

Yalgorup National Park

Draft Management Plan

1993



Department of Conservation
and Land Management



National Parks and Nature
Conservation Authority

YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

1993

Planning Team

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for

The National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority
Western Australia

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We want to know what you think of the proposals in this Draft Management Plan. Have you thought about writing a submission?

Why write a submission?

It is an opportunity to provide information, express your opinion, suggest alternatives and have a say on how we are proposing to manage Yalgorup National Park over the next 10 years.

If you prefer not to write your own submission you could make a joint submission with others.

What makes an effective submission?

To ensure your submission is as effective as possible:

- make it concise and clear.
- list your points according to the subject sections (and page numbers) in the Plan.
- describe briefly each subject or issue you wish to discuss.
- say whether you agree or disagree with any or all of the objectives or strategies within each subject or just those of specific interest to you; clearly state your reasons (particularly if you disagree) and give sources of information where possible.
- suggest alternatives to deal with any issue with which you may disagree.

It is important to indicate those strategies and recommendations you agree with as well as those with which you disagree.

Each submission is important, but those that give reasons for concerns, give support where appropriate and offer information and constructive suggestions are most useful.

What happens to your submission?

All submissions will be summarised according to the topics discussed. The Draft Management Plan will then be reviewed in the light of submissions, according to established criteria (see below). A summary of the submissions will be published along with the Final Management Plan, including an indication of how the plan was amended or not in response to the submissions. If a submission is marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' the author will remain anonymous in the analysis of submissions.

What criteria will be used in assessing your submission?

1. The Draft Management Plan *will* be amended if a submission:
 - (a) provides additional resource information of direct relevance to management;
 - (b) provides additional information on affected user groups of direct relevance to management;

- (c) indicates a change in (or clarifies) Government legislation, management commitment or management policy;
 - (d) proposes strategies that would better achieve management goals and objectives; or
 - (e) indicates omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.
2. The Draft Management Plan *will not* be amended if a submission:
- (a) clearly supports the draft proposals;
 - (b) offers a neutral statement or no change is sought;
 - (c) addresses issues beyond the scope of the plan;
 - (d) makes points which are already in the plan or were considered during plan preparation;
 - (e) is one amongst several widely divergent viewpoints received on the topic and the recommendation of the draft plan is still considered the best option;
 - (f) contributes options which are not possible (generally due to some aspect of existing legislation, or Government policy).

DEADLINE

Submissions are welcome for two months after the date of release. For enquiries please phone (09) 364 0777.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR SUBMISSION

Written submissions should be sent to:

Executive Director
Department of Conservation and Land Management
P.O. Box 104
COMO WA 6152

Attention: Plan Coordinator
Yalgorup National Park Draft Management Plan

PREFACE

All national parks and nature reserves in Western Australia are vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA). The management of these parks and reserves is carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

The NPNCA is responsible for having management plans prepared for all lands that are vested in it. These are prepared for a region or for an area. Area plans for individual national parks and nature reserves are being prepared on a priority basis.

These plans are prepared by CALM and issued as draft plans by the NPNCA for public comment prior to final approval by the Minister. The Yalgorup National Park is managed as part of the Central Forest Region of CALM and within the framework of the Central Forest Region Regional Management Plan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Project Team for this management plan consists of Chris Portlock (coordinator), Aminya Koch and Scott Wood. The larger Planning Team includes the Project Team and Peter Hanly and Steve Dutton. The Planning Team was assisted by Tracy Churchill who advised on new recreational site locations.

Richard Grant edited the plan, Rod Properjohn and Steve Jones produced the maps, Debbie Bowra typed the document. Alan Clarke and Kate Orr helped with the visitor and neighbour surveys and Trevor Smith and his colleagues recorded the activities occurring in and around the Park between 1988 and 1990. The Project team thanks all those who have commented on early drafts. They include individuals from:

Planning Branch	CALM	Greg McKay	Bush Fires Board
Recreation Landscape and		Robert Reynolds	Dept. of Aboriginal Sites
Community Education Branch		Michael Rosen	CSIRO
Policy and Extensions Branch		Malcolm Trudgen	Consultant Botanist
Land Administration Branch		Ellen Gude	Waroona Shire
Don Spriggins		Craig McClure	City of Mandurah
Peter Henderson			
Rick Sneeuwjagt			
Chris Muller			
Peter Bidwell			
Roger Armstrong			
Ken Atkins			
Gordon Wyre			
Jim Lane			
Stuart Halse			
Tony Friend			
Tony Start			
Andrew Burbidge			
Andrew Brown			
Greg Keighrey			

We would also like to thank public interest groups and individuals for their submissions during the preparation of the Draft Plan. The photo on the front cover is of a holiday camp at Martins Tank in 1912 and was kindly donated by Elaine Tyler. The photo on the back cover is a Landsat Image supplied from the Australian Centre for Remote Sensing (ACRES) and digitally enhanced by the Remote Sensing Applications Centre.

SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

The Yalgorup lakes, as part of the Peel/Yalgorup system, is recognised under the Ramsar convention as a wetland of international importance. In addition to important waterbird habitats, particularly for Shelduck, Musk Duck and Black Swans, the lakes contain benthic microbial communities that form algal mats in most of the lakes and living stromatolites (literally, layered rocks) and thrombolites (literally, clotted rocks) in Lake Clifton. Yalgorup National Park contains some of the few remaining near pristine lakes on the Swan Coastal Plain. The Park has high conservation, scientific and educational values.

The vegetation complexes of Yalgorup National Park are not well represented in conservation reserves elsewhere in Western Australia. The Park's Tuart/Peppermint stands are mostly in very good condition and are identified as possible sites to reintroduce native animals particularly the Ring-tailed Possum. The Quindalup, Yoongarillup and Karrakatta Vegetation Complexes are in particularly good condition. These complexes are not well represented in any conservation reserve outside the Park. Yalgorup National Park is also the largest conservation reserve on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Disease, weeds and feral animals are degrading some of the Park's vegetation and affecting the native fauna. Most of the Park's vegetation complexes are low in susceptibility to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (dieback). However, weed intrusion is a concern because it requires a great deal of resources to control the problem. Feral animal control programs in other parts of the State have had very promising results, and proposed programs for Yalgorup will be developed in conjunction with native animal reintroductions.

The Park has beautiful landscapes and a rich history. Recreational pursuits include birdwatching, bushwalking, picnicking, sightseeing, camping and photography. Water-based recreational activities include waterskiing in a gazetted waterski area in the lower third of Lake Preston. Canoeing is also permitted in the lower third of Lake Preston. No water-based recreation is permitted on any of the other Yalgorup Lakes. Driving through the Park to get to the beach for recreational fishing and swimming is often combined with picnicking, barbecuing or camping.

Horse riding in the Park is a key issue. A bridle trail that follows road reserves and the Park's outside boundary is proposed. This will enable access for horse riders to the beach and to the longer 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail, while avoiding damage to the Park's environment.

Recreational and land-use activities are restricted in the Yalgorup Park catchment to those that won't increase the present concentration of nutrients in the lake system. Nutrient levels in Lake Clifton, in particular, may be gradually increasing, putting the living stromatolites and thrombolites at risk. Protecting ground and surface water by restricting groundwater extraction and maintaining filter strips of fringing vegetation is important to preserve lake integrity.

Another important key issue is to consolidate the Park's boundaries to improve conservation of flora and fauna. The areas of State forest to the east of Old Coast Road are proposed for addition to the Park and adjacent local government reserves containing high conservation, environmental or recreational values are also recommended to be added. Complementary management of nearby lands and waters is important for the protection of the Park's values.

INDEX TO RECOMMENDATIONS

References are shown as the section number followed (in brackets) by the number of the recommendation(s).

Subject	Reference(s)
Aboriginal history	11(1-5)
Access	
-general	5(2-4), 7(5), 8(5), 13(7, 9), 15(2), 16(5, 6), 22(1-3, 5, 7, 10, 11), 23(6), 24(4)
-coastal	7(4), 22(4, 9, 12)
-4WD	22(6, 13)
-management	18(3), 22(8)
Adjacent land uses	4(1-7), 10(1-5), 14(2), 16(1), 18(4), 23(8), 27(6), 28(2), 34(1-6), 35(1-5), 36(6, 7)
Advisory committee	42(1)
Attractions	21(1-4)
Beekeeping	19(6), 33(1-4)
Bicycles	22(14)
Boating	10(7)
Boundaries	4(1, 2), 10(2, 3), 16(1), 18(2)
Bushwalking	8(6), 13(7), 22(7), 24(1-4, 6-12)
Camping	24(3), 25(3,4),26(1-11) 41(3)
Canoeing	10(6), 27(3)
Diseases	7(5), 8(3), 9(1), 14(8), 15(1-5), 18(6), 22(5), 34(5), 38(9, 10, 12)
The lake systems	10(1-7), 29(4), 34(1,4)
Education	15(2), 29(1, 2, 4), 30(1-5), 38(16), 39(3)
Erosion	14(3)
European history	12(1-5)
Evaluation	42(1-3)
Fauna	9(1-3), 17(2, 4, 5), 19(5), 24(8), 38(3, 12, 13)
Feral animals	17(1-4), 34(5), 38(5)
Flora/vegetation	7(2, 6), 8(1-7), 14(7), 15(6), 17(4), 19(1-4, 6), 34(2, 3, 5), 38(3, 4, 5, 13)
Fire	8(2, 7), 9(1), 16(5), 18(1-7), 34(2, 5), 38(8, 12)
Fishing	27(6)
Funding	23(9, 10), 26(2), 40(3), 41(2-6)
Foreshore	7(2), 34(2)
Geology	7(1, 3, 6)
Govt. agency liaison	
-local	4(4-6), 10(1, 5), 13(9), 16(1), 35(1-5)
-state	4(4), 10(5), 11(3), 12(1, 2), 13(9), 16(1), 17(1), 36(1-8)

Horses	15(4), 23(1-11), 38(15)
Implementation	42(2)
Information and interpretation	7(6), 8(6), 12(3), 22(13), 24(2), 27(4), 28(1), 29(1-7)
Land capability	7(5), 23(2)
Landforms	7(1, 3, 6)
Leases	33(1-5)
Local community	10(4), 12(5), 13(9), 16(1), 18(4), 29(4, 5), 31(1-3), 34(1-5)
Lookouts	24(5, 10,11)
Mining	14(1)
Monitoring	14(3, 6), 16(4), 17(4), 21(3), 22(6), 23(7), 27(5), 31(2), 32(4), 38(1, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15), 39(1, 2)
Pets	28(1-4)
Priorities	40(1-3)
Private property	4(3), 16(1), 18(2), 34(1-6), 35(3)
Public Safety	22(2), 24(4), 33(2)
Recreation facilities	5(2), 8(5), 12(3), 13(9), 21(1), 23(3), 25(1-13), 26(1-11) 39(2), 41(3)
Recreation sites	7(3, 5), 13(5, 9), 25(1-13), 26(1-11)
Rehabilitation	13(5, 8), 14(4-8), 17(3), 22(3), 23(6), 34(3), 38(11)
Research	8(2), 9(3), 10(7), 12(4), 30(2), 38(1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 16), 39(1)
Reserves	4(1, 4, 5), 10(1), 35(2)
Signs	13(6, 9), 15(4), 33(4)
Soils	7(1, 6), 34(2)
Staffing	14(8), 15(5), 18(7), 41(1)
Tourism	32(1-7)
Tuart	19(1-3)
Visual landscape	13(1-9), 14(2), 22(5)
Volunteers	12(5), 31(4, 5), 38(16), 39(3)
Walks	24(1,2,4,7,9,10,11,12)
Water Based Activities	27(1-6), 38(14)
Water Quality	10(3, 4, 5), 14(2), 22(5), 34(1), 36(4), 38(6, 7)
Weeds	8(3), 16(1-6), 18(2), 34(2, 5), 38(5)
Waterskiing	10(6), 27(1), 33(5)
Zoning	5(1-4), 27(1)

CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES	v
INDEX TO RECOMMENDATIONS	vi
A. INTRODUCTION	1
1. Overview	2
2. Community Involvement in the Draft Plan	2
B. PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS	7
3. Policies and Goals	8
4. Land Tenure and Park Boundaries	9
5. Zoning	14
C. CONSERVATION	18
6. Conservation Strategy	19
7. Geology, Landforms and Soils..	19
8. Vegetation and Flora	23
9. Fauna	28
10. The Lake System	32
11. Aboriginal History	36
12. European History	37
13. Visual Landscape	38
14. Erosion, Mining and Rehabilitation	41
15. Disease	43
16. Introduced Plants and Noxious Weeds	45
17. Feral Animals	47
18. Fire	47
19. Tuart	52
D. RECREATION	53
20. Recreation Strategy	54
21. Attractions and Existing Use	55
22. Access	57
23. Horse Riding	59
24. Nature Observation and Nature Walks	62
25. Day Use	66
26. Camping	68
27. Water Based Activities	70
28. Pets	72
E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS	73
29. Information and Interpretation	74
30. Education	76
31. Community Involvement	77

	Page
F. COMMERCIAL AND OTHER USES	79
32. Tourism	80
33. Leases	81
G. INTERACTION WITH NEARBY LANDS AND WATERS	83
34. Private Property	84
35. Local Government	85
36. State Government	87
H. RESEARCH AND MONITORING	90
37. Research Strategy	91
38. Nature Conservation Research	92
39. Social Research	95
I. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	97
40. Priorities	98
41. Staff and Funding	109
42. Evaluation and Review	111
REFERENCES	112
GLOSSARY	116

FIGURES

Figure 1.	Spring and Autumn Salinities of Yalgorup Lakes	...	...	...	33
Figure 2.	Walking and Sightseeing in Yalgorup National Park	...	...	...	62
Figure 3.	Camping in Yalgorup National Park	...	...	...	69

Page

MAPS

Map 1.	Location	...	...	...	...	3
Map 2.	Tenure	...	...	...	...	10-11
Map 3.	Zoning	...	...	...	...	16-17
Map 4.	Soil Associations	...	...	...	...	21-22
Map 5.	Vegetation Complex	...	...	...	...	24-25
Map 6.	Fire Management	...	...	...	...	50-51
Map 7.	Horse Riding Suitability	...	...	...	...	61
Map 8.	Recreation	...	...	...	...	64-65

Page

TABLES

Table 1.	Community Issues	...	...	...	...	4
Table 2.	Reserves which could be considered for inclusion in Yalgorup National Park or at least managed in a manner compatible with the Park...	...	...	...	...	12
Table 3.	Yalgorup Vegetation Complexes and the Conservation Estate...	...	...	...	...	23
Table 4.	Swan Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type	...	...	...	...	40
Table 5.	Native and Introduced Species in Eight Different Vegetation Types	...	...	...	...	45
Table 6.	Observations by Park Rangers	...	...	...	...	55
Table 7.	Information and Interpretation Strategy	...	...	...	...	75
Table 8.	Management Priorities	...	...	...	...	98

PART A. INTRODUCTION

1. OVERVIEW

Yalgorup National Park is located on the south-west coast of Western Australia, between Mandurah and Bunbury (Map 1). It consists of several disconnected blocks of land and a chain of long narrow lakes. The Park can be considered as four sections: the White Hill/Tims Thicket area north of Lake Clifton, the area to east of Lake Clifton; the area of land surrounding the Martin Tank chain of lakes which connects to a coastal block to the west; and the Old Coast Road block to the south (Map 2).

The Peel-Yalgorup System is one of the nine wetland areas in Western Australia recognised as a Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. The wetland system is important for migratory waterbirds. The Yalgorup Lakes are recognised internationally by the scientific community for their unique benthic microbial communities and, in particular, for the living stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton.

Regionally, areas of the Peel-Yalgorup System are crucial conservation components of the proposed Peel Regional Park. Peel Region is one of the fastest growing areas in the State with associated urban development pressures. The Dawesville Channel, just north of the Yalgorup National Park, and expansion of Mandurah and Bunbury will result in additional population pressure on the Park.

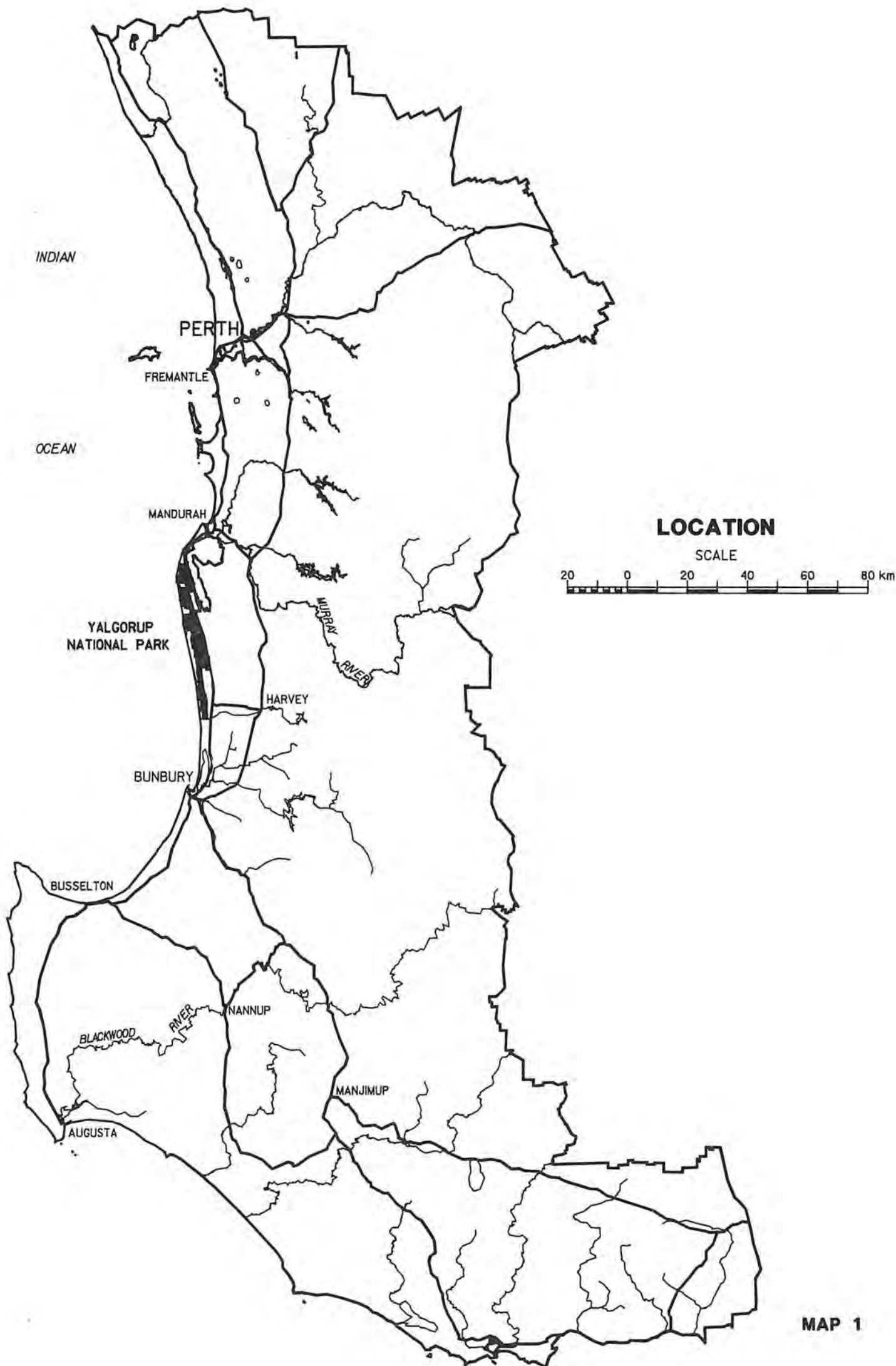
A management plan for the Mandurah City Coastal Area and a Rural Study are presently being prepared as part of the Revision of Mandurah's Planning Scheme. The Draft Peel Regional Plan has been released and the Draft Wellington Regional Plan is being prepared. The Waroona and Harvey Town Planning Schemes and the Preston Beach Coastal Plan also affect land use and land management in areas that may have an effect on the Park's values. CALM's Central Forest Region Regional Plan was published in 1987 and is being implemented. The regional values of Yalgorup National Park, in addition to its wetland ecological values, include vegetation complexes and associated fauna habitats not well represented outside the Park. The Park is important regionally for its conservation, scientific and educational values. Maintaining and promoting these values by sensitive planning in the region will secure long-term income from tourism for the region.

Yalgorup National Park is managed by CALM through the Central Forest Region's Harvey District Office. One Ranger is located permanently within the Park.

2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE DRAFT PLAN

Submissions, Surveys and Workshops

- Notices advertising that the Draft Plan was being prepared and inviting early submissions were placed in State and local newspapers.



MAP 1

- Visitor/user surveys were carried out over April/May 1992.
Key locations within the Park were surveyed by CALM staff and visitor survey boxes.
- Neighbour surveys were carried out over April/May 1992.
Key locations outside the Park were provided with survey forms and freepost envelopes and forms were also delivered on request to Park neighbours.
- A Community workshop was advertised in local newspapers and interested parties invited to attend. The Community Workshop was held Sunday, August 2, 1992.
- A "Research Needs" Workshop was held on Tuesday, August 11, 1992. The workshop was held to determine the research needs on Lake Clifton and was of a technical nature. Representatives from the scientific community, local, State and Commonwealth government agencies were represented.
- Expressions of interest were called for people to be on the Yalgorup National Park Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee for Yalgorup National Park was established to advise on the preparation of the Draft Plan.

Other Public Participation

- Discussions were held with interested individuals and groups.
- Talks were given to interested groups and subsequent comments received.
- Local, State and Commonwealth government officers were consulted.
- Written submissions from a number of groups and individuals were received before the Draft Plan was prepared.

Community group and individual contributions were used to prepare this Draft Management Plan.

Community Workshop Issues and Management Plan Recommendations

A community workshop was held on Sunday, August 2, 1992, at Falcon, as part of the program to involve the community in preparing the draft management plan for Yalgorup National Park. A number of organisations and individuals involved or interested in the Park were invited to attend.

The workshop participants were divided into six groups, with a CALM representative allocated to each group to assist with questions. Each group had a pre-determined mix of representatives to ensure that the widest range of views possible were included. Each group was asked to consider the question "What do you consider to be the main issues affecting the management of the Park?" Each person wrote a private list of issues. Each group was then asked to choose six major issues and present them to the rest of the workshop. Table 1 summarises the issues most frequently included in the issue lists of the groups.

TABLE 1. COMMUNITY ISSUES

Issue	Group					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Access	/	/	/	/		/
Natural Environment Protection	/			/	/	/
Fire Control	/	/	/			/
Signs/Information	/	/	/		/	
Flora/Fauna Protection			/	/	/	
Staffing			/		/	/
Facilities		/			/	
Weed Control			/			/
External Impacts				/	/	

Access

Access to the Park is by foot, bicycle, boat, four wheel drive and two wheel drive, all of which contribute to a range of experiences for Park users. The range of access will remain. Access is a controversial issue for the community as some people feel there is enough access and others would like more. It is proposed to increase the number of nature walks, and a new track is proposed in the Park to increase access. The community will be made more aware of correct four wheel drive techniques through signposting. Access is proposed for horse riders.

Natural Environment Protection

The community expressed concern about the quality of groundwater and water in the lakes. CALM will liaise with other government departments to ensure land practices are appropriate for the area between the groundwater divide and the Yalgorup Lakes. Information will also be provided to landholders on the importance of minimising nutrient input into the lakes and research will be encouraged into the hydrology of the Park. Recreational activities will not be permitted on the lakes other than Lake Preston. Information will be provided to visitors on the lake's conservation values and the possible impacts their activities could have.

Concern was also expressed about the dune and wetland systems. Vehicles will be restricted to the unvegetated beach face and will not be allowed in the foredunes. Blowouts will be monitored and rehabilitated if necessary and a program, which will include dune stabilization techniques, will be prepared. Access to lake foreshore areas will be controlled.

Fire Control

The community feels that a fire control program for the Park is very important and should consider factors inside and outside of the Park. A fire management plan is proposed that aims

to achieve a balance between protecting people and property including neighbouring properties, while also ensuring the needs of the Park's flora and fauna are met.

Signs/Information

The community would like more information about the Park and more signs in the Park. A central information shelter has recently been built in the Park and smaller information/interpretation facilities at Mount John Road, Lake Hayward, Martins Tank, White Hill Road, and at the Lime Kilns are proposed. Signs will be strategically placed throughout the Park to either direct visitors or to provide further information and interpretation.

Flora/Fauna Protection

At the workshop the community felt that the stromatolites/thrombolites were important and had to be protected. Water quality and any activities in the catchment area that could be a threat to the stromatolites need to be controlled and monitored. Native fauna habitats and any rare or priority flora in the Park will be protected. Programs to control feral animals will be continued and increased. All proposed developments and operations will follow dieback hygiene practices. Plant disease surveys will continue and visitors will be encouraged to stay on well-formed roads or tracks.

Staffing

The community indicated that another Ranger should be located at the northern end of the Park and this has been proposed in the plan. All Park staff should receive relevant training.

Facilities

The community would like more facilities toward the northern end of the Park. The desire for more facilities has been addressed in the plan and includes picnic tables, toilets, fire rings, lookouts and an observation platform.

Weed Control

Weeds are a problem in the Park. The plan aims to control or, if possible, eradicate weeds that have the potential to cause major environmental problems.

External Impacts

External impacts are factors from outside the Park boundaries that affect the Park. CALM will liaise with private property owners and encourage them to manage their properties in sympathy with Park objectives. CALM will also liaise with other government departments to ensure land practices are appropriate for the area. Where possible, improvements in Park boundaries will be pursued as opportunities for land acquisitions arise.

PART B. PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS

3. POLICIES AND GOALS

Yalgorup Draft Management Plan is based on relevant sections of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 and the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, and associated regulations. Other Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) policies which are relevant to this plan include: Phytophthora Dieback Policy 1992, Weeds on CALM Land, Control of Feral Animals on CALM Land, Horseriding in National Parks, and Recreation, Tourism and Visitors Services. Policies are published and distributed as CALM policy statements, and are available to the public on request.

In the CALM Act (Section 56) the overall aim for managing national parks is:

To fulfil so much of the demand for recreation by members of the public as is consistent with the proper maintenance and restoration of the natural environment, the protection of indigenous flora and fauna and the preservation of any feature of archaeological, historic or scientific interest.

The following management goals for Yalgorup National Park cover the major management issues and give structure to the Draft Management Plan:

Conservation

Conserve biological, physical, cultural and landscape values.

Recreation

Facilitate public enjoyment of natural and cultural values in a manner compatible with conservation and other goals.

Community Relations

Promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of natural and cultural values and facilitate liaison with the community.

Commercial and other Uses

Ensure that commercial and other uses are controlled and managed in a manner that minimises impact on other values.

Interaction with Nearby Lands and Waters

Promote cooperation, and minimise conflicts in matters associated with use of nearby lands and waters.

Research and Monitoring

Seek a better understanding of the natural and cultural environment and the impacts of management activities and visitor use.

Plan Structure

Goals represent the "long-term desirable situation" while more specific objectives are designed to achieve these goals. Objectives, background and recommendations are set for each of the sections of the Draft Management Plan.

4. LAND TENURE AND PARK BOUNDARIES

The objectives are to:

- **Ensure that the gazetted purpose, vesting and tenure of the Park and its surrounds protect the Park's values.**
- **Incorporate appropriate lands and waters within the Park where possible.**

Yalgorup National Park covers an area of 12 888 hectares. It is comprised of Reserve 11710 (10 425 hectares), Reserve 22057 (360 hectares), Reserve 12189 (1 584 hectares), Reserve 21271 (520 hectares) and Wellington Location 5524 (1 077 hectares), which was added to the Park on January 31, 1992 (See Map 2).

The discontinuous nature and the length of its boundaries make management difficult and the Park vulnerable to damage by inappropriate use of adjoining land. Wherever possible, land adjacent to the Park, or surrounded by the Park, should be included in the Park to increase the size and improve the shape and enhance the manageability of the Park. This is particularly important if the land has high conservation, environmental protection or recreation value.

The Park's boundaries are the high water mark along some of the shores of Lake Clifton and most of the shores of Lake Preston, including the fringe of paperbark, rushes and sedges around the edges which are subject to inundation in winter. In some areas the boundaries of properties are unfenced, or not correctly or clearly demarcated on the ground and consequently stock enter into the Park's fringing vegetation. Other areas of fringing vegetation are presently vested in the City of Mandurah, Shire of Waroona or Shire of Harvey (Table 2). It would be more appropriate if these local government reserves were incorporated in the National Park, as recommended in the System Six Red Book (EPA, 1983).

Other camping and recreation reserves vested in local government exist adjacent to the National Park. It is desirable that these areas are managed in ways consistent with the National Park management objectives. Local Shires and the City of Mandurah should be assisted by CALM whenever required to help manage these reserves, particularly those with high conservation values. Reserve 22091, which is vested in the Shire of Waroona, is adjacent to the National Park on the west side of Lake Preston. It has high conservation value and to extend its purpose to include protecting the environment, as recommended by the State Planning Commission in the Preston Beach Coastal Plan (SPC, 1989), may be appropriate. Fire management in this reserve is very important and close liaison between CALM and the Shire of Waroona will be necessary.

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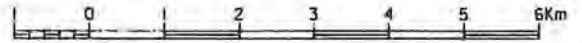
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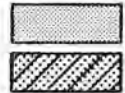
TENURE

SCALE



National Park

Proposed Addition



HARVEY

ESTUARY

NDIAN

OCEAN

Rd

9524

1/6

228

LAKE

CLIFTON

A40372

OLD

35285

28796

COAST

32261

33243

LAKE CLIFTON T'SITE

Rd

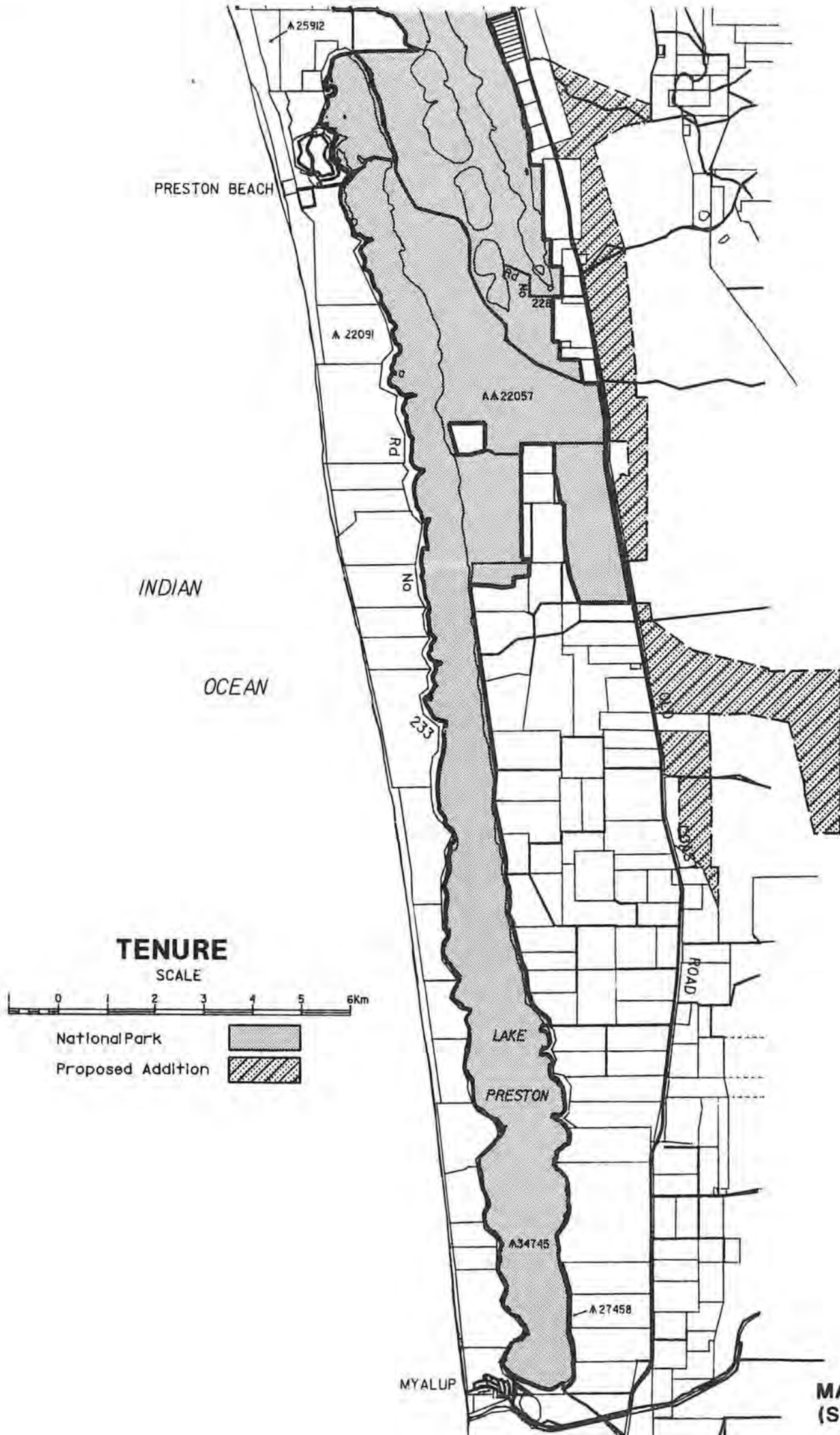
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MAP 2
(North)



MAP 2
(South)

Two other reserves are vested in Mandurah City Council and are adjacent to the Park's northern and north-western boundaries. The Tims Thicket Reserve 24198 and the Melros Reserve 33139 have high conservation and recreation values. The possibility of these being included in the Park, through land exchanges, or having them managed in sympathy with the Park by the City of Mandurah is being investigated. Melros reserve contains a Priority 4 flora species, *Conostylis pauciflora*. sub sp. *pauciflora*. Tims Thicket Reserve south of Tims Thicket Road, is noted for its diverse bird population, Grey Kangaroo, Emu and Brush Wallaby and the occurrence of Fremantle Mallee. Tims Thicket is very popular and is used frequently by recreators, particularly fishermen. There is a strip of vacant Crown land along the coast that is vested in the Department of Land Administration. Where the National Park joins this coastal strip, the National Park could be extended to low water mark. Lake Clifton Townsite is also vacant Crown land vested in the Department of Land Administration. Although a part of it may be subject to mining, inclusion after rehabilitation would be appropriate as this area contains a Priority 3 flora species, *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum*.

TABLE 2 RESERVES WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK OR AT LEAST MANAGED IN A MANNER COMPATIBLE WITH THE PARK

Reserve	Location/Vesting	Present Purpose	Reasons for being considered for Inclusion
Melros Reserve 33139	Mandurah City	Youth Camp Site	High Conservation and Recreation Value.
Tims Thicket Reserve 24198	Mandurah City	Camping and Recreation	High Conservation and Recreation Value
Foreshore Reserves 40372 and 33285	Mandurah City	Public Recreation	High Environmental Protection Value.
Foreshore Reserves 32261 and 33843 and 28796	Waroona Shire (unvested)	Public Recreation	High Environmental Protection Value.
Foreshore Reserve 34745	Harvey Shire	Public Recreation	High Environmental Protection Value.
Marram Grass Reserve 25912	Dept of Agriculture	Marram Production	High Coastal Management Rehabilitation Value.
Strip of Coastal Reserve and Lake Clifton Townsite and Reserve 27458	Dept of Land Administration	Vacant Crown Land	High Conservation and Recreation Value

Managing coastal areas has become an increasingly important responsibility for CALM in the last few years. Reserve 25912, which is vested in the Department of Agriculture for the propagation and harvesting of marram grass, lies just north-west of the Preston Beach Townsite (see Map 2). It would be appropriate for this reserve to be vested in CALM.

Road reserves within the Park, which are no longer required or which need to be removed because of conservation considerations, are subject to negotiations between local government, CALM and other parties who may be affected if the road is closed. Road reserves that have not been developed close to the edge of any of the lakes should become part of the National Park to conserve and protect the Park's values.

Private property owners near the lakes and, in particular, owners of property adjacent to Lake Clifton and Lake Preston, need to be kept informed of opportunities to manage their properties in a manner complementary to management of the Park. Local government authorities similarly need to be part of the program to help maintain standards to protect the lake system located near their reserves, and to inform ratepayers about land restrictions and the use of particular areas of lakes. An information brochure distributed to both land holders and local government authorities is needed. Local authorities could provide the brochures to real estate agents selling land in sensitive areas.

Land transfer and land acquisition are continuous processes that aim to rationalise National Park boundaries. The most recent addition to Yalgorup National Park is Location 5524, which was purchased from the State Energy Commission and added about 1000 hectares to the Park. Land transfers with private property owners have occurred to the east of the Tims Thicket/White Hill Road block to smooth out the boundary line of the Park. Other areas that have been proposed to be included in the National Park are three areas in adjoining State forest, east of the Old Coast Road (CALM, 1987). A Marine Park or Marine Nature Reserve, consisting of the Bouvard Reefs and coastal waters adjacent to the Yalgorup National Park, may be considered for reservation in the future as suggested in the Preston Beach Coastal Plan.

Recommendations

- 1. Continue negotiations to cancel unnecessary road reserves within the Park boundaries including Quail Road Reserve which runs east-west, and sections of Road Reserves 228 and 13736, and add these to Yalgorup National Park (Map 2).**
- 2. Extend the Park boundary along the coast to the low water mark.**
- 3. Acquire, by purchase or exchange when opportunities arise and funds are available, private property enclaves and properties adjoining the Park that have exceptional conservation or recreation values, management benefits, or that could protect areas with these values within the Park.**

4. Negotiate with the relevant State or local government authorities about adding to the Park the following reserves: 40372, 33285, 28796, 32261, 33843, 34745, 27458 and 25912 (Table 2).
5. Acquire for the Park or seek sympathetic management, from current vesting bodies, of Melros Reserve 33139 and Tims Thicket Reserve 24198.
6. Encourage the Waroona Shire Council to extend the purpose of Reserve 22091 to include protection of the environment.
7. Investigate the conservation values of the Bouvard Reefs and coastal waters adjacent to Yalgorup National Park and if appropriate recommend their inclusion in a Marine Park or Marine Nature Reserve.

5. ZONING

The objective is to develop and implement a zoning system on which protection of the Park's conservation values and development of recreation and compatible uses can be based.

Yalgorup National Park has significant environmental, conservation and scientific values. Most of the Park is suited only to minimum impact recreation.

Three water-based zones are proposed:

1. Special Preservation (no boating, swimming or canoeing)
2. Natural Environment (canoeing only)
3. Recreation (motorized boating and sailing).

It is proposed that the lower third of Lake Preston is zoned for water skiing, for use by motor boats and for use by canoes. The upper section of Lake Preston and the remaining lakes within the Park should be zoned for no boating or swimming.

Martins Tank is a hypersaline lake and algal mats are formed in a small area. Waterbirds are seldom seen in the vicinity of the lake because of its high salinity levels. With the newly upgraded camping grounds at Martins Tank it may be possible to provide for canoeing. This will be investigated in the future. Where algal mats are present, zoning within the lake to exclude canoes could be part of the education and interpretation program. Permission is necessary from CALM for using boats for scientific study on any of the lakes.

Four land-based zones are proposed:

1. Special Preservation
2. Natural Environment
3. Recreation
4. Recreation Services

In the special preservation zone, access and use will be strictly controlled or may be prohibited altogether. In the natural environment zone a selected range of low-density outdoor activities with a minimum of related facilities will be permitted, and in the recreation zone motorized access will be permitted but will be separated from non-motorized access. The recreation services zone includes recreational facilities and the Ranger's station.

Walk tracks (Section 24) are proposed for the area of the Park on the west side of Lake Clifton. This area is sensitive and contains some plant species that are not well represented in other areas of the Park. Wildlife can be readily observed in this area and the varied topography will allow lookouts to be located to view the wildlife and lakes.

Dual purpose tracks for walking and cycling are proposed along the lakes where tracks are compacted and have been closed to motor vehicles.

To encourage horse riding outside the Lake Clifton catchment, horse trails are proposed along the Park's external boundaries (Section 23). Linking existing properties with the 10th Light Horse Bridle trail and the beach will provide a continuous path outside the lake system catchment area and avoid unacceptable impact on the ecology of the lake system.

Numerous access points exist for two wheel drive vehicles and motorcycles, and additional access through the Park, close to the ocean, is proposed along Preston Beach Road North. Wherever possible, roads will be upgraded to improve two wheel drive access into or through the Park.

Four wheel drive vehicles and motorcycles have access along the beach, except where vegetation is located. Beach access for four wheel drive vehicles is located at the end of White Hill Road, Tims Thicket Road and Myalup Beach Road.

Providing access and facilities in four separate land-based zones will also require access points to these zones to be clearly signposted. The access controls will need to be enforced to separate incompatible activities. At the information shelters, maps could show the land and water-based zones and give reasons for these zones based on the need to protect and conserve the Park's values.

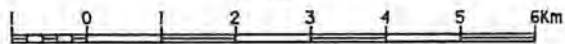
Recommendations

- 1. Introduce a zoning scheme to manage the Park (Map 3).**
- 2. Develop appropriate access and recreational facilities in each zone.**
- 3. Control access to separate incompatible activities.**
- 4. Inform the public of the zoning system, including where access is and is not allowed, and the reasons for the zones.**

MELROS

ZONING

SCALE



Special Preservation

Natural Environment

Recreation

Canoeing

Motorized Boating
and Sailing

Recreation Services

Park Boundary



HARVEY

ESTUARY

NDIAN

OCEAN

Swan Pond

Duck Pond

Boundary Lake

Linda's Lagoon

COAST

ROAD

CHILTON

Lake Pollard

Martha's
Lake

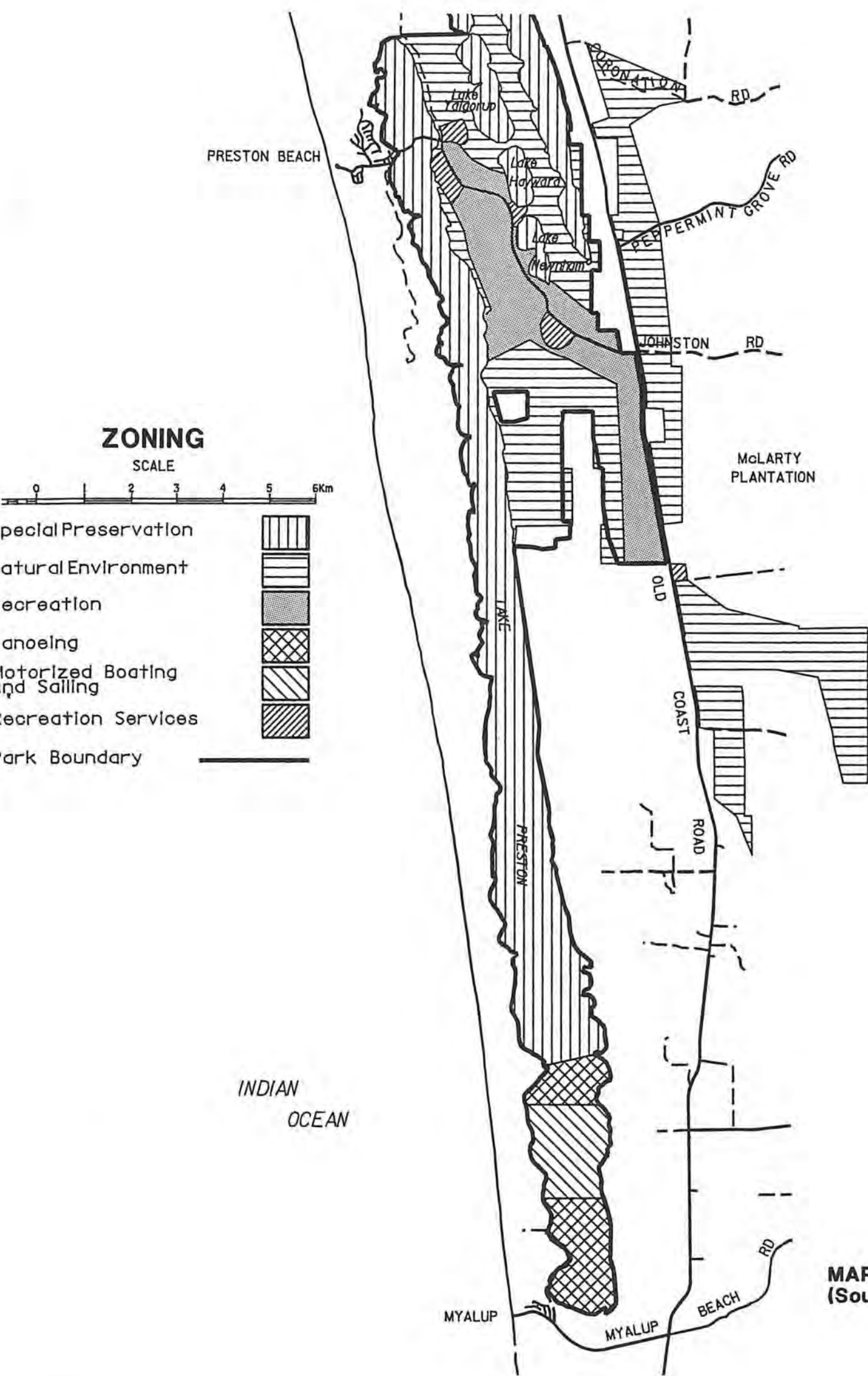
Harvey

Flower
River

DONNAN

RD

MAP 3
(North)



MAP 3
(South)

PART C. CONSERVATION

6. CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The conservation strategy focuses on preserving the living stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton and the unique and diverse benthic microbial communities of the Yalgorup lakes. These features have high conservation and scientific value and their protection is a high priority for the Yalgorup National Park. The living stromatolites and thrombolites are located along the eastern edge of Lake Clifton with the area of highest density being in the north-eastern end. This area of water and the surrounding land within the groundwater divide is zoned to reflect high conservation value and needs to be carefully managed.

The lakes in Yalgorup National Park are within the Peel Yalgorup Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), one of nine such sites in Western Australia (CALM, 1990). Transequatorial migratory waders use the areas as important summer feeding habitat and refuge.

Yalgorup's cultural and landscape values are regionally important, and the Tuart/Peppermint vegetation complexes are becoming increasingly important because of clearing and degradation elsewhere throughout the coastal plain. Regionally important vegetation complexes and their associated fauna habitats, make Yalgorup an important Park for protecting and reintroducing threatened fauna.

The Park's close proximity to educational institutions in Perth, Bunbury and Mandurah makes it very valuable for scientific study. An important part of the conservation strategy is to ensure that recreation activities are compatible with protecting and maintaining conservation values.

With this high conservation and scientific value in Yalgorup National Park and the high degree of vulnerability of the Park, the emphasis for management will be for conservation and scientific study. Providing for the growing demand for recreation in the Park and minimising associated land-use conflicts will require careful planning and active management. Local and State government departments will play an integral part in protecting the conservation values of Yalgorup. Good liaison between CALM and other government bodies and private landholders is essential.

7. GEOLOGY, LANDFORMS AND SOILS

The objective is to protect and conserve geological features, landforms and soils.

The Yalgorup National Park is located on the western edge of the Swan Coastal Plain, north of Bunbury and south of the Dawesville Channel. The area is characterised by an accumulation of late Tertiary and Quaternary limestones, sands and clay. In the immediate vicinity of the lakes, soils are estuarine clays and silts. In the remaining area of the Park,

soils are sands mostly of marine origin. Limestone underlies all sands at varying depth and outcrops are common.

Marine quartz and skeletal sands, transported shoreward from the gently inclined shelf by the prevailing westerly swells, form a complex beach dune system. These coastal barrier ridges now form the region's most prominent topographical features. The lakes lie in the depression between the series of linear coastal barrier dunes and act in some cases as groundwater sinks (Semeniuk and Searle 1984). The differences in these interdunal lakes are influenced by sea water influx, hypersaline and/or fresh water lenses, regional groundwater discharge from the large unconfined aquifer that lies to the east of the lakeland system, and surface runoff.

The Quindalup Dune System consists of recently formed sand dunes extending inland for 1 to 2 kilometres from the beach. These dunes are subject to movement and blowouts are frequent (Map 4). Calcareous material can be observed in some exposed areas near the coast as small concretions or nodules that were formerly roots.

The Spearwood Dune System, located inland from the Quindalup System, is composed of somewhat leached sand at the surface with creamy yellow to reddish brown sand at greater depth. Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) occurs particularly on the low sand ridges of the Spearwood system but also in a narrow strip to the west of Lake Preston and Lake Clifton.

Lake Clifton lies between two coastal barriers, one to the east as high as 70 metres and one to the west that is low, narrow and separates the lake from the other nine lakes. A third barrier separates the chain of lakes from Lake Preston, which is the furthest lake to the south-west.

The Vasse Lagoonal System surrounds the coastal lake system with its low lying, poorly drained terraces and flats. This system has conservation values that are important to the lakes' ecology and needs protecting. Land capability maps, available from the Department of Agriculture, use the landform and soil map as a base map. Areas that are more vulnerable to damage by grazing or off-road vehicles can be readily identified by capability maps.

Lake Preston contains relict microbialite mounds as well as large tepee structures. Tepees, structures formed in a sheet of limestone, occur in zones of groundwater resurgence and resemble the shape of an American Indian Tepee.

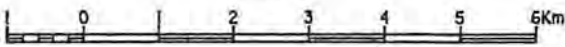
Evaporites such as dolomite and gypsum can be found on the edge of some of the lakes, often attached to fragments of microbial mats. The tops of pinnacles, that are occasionally starting points for microbialites, can also be seen along the edge of the lakes. Caves occur in Yalgorup National Park, although very few have been marked on any maps.






Recommendations

1. Identify specific areas of the Park that are vulnerable to damage due to the nature of the geology, soils and landforms.
2. Minimise development along the edge of the lakes and disturbance to the vegetation and foreshores of the Vasse Lagoonal System (See Map 4).

SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

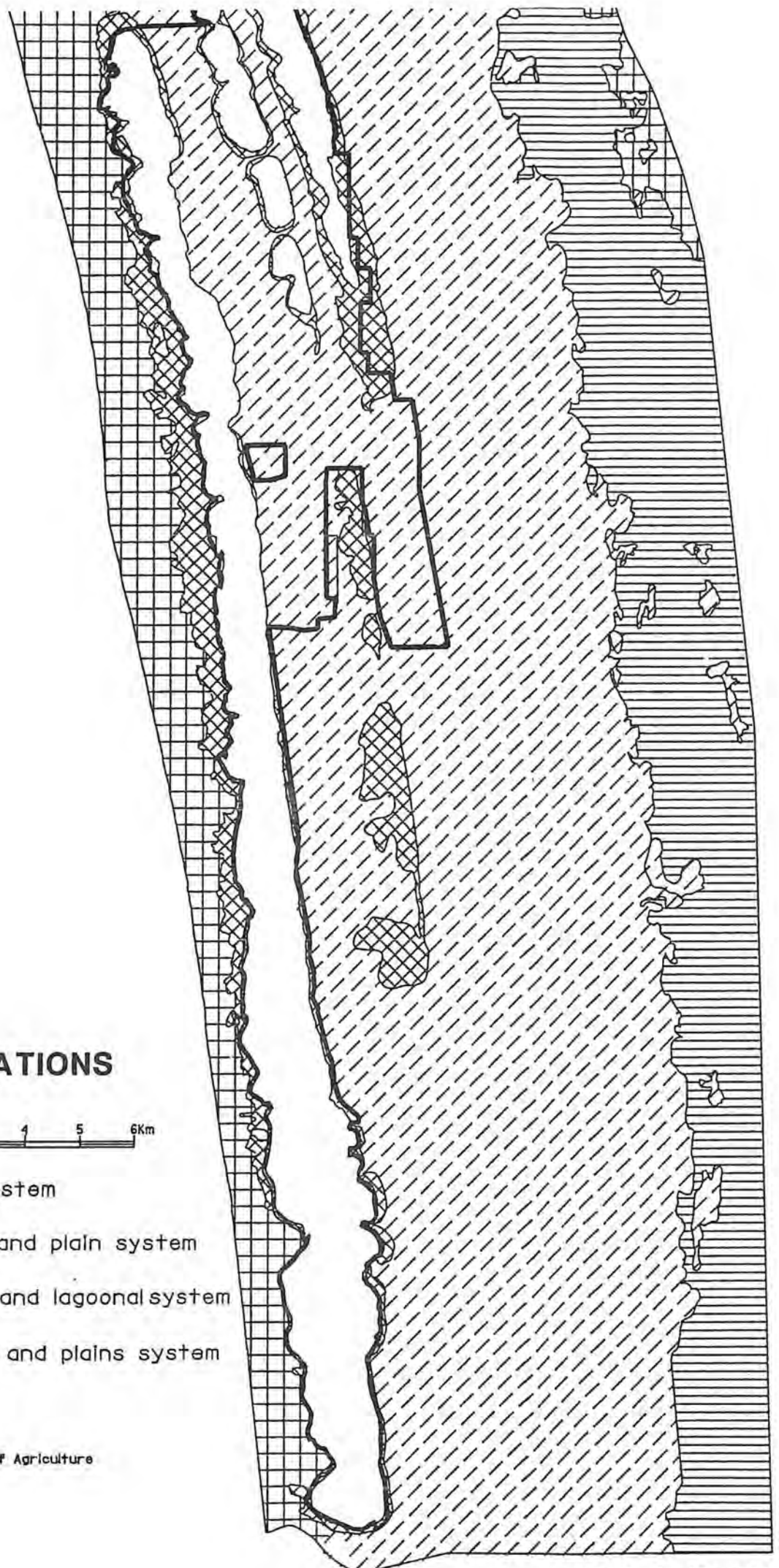
SCALE



-  Quindalup plain system
-  Spearwood dune and plain system
-  Vasse estuarine and lagoonal system
-  Bassendean dune and plains system
-  Pinjarra plain

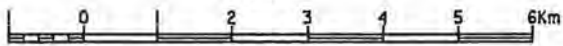
Source: Department of Agriculture






MAP 4
(North)



SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

SCALE



-  Quindalup plain system
-  Spearwood dune and plain system
-  Vasse estuarine and lagoonal system
-  Bassendean dune and plains system
-  Pinjarra plain

Source: Department of Agriculture

3. Locate and design recreation sites to prevent or minimise their impact on fragile geological features and landforms.
4. Minimise management activities in, and public access to, the coastal dunes areas.
5. Locate access roads and recreation sites according to specialist advice on prevailing wind direction, stabilisation of slopes, disease-risk, and land capability.
6. Provide interpretive information on the Park's geology, its relationship with landforms, soils and vegetation and their vulnerability to damage.

8. VEGETATION AND FLORA

The objectives are to:

- Protect and conserve vegetation communities, including their structure, diversity and distribution.
- Protect and conserve indigenous flora with an emphasis on threatened and priority species.

The vegetation in Yalgorup National Park varies widely in its structure (height and density) and floristics (contributing flora species) and includes forests, woodlands, heaths and herbfields. Almost all the vegetation complexes found in the Park are only found in the coastal areas of Southwestern Australia and only a few of these areas are well protected in conservation reserves. Some of the vegetation groups within the following complexes are likely to be unique, found only within the park.

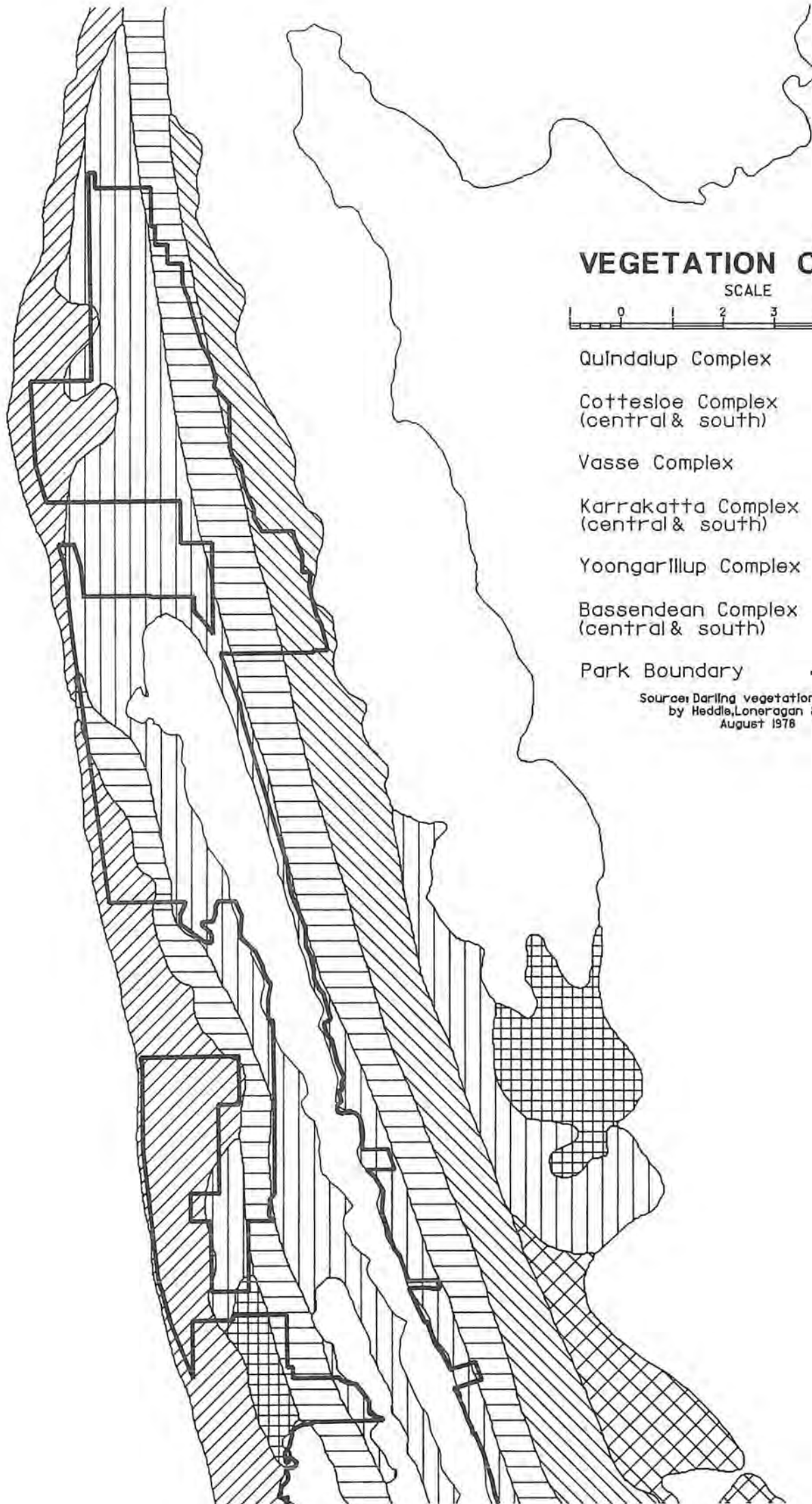
Vegetation Complexes

Yalgorup National Park currently contains five broad vegetation complexes (Map 5). These are not well represented in the conservation estate in WA but what little there is, is mostly reserved in the Park or its proposed additions (Table 3).

TABLE 3

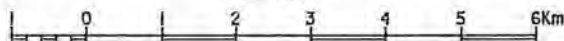
Yalgorup Vegetation Complexes and the Conservation Estate

	Percentage reserved in the conservation estate (including Yalgorup's proposed addition)	Percentage of this reserved in the Park.
Yoongarillup	14	72
Vasse	14	34
Cottesloe	8	77
Quindalup	7	64
Karrakatta	5	48



VEGETATION COMPLEX

SCALE



Quindalup Complex



Cottlesloe Complex
(central & south)



Vasse Complex



Karrakatta Complex
(central & south)



Yoongarillup Complex



Bassendean Complex
(central & south)



Park Boundary

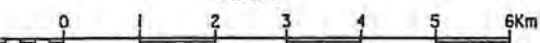


Source: Darling vegetation complexes
by Heddie, Loneragan & Havel
August 1978

MAP 5
(North)

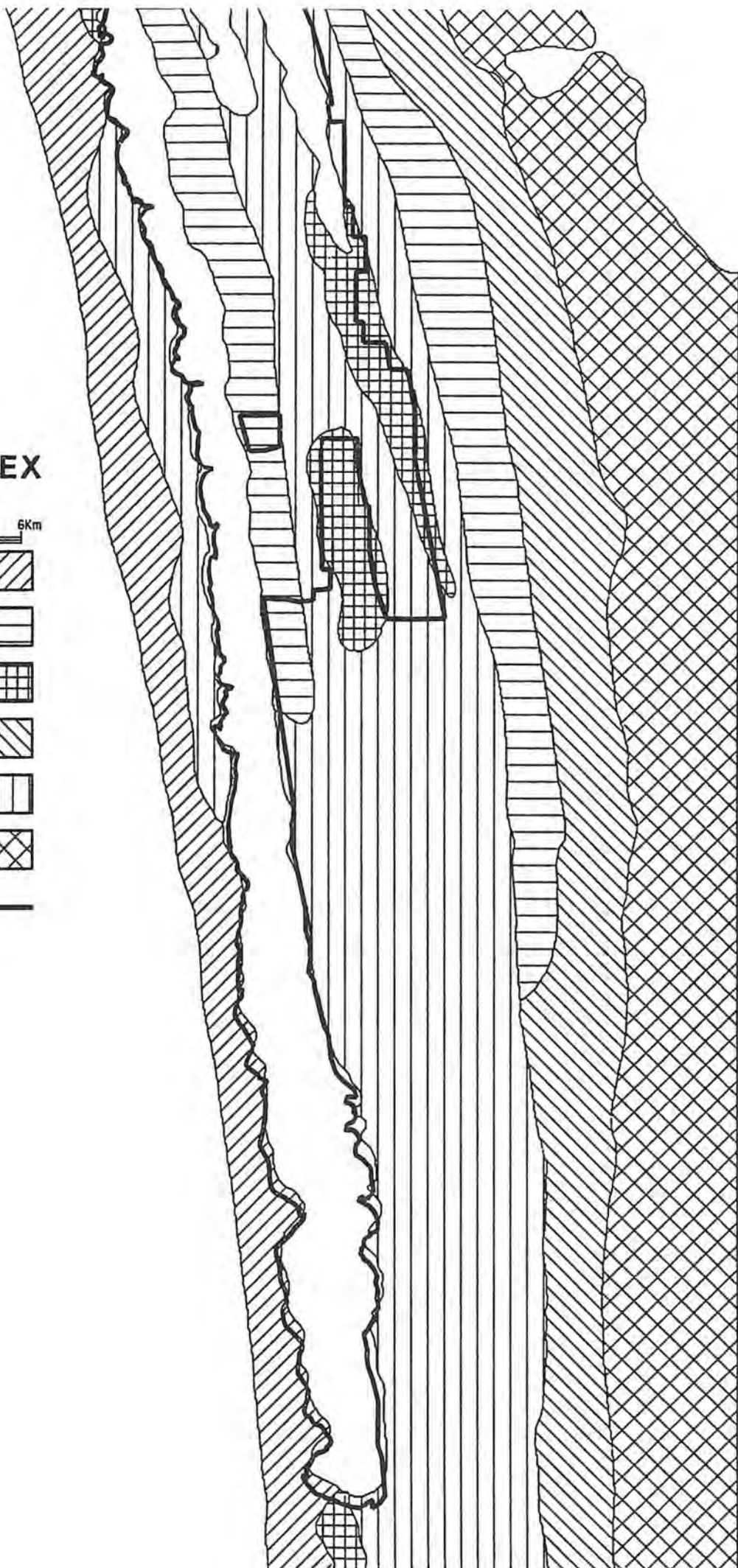
VEGETATION COMPLEX

SCALE



Quindalup Complex	
Cottesloe Complex (central & south)	
Vasse Complex	
Karrakatta Complex (central & south)	
Yoongarillup Complex	
Bassendean Complex (central & south)	
Park Boundary	

Source: Darling vegetation complexes
by Heddle, Loneragan & Havel
August 1978



MAP 5 (South)

The **Quindalup complex** is the vegetation found on the Quindalup dunes (Section 7) and averages 1.5 kilometres in width along the coast. The dunes closest to the beach have species that can tolerate sandblasting, salt spray, intense glare and summer drought found in these environments. To cope they often have adaptations such as dense hair layers and thick resinous coatings on their leaves, or are succulent. The dune building foredune grass *Spinifex hirsutus* for example, has hairy leaves and the shrub *Scaevola crassifolia*, which is common on the first stabilized dunes, has resinous leaves. The calcareous sands in this complex and their extensive heaths and low shrublands are among the best examples of these remaining on the west coast.

Blowouts, where the wind has eroded the foredune and stabilized dunes, creating a mobile dune, are common in the Quindalup complex. They can be initiated by natural processes, such as undercutting of the dunes by storm surges, although they can be initiated by human activities, particularly the driving of vehicles in the dune system.

The Quindalup complex can be subdivided into four age groups reflecting their age and shapes. These four groups have different vegetation, reflecting the results of processes such as subsurface soil changes and differing accumulations of nutrients and humus. The youngest group has shrublands, often dominated by a mixture of *Acacia rostellifera* and *Olearia axillaris*. *Acacia rostellifera* stands are usually of uniform age, with origin owing to either fires that have either stimulated seed germination or regrowth from suckers. In the absence of fire, *Olearia axillaris* eventually outcompetes the acacia. The second youngest group has a variety of vegetation but is most commonly dominated by heaths or shrublands, with *Melaleuca acerosa* often prolific. The two older groups have a variety of vegetation types with acacia common but also including *Melaleuca acerosa* and *Pimelea ferruginea*. Occasional older dunes have taller vegetation of woodlands of *Agonis flexuosa* with dune substrate understories. Stands dominated by *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (Blackboy) are not uncommon on some of the older dunes.

Vegetation groups have been identified and mapped for the northern section of the Park (Trudgen, 1991). Extending this study to cover the entire Park will supplement existing mapping information to aid planning and management.

The **Cottesloe complex** joining the Quindalup complex is a mixed eucalypt forest with a relatively tall second storey. It consists of Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) with occasional dense stands of narrow-leafed Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus foecunda*). Common species in the second tree layer of this complex include *Banksia attenuata*, *Agonis flexuosa* and *Allocasuarina fraseriana*.

The **Yoongarillup complex** is comprised of Tuart, with a second story of Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) and surrounds Lake Clifton and sections of Lake Preston. Tuart often exceed 30 metres in height in this area. Species often associated with Tuart include a second storey of *Allocasuarina fraseriana*, *Banksia grandis*, *Banksia attenuata*, *Banksia littoralis*, and an understory of *Acacia saligna*, *Acacia pulchella*, *Jacksonia sternbergiana*, *Melaleuca acerosa* and *Hibbertia hypericoides*.

The **Vasse complex** is a wetter vegetation complex with eucalypts and paperbarks. It occurs in a few small areas north of Lake Preston and south of Lake Clifton and is characterised by Tuart, Jarrah, Flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), Paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*).

The **Karrakatta complex** is comprised of a mixed eucalyptus forest with a representative second story dominated by banksias. It occurs in a small area in the north eastern section of the Park. This vegetation complex includes Tuart, Jarrah, Marri and Banksia.

The **Bassendean complex** is mainly comprised of Jarrah with a mixed second story. It is not presently represented within the Park, but is represented in the areas of State Forest to the east of Old Coast Road, proposed for addition to the Park (CALM, 1987). The Bassendean complex is composed of Jarrah, Banksia, Sheoak and Paperbark with sedges and rushes occasionally in the lower understorey.

Fringing Vegetation around the Lakes

A narrow Paperbark Swamp vegetation complex occurs around the edges of the lakes and is mainly composed of the two species, *Melaleuca cuticularis* and *Melaleuca raphiophylla*. *Melaleuca lanceolata* or Rottneet Tea Tree also occurs, surrounded by *Melaleuca cuticularis* in a small area on an island north of the causeway over Lake Preston. In areas subject to flooding *Melaleuca preissiana* occurs. These are particularly notable in the southern extension of the Lake Clifton depression where sedge swamps mainly composed of *Gahnia trifida*, *Leptocarpus aristatus* and *Melaleuca viminea* also occur. Some patches of freshwater in this area are colonised by *Typha domingensis*.

The vegetation of Yalgorup National Park is of high conservation value because of the extent that the region has been cleared, the degree areas of similar types outside the study area have been degraded by weeds, and the fact that these vegetation types are poorly represented in conservation reserves. The Tuart /Peppermint stands in the study area are of very high conservation value as a consequence of their good condition, limited distribution and the extent of clearing and degradation outside the Park.

Threatened or Priority Flora

No declared rare flora have been found in the Park. However, some priority listed flora (i.e. threatened) do occur. Six priority 2 flora, *Haloragis aculeolata*, *Hakea undulata* (limestone form), *Leptomeria lehmanii*, *Lasiopetalum membranaceum*, an *Astroloma* species and a *Platysace* species, are found in the Park. This priority 2 group has few populations known that occur on lands considered secure for conservation. Two priority 3 flora, *Hibbertia spicata* subsp. *leptotheca* and *Stylidium* sp. *Yalgorup* occur in the Park. This priority 3 group has several known populations, some of which occur on secure conservation lands, or the taxa is deemed to be not under immediate threat. The Lake Clifton Townsite, proposed to be added to the Park also contains a priority 3 species, *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum*. Two priority 4 flora *Eucalyptus foecunda* and *Conostylis pauciflora* subsp. *pauciflora*, are also found here. This group has flora that have been adequately surveyed and found to be secure but require monitoring to check that their conservation status does not change.

Most of priority flora are found in the Cottesloe complex and heaths and limestone outcrops are important habitats. The Tuart forest also contains a number of priority flora. Although it

appears that there is a concentration of priority flora in the northern section of the Park, this may change once a more detailed survey has been undertaken in the south. When priority threatened flora are found, they should be mapped, protected and biological information on them used to determine the most appropriate management strategy to use to ensure their survival. Fencing, nurturing and reintroducing threatened or priority flora may also be considered.

Recommendations

- 1. Locate priority threatened flora species and store information on biology, location, and herbarium specimens at CALM's Harvey District Office, the State Herbarium and at SOHQ Como. Consult records and take appropriate action before undertaking development or management activities.**
- 2. Extend the detailed vegetation and flora survey undertaken in the Park's northern section to cover the entire Park. Locate populations of important vegetation groups and priority and fire sensitive species, and develop management recommendations for their conservation.**
- 3. Protect areas that are in good condition and protect and consider enhancing areas with threatened and priority flora, particularly those vegetation communities and species susceptible to disturbance, plant disease or weed invasion.**
- 4. Protect and restore the Vasse Lagoonal Complex and the Quindalup Dune Complex.**
- 5. Minimise or prevent the removal of or damage to vegetation from constructing and maintaining roads and tracks, and developing and maintaining facilities for visitor use.**
- 6. Provide visitors with opportunities to view and increase their knowledge of the Park's vegetation. Include appropriate walk tracks and provide interpretive material.**
- 7. Retain a proportion of each vegetation community in areas that have not been burnt for a long time (Section 18).**

9. FAUNA

The objectives are to:

- **Protect and conserve indigenous fauna with an emphasis on threatened and protected species.**
- **Protect and conserve waterbird populations and habitats.**

Indigenous Fauna

There have been no detailed or systematic fauna surveys in Yalgorup National Park. Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) are plentiful in Yalgorup National Park. Brush Wallabies (*Macropus irma*) are also present. There is evidence of small populations of Bandicoots (*Isodon obesulus*) in the Park. Local farmers reported the presence of the Wambenger (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) in this area 20-30 years ago and have remarked on the disappearance of this arboreal species corresponding with the disappearance of nearby woodlands on private property. The Brush-tailed Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) and the Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) have been seen in the area, and the Water Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) has been trapped in the swampy areas just south of Lake Preston.

Some species likely to have been present in the past include the Ring-tail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), the Honey Possum (*Tarsipes rostratus*), the Pigmy Possum (*Cercartetus concinnus*) and the Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*). Populations of these species would have declined, as did the Wambenger, with the disappearance of woodland areas, while the Quokka's decline may be due primarily to fox predation. Isolated populations of such species may yet be discovered in the Yalgorup National Park with more intensive fauna surveys. There have been a number of sightings of unusual fauna in the vicinity of the Park over a number of years. Areas of the Park still contain suitable habitats that could be restocked with those species likely to have once occupied the area. More intense fauna surveys are essential to determine fauna species still present that could benefit from a recovery program.

Both the size and shape of the Park will limit its effectiveness as a conservation area. The small area of the islands of vegetation associations, the distance between these, and the long narrow shape of the Park combine to reduce effective mixing of the less mobile animal populations. Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) have in the past reached large numbers, particularly during summer with groups in excess of 80 counted in some areas of the Park (Muir, 1982 report). Damage to coastal vegetation by kangaroos has occurred and culling has been carried out in the past with the cooperation of local farmers and concurrence of the Western Australia, Naturalists Club and the Western Australia, Conservation Council. Species of bats present in Yalgorup include Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*), King River Eptesicus (*Eptesicus regulus*) and the Western Falsistrelle (*Falsistrellus nickenziei*).

Bird species are well represented in Yalgorup with 43 species counted in 1975, excluding marsh and waterbirds. In 1972 C F H Jenkins added to a bird list compiled by D L Serventy in the 1930s, bringing the total numbers of bird species to 134. Greater number of species are generally present where the habitat is undisturbed, and in these areas birds depend largely on the presence of a canopy. The disturbed areas outside the Park, such as pine forests and agricultural land support a few species not generally present in other areas (Clarke and Wright, 1975).

Birds of interest to locals found in Yalgorup include the Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*), the Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*), the Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), Richards Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) and four different species of honeyeater.

Several amphibians and reptiles occur in Yalgorup. Eight frog species, 13 lizard species and six snake species are on the Western Australian Museum data base as species likely to occur

in this area. Eight species of reptiles were collected and identified by the Museum in 1981. One of these, *Ctenotus labillardieri*, is only occasionally found on the Swan Coastal Plain, being more common among granite in the Darling Range. The long-necked tortoise (*Chelodina oblonga*) is present in Lake Clifton.

Little information on the Park's terrestrial invertebrate fauna is available. Local government authorities, CALM and the Public Health Department have developed mosquito and midge control programs and Ross River Virus research has been carried out in the Region. Approval of mosquito and midge control programs is given by CALM and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Some entomological research has been conducted by Curtin University, however, further research is needed to enable a better understanding of the terrestrial ecology of the Park.

Yalgorup National Park represents a large portion of the region's remaining natural habitats. Camping and recreation reserves are likely to be subjected to heavier public use, and both the Park and neighbouring State forest will provide important habitats to maintain existing species in the region.

The wide range in the size of vegetation units, their diverse variations in soil type, landform, rainfall and fire history all help to maintain animal diversity. Bird diversity generally increases with plant species diversity as well as foliage height diversity. The present vegetation diversity of Yalgorup National Park could be increased by including some of the neighbouring uncleared property and using these areas to link vegetation 'islands' and form corridors for species movement, which would greatly increase the chances of maintaining the Park's animal communities in the long term. Fauna habitats also need to be recognized and protected to minimise habitat losses due to disease, fire or human disturbance. Examples of important habitats to protect include thickets used for shelter, Peppermint trees used for food or hollow logs used for nesting.

Waterbirds

The Peel-Yalgorup system is included on the Ramsar Convention's list of Wetlands of International Importance, and CALM, therefore, has special obligations to protect the Park's wetlands and maintain their ecological character. Waterbirds that have been sighted on the Yalgorup Lakes include birds that are listed in the Japan-Australia and China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreements. The Peel-Yalgorup system is important as a nesting area and summer sanctuary for waterfowl from inland areas, becoming particularly important as alternative wetlands shrink in area during the summer.

Large numbers of waterfowl and waders use the lakes within Yalgorup National Park. During the summer months between December 1970 and May 1971, waterfowl counts were taken at three weekly intervals by C F H Jenkins along a two mile long transect of Lake Preston. Counts of around 3000 waterbirds were made at each inspection. Over 500 Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*), over 1000 Coots (*Fulica atra*), over 250 Grebes (*Poliocephalus poliocephalus*), and over 1000 Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) were counted in some inspections. During summer periods between 1981-1983, Lake Clifton was surveyed by Neville Stanley and David White who counted over 500 Black Swan, over 2000 Musk Duck, and over 1000 Australian Shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*). 13800 Australian Shelduck were counted in Lake Clifton in November 1986 and 9000 at Lake Preston in November 1988. The Australian

Shelduck moult and are flightless in late spring each year and require secure retreats and a quiet refuge. A total of 20725 waterbirds (all species) were counted on Lake Clifton in November 1986.

Within the Martins Tank chain of lakes, Lake Pollard is particularly important for Black Swans during the spring and summer, with more than 2000 Black Swans having been counted on some occasions. The Black Swans graze the extensive growth of *Lamprothamnium papulosum* that occur, from October to January.

Transequatorial migratory waders from places such as Japan, China, Siberia and Alaska that have been sighted mostly by Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union members include the Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*), Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) and the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). All of these species are in the Scolopacidae family and are listed in Migratory Birds Agreements.

Other waterbirds that the Yalgorup lakes support include the Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*), Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*), Hooded Plover (*Charadrius rubricollis*), Red-capped Plover (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) and Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) (RAOU records, 1992). The Hooded Plover is significant as sightings in these lakes are unusually far north for Western Australia. A number of bird species breed within the area of fringing vegetation surrounding the lakes. The Red-capped Plover nests on the lake foreshore and is very vulnerable to disturbance. The Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) has been recorded breeding on Lake Clifton. Another occurrence that gives Yalgorup some distinction is the large number of Musk Ducks (more than 2 000).

Waterfowl counts throughout south-western Australia have been carried out from 1988 to 1992. Yalgorup consistently supported the largest numbers of Musk Duck and in 1990 supported the most Pacific Black Duck. It also had the third highest numbers of Black Swans in 1988 and consistently supports high numbers of Shelduck in early summer (Halse *et al.*, 1990 and 1992). The total number of waterbird species recorded in Yalgorup National Park is 40.

Many waterbirds, particularly wading birds feeding in the shallows are easily disturbed by humans, cats, dogs or stock. The buffer of fringing vegetation around any lake is important to minimise this disturbance and to protect waterbirds. This vegetated buffer area is also an important nesting and foraging habitat for birds and acts as a filter to maintain the water quality of the lakes.

Threatened Fauna

No declared rare (i. e. threatened) fauna have been found in the Park. A more detailed survey of the Park may locate the presence of animals such as the Bandicoot (*Isoodan obesulus*) or the Ring-tailed Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). If populations of any threatened fauna are found, management programs specific to these animals and their habitat may be adopted to ensure their survival, along with reintroductions to boost their numbers if warranted and a fox baiting program for their protection. The suitability of Yalgorup National Park for

reintroduction of threatened fauna will be investigated. Flora and fauna of the lake system will be covered in the next section.

Recommendations

- 1. Protect fauna habitats from the spread of weeds, disease, wildfires and human disturbance.**
- 2. Increase knowledge of the Park's fauna by recording the incidences of death or injury to fauna resulting from motor vehicles and other causes.**
- 3. Instigate more intensive fauna surveys and investigate reintroducing former known threatened fauna inhabitants in conjunction with a fox baiting program (See Section 17 Feral Animals).**

10. THE LAKE SYSTEM

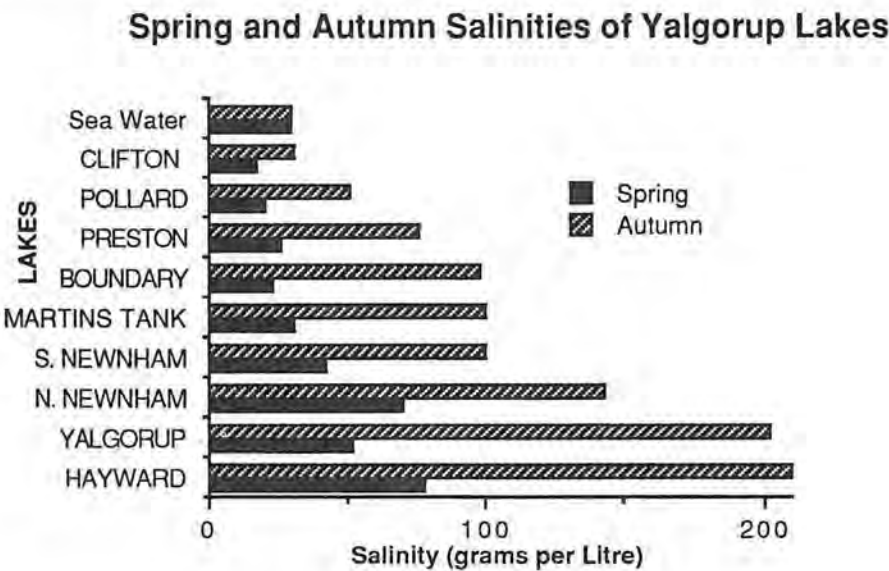
The objectives are to:

- **Protect and conserve lake flora and fauna communities, structures, diversity, distribution and the natural processes that sustain them.**
- **Protect and conserve quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater and protect special conservation values associated with the lake system.**
- **Enhance knowledge of lake hydrology and its function in the lake ecosystem.**

Salinity

Ten lakes are located in Yalgorup National Park. Lake Clifton, the furthest inland, stretches about 20 kilometres parallel to the coastline and is the least saline of all the lakes. Lake Preston is closest to the coast, is divided in two by a causeway, stretches about 30 kilometres and has intermediate levels of salinity. Seven smaller saline lakes lie between Lake Clifton and Lake Preston. They are (from north to south) Boundary, Pollard, Martins Tank, Yalgorup, Hayward, North Newnham and South Newnham Lake. Other minor lakes are located in the vicinity of Boundary Lake, including Swan Pond, Duck Pond and Linda's Lagoon. Figure 1 shows the average 1984 spring and autumn salinity levels of the main Yalgorup lakes (Moore *et al* 1984).

FIGURE 1



Lake Clifton

The salinity and alkalinity in Lake Clifton are similar from one end of the lake to the other although the levels vary with depth and distance from the eastern shoreline. Both are affected in winter by the inflow of fresh groundwater rich in bicarbonate ions. The northern half of the eastern shoreline may have the greatest inflow of fresh groundwater and this could account for the lake’s abundant and diverse assemblage of flora and fauna. In summer the lake may dry out into three basins, with the southernmost basin becoming very saline.

Organosedimentary structures (composed mainly of various carbonate minerals) known as microbialites are produced by the growth and metabolic activity of benthic microbial communities (Burne and Moore, 1987). The microbial communities incorporate sediment grains at a very slow rate and build structures that on the average are about 2000 years old, when they reach a height of 1 metre. Stromatolitic microbialites are laminated structures while thrombolitic microbialites are structures with a disrupted internal framework (Burne and Moore, 1987). Both are very similar externally and can only be distinguished from one another by their internal structure. Microbialites live in Lake Clifton, but not in any other of the lakes. Relict (dead) structures, however, have been found in a number of the other lakes in the Park.

Fossilized laminated stromatolites represent the earliest record of life on Earth, dating from some 3500 million years ago. Marine subtidal microbialites are now known to exist only in Hamelin Pool at Shark Bay and at two locations in the Bahamas. Hamelin Pool microbialites are the most abundant and diverse examples of growing marine microbialites known in the world today. Non-marine microbialites are fairly rare, found in only a few lakes throughout the world. Lake Clifton supports the largest known examples of living non-marine microbialites in the Southern Hemisphere, and is one of only two sites known where microbialites occur in water less salty than sea water.

Stromatolitic microbialites declined 570 million years ago as other organisms evolved that, with their grazing and burrowing, probably disrupted the slow processes involved in forming

these laminated structures (Burke and Knott, 1986). Thrombolitic microbialites, on the other hand, increased in abundance 570 million years ago, giving evidence of the effects of grazing and bioturbation on stromatolites in those distant times.

Microbialites in Lake Clifton provide an important refuge for many small animals such as amphipods, isopods, shrimp and fish. Nematodes, polychaetes and a species of sea anenome are also present within or near the microbialites. Bryozoans colonize the microbialites and have also been found within their framework. Two species of snails are present in Lake Clifton, but their grazing is restricted to the shallows and generally they do not occur in and around the microbialites. Macrophytes, including *Lamprothamnium papulosum*, *Ruppia megacarpa* and *Cladophora vagabunda*, are also present in Lake Clifton (Moore, 1991).

Subsurface upwellings of fresh groundwater within the lake and along the eastern foreshore, are colonised by cyanobacteria that stabilise the carbonate sediment that is precipitated about the point of outflow.

The most abundant cyanobacteria within the benthic microbial communities is *Scytonema* (Moore *et al.*, 1984). Other cyanobacteria that have been isolated include species of *Oscillatoria*, *Dichothrix*, *Chroococcus*, *Gloeocapsa*, *Johannesbaptistia*, *Gomphosphaeria* and *Spirulina* (Neil, 1984).

The benthic (bottom dwelling) microbial communities need to grow slightly faster than the rate at which sediment is deposited onto microbialites. An apparent increase in nutrient levels in the lake may have caused an increase in the amount of the epiphyte *Cladophora* (Moore and Turner, 1988). In 1988, *Cladophora* was noted to cover microbialites in late spring and summer but the growth was sufficiently light to be removed during autumn and winter through wind-generated wave action. Further phosphate input into Lake Clifton may result in further increase of *Cladophora*, which would inevitably inhibit the formation of microbialites.

Lake Pollard

Lake Pollard has a similar range of salinity to Lake Clifton but with a higher total alkalinity (Burke & Knott, 1989). The benthos is largely dominated by *Lamprothamnium papulosum* from October to January. In December calcium carbonate is precipitated in the lake, making the water very turbid. Between 1000 and 2000 swans graze the algae in the lake between November and February.

Preston, South Newnham, Martins Tank and Boundary Lakes

All of these lakes have similar seasonal salinity variations and none form vertical stratification, except for South Newnham where temporary stratification forms in some years. The benthic communities do not generally form algal mats. Areas of Lake Preston and Martins Tank contain some cohesive microbial communities. South Newnham and Martins Tank are border line cases, sometimes having characteristics more similar to the lakes of the next group (Burke, 1990).

Hayward, Yalgorup and North Newnham Lakes

These three lakes show vertical stratification of the water column in winter, when fresher groundwater forms a layer across the surface of the lake. Mixing between top and bottom

water masses does not occur and solar radiation is trapped within the bottom layer and warms the bottom waters. A cohesive, mucilaginous mat 1-2 centimetres thick of cyanobacteria covers the sediments of all three lakes. The cohesive mats restrict the exchange of water between the lake and the aquifer. The structure and function of the varied benthic communities in these lakes determine the chemical and physical nature of the overlying lake water (Burke, 1990).

Hydrologic and Biogeochemical Processes

Rainfall recharges an unconfined groundwater system in which groundwater flows from the east westwards towards the lakes. Ground water discharges into the lakes by seepage along the lake shore and beneath the water at the edge of the lakes. No rivers or streams supply water to the lakes. Recent CSIRO groundwater monitoring in Lake Clifton opposite Mount John Road indicated some possible increase in nutrient levels over time, however, the data collected so far are limited and need to be expanded to cover seasonal and yearly variability.

Lakes such as Lake Clifton are sinks for the fresh groundwater flow system (Commander, 1988, Burke, 1990). The mean lake levels and the level of the nearby water table are below sea level. Groundwater discharging to the lakes from the east has a salinity of 500 to 1000 mg/l T.D.S. This fresh groundwater is also carbonate rich and the carbonate is deposited as limestone or lime mud along the lake edges. Microbialites are formed in Lake Clifton, for the most part, by calcium carbonate precipitating out of fresh water seepage and being incorporated in the mucilage, secreted by the cyanophyta growing on the bottom of the lake.

Calcium and carbonate ions are removed from the water and precipitated as solid calcium carbonate. During this process phosphorus is usually co-precipitated within the calcium carbonate structure. Phosphorus is normally retained in the ground by geochemical processes and in many wetlands the phosphorus is in organic material. In relatively pristine wetlands, such as Lake Clifton, phosphate is bound in calcium carbonate compounds.

Environmental impact of increasing activity within the Park catchment

Increasing intensity of land use between the lakes and the groundwater divide has the potential to change the overall lake volume, its salinity, calcium carbonate composition or phosphate levels. Changes such as these may result in a change in the character of the lake. The recent increase in abundance in Lake Clifton of the green alga, *Cladophora*, is probably the result of increased phosphate input. Where nutrient levels have been artificially enhanced in many lakes of the Swan Coastal Plain, growth of planktonic and filamentous algae has been stimulated, progressively blocking light from benthic primary producers. This results in a change in the lake's character from one dominated by benthic primary production to one dominated by planktonic primary production. The benthic microbial communities of the Yalgorup Lakes and specialized microbialites of Lake Clifton, are recognized internationally by the scientific community. These lakes are part of the Peel-Yalgorup System, which is listed as an internationally important wetland under the Ramsar Convention.

Recommendations

- 1. Liaise with local government to ensure that management of lakeside reserves is consistent with Park management objectives.**

2. Survey poorly identified boundaries.
3. Have the Park boundaries fenced to stop stock entering the lakes.
4. Inform landholders of the importance of minimizing nutrient input into the lakes.
5. Liaise with local government, DPUD, WADA, WAWA, CSIRO and the EPA to provide advice to landholders on land-use practices that are appropriate within the Park catchment area.
6. Restrict recreational activities on the lakes to waterskiing and canoeing in the lower section of Lake Preston.
7. Provide researchers with permits to use boats on any of the lakes for approved study purposes only.

11. ABORIGINAL HISTORY

The objective is to protect and conserve the Park's Aboriginal cultural values.

Although Aboriginal people have occupied south-west Australia for at least 40 000 years, little specific information is known about their activities in Yalgorup National Park. Some artefacts have been discovered within the Park boundaries, and the name Yalgorup is derived from the two Aboriginal words 'Yalgor' meaning a swamp or lake, and 'up' a suffix meaning a place. Seven occupation sites within the Park, consisting of varying numbers of stone artefacts are described by Vera Novak in her Report on Aboriginal Sites of the Peel-Preston Lakelands.

The Department of Aboriginal Sites of the WA Museum, currently has no recognised archaeological sites listed within the Park; however, the area has not been examined in detail and it is possible that sites exist. All Aboriginal sites are covered by the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972-80) regardless of whether or not they are known to the Department of Aboriginal Sites. Section 17 of the Act makes it an offence to excavate, destroy, damage, conceal or in any way alter an Aboriginal site without written permission from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Regionally, two important sites of significance are located within the Peel-Yalgorup area. One is a religious ceremonial site north of the Park, and the second is a cave east of the Park (Novak, 1975, O'Connor *et al*, 1989).

The Waugal (also Walgal, Wagyl or Uocol) mythological beliefs are widespread throughout the south-west and refer to a spiritual force with a serpentine physical appearance. George Fletcher Moore in 1885 wrote of the Waugal as a "huge winged serpent" who lived in deep, dark waters. Salvado (1977 trans.: 128) wrote of the Waugal:

...Aboriginals dread even more going near large pools of water, in which they believe lurks a great serpent called 'Uocol' who kills them if they dare to drink there or draw water during the night...

The Yalgorup lakes may be an avoidance area as there is little evidence of Aboriginal presence in their vicinity. The more productive fisheries of the nearby Peel-Harvey Estuary may also have been a greater attraction in the region.

The south-west Aboriginal people are known collectively as Nyungar, although their heritage is derived from various tribes and language groups. The Park's Aboriginal history must be recognised by Park managers as it provides an important element in understanding the Park and its environment.

Recommendations

- 1. Identify Nyungar people having cultural links and ongoing interests in the Park.**
- 2. Consult with Nyungar people on matters of cultural interest in Park management.**
- 3. Report Aboriginal artefacts or other findings to the Department of Aboriginal Sites, Western Australia Museum, and ensure artefacts or findings are protected.**
- 4. Encourage archaeological and ethnographic surveys of the Yalgorup National Park.**
- 5. Ensure that CALM's obligations under relevant legislation are fulfilled if any development activities are proposed in the Park.**

12. EUROPEAN HISTORY

The objective is to protect and conserve European cultural values of the Park.

In 1829 Lieutenant Surgeon Alexander Collie and Lieutenant William Preston, in charge of a boat party exploring the coastline from Cockburn Sound to Cape Naturaliste, travelled along the coast between Bunbury and Mandurah. They found Lake Preston, later named in Preston's honour, and Lake Clifton named in honour of Mr Marshall Waller Clifton, chief Commissioner of the West Australia Company settlement of Australind (Snell, 1986).

The area between Bunbury and Mandurah had two of the State's earliest large-scale land settlement schemes. The first comprising 500 settlers landed between December 1829 and May 1830 under Thomas Peel. The scheme was abandoned due to problems arising from lack of leadership. The second, started by the West Australian Company in 1841, failed because of poor quality land (National Trust, 1973).

In 1921, the WA Cement Company built a lime kiln on the eastern side of Lake Clifton and began extracting lime marl from the lake bed. The settlement at Lake Clifton included a bakery, shop, school, postal receiving point, houses and a boarding school. The Cement Company also built a railway from Lake Clifton to Waroona. Sediment was pumped from the

bottom of Lake Clifton, through a pipeline mounted on piles and then into settling ponds where the water evaporated. The lime was shovelled by hand into trucks and later sent on open railway wagons to Waroona. Large kilns were later built to dry the lime when it was found excessive water made it too heavy for freighting to Perth. The operation was found to be uneconomical and closed after a few years. Little traffic used the railway line and it was closed in the same year as the lime kilns. The rails and sleepers were removed and used to construct the Lake Grace-Newdegate railway. The position of the former railway line can be identified today by its raised embankment (Snell, 1986).

An estimated 13 tunnels, dug by pick into the sides of limestone hills, are located in the Park. The year and reason of construction cannot be established, although the date 1927 is scratched into the wall of one tunnel. They are dead end tunnels and very straight, which could suggest they were dug to test for rock suitable for the Bunbury breakwater.

The Old Coast Road was re-built by convict road gangs in the 1850s. The remains of some of the wells put in by these gangs can still be found. One is located near Whittakers Mill picnic site. The country was of little agricultural value though horses and livestock were run and bred in the area. In the middle of Duck Pond are the remains of a horse yard where horses were kept to cure them of 'coasty disease' which they contracted if left too long on the coastal plains. This area was used as a training and patrol area for the 10th Light Horse Brigade during the Second World War. Facilities and horse yards were used at the Herron homestead north of Lake Clifton, which was then known as Greenwood Cottage. Another historically significant homestead southeast of Lake Clifton is still standing on what was known as the Fouracre Farm, dating back to the 1850s.

Whittakers Sawmill was built on the Old Coast Road and commenced milling on July 30, 1953. Logging was carried out in Tuart and Jarrah stands in State forest and in areas which later became National Park. The mill closed in 1964. The remains of Whittakers Mill can still be seen in the picnic site area on the Old Coast Road. Whittakers Mill picnic site area is included in the area of State forest proposed to be added to the National Park.

Recommendations

- 1. Collate existing information on historic sites located in the Park and maintain an up-to-date register of sites. Liaise closely with the National Trust and the Australian Heritage Commission to prepare and maintain registers and to evaluate potential additions.**
- 2. Develop management guidelines for any historic sites in accordance with the Burra Charter, and in liaison with the WA Museum, National Trust, Australian Heritage Commission, tertiary institutions and historical societies.**
- 3. Establish a program to conserve historic places and to develop facilities and visitor information.**
- 4. Encourage historical research and an archeological survey to be carried out at the lime kilns.**

5. Liaise with local historical societies regarding volunteer work and other activities.

13. VISUAL LANDSCAPE

The objective is to protect and conserve the Park's visual landscape values.

The Yalgorup National Park falls within the Swan Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type (Table 4). Within this Landscape Character Type there are three classifications of scenic quality, which are indicated in Table 4. They describe a large proportion of the high scenic quality that fall within this category.

One of the most outstanding scenic areas in Yalgorup is the narrow strip of high dunes, covered with low soft-coloured vegetation, immediately behind the white sands of the ocean beaches. The diverse vegetation groups within this scenic area varies in colour seasonally. The coastal heaths and shrublands in this landform are expansive and largely free of disturbance. A number of different descriptions of landscape character type of high scenic quality can be used to describe these areas (Table 4).

Another outstanding landscape is the Tuart forest and woodland found on the limestone belt inland from the coastal dunes. The hillier parts of this belt are some of the most attractive forest settings in the State, and the nearest example of its kind to Perth. It can be classified as a landscape character type of unusual diversity of colour, height and species.

The areas of Tuart woodland once partially cleared and heavily grazed is another landscape with high scenic value. In many cases properties have become attractive parklands where Tuart trees are scattered over pasture. This open parkland is also of high scenic quality.

The views of the lakes from either the east ridge with the ocean in the background, or from the west ridge with the scarp in the background are also of high scenic quality.

Panoramic views can be acquired from numerous locations within the Park. For example, important scenic areas are located on either side of the northern section of Lake Clifton and on either side of the northern section of Lake Preston. The west side of Lake Preston and the west side of the Martins Tank chain of lakes are scenically important because of the steep and irregular slopes and ridges along the entire length of these lakes. These high scenic values are again described in a number of different ways in Table 4.

Roads, public utilities, limestone quarries, blowouts, tree deaths or temporary fire effects have the greatest visual impact and the greatest potential for temporary or permanent loss of visual landscape values. Private property owners adjacent to the Park also have the potential to impact on the Park's landscapes and can detract from the Park's values. Planting trees and shrubs, and designing and locating buildings should be done sensitively on lands adjoining the Park. Where possible urban expansion should avoid areas that are visible from within the Park.

TABLE 4. SWAN COASTAL PLAIN LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE
 (*Classifications found in Yalgorup National Park)

SCENIC QUALITY	LANDFORM	VEGETATION	WATERFORM
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rounded foothills with steep slopes. * Dunal formations of distinctive height, configuration or combination which provide obvious contrast to the landform patterns common in the character type (eg. Spearwood dunes). * Dissected calcareous dunes featuring rugged limestone cliffs, caves and outcrops (eg. Blackwall Reach). • Gently inclined or level areas with distinctive drainage patterns (eg Pinjarra Plain). * Large stretches of coastal landscape free of disturbance (coastal heath). Coastal dunes which display areas of active weathering, steep and irregular slopes and ridges (eg Lancelin). • Prominent limestone cliffs and headlands (eg Cape Peron). • Off-shore and estuarine sandbars and reefs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Scattered remnant vegetation forming an open park land. * Remnant or other areas of native vegetation exhibiting an unusual diversity of colour, height or species. * Distinctive displays of seasonal colour. * Wind-shaped, gnarled or dwarfed vegetation unusual in form, colour or texture. * Strongly defined patterns of woodland, dune and wetland vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * All estuaries, wetlands and swamps. • Watercourse of permanent or intermittent flow with continually changing flow character. • Reservoirs with dominant natural characteristics.
MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Expanses of beach with uniform width and colour. * Regular coastal edges without bays, inlets or cliffs. • Areas of plains with common patterns of dissection evident but not distinctive. • Areas of uniform undulation with less distinct drainage. * Dunal formations and uniform height and configuration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less diversity in vegetation with regular patterns in height, colour and texture evident. * Vegetation patterns found commonly in the surrounding landscape (coastal heath). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermittent watercourses with long stretches of unchanging flow characteristics. • Reservoirs with some natural characteristics.
LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of uniform indistinctly dissected plains with few features of visual interest. • Coastal landscapes in which are of special visual significance and therefore rate no lower than moderate scenic quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Extensive areas of vegetation with repetitive patterns or showing little variations or diversity (coastal heath). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterbodies with little evident natural characteristics. • Irrigation and drainage

Recommendations

1. Plan and implement all activities in the Park to complement rather than detract from the inherent visual qualities of the environment in which they occur.
2. Consider CALM's Visual Resource Management Policy Statement No. 34 and seek specialist advice when implementing the management plan.
3. Map the Park's scenic quality by using the Scenic Quality Frames of Reference for the Swan Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type.
4. Any visual alterations to the natural landscape should be subtle, and remain subordinate to natural elements by borrowing extensively from form, line, colour, texture and scale found commonly in the surrounding landscape.
5. The District Manager to vet site development plans before any development, maintenance or rehabilitation works are implemented, to ensure conformity with landscape management principles.
6. Use interpretive and explanatory signs before and during operations that affect visual landscape qualities.
7. Focus views onto distinctive features by selective siting and aligning of roads and walking tracks.
8. Give high priority to rehabilitating previously disturbed sites, such as old quarries in the northern section of the Park, to attain the desired standard of scenic quality.
9. Encourage local authorities, other government agencies and private landholders to use visual resource management skills when siting facilities and signs, selecting site-compatible materials and colours, and planning for utilities, roads and building envelopes.

14. EROSION, MINING AND REHABILITATION

The objectives are to:

- Minimise the impact of extracting basic raw materials on Park values and rehabilitate these sites.
- Restore degraded areas to a stable condition, resembling the natural environment as much as possible.
- Protect the Park's values from deleterious effects from exploration and mining.

Mining and Rehabilitation

Limestone has been mined within the Park and old pits are still visible in a few areas. Quarries operate within State forest, local government land and private property. Limestone for road construction is in demand and a local government reserve and vacant Crown land proposed to be added to the Park, are possible sources for this material. If mined and rehabilitated, it may still be appropriate to add these areas to the Park.

Limestone quarry rehabilitation should aim to recreate the area's natural character by using locally procured seed and matching the surrounding vegetation as closely as possible.

Lake Clifton was mined after the First World War. Lime kilns are still standing near the lake where the WA Cement Company established a small, but short-lived, cement works.

Erosion and Rehabilitation

Presently there are only a few active dune blowouts. Off road vehicles are responsible for some and uncontrolled beach access by pedestrians causes others. *Armillaria* spread and subsequent deaths of vegetation due to *Armillaria*, have been associated with blowouts (pers. comm. Shearer and Fairman, 1992). Frequent fires or overgrazing can also remove vegetation cover and cause blowouts. Dune disturbance and disease spread can be minimised by closing unnecessary roads in the dunes, erecting signs warning of the problem and managing beach access.

Dunes closest to the lakes have been stabilised by long-lived shrubs and trees, while another generation of parabolic coastal dunes is still semi-mobile. The coastal vegetation and advancing dunes have a dynamic relationship in which an equilibrium has been established. The coastal dunes of the Quindalup System have intruded into the lakes over a relatively brief geological period, forming the present geomorphic and benthic environments. The eastern side of the lakes is characterised more by a marly mud geomorphic and benthic environment influenced by the chemistry of the groundwater influx. Human activities can disrupt this equilibrium and mobile dunes are a potential threat to the Tuart terraces, and houses and roads. It is important that buildings and beach access be planned to minimise disrupting and destabilising sand dunes.

An example of the potential for blowouts and mobile dunes can be seen west of Lake Preston, approximately 6 kilometres south of Preston Beach. A sand mass 30 metres high is enveloping small trees and brush and is threatening mature Peppermint and Tuart trees. The face of the dune is very steep. *Armillaria luteobubalina* has been isolated at the base.

Wind erosion has caused blowouts at a number of locations along the Yalgorup National Park coastline and rehabilitation has been attempted with varying degrees of success. The use of Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) is a common strategy used by private property owners and State and local government departments. Brushing, using branches and shrubs, is another technique used to stabilise mobile dune systems. A combination of brushing and planting with coastal grasses and beach annuals effectively traps sand and develops a frontal dune that protects vegetation complexes further inland.

Wherever possible, seed or cuttings from native species in the immediate locality should be used for rehabilitation purposes. This ensures the greatest degree of success as well as

enabling new vegetation to blend into the existing environment. Sources of brushing material should also be free of diseases. Identifying *Armillaria* in the field is relatively easy and minimal training of field officers would be required.

Recommendations

1. Ensure that, as far as possible, any mining or excavation operation within or adjacent to the Park has minimum impact on the Park, particularly with regard to landscape values, spread of disease and decrease in water quality.
2. Monitor the movement of dune blowouts. If a blowout is expanding and is likely to destroy management infrastructure or important vegetation or habitats, implement control measures.
3. Prepare a detailed rehabilitation program that prioritises the works to be implemented and includes dune stabilization techniques.
4. Investigate more effective rehabilitation techniques and liaise with others who are involved with rehabilitation work.
5. Monitor, evaluate and record progress of rehabilitation techniques used.
6. Ensure native plant species that occur in the Park are used in rehabilitation for brushing, planting and seeding and that quick growing indigenous species such as Acacias are planted, managed and harvested locally for brushing.
7. Train Park staff in all aspects of disease identification and rehabilitation work. Seek specialist advice as required.
8. Ensure that, within any scenic areas, degraded landscapes (such as quarries) are rehabilitated after use or progressively in stages.

15. DISEASE

The objectives are to:

- Minimise the spread and intensification of disease where it is already present, and prevent introduction into disease free areas.
- Minimise detrimental effects of measures used to control disease.

Diseases

Plant diseases can be caused by a variety of factors including the soil borne fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) which can kill a wide range of plant species and reduce the

conservation value of areas in Yalgorup National Park. Dieback has a low impact on most of the Park's vegetation complexes. The Karrakatta complex in the Park's north-east is an exception. Dieback has a moderate impact on this small area. Despite the low impact, some species within these complexes are susceptible and every effort should be made to minimise the spread of dieback.

Presently there has been no positive identification of *P. cinnamomi* in the Park. *P. cinnamomi* has been found in areas of State forest east of the Old Coast Road that are proposed to be included in the Park. These areas contain the Karrakatta and the Bassendean complexes. Dieback disease has a moderately high impact on the Bassendean complex and can result in widespread understorey and overstorey death.

Before any operation is undertaken in Yalgorup National Park, a dieback survey and sampling are carried out and an assessment is completed to determine whether or not the operation can go ahead. A reconnaissance survey for dieback along a number of firebreaks in the National Park showed that *P. cinnamomi* was not present, but *Armillaria luteobubalina* was. *Armillaria* is another fungal pathogen that invades plant root systems, and produces symptoms similar to *Phytophthora* dieback. *Armillaria* is occasionally spread by spores dispersing in the wind, but the main form of spread within an infection site is by movement through adjoining roots. Minimising the movement of root tissue is important in containing both *Phytophthora* and *Armillaria*. Canker fungi have also been observed in Yalgorup. The range of fungi that make up the canker fungi infect aerial parts of plants, and gradually kill plants from the top down. Research into *Phytophthora*, *Armillaria* and canker is ongoing.

Armillaria has been found in a number of sites within the National Park. Of particular concern is the apparent association of diseased areas with blowouts (pers. com. Shearer and Fairman). The areas that appear to be the most susceptible to *Armillaria* are those in the Quindalup complex that have a woody scrub component of *Jacksonia* or *Acacia*. It is important that *Armillaria* infected material is not used for brushing and stabilising dunesystems. It is also important that in restoring dune blowouts root material is contained in areas low in the profile and *Armillaria* resistant species are used in rehabilitation.

Armillaria along the coast is an important management consideration as is dieback disease further inland, particularly in the Bassendean complex. *Banksia* are particularly susceptible to both diseases. The understorey found in areas of Tuart and Peppermint appear to be the most resilient to the two diseases. Areas of Tuart do appear to be very sensitive however and deaths commonly occur when these trees are disturbed by nearby development.

Recommendations

1. Conduct plant disease surveys and implement hygiene measures prior to commencing any operation that requires soil or plant material movement.
2. Educate Park users about plant disease and the need to stay on well formed roads or tracks.
3. Provide educational signs for horse riders that request a clean down before entry to bridle trails.

4. Train Park staff to recognise plant diseases, and in sampling and management techniques.
5. Determine how susceptible the Park's plant species are to disease, starting with all threatened and priority species.

16. INTRODUCED PLANTS AND NOXIOUS WEEDS

The objective is to minimise the impact of introduced plants and noxious weeds and their control on Park values.

Eight vegetation types were recognised in the Park. These have been assessed to determine the numbers of native and introduced species in each (see Table 5).

A total of 295 native and 55 introduced species were recorded in the Park (Herbarium Research Notes No. 3, 1980). The weeds identified are adjacent to firebreaks, picnic areas and on formerly cultivated land. Agricultural escapes such as introduced grasses and legumes and agricultural weeds, such as the sow thistles, are included in this list. Problem plants also include species such as *Acacia saligna* which is found along disturbed edges of Preston Beach Road.

TABLE 5. NATIVE AND INTRODUCED SPECIES IN EIGHT DIFFERENT VEGETATION TYPES
(After Fox, Downes & Maslin, 1980)

VEGETATION TYPE	NATIVE	INTRODUCED
Unconsolidated dune heath	28	4
Consolidated dune heath	85	7
Limestone heath	130	14
Tuart woodland	181	29
Paperbark swamp	29	7
Sedge swamp	39	7
Mixed Eucalypt woodland	27	3
Weed community	22	42

Declared plants (noxious weeds) known to be located within the Park are Apple of Sodom (**Solanum linnaeanum*), Cottonbush (**Gomphocarpus fruticosa*), Doublegee (**Emex australis*), Cape Tulip (**Homeria flaccida*) and Paterson's Curse (**Echium plantagineum*). Apple of Sodom is a problem in some areas while the other five only occur in small scattered

groups. Other weeds that occur within the Park and in adjoining properties are **Trachyandra divaricata*, **Euphorbia peplus*, **Euphorbia terracina*, **Ehrharta* sp and other various introduced pasture grasses and herbs. Maps showing the distribution of declared and non-declared weeds are held in the Harvey District Office, and programs to control weeds are implemented with the approval of the District Manager. CALM liaises with Park neighbours, the Agriculture Protection Board and Local Authorities. The effect of control programs on non-target species has been evaluated and is not considered a problem, however, this should be continually assessed.

Invasion by introduced plants is one of the most serious long-term threats to the integrity of the Park's native vegetation. The vegetation type and fire and grazing history determine the degree of weed invasion. One measure of the degree to which introduced species have infiltrated different vegetation types can be seen in Table 5. Once annual weeds are established a cycle may be set up where rapid growth in winter and spring results in a greater fire hazard in summer, and increased pressure for fuel reduction burning. Burning to eliminate weeds can often lead to further weed growth and degrade the vegetation. Apple of Sodom is the greatest weed problem in the Park and there has been a long continuous strip of Apple of Sodom in lot 5524, the newest addition to the Park. Significant reductions of Apple of Sodom have been made in the Park in the last two years. There are two known sites of Doublegee, three known sites of Cape Tulip and one major infestation of Cottonbush in the southern end of the Park. All of these have weed control programs in place.

Some introduced species, such as a fig tree near Martins Tank has cultural and historical value and will not need to be removed unless the species poses a threat to a native plant community, is a safety hazard or negatively affects Park values in some way.

Recommendations

1. Liaise with the Agriculture Protection Board, landholders and local authorities regarding weed control on Park boundaries and adjacent properties.
2. Maintain a register of all known occurrences and severity of introduced weeds.
3. Prepare and implement an introduced plants and weeds control program.
4. Monitor any effects of control programs on non-target species and make changes to procedures if required.
5. Avoid any unnecessary disturbance to soil while carrying out management activities, particularly in areas adjacent to sources of weeds.
6. Clean machinery, vehicles and trucks before moving from areas with weeds into areas without weeds.

17. FERAL ANIMALS

The objective is to minimise the impact of feral animals and feral animal control measures on Park values.

Introduced species include the House Mouse (*Mus domesticus*), the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*), the Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) and Goat (*Capra hircus*). The Feral Pig (*Sus scrofa*) has been seen outside to the east of the Park. Rabbits are common in the dune areas along the Old Coast Road and west of Lake Preston. A baiting program by the Agriculture Protection Board in 1986-87 greatly reduced Rabbit numbers for a while, but more recently their numbers have increased again, which have affected efforts by owners of property to the south of the Park, to rehabilitate damage in the dunes.

The Fox and Feral Cat are a major threat to native animal populations. CALM is researching safe and effective ways to reduce Fox populations. These include poisoning and biological control. Fox predation has accounted for a high percentage of deaths of captively bred and released native fauna such as the Western Ring-tail Possum in coastal areas further south. The Agriculture Protection Board is currently running a program to control the Fox in areas of private property near the Park. The use of 1080 baiting has reduced Fox numbers while not affecting native fauna.

Recommendations

- 1. Continue to liaise with the Agriculture Protection Board to control feral animals.**
- 2. Expand the Rabbit control program to include areas under rehabilitation.**
- 3. Monitor feral animal populations and regularly assess the effectiveness of control programs and their threat to native flora and fauna.**
- 4. Implement comprehensive feral animal control programs in conjunction with native fauna release programs.**

18. FIRE

The objective is to protect people, property and conservation values in and near the Park by appropriate fire management and suppression techniques.

Wildfire threat in and around Yalgorup National Park has been analysed and a strategy that considers values at risk, chance of ignition and suppression response capability has been adopted.

Values at risk include three townsites, other populated areas, property, pine plantations, two historic sites and sensitive flora and vegetation groups. Semi-rural subdivisions adjoin the Park to the north at White Hill, Lake Clifton, Clifton Downs and Yalgorup Parklands. Three coastal towns are located adjacent to the Park: Melros to the north, Yalgorup in the middle and Myalup to the south. Peak visitor use of the Park and the holiday cottages in the coastal towns coincides with the summer high fire risk period.

Conservation values such as important plant species locations and animals whose habitats can be manipulated favourably, are considered when planning any fire management program. Frequent fire can have an effect on food resources for some native animals and can reduce cover, while infrequent burning can result in reduced species diversity and a greater abundance of particular species. Autumn burning in the Park adjacent to private property, may encourage weed invasion into the Park as some species of weeds can outcompete native species in recolonisation of burnt areas.

Tuart regeneration is an important long-term goal for many areas of the Park and is discussed in greater detail in the next section. Fire sensitive species such as *Lasiopetalum membranaceum*, are on occasions isolated and left unburnt. Buffer areas around the lakes are left unburnt for as long as possible so as to maintain vegetation density which filters nutrients that might otherwise enter the lake.

The fire protection strategy for Yalgorup is to prevent wildfires from burning large sections of the Park. This is facilitated by maintaining a system of low fuel buffer areas. The lakes and the Indian Ocean provide natural barriers to the spread of fire from and to the east or the west. The Park is divided into areas in which it is proposed that fuels will be of varying ages. Strategic areas are burnt to minimise the risk of fires spreading within the Park for any great distance. Buffers will also be burnt to protect Park facilities and adjoining land. The frequency of burning fuel-reduced buffers depends on the natural fuel accumulation rate of the area, and generally in open stands like the Tuart forest, that means a return time of six to 10 years.

Fuel reduced buffers are at least 500 metres wide and may be created by either burning or slashing. Fuel reduced buffer areas are located to protect people, property, adjacent property values and conservation values. Fuel reduced buffer areas extend beyond the Park, by arrangements with the Bush Fires Board and private landowners, where Park boundaries adjoin vacant Crown land and undeveloped private lands. Management access tracks are maintained along buffer boundaries.

Vegetation management areas are designated in which a range of vegetation ages will be stabilised for each vegetation type so that there is a diversity in vegetation structure and habitat types. An extensive fire that burns most or all of any major vegetation association is considered undesirable. Coastal heaths, as opposed to woodlands, require a relatively longer period between burns.

Three fire management areas are shown on Map 6. These are:

1. Fuel reduced buffer areas - Areas generally at least 200 metres wide and burnt to assist protection of people, property and conservation values.

2. Vegetation management areas- Areas that are burnt as required to regenerate species within a vegetation complex.
3. Scientific reference area - Areas from which fire will be excluded, and subject to scientific research input and advice.

Fire detection in the Park during the fire season is provided by CALM's spotter planes, Park neighbours, the Park ranger and other district staff. Every effort is made to contain wildfires threatening the Park to the smallest possible area to protect human life, property and Park facilities. Close cooperation with the Waroona and Harvey Shires, City of Mandurah, Bushfires Board and Brigades, and Park neighbours should be continued so as to integrate fire prevention, detection and suppression efforts. A fire danger board will be placed along Preston Beach Road and at other suitable locations. On days of extreme fire danger, Park staff will undertake patrols. Water supply points are considered adequate. The locations of these are indicated on Map 6. Fire fighting operations will be undertaken in such a way as to minimise environmental impacts, wherever possible.

A cooperative approach with local Bush Fire Brigades, local government authorities and neighbouring landholders is encouraged so that responsibility for wildfire control and prescribed burning is shared. Mutual aid arrangements with the Bush Fire Brigades will be encouraged to ensure an effective fire fighting force is in place.

Prescribed burning will be implemented in accordance with a master burning plan for the Park, which is reviewed annually in the light of recent and new fire research and information. Any changes to the burning plan will be made in consultation with Bush Fires Brigades, the Bush Fires Board, the Fire Advisory Committee and other relevant organisations.

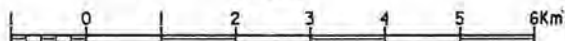
Recommendations

1. Burning will be conducted in accordance with written prescriptions approved by CALM's Harvey District Manager. The frequency of prescribed burns will depend on the accumulation of fuel and is not likely to be less than six years.
2. Strategically placed fuel reduced areas will be maintained, rather than narrow buffers, along private property boundaries. Where possible successive burns in each block will be programmed in different seasons.
3. Roads required for fire control and essential management activities will be defined and maintained to suitable standards. Firebreak construction will be kept to a minimum. Those roads considered unsuitable for public use will remain closed to the public (See Section 22).
4. Continue to liaise with the local Bush Fire Brigades to ensure an effective fire fighting force is in place. Establish agreements with adjacent landholders, where necessary, regarding a cooperative approach to carry out fuel reduction requirements. If conditions change, review the agreements to ensure ongoing protection.

MELROS

FIRE MANAGEMENT

SCALE



Aplary sites



Water points



BURNING PRESCRIPTIONS



Fuel reduced buffer areas
(people and property protection)



Vegetation management
(key species regeneration)



Scientific study reference area
(burning subject to research advice)

HARVEY

ESTUARY

LAKE

COAST

ROAD

CLIFTON

Harvey

Pool

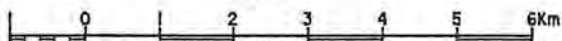
DOWN

RD

MAP 6
(North)

FIRE MANAGEMENT

SCALE






Aplary sites

(A)

Water points

(W)

BURNING PRESCRIPTIONS

-  Fuelreduced buffer areas
(people and property protection)
-  Vegetation management
(key species regeneration)
-  Scientific study reference area
(burning subject to research advice)

PRESTON BEACH

MYALUP

MYALUP

BEACH

MAP 6
(South)

INDIAN
OCEAN

PRESTON

LAKE

COAST

OLD

ROAD

RD

PEPPERMINT GROVE RD

JOHNSTON

McLARTY
PLANTATION

Lake
Yagorup

Lake
Haywards

Lake
Neerim

IRONSTONE

5. Implement prescribed burns in accordance with the master burning plan. Implement a range of fire regimes, including variation in season, intensity and size, particularly between different blocks according to the fire management plan (Map 6).
6. Contain all fires in or threatening the Park, considering values at risk, disease risk, ecological values fire behavior, resources, the presence of low fuel areas and ecological values. Suppression actions may include direct attack, backburning from established roads or buffers, or by allowing the fire to burn out to low fuel buffers.
7. Establish a fire danger board along Preston Beach Road and at other suitable locations and actively promote public awareness of fire risk, safety and survival. Fire danger boards will be kept current by Park Rangers.

19. TUART

The objective is to promote long-term stability of Tuart stands in the Park.

There is concern that historical land-use practices and management of areas within the Park since colonisation may have caused changes in the balance between Peppermint and Tuart in some stands in the Park, favouring Peppermint. If this is the case, then active intervention may be necessary to prevent further decline of Tuart in these stands. Care needs to be taken to ensure that any intervention is based on sound knowledge and that any techniques used do not cause damage to the understorey or effect fauna species associated with it, such as the Ring-tailed Possum. The best approach is to initiate research on:

- the natural variation in the balance between Peppermint and Tuart in different habitats within the Park,
- whether or not Peppermint is replacing Tuart in some stands within the Park,
- the best way to promote the recruitment of Tuart if research shows that it is declining in particular stands, bearing in mind that any recruitment methods used must not adversely effect other Park conservation values.

Recommendations

1. Initiate research to study the population dynamics of Tuart to determine whether or not Peppermint is replacing Tuart in some stands.
2. Select recruitment methods that do not adversely effect other Park conservation values such as habitat requirements for the Ring-tailed Possum.
3. Seek NPNCA approval of recruitment methods before they proceed, if research shows that intervention is necessary.

PART D. RECREATION

20. RECREATION STRATEGY

Popular features of Yalgorup National Park are its trees, lakes, landscapes, birds, vegetation and natural settings. Visitors enjoy the Park's natural and undeveloped qualities. It is important that these qualities be retained for present and future generations to enjoy.

Greater pressure will be exerted on CALM to provide recreation opportunities in the northern part of the Park as Mandurah expands. The City of Mandurah has experienced high growth with a ten-fold population increase since 1961. Over 67% of the Peel Region's population is located within the City of Mandurah. Population projections, prepared by the Department of Planning and Urban Development in 1988, estimate the population of the Peel Region will grow to over 70 000 by the year 2001 and increase to nearly 90 000 by the year 2011 (SWDA, 1991). Present sites will need to be expanded and new areas developed to facilitate the larger numbers of people and provide new avenues for discovering the Park. This will involve making visitors more aware of the Park and its values. Park values most vulnerable to inappropriate recreational activities include Lake Clifton's stromatolites and thrombolites, waterbirds, vegetation complexes and the Quindalup Dune System, which is very prone to destabilisation.

A visitor and neighbour survey was conducted over the Easter and school holiday period, April to May 1992. Its purpose was to assess the types of groups using the Park, the major activities occurring, and visitor attitudes towards facilities. The survey form also had a section that allowed visitors to express their opinions about the Park and how it could be improved. The results of the survey helped to determine the recreational strategy proposed in this draft plan.

Another survey was carried out over a number of years to determine the growth of recreational demands. Recreational activities were observed and recorded by Park Rangers during 1988, 1989 and 4 months in 1990. Table 6 shows some of the most common activities from 1988 to 1990.

Low impact activities and those that increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural environment will be encouraged in the Park. Better provision of information is required as well as new recreational opportunities, facilities and experiences for visitors. Areas degraded by present use will be upgraded by providing new facilities or rehabilitating old ones, or a combination of both.

A wide range of recreational activities occur in the Park. The implementation of a zoning system is proposed in the Yalgorup National Park to cater for these activities. The land area will be divided into zones ranging from those with very high environmental protection value where only walking will be permitted, to zones of lower environmental protection value. In zones where only walking is permitted a special emphasis will be made on the observation of wildlife. The recreation zoning will reflect conservation values. It is proposed that zoning on the lakes will consist of: 1.No boating or swimming 2.Canoeing only 3.Motorized boating and sailing (Map 3). The use of recreation and conservation zones will help in minimising conflicts between users as well as protecting the environmentally sensitive areas within the Park, such as the Quindalup Dunes and the lakes.

TABLE 6. OBSERVATIONS BY PARK RANGERS

ACTIVITY	1988 % 12 Mths	1989 % 12 Mths	1990 % 4 Mths	Average %
Sightseeing	19.6	23.5	26.8	23.3
Walking	21.0	20.0	20.2	20.4
Camping	11.7	14.2	21.9	15.9
Seeking information	13.2	11.1	10.9	11.7
Barbecuing	13.0	8.9	5.8	9.2
Picnicking	10.6	5.8	4.1	6.8
Fishing	3.2	6.7	4.4	4.8
Photography	3.4	4.8	1.7	3.3
Birdwatching	1.8	2.8	1.9	2.2
Swimming in a lake	1.4	1.1	.7	1.1
Horse riding	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.1
Total No. of activities	1036	1117	411	

21. ATTRACTIONS AND EXISTING USE

The objective is to provide recreation opportunities in an equitable manner that do not impact adversely on the Park's values and that maximise appreciation and enjoyment of those values.

Yalgorup National Park contains a diverse and unique terrestrial and aquatic natural environment. This provides a broad range of recreational opportunities. The area is used for sightseeing, bushwalking, barbecuing and picnicking. The user survey showed that sightseeing and picnicking are the two most popular activities in the Park.

The Park's lakes and wetlands attract activities such as photography, painting and sketching. The area also displays a great diversity of birdlife that attracts birdwatchers and photographers. Other users visit the Park to view the wildflowers, stromatolites and thrombolites. The popularity of these activities indicates a need for walks and lookouts.

A number of water-based activities occur in the Park including swimming, boating, canoeing, waterskiing, sailing and fishing. These activities are permitted only in Lake Preston and in the ocean adjacent to the Park.

The close proximity of horse properties also encourages horse riding in the Park's vicinity. Proposals for management of this activity are discussed later in this plan. Four wheel drive vehicles and motorcycles are also being used in sensitive areas of the Park. These can cause damage to the Park's vegetation and landscapes and are therefore restricted. The use of these vehicles within the Park must be limited, as the Park contains only relatively small areas of land that can assimilate the environmental damage that can be caused by them.

The following acceptable activities occur:

sightseeing	camping	seeking information
barbecuing in spits	walking	sailing
fishing	picnicking	photography
walking	birdwatching	spotlighting
resting	waterskiing	bicycling
four wheel driving	canoeing	surfing
drawing/painting	research	swimming
viewing stromatolites	sailboarding	boating

No detailed data on visitor numbers are available. Traffic counter data will be important to assess the increasing use of the new camping area at Martins Tank Lake. The use of Martins Tank camp ground fluctuates from very little use to high levels of use, particularly over the Christmas period, with moderate levels of use over long weekends and Easter. Traffic should be monitored on Preston Beach Road, White Hill Road and Tims Thicket Road, as these are the most frequently used access roads into the Park.

Recommendations

- 1. Liaise with Park visitors to identify their specific needs and determine if and how opportunities and facilities to meet these needs can be provided.**
- 2. Assess requests to use the Park for new recreational pursuits using the following criteria:**
 - suitability in a national park
 - suitability in the Regional context
 - compatibility with existing uses
 - likely environmental impact
 - availability of alternative opportunities
 - management capability.
- 3. Monitor the impacts of all activities in the Park and make any necessary changes to management practices if unacceptable impacts are found to be occurring.**
- 4. Investigate opportunities for increasing public awareness and enjoyment of Park values.**

22. ACCESS

The objective is to provide and maintain access to the extent that the Park's values are not adversely affected.

The main access to Yalgorup National Park is via the Old Coast Road to the east of the Park. The type of road access available influences the level and intensity of use of an area. Areas that are sensitive, therefore, should have access provided that can be managed so that the Park's conservation and environmental values are protected. Monitoring road access will be important to determine management actions.

The main picnic sites in the Park, at Lake Preston and Hayward, are accessible by two wheel drive from Preston Beach Road. The only camping site in the Park, at Martins Tank Lake, is also accessible by two wheel drive. A number of foreshores at Lake Clifton and Lake Preston are accessible by two wheel drive. However, no facilities or interpretive information exist at these locations. Coastal access at the end of White Hill Road is by foot, horse or by four wheel drive. At present, North Preston Beach Road continues on past the turn off to Martins Tank and arrives at a dead-end. A desire for more beach access north of Preston Beach was expressed at the Community Workshop and in the Preston Beach Coastal Plan. Continuing North Preston Beach Road to the beach would provide further beach access in a strategic location for visitors, including those staying at Martins Tank Camp Ground. It also will be important to designate an area of beach, close to the facilities provided near the beach, as vehicle free.

Access for equestrians is proposed to link the beach and the 10th Lighthouse Brigade Trail using fire breaks between the Park and private property. It will be important that these management tracks are maintained to a level sufficient for fire suppression activities or for other management requirements.

The desire for more access was expressed in the user survey and in the neighbour survey. Strong support also exists for more walk tracks. The recently acquired location 5524, north west of Lake Clifton, would be a good location for a series of walk trails. A long distance walk for backpackers and a shorter walk for day users could be established through the area to cater for different users and their needs. A walk track from Martins Tank camp ground to Lake Pollard and back could be established. This walk is already used by bushwalking groups in the late summer when the Black Swans are in large number at Lake Pollard.

In addition to those access routes identified for retention, there are a number of small tracks in the Park that serve no management or public access purpose. These will be assessed for possible closure and rehabilitation.

Greater pressure will be placed on the existing access and any additional access provided in the future, as visitor levels increase. All new access must be able to sustain this increase, and increasing types of access provided in the northern section of the Park will need to be accompanied with increased CALM presence in that area.

Almost all visitors to Yalgorup National Park use vehicles to arrive at their destinations. Unregulated four wheel drive access has destroyed native vegetation and caused erosion in the Park, particularly in the coastal dunes. Of major concern for neighbours and management are the use of dune buggies and motorbikes in the Park. The Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act 1979 could be used to prosecute those using restricted areas. Non-vegetated beach areas will continue to be available for responsible four wheel drive vehicle use. The proposed four wheel drive track from North Preston Beach Road to the beach will provide access for four wheel drive vehicles. In addition to erosion problems, four wheel drive vehicles have the potential to spread disease within the Park. It is important to educate drivers of these vehicles to use low air pressure in their tyres and stay away from vegetated dunes.

Bicycles are also used on roads and tracks along the lakes. This type of activity is compatible with other uses and values of the Park.

Recommendations

- 1. Confine public vehicle access to existing developed roads and tracks.**
- 2. Ensure access is in place to evacuate the Park in an emergency.**
- 3. Close and rehabilitate all unnecessary access tracks as shown in Map 2.**
- 4. Provide two wheel drive access within walking distance of the beach by continuing North Preston Beach Road closer to the beach, and investigate the possibility of allowing four wheel drive access to the beach (Map 8 Prop. new access).**
- 5. Prepare detailed plans and specifications for all proposed tracks and parking areas in accordance with accepted design principles and Departmental standards. These include:**
 - Design and develop any new access routes as low in the topography as possible and in a manner that complements Park landscapes while maximising scenic opportunities (Section 13).**
 - Locate and design access routes in the Park so that they do not degrade surface and groundwater quality.**
 - Conduct a full disease assessment of all areas in which track reconstruction will occur.**
 - Develop and maintain access routes in ways that minimise the risk of spreading disease.**
- 6. Monitor, in association with user groups, all four wheel drive tracks, access to four wheel drive beaches, and instigate management action as necessary.**
- 7. Progressively develop a varied system of walking tracks within the Park, distinct from tracks for vehicles or horses.**

8. **Maintain management tracks to a level suitable for management requirements.**
9. **Provide access close to a safe area of beach that is vehicle free.**
10. **Provide access for motorised vehicles on roads and tracks developed and maintained to Departmental standards.**
11. **Direct motorised vehicles to the most appropriate areas, close unsuitable roads and tracks and prescribe conditions of use that will minimise environmental and social impacts.**
12. **Restrict vehicles from using the unvegetated beach face, which is generally between the low and high water marks. Discourage access into the foredunes with signs and road closures.**
13. **Provide information to Park users on appropriate four wheel drive techniques for coastal areas.**
14. **Identify existing access roads and tracks suitable for bicycle riding.**

23. HORSE RIDING

The objectives are to:

- **Facilitate enjoyment of the Park by providing designated trails for horses while minimising any negative impacts of horseriding on the Park environment or other visitors.**

The areas surrounding Yalgorup National Park have been used by horse riders for about 140 years. Horses have been kept and run in the area since the early 1850s when the area was first settled.

Numerous people living close to Yalgorup National Park own horses. Some neighbours have expressed a desire to be able to ride in the Park and have suggested designated horse riding trails be established. Horse riding is common throughout the area and some riding occurs inside the Park, although it is not an approved activity. At present a number of horse riders follow road reserves down to the beach to exercise their horses. The 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail, from Island Point South, also runs along the outside of State forest, which the Central Forest Region Regional Plan proposes to add to the Park.

The two main groups of horse riders are from the White Hill Road and the Mount John Road areas. The Mount John Road group would like beach access and the White Hill Road groups would like access to the 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail.

Horses have the potential to spread weeds and disease into unaffected areas and trample and browse on native vegetation. Horses fed on commercial food sources are less likely to spread

weeds than horses grazing in paddocks that contain weeds. The potential to spread weeds inside the Park is less with horse riding trails which follow the boundaries of the Park rather than those which go through the Park.

The potential for horses to spread disease is generally greatest during wet conditions when infected soil can be moved in hooves from one place to another. The vegetation complexes contained in the Park have a low predicted impact from dieback with a moderate impact in a small area of Karrakatta complex. Any designated horse trail would be managed according to strict dieback hygiene principles. Hygiene measures such as signs requesting cleaning hooves before entering the Park could be put into place.

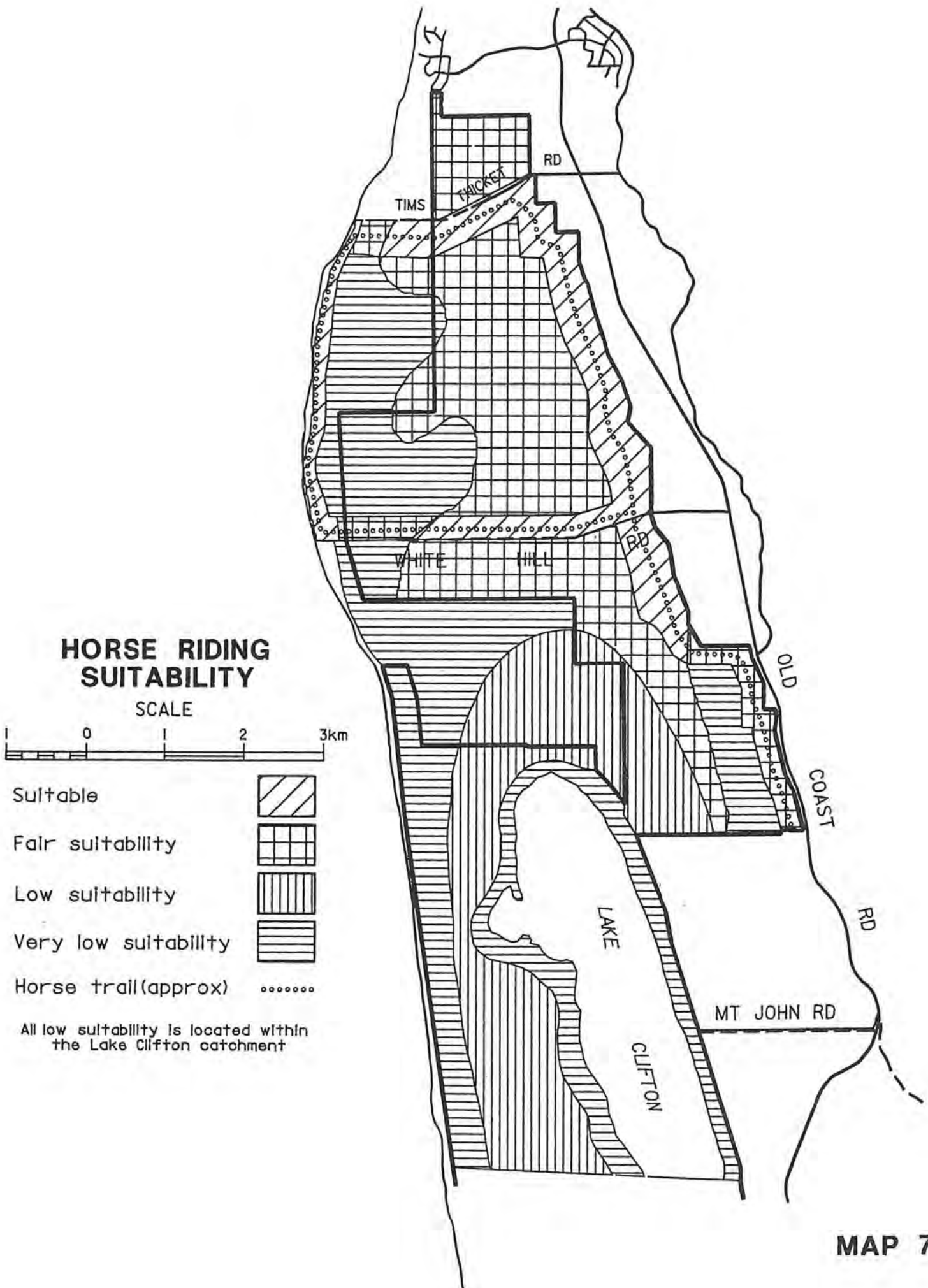
Horses can also foul watercourses with their droppings. Locating a bridle trail outside the catchment boundary will avoid this. The area inside Lake Clifton's catchment boundary is not considered suitable for a horse riding trail (see Map 7).

A good opportunity exists in Yalgorup National Park to separate horses, vehicles and walkers (Map 8). Increasing access for vehicles and walkers is being provided for in other areas of the Park (See Sections 22&24). Access to the beach is well established along the Tims Thicket and White Hill road reserves and horseriders would be able to ride safely off the edge of the roads using the proposed horse riding trail.

It is proposed that horse riding be allowed on a designated trail outside the Lake Clifton catchment boundary, on the edge of road reserves and on the outside boundary of Yalgorup National Park. Consideration will also be given to priority flora locations, to determine an exact location for the horse riding trail (see Map 7). All horse riders will be required to be registered to ride within the Park, and to pay an appropriate fee which will be annually reviewed. This annual fee will be used to maintain the horse riding trail. Riding of horses will be restricted to trails and will be required to be conducted in a manner that will not impact on Park conservation values and other Park users. Non-compliance with horse riding regulations will lead to disqualification and no further right to use the Park. Park staff may need to close certain tracks at any time if these appear to be degraded and in need of maintenance.

Recommendations

- 1. Establish a code of ethics for horse riding within the Park.**
- 2. Further assess the land's capability and suitability for horse riding and determine the exact location of the trail.**
- 3. Permit horse riding in the Park on a designated trail on the outside boundary of the Park (Map 7). No specific additional horse riding facilities will be provided.**
- 4. Ensure that the designated horse trail is signposted and managed according to strict dieback disease hygiene principles.**



MAP 7

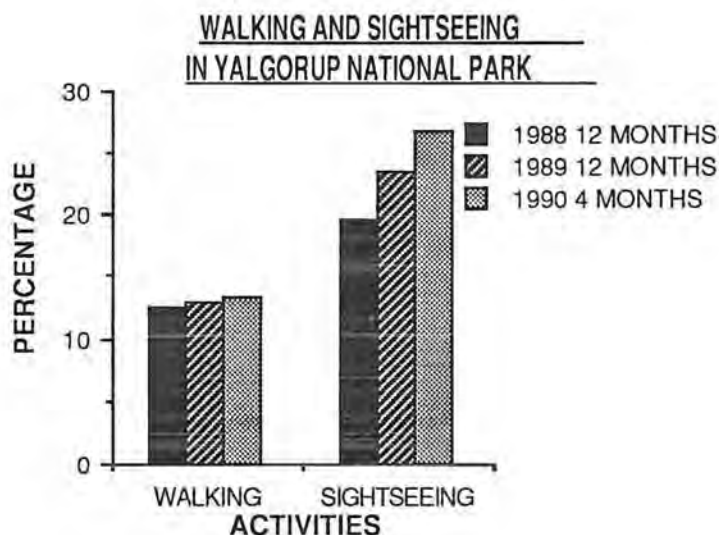
5. Link the horse riding trail with the existing 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail.
6. Close tracks when maintenance work or rehabilitation is required.
7. Monitor the impacts of horse riding and modify or further restrict use if the activity appears environmentally unacceptable.
8. Encourage horse riding in areas outside the Park, such as pine plantations, which are able to sustain this activity.
9. Encourage horse riders to feed their horses on a seed free diet for 24 hours prior to entering the Park.
10. Require Park riders to display a license tag on their horse to show they have paid a registration fee. Use the fees to maintain horse riding trails.
11. Seek financial support from horse riding groups to help establish and maintain the horse riding trail.

24. NATURE OBSERVATION AND NATURE WALKS

The objective is to provide walks and observation points from which the Park's natural attributes can be viewed to enhance visitors' experience.

Yalgorup National Park with its large variety of vegetation and landscapes and unique wetlands and lakes, provides a great opportunity to explore by foot. Figure 2 (taken from Table 6) shows an increasing popularity of walking and sightseeing in the Park.

FIGURE 2.



Currently no designated bushwalking or nature walks are located in the Park. Many visitors are currently using management tracks for walking, and a few bushwalking groups regularly use the Park. The potential exists to provide more opportunities for bushwalking through designated nature walks that cater for a variety of users, their needs and levels of fitness. However, the placement of any walks must also consider erosion potential, spread of disease and impact on vegetation.

As already mentioned (Section 22), location 5524 north west of Lake Clifton in the Park is a possible location for a long and short walk and a lookout could be incorporated into both of these walks. The longer walk could have designated backpack camping areas. Other short walks would be located behind the information bay along Preston Beach Road, from the Lake Preston day-use area to Lake Preston, and from Martins Tank Camp Ground to Lake Pollard. A nature walk will be located at the end of North Preston Beach Road (see Map 8).

Viewing scenery and sightseeing is the most popular activity in the Park. Rangers observations show that the amount of sightseeing has continued to increase from 1988 to 1990 (See Figure 1). A part of sightseeing is being able to stop and view the scenery. No developed lookouts or vantage points are currently established in the park. Lookouts are proposed behind the information bay, at the end of White Hill Road, at the end of North Preston Beach Road and along the proposed walks through location 5524.

Yalgorup National Park displays a diversity of birdlife as well as the unique stromatolites and thrombolites that are found along the eastern side of Lake Clifton. In the user survey 16.7% of visitors wished for more information to be provided on the flora and fauna of the area. An observation facility to view the stromatolites and thrombolites is proposed at the end of Mount John Road. The possibility of viewing facilities on Lake Preston and Lake Hayward will also be investigated. Birdwatching and photography are also popular in the Park with 45.8% of users and 80.6% of neighbours participating in either of these activities.

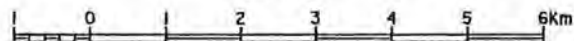
Recommendations

- 1. Provide a variety of walks throughout the Park (Map 8).**
- 2. Provide adequate information from which visitors can choose the walk best suited to their needs.**
- 3. Designate preferred backpack camping areas along the path network where appropriate (Map 8).**
- 4. Provide safe access to points of special natural interest where this can be achieved without threat to the natural environment or visual landscape.**
- 5. Locate a lookout at the end of White Hill Road and include relevant interpretive material.**
- 6. Provide a nature observation facility at the end of Mount John Road for viewing waterbirds and stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton.**

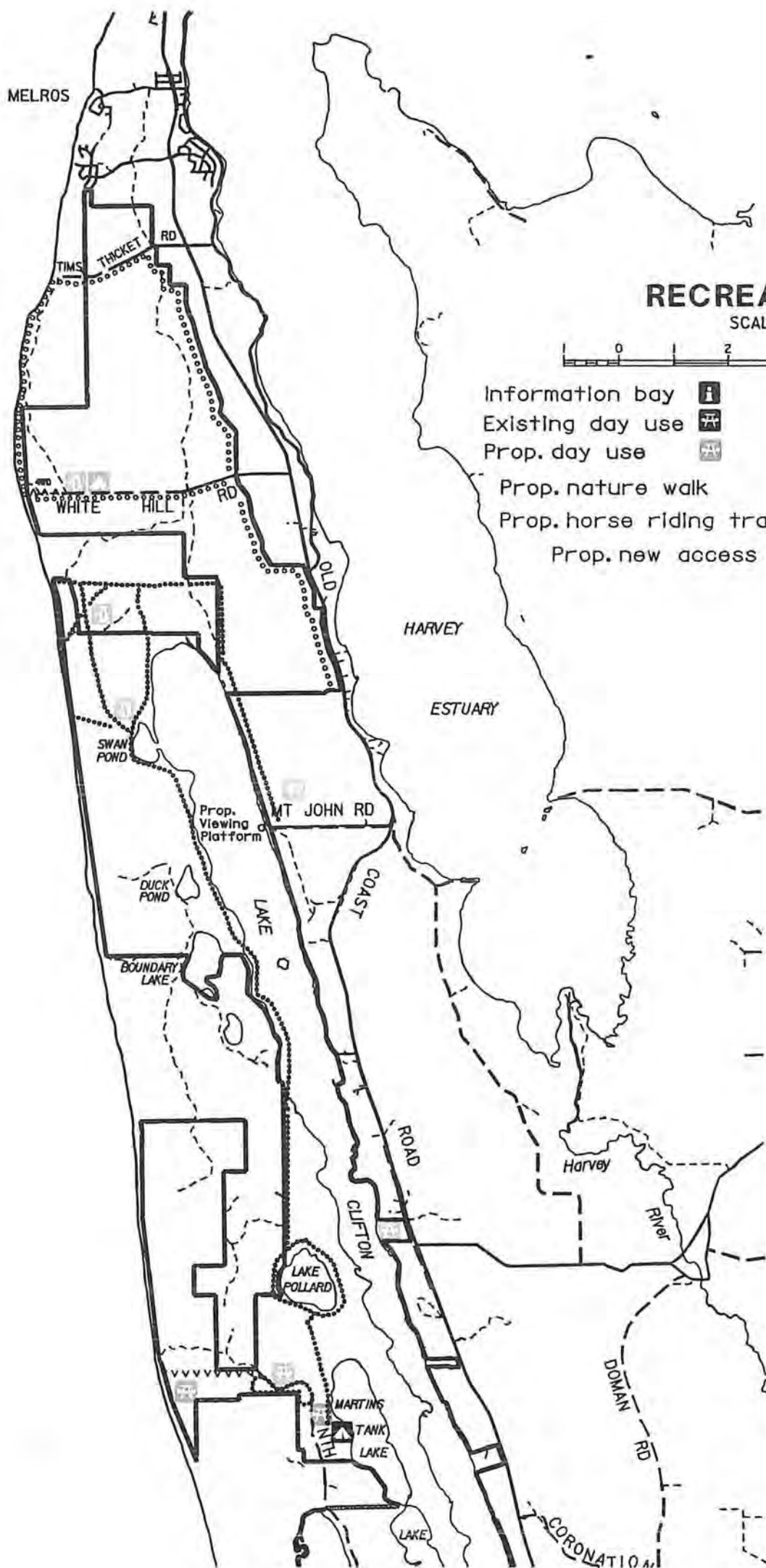
MELROS

RECREATION

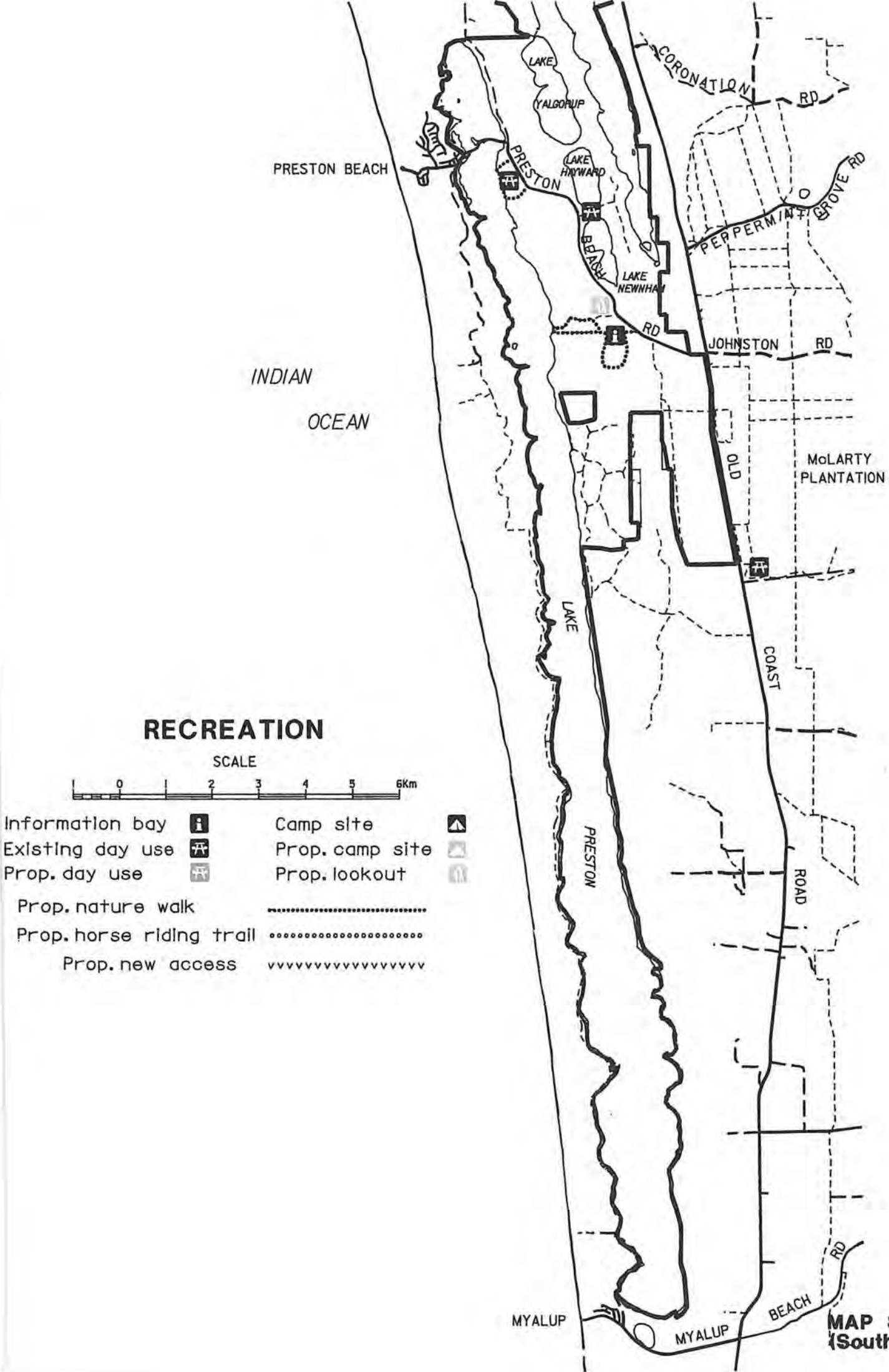
SCALE



- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Information bay | | Camp site | |
| Existing day use | | Prop. camp site | |
| Prop. day use | | Prop. lookout | |
| Prop. nature walk | | | |
| Prop. horse riding trail | | | |
| Prop. new access | | | |



MAP 8
(North) ↗



MAP 8
(South)

7. Design and develop a short nature walk from the Mount John Road day-use area.
8. Investigate the possibility of constructing a waterbird viewing area along Lake Preston.
9. Provide a walk loop to Lake Preston from the Lake Preston day-use area.
10. Provide a walk from the Preston Beach Road Information Bay to a lookout and to Lake Preston.
11. Develop a nature walk at the end of North Preston Beach Road which includes a lookout.
12. Develop a long walk from Martins Tank Lake north to location 5524 and around Lake Clifton to Mount John Road. Within this walk develop shorter loops around Lake Pollard and two varying length loops that each include a lookout in location 5524.

25. DAY USE

The objective is to provide day-use recreation facilities appropriate to the environmental setting that encourage visitor enjoyment and understanding of the Park's values.

Day-use activities include picnicking, barbecuing, sightseeing, birdwatching, photography and sketching/painting. Picnicking and barbecuing are traditional activities in most national parks, either as a pursuit in its own right or as an adjunct to other recreational activities. Picnicking and barbecuing facilities are provided in the Park at Lake Hayward, Lake Preston and Whittakers Mill.

New picnic and barbecue facilities have been proposed at Martins Tank Lake, White Hill Road, Mount John Road, the Lime Kilns, at a site north-west of Martins Tank, at North Preston Beach and at Tims Thicket and Melros if these reserves become part of the Park.

Recommendations

1. Design and develop day-use sites and facilities in accordance with the Department's Policy Statement No. 18 Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services and the Central Forest Region Regional Plan Day-Use Strategies.

2. Ensure that site development plans are completed and approved by the District Manager before development, maintenance or rehabilitation works are undertaken.
3. Martins Tank (High Priority)
 - Develop a day-use area at Martins Tank Lake for picnicking with a walk to Lake Pollard and further north.
4. Tims Thicket Road (Low Priority)
 - Designate a day-use area south of Tims Thicket Road if the site is added to the Park.
 - Provide further day-use facilities south of Tims Thicket Road in a suitable location near the beach with a walk track to the beach if the site is added to the Park.
 - Rehabilitate all unnecessary vehicle tracks and disturbed areas.
 - Investigate the possibility of using old quarries for recreation after further rehabilitation, including earth shaping and revegetation.
5. White Hill Road (High Priority)
 - Develop a day-use area at the end of White Hill Road with a lookout, picnic facilities, two wheel drive access close to the beach and four wheel drive beach access.
6. Lake Hayward (Low Priority)
 - Expand the existing day-use area if and when needed.
 - Retain picnicking as the main activity at this site.
 - If pedestrian impacts on the foreshore of Lake Hayward are detrimental to the lake environment, consider constructing a formal viewing platform.
7. Lake Preston (Medium Priority)
 - Redesign the day-use area to provide for picnicking, walking and birdwatching on Lake Preston.
 - Continue to rehabilitate the quarry at the Lake Preston day-use area.
 - In the redesign, investigate the potential to expand if and when the need is demonstrated.
8. Information Bay (High Priority)
 - Maintain information facilities at this site on Preston Beach Road, and consider including a toilet when the walk to Lake Preston and the lookout has been developed.
9. Mount John Road (High Priority)
 - Design a day-use site at the end of Mount John Road with the main activity being to interpret the stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton.

10. Lime Kilns (Medium Priority)

- Provide vehicle access, parking, picnic facilities, interpretive information and toilets at the Lime Kilns while respecting the historical integrity of the site.

11. Whittakers Mill (Medium Priority)

- Continue to use the Whittakers Mill site as a day-use area for roadside resting and picnicking.
- Upgrade picnic facilities, rationalise road and tracks and provide toilets and historical information on site.

12. North Preston Beach (Medium Priority)

- Develop a day-use site near the beach and at the end of North Preston Beach Road. Provide picnic facilities in a suitable location if the need is demonstrated.

13. Northwest of Martins Tank (Medium Priority)

- Develop a day-use site that focuses on a nature walk. Provide information, interpretation and limited picnicking facilities.

14. Melros Area if included in the Park (Low Priority)

- Develop a day-use site for picnicking at Melros, if the area is included in the Park.

26. CAMPING

The objective is to provide for and encourage low-impact camping in designated areas provided that the activity is sustainable and appropriate to the environmental setting.

Vehicle-based camping in the Park is formally provided at only Martins Tank Camp Ground. The camp ground is situated on the banks of Martins Tank Lake on a cleared area among Tuart and Peppermint woodland. The camping site is located on a point on the western side of the lake. Martins Tank Lake is highly saline and few waterbirds have been observed on the lake in recent times.

Martins Tank is a natural and peaceful spot with numerous attractions nearby. Within walking distance is Lake Pollard and Lake Clifton which support large populations of birdlife. A walk trail from Martins Tank Camp Ground to Lake Pollard and back could be formally established.

Martins Tank Camping Ground is in the process of being redeveloped as a camp site in accordance with a Recreation Development Plan. The user survey shows that a small number of visitors camped in the Park over the Easter period of 1992. It is expected that the numbers

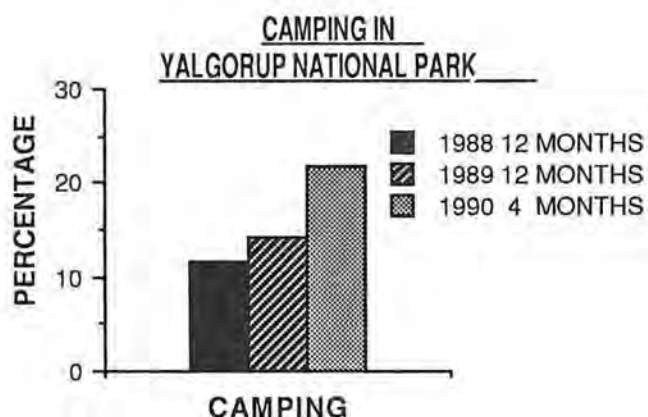
will increase at this camp ground as more people become aware of its location. The most frequently used day-use areas and the Information Bay should be used to promote the camp ground.

The camp ground has a toilet block, various levels of camping bays with fire rings, and picnic tables. It caters for large group camping and has a number of small group sites. The Recreation Development Plan indicates an area where further development can be undertaken if and when the camp ground needs expanding.

A fee is payable to the Ranger. A self registration fee collection system is proposed for the camping ground to allow the Ranger more time to manage other areas of the Park.

Recreational activities were observed by Park Rangers over 1988 (1036 activities), 1989 (1117 activities) and for 4 months in 1990 (411 activities). The recordings show that on average camping was the third most often observed activity out of 11 activities (Table 6).

FIGURE 3.



The percentage in Figure 3 represents people involved in camping activities compared to all 11 recreation activities surveyed in the Park.

Another area suitable for a camping site is at the end of Tims Thicket Road. This possible camping site is within the Tims Thicket Reserve, and would be a valuable addition to the Park. An alternative to this camp site is at the end of the two wheel drive access along White Hill Road.

Backpack camping could be provided at designated sites along the proposed walk track north of Lake Pollard, within location 5524. These backpack camping sites could provide overnight opportunities for long distance walkers within the Park.

Recommendations

1. Design and develop camping sites and facilities in accordance with the Department's Policy Statement No. 18 Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services and the Central Forest Regional Plan Camping Strategies.

2. Ensure that site development plans are completed and approved by the District Manager before development, maintenance or rehabilitation works are implemented.
3. Continue to collect camping fees in the Park to help offset the cost of providing and maintaining facilities.
4. Investigate the use of a self-registering system.
5. Maintain liaison with individuals and organizations who provide campgrounds on nearby or adjacent lands.
6. Permit backpack camping in designated sites along the long walk track in location 5524.
7. Cater for a range of camping requirements, such as small and large groups, within the Park.
8. Design camping sites and facilities to ensure that potential risks to visitors and the impact on Park values are minimised.
9. Martins Tank (High Priority)
 - Continue site development at Martins Tank Camp Ground in accordance with the Recreation Development Plan.
10. Tims Thicket Road (Medium Priority)
 - Designate a camping area south of Tims Thicket Road if the site is added to the Park.
 - Rehabilitate all unnecessary vehicle tracks and disturbed areas.
11. White Hill Road (Low Priority)
 - If Tims Thicket is not included in the Park.
 - Designate a camping area at the end of White Hill Road that caters for a range of camping requirements.

27. WATER BASED ACTIVITIES

The objectives are to:

- Provide for water-based recreation activities that are compatible with protecting and maintaining conservation values.
- Provide for water-based recreation without impairing other recreation activities.

Recreation activities occur on Lake Preston in the far south of the Park. The Lake has been divided into three recreation zones:

1. No boating or swimming
2. Canoeing only
3. Motorized boating and sailing (Map 3).

This helps to cater for the various activities and to minimise conflicts.

To protect the stromatolites and thrombolites no activities (other than scientific) are permitted on Lake Clifton. Currently no water-based activities are allowed in any of the Park's lakes other than Lake Preston. Rangers have observed people swimming in Lake Clifton and Lake Hayward. Information can be provided at the lakes, to inform visitors of their conservation value and why swimming is prohibited. At the same time, visitors could also be directed to other locations for swimming, such as the ocean beaches, which would help take pressure off Lake Clifton and Lake Hayward.

Beach fishing and swimming are very popular recreational activities along the coast, adjacent to the Park. The proposed track from North Preston Beach Road would open up new fishing and swimming locations. Because some fish run at night during the winter months, fishermen will be allowed to rest in vehicles on the beach during this period. However, the use of tents and other camping equipment will not be permitted. Resting will not be allowed in the foredunes.

The Bunbury Water Ski Club has been operating in the southern end of Lake Preston since 1967. The Club is a fairly small group operating in a sensitive area. To control the impact of skiing the group should be kept small. Motorized boating and sailing in Lake Preston is restricted to an area shown in Map 3. Canoeing is also restricted to the southern end of Lake Preston (Map 3). An additional area for canoeing may be created at Martins Tank Lake if the impact of canoeing on the lake's values can be shown to be minimal.

Recommendations

1. **Retain a waterskiing zone on Lake Preston subject to monitoring environmental impacts.**
2. **Continue to prohibit any water-based activities on all of the Yalgorup Lakes, except for the lower third of Lake Preston.**
3. **Provide information on the conservation values of Lakes Clifton, Hayward and Pollard to explain to visitors why water-based activities are not permitted on these lakes.**
4. **Monitor the effects of water-based recreation activities on the environment and modify the activities if necessary.**

5. **Permit "overnight resting" in vehicles along the beach adjacent to the National Park for people beach fishing. "Overnight resting" is defined as sleeping in, or next to a vehicle for no more than one night. This recommendation will be subject to the coastal strip adjacent to the National Park being added to the Park and will be subject to periodic review once in place.**
6. **Investigate introducing canoeing in Martins Tank Lake after an assessment has been made to determine the impact canoeing will have on the lake's conservation values.**

28. PETS

The objective is to protect the Park and its users from the negative impacts of pets.

Domestic pets are generally not permitted in national parks. This is to protect native fauna and the rights of other Park users. Pets disturb wildlife and Park visitors, can introduce disease and foul recreation sites. The smell of domestic pets can impede native fauna activity. Walking pets along management tracks within the Park is one activity observed by Park Rangers. Other than guide dogs for the blind, or tracker dogs for search and rescue, pets will continue to be excluded from the Park with the exception of the recreation area at Whittakers Mill and the beach area near the Yalgorup townsite. Whittakers Mill is a popular stop for people travelling between Perth and Bunbury. Pets are often observed there and will continue to be permitted if the area becomes part of the National Park. The coastal strip adjacent to the National Park is also proposed to be added to the Park. Pets will continue to be allowed on the beach adjacent to the Park near the Yalgorup townsite.

Recommendations

1. **Provide information to Park visitors explaining the Department's policy on pets, and enforce the policy if necessary.**
2. **Encourage the use of areas outside the Park, that are able to sustain activities such as pet exercising.**
3. **Allow dogs, on a leash, at the Whittakers Mill recreation area, which is proposed for addition to the National Park. If the beach is included in the Park, zoning for pets will be considered. Pets will not be allowed in any other areas of the Park.**
4. **Continue to allow guide dogs and tracker dogs used for search and rescue operations in the Park.**

PART E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

29. INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION

The objective is to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of the Park's values and management, and encourage responsible use of the Park.

To achieve the objectives for managing Yalgorup National Park, an effective information and interpretation strategy is essential. It will increase the level of community awareness and understanding of the value of natural areas and their appropriate use. It will inform users of attractions and facilities available in the Park.

Currently, little information is publicly available on the Park and there are no established interpretation sites. Visitor surveys indicated that there should be a visitor information booth, and visitors as well as neighbours requested that more information be provided on the area's flora and fauna.

A display board is located at an information bay along Preston Beach Road, at the entrance of the Park. Information about the area's flora and natural history is provided. A map of the area is included.

Smaller information facilities could also be established at the four existing recreational sites and at White Hill Road, Mount John Road and Lime Kilns. The first new information/interpretation facility could be at a lookout established at the end of White Hill Road. Suggested information provided at the lookout would be about the actual site and also about attractions in other areas of the Park, such as Martins Tank Camping Ground. A second new facility could be a nature observation platform at the end of Mount John Road. This site could include information on the ecology and formation of the stromatolites and thrombolites, and other attractions and activities in the Park. Another new site could be at the Lime Kilns, just off the Old Coast Road. An interpretation site could be established here with information on the history of the kilns, and a photo or drawing of what they used to look like. These information/interpretation sites could be used to inform visitors of other attractions and recreational activities in the Park, encourage them to visit other areas of the Park, and inform them of conservation values and minimal impact recreational practices.

Information could also be located at Lake Clifton and Lake Hayward informing visitors of the high conservation value of the lakes and why water-based activities are prohibited. Nature-based information could be incorporated into a nature trail at the end of the two wheel drive road on North Preston Beach Road, where a range of vegetation types can be viewed within a relatively small area. Information and interpretation will be provided at the terminus of the proposed extension of North Preston Beach Road for four wheel drive vehicles continuing north along the beach. Table 7 outlines the information and interpretation strategy for the Park.

A need exists for brochures and pamphlets about the Park to be distributed from CALM offices and within the Park. Such pamphlets should provide brief information on the Park's values, facilities and attractions. Scientific groups such as the Stromatolite Advisory Group and the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union should be involved in producing informative brochures. This information should be accessible for use in education and interpretation programs.

TABLE 7. INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

LEVEL	LOCATION	POSSIBLE TYPE OF INFORMATION
1. Orientation	Tourist Bureaux key areas	Pre-visit information for trip planning. (adjacent regions-Metro)
	CALM office	Recreation opportunities in Harvey District. Maps, special activities. Special requests. Ecological updates.
	Preston Beach Road	Welcome to Yalgorup National Park. Where to go, what to see. Map, ecology, history. Regulatory.
	Whittakers Mill	Overview of Yalgorup National Park. History of area. Recreational opportunities.
2. Recreation Sites	North Preston Beach Rd	Code of the Coast. 4WD information. Coastal vegetation. Dune systems. Regulations.
	Martins Tank Lake	Ecology of lake - algal mats. Recreation - walk trails Cultural history
	Lake Hayward	Ecology of lake. Possible impacts on the lakes. Birdlife.
	Horse riding trail.	Horse riders ethics. Dieback disease. Regulations.
	Lime Kilns	European history of area. What happened at site. Recreation opportunities in other areas of Park.
	Mt John Road	Ecology of lakes: • stromatolites/thrombolites and benthos • birdlife • algae Possible impacts on the lakes. Recreation opportunities in other areas of Park.
	White Hill Lookout	Vegetation complexes. Identify trees eg. Tuart, Peppermint. Recreational opportunities in other areas of Park.

Recommendations

- 1. Develop and implement a community education and interpretation strategy for the Park.**
- 2. Liaise with scientific study groups to develop an information base for use in education and interpretive programs.**
- 3. Build small information/interpretation facilities at Mount John Road, Lake Hayward, Martins Tank, White Hill Road, and at the Lime Kilns as funds become available.**
- 4. Prepare and make available publications such as a brochure to inform schools, the public, and local landholders of the intrinsic value of the Park's lakes and constraints on activities permitted within the Yalgorup catchment.**
- 5. Conduct seminars and information days for the public and landholders.**
- 6. Provide information on opportunities for various types of day-use recreation activities both in the Park and on other lands in the area.**
- 7. Provide information on points of scenic interest in the Park and provide interpretation at these points for visitors.**

30. EDUCATION

The objective is to facilitate and encourage the use of the Park by educational groups, maximise information dissemination and minimise impact on the Park's values.

Yalgorup National Park is a valuable educational resource. It provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about natural areas and the appropriate use of these areas. In July 1992 the Peel TAFE Winter Escapade Program ran a course on stromatolites at Lake Clifton. The course, conducted by CALM staff, was attended by over 20 people. Apart from considerable world scientific interest there is public interest in the Lake Clifton stromatolites, and further education material on the stromatolites and the Park should be made available to the public.

The University of Western Australia's Neville Stanley Field Station, situated on the eastern side of Lake Clifton, is used for scientific study and education. This is an important asset because knowledge about the Park's internationally important values has been advanced greatly by a number of researchers who have used the facility including the late Neville Stanley himself. Another facility used for educational groups in the area is the Myalup Sport and Recreation Camp, in the Harvey Shire east of the Old Coast Road. Owing to the Park's

proximity to Perth, individuals from tertiary institutions make regular use of the Park for research and educational purposes. Groups of tertiary students also undertake guided tours around the Park and Lake Clifton area.

Recommendations

- 1. Assist and encourage educational groups wherever appropriate.**
- 2. Investigate the possibility of assisting the University of Western Australia to continue operating the Neville Stanley Field Station.**
- 3. Liaise with educational groups using the Park to review the education programs and set standards for appropriate research.**
- 4. Liaise with program coordinators to modify any educational activities that may be having a detrimental impact on the Park's environment.**
- 5. Consider the impact of any proposed Park management activities on educational programs.**

31. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The objective is to develop, encourage and facilitate liaison with the community and involvement in Park management.

A number of organisations and groups are interested in the management of Yalgorup National Park. State and local Government agencies, local residents, Park users, public interest groups and organisations involved with scientific work are all interested in the management of the Park. Continued liaison with these groups is important to achieve management objectives.

The Department will involve interested community members in Park management. A Yalgorup National Park Advisory Committee has been formed, comprising representatives from relevant Shires, public interest groups and CALM. The role of this group will be to advise on the preparation of the management plan. A further Advisory Committee will be considered after the Plan is approved. Its role would be to:

- Advise on the Plan's implementation.
- Advise on issues referred to the committee (through the Regional Manager) by the Minister, the Department, or the NPNCA.
- Bring before the Department matters of concern or interest.
- Assist the Department disseminate information to the public.
- Provide liaison between the Department, local government and the community.

A Land Care District Committee facilitated by the Department of Agriculture, would be a useful group of landowners to set up for the Lake Clifton area. One group is already operating

in the Lake Preston area. In other areas of the State, CALM works closely with Landcare groups.

Friends of Yalgorup National Park, honorary CALM officers and camp ground hosts are possible ways of involving individuals and groups in Park management. Getting community cooperation in managing the Park makes the Ranger's job easier. The Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union has members who have helped count waterbirds and other birds in the Park. This is a good community involvement scheme in which CALM works very closely.

Recommendations

- 1. Maintain and foster the active involvement of local individuals and community groups interested in Yalgorup National Park.**
- 2. Monitor community response to Departmental policies and management practices through both formal and informal contacts.**
- 3. Identify recommendations within this Management Plan that can be implemented by community involvement.**
- 4. Seek assistance from volunteers to monitor and control weed species in the Park.**
- 5. Encourage volunteer programs to help with rehabilitation work.**

PART F. COMMERCIAL AND OTHER USES

32. TOURISM

The objective is to encourage tourism in the Park that is environmentally and socially sensitive and, where possible, is of educative or interpretive value to visitors.

One commercial operator is issued with a permit to conduct camping excursions in Yalgorup National Park. Currently groups are taken from Martins Tank Camp Ground to Lake Pollard and Lake Clifton. An opportunity exists to extend this camping excursion into block 5524 along Lake Clifton in the vicinity of Boundary Lake, Duck Pond and Swan Pond. A camping excursion could start at Mount John Road and finish at Martins Tank Camp Ground.

Education in the practice of minimal impact camping techniques is part of the present excursions, and would be expected to be part of any further excursions. Along the west side of Lake Clifton, safe areas could be allocated for cooking fires, where tents could also be pitched comfortably and informal camping areas established. Locations near Swan Pond, Duck Pond and other waterholes, could be suitable for these purposes. Appropriate standards should be maintained by commercial operators not only to minimise any impact on the environment but also to inform their clients of the Park's values.

Presently no registered commercial day-tour operators are licensed to operate in the Park. A number of day-tours operate locally within the City of Mandurah and in the Peel Region. Operators conduct tours of the historic sites of Mandurah and Pinjarra and connect up with the Etmilyn Forest Train Excursion at Dwellingup. Day-tour operators also visit Ravenswood, the Murray and Serpentine River Deltas and link up with a River Cruise Operation on the Peel Harvey Estuary.

Many opportunities exist to extend these tours to include Yalgorup National Park. An opportunity also exists to provide nature-based tours that could feature the waterbirds which are prevalent in the internationally important wetlands. The day and half-day tours of the Mandurah canals and the Dawesville Channel could easily be extended to include the Park's scenic areas.

A regional tourism complex providing accommodation is not likely to be accepted within Lake Clifton's catchment boundary as the impact of increasing population density may be disruptive to the lake ecosystem. Any large scale regional tourism complex within the Park but outside the Lake Clifton catchment is also unlikely to be accepted because of concerns regarding weed and disease introduction and difficulty in managing human disturbance to the vegetation complexes not well represented in conservation reserves outside the Park.

A tourism complex that is adjacent to the Park and outside the catchment boundary is more likely to gain acceptance. The development proponent would however need to ensure that any adverse impact on Park values would be minimal and could be managed. This may