted with access restricted to specified times after payment of an appropriate fee at the time of entry

The objective of this policy statement is to provide general directions as to the Department's management of and the public's recreational use of Adventure and Tourist caves. The broader issues of cave management and protection and the scientific study and measurement of caves is dealt with in a separate policy. It is also important to note that the Department acknowledges that expertise on cave management in Western Australia largely resides with the Australian Speleologist Federation (ASF), the Cave Working Group (CWG) and with amateur speleologists. Consequently, the on-going involvement of all parties in the future exploration, classification, management and protection of caves and karst features on CALM managed lands is seen as essential.

Policy

- 2.13.1 The Department will, in association with the Australian Speleologist Federation, Cave Working Group, and speleologists, maintain a confidential and up to date inventory of all caves and major karst features on CALM managed lands.
- 2.13.2 All caves on lands controlled by the Department will be assessed according to the cave management classification system as outlined.
- 2.13.3 The preparation of management plans and/or programs for individual caves will be undertaken.

- 2.13.4 Access to and use of Adventure and Tourist caves by all persons including CALM personnel will be provided in accordance with ASF ethics on cave use.
- 2.13.5 Care will be taken to ensure that surface land management does not adversely impact on cave features or their management.
- 2.13.6 Where appropriate, entry fees to tourist caves will be charged in accordance with sections 1.1 and 1.2 of the Recreation Policy.
- 2.13.7 The use of Adventure caves will be carefully controlled and monitored through the development of an entry permit system and/or self registration stations. Where necessary, the Department may close or otherwise restrict/limit public use where such use is resulting in unacceptable damage to caves, cave formations or cave flora and fauna.
- 2.13.8 Because caves and cave formations are easily damaged by uncontrolled access and use, their location will not be divulged on Departmental maps and publications unless agreed to by the Cave Working Group.
- 2.13.9 The Department will alert speleologists and other visitors to the potential hazards within caves situated on CALM managed lands through the use of signs and other means of communication.
- 2.13.10 Caves classified as "Restricted Entry" will not be leased to commercial operators, but Adventure or Wild Caves may be leased, subject to conditions specified in Section 1.2.

2.14 Cave Diving

Introduction

Diving within submerged cave systems is becoming increasingly popular as a quite separate activity from caving, especially on the Nullarbor Plain. The main body of Australian cave divers are based in the South eastern States.

The Cave Diving Association of Australia (CDAA) has a formal registration and accreditation system for cavers which forms the basis for access agreements to cave diving areas on public lands managed by government agencies within other Australian States.

Policy

- 2.14.1 The Department recognises cave diving as a legitimate recreational activity on CALM managed lands.
- 2.14.2 The Department will maintain liaison with the CDAA with regard to access requirements and dive 'ratings' for caves on CALM managed lands.
- 2.14.3 The Department will maintain strict permit entry control to cave divers. ASF ethics will apply to the dry entrance sections of caves.

2.15 Shooting

Introduction

Shooting as an activity includes the use of small and large bore rifles, pistols, guns, bows (long and cross) or any other device which projects an object. Shooting in this context generally refers to the activity of shooting at targets for accuracy or shooting for distance. As indicated in the policy on hunting (2.9) the shooting at or of any wildlife is prohibited unless authorised by the Minister under the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act or, in the case of feral species or declared vermin, by the Executive Director.

Target shooting is a popular activity requiring control and patience. As a recognised sporting activity it is generally pursued in clubs or groups and involves competition and socializing. CALM administers general shooting ranges by way of lease. There are no areas where "free range" shooting is allowed.

The major concerns with shooting activity relate to public safety and conflict with other users.

Policy

- 2.15.1 Shooting activities as a recreation/sport will not be allowed on nature reserves, national parks or marine parks (see Policy 2.9).
- 2.15.2 Recreational or sport shooting on other CALM managed lands and waters will require Regional or District Manager approval and will only be permitted in designated areas which can be adequately buffered and managed to exclude the general public.
- 2.15.3 Such areas will generally be administered by way of lease. In the case of once off special events, designated areas can be set aside. Organisers will be required to meet the cost of informing and excluding the public.

