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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY DIRECTORATE

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 23

Our ref: 231/85
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INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR OPERATIONS

INTRODUCTION

For substantial areas of land under the control of the Department of Conservation and Land Management it will be many years before approved Management Plans will be developed. In the meantime the CALM Act provides in Section 33 (3) (b) that certain operations can be carried out when there is no management plan.

For National Parks and Nature Reserves these operations are defined as those actions necessary for the preservation or protection of persons, property, land, flora or fauna, or for the preparation of a management plan.

For indigenous State forest the operations are defined as those actions that ensure the multiple use and sustained yield of that resource for the satisfaction of long term social and economic needs.

In accordance with the Departmental Planning Policy (Policy 1, January 1986) the necessary operations must be carried out in a planned manner through the development and implementation of INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR OPERATIONS.

The Interim Guidelines will consist of:

- (1) a brief description and brief guidelines for major potential activities;
- (2) a map showing the locality and area of proposed management activities;
- (3) an indication of who must give approval before particular operations can be carried out.

This paper shows how the Interim Guidelines are intended to work.

AIM

The aims of the Interim Guidelines are:

- (i) to provide an adequate safeguard against natural and operational calamities on lands administered by CALM in the absence of an approved Management Plan;
- (ii) to ensure that critical "necessary operations" are identified and properly prescribed;
- (iii) to ensure that the impacts of necessary operations are fully considered and effectively incorporated within existing management and control systems;
- (iv) to provide a simple, efficient and attainable means of gaining approval for necessary operations.

IDENTIFICATION

The first step is to identify all the necessary operations within each of the areas concerned. Use can be made of a checklist showing all the possible necessary activities - see Appendix 1. Only those operations that are essential for safeguarding the area in question should be considered. These must be consistent with the objectives for the area concerned as described in the CALM Act.

These essential "necessary operations" should then be ranked according to:

- (a) threats to values inside the Park or Reserve;
- (b) presence of exceptional features;
- (c) threats to values outside the Park or Reserve;
- (d) existing commitments (internal or external);
- (e) Government directions.

It may be that only one or two of the necessary operations are to be considered in the Interim Guidelines, e.g. Fire Protection, Dieback Protection, Recreation etc. In other cases, most of the activities will be incorporated in the one document (e.g. Cape Le Grand Interim Guidelines).

STRATEGIES AND PRESCRIPTIONS

The measures proposed in the Interim Guidelines should be the minimum required to meet the needs. They should not seriously pre-empt future considerations and options of the formal Area Management Plan.

The development of suitable strategies and prescriptions **will** necessitate consultation and collaboration between CALM Operations, Planning and Specialist groups. Whilst there is no statutory requirement for public participation in the development of the Interim Guidelines it is desirable that any outside group likely to be affected or who could possibly add to or detract from the Interim Guidelines be consulted in the formative stages of its development, eg. Shires, Bush Fire Brigades, Beekeepers etc.

It is expected that existing strategies and prescriptions will largely suit necessary operations and limit the requirement for additional work.

It is most important that the measures be realistic and attainable, given the resources available in each District or Region. As far as possible the Interim Guidelines should be integrated within existing system of works programming and time tables.

FORMAT

A proforma for the Interim Guidelines has been developed to assist District staff to compile the Guidelines. This proforma should be used where it facilitates the process of prescribing the content and easing the approval process. The Interim Guidelines should be mostly prescriptive, and need only have a very bare description of those aspects of the CALM Park or Reserve that may influence the necessary operation(s) in question. The Guideline compilers should produce the minimum volume of words which will define and prescribe the proposed necessary operation.

Appendix 2 provides an example (Cape Le Grand National Park) of the headings for the Interim Guidelines developed for this Park.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPILING INTERIM GUIDELINES

District and Regional staff will be responsible for developing the individual Interim Guidelines, although specialist Branch staff will be available to assist especially with the initial Guidelines and on Reserves with a number of complex issues.

Those CALM sections available to assist include:

- Research Branch;
- Environmental Protection; (E.P. can coordinate provision of Department expert advice on Dieback interpretation and control of insect infestation, pests and weeds, mining etc.)
- Fire Protection Branch; and
- Recreation and Landscape Branch.

DURATION OF INTERIM GUIDELINES

Most Interim Guidelines should have an approval duration of at least 3 years with a maximum of 5 years. Revision may be required sooner in light of any drastic event (e.g. massive disease spread; or large wildfire) or the provision of improved knowledge (e.g. completed ecological survey). An annual revision may be unwieldy, impractical and time consuming. However, the works programme that emanates from these Interim Guidelines must be reviewed and updated annually.

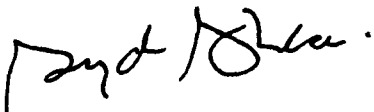
MONITORING

It is desirable to monitor the impacts of proposed Interim Guidelines measures on the flora, fauna and other values within the Reserves. Simple and effective monitoring systems are being developed by Research Branch for flora and fauna indicator species. An appropriate monitoring system will be implemented as resources permit following advice from Research Branch.

APPROVAL

A system of approval for the Interim Guidelines and the methods of implementing these is to be adopted which recognises and utilises the established hierarchy of authority and control, i.e. District Manager to Regional Manager to Divisional Manager (or Branch Manager) to Directorate (Director National Parks or Director Nature Reserves or both, or entire Policy Directorate depending on range of necessary activities). It is expected that once the pattern of the development of these Interim Guidelines have been universally accepted, that the final approval will be delegated to Divisional or Regional Managers.

The approval procedure will not involve formal public participation, except where the Fire Protection Interim Guidelines are to be used as an approved Fire Management Plan for gazettal by the Bush Fires Board in the Government Gazette. In such cases, Shire Council (Bush Fire Advisory Council) and Bush Fires Board liaison staff should be consulted and provide endorsement to the Fire Management Plan.



'Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

28 November 1986

Distribution: Lists A,B,C,D,E,F

APPENDIX 1

NECESSARY OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

Fire Protection

Dieback Protection

Control of Noxious Weeds

Control of Feral Animals

Protection of Rare or Endangered Species

Recreation Management

Access Maintenance

Control of Soil Erosion and Water Quality

Landscape Rehabilitation

Mining and Exploration

Protection of Archaeological and Historic Sites