- 2.15.4 If facilities are provided by way of lease, priority will be given to State or regional facilities rather than local club facilities.

2.16 Model Aircraft/Rockets

Introduction

The construction and flying of model aircraft and rockets is a popular hobby for a growing number of people and there are several sites where organised groups/clubs currently fly their craft. This activity essentially requires a cleared area suitable for takeoffs and landings and with the surrounding airspace free of obstructions. In addition, separation from residential development is also an important consideration due to noise impacts. Given these requirements, permission is sometimes sought to fly model aircraft on Departmental lands.

Apart from noise, other impacts associated with the operation of model aircraft and/or rockets include the increased risk of wildfire, the potential danger these craft pose to other visitors and air users and the unknown effect on wildlife.

Policy

- 2.16.1 The flying of motorized model aircraft/rockets is not consistent with the usual use of CALM managed lands and waters. It is therefore not permitted in National Parks, Nature Reserves, wilderness areas generally or in areas of special scientific or cultural value. It will only be allowed on other CALM managed lands if specific areas are set aside for the purpose. Such areas must be designed and located to effectively deal with the noise nuisance, fire danger and safety requirements of participants and observers.
- 2.16.2 The flying of non-motorized model aircraft is permitted only where it will not interfere with wildlife or other visitors, and only if launched unaided by hand.
- 2.16.3 The provision of this policy will apply equally to the operation of other motorised model craft such as radio controlled cars and boats.

2.17 Hang Gliding/Parapenting

Introduction

Hang gliding is a well established sport in this country and Australian equipment designers and pilots are acknowledged internationally as leaders in their fields. The popular European sport of parapenting has also recently been introduced to Australia. Like hand gliding, this activity involves mountain or cliff top launches using a fully controllable gliding parachute capable of soaring flight. Hang gliding as a sport is administered by the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia through the State associations, including that in Western Australia. The Association's safety procedures have been developed to a high standard, resulting in a greatly improved safety record of the sport generally. The Association offers a five-level rating scheme to pilots, from Hang 1 (Beginner) to Hang 5 (Experienced Cross Country Pilot).

Hang gliders are regarded as non-powered aircraft by the Department of Aviation and the sport is therefore automatically subject to an Air Navigation Order. Section 95.8 of the Air Navigation Order, administered by the Department of Aviation, exempts hang gliders from the provisions of certain parts of the Air Navigation Regulations and specifies the conditions to be complied with by hang glider pilots. These conditions cover eligibility to operate a glider, adherence to the rules and regulations of the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia, mandatory qualifications for glider pilots, places where and heights at which a glider may or may not be flown, and the need to obtain the approval of the Regional Director of the Department of Aviation to fly a glider at public gatherings. Several areas managed by CALM are currently used for hang gliding.

Policy

- 2.17.1 Hang gliding and parapenting may be permitted at specified sites by way of a management plan or, in the absence of a plan, by approval of the Executive Director.

- 2.17.2 Specific approval is required for organised events. Each application will be considered in the light of the conduct of previous events, the likely environmental impacts and potential conflicts with other visitors and adjoining land owners. Approval may be given by the Regional Manager.
- 2.17.3 Construction of ramps, erection of safety barriers or railings and placement of warning signs will be undertaken if considered necessary to protect the environmental values of the areas or the safety of other visitors (See Section 1.9.6 of Part 1 of Recreation Policy).
- 2.17.4 Individual requests to engage in casual or unorganised hang gliding and parapenting on CALM managed lands will be assessed to identify the likelihood of any adverse environmental impacts or conflicts with other visitors occurring. Approval to undertake such casual activity will reside with the local Regional or District Manager where the request originates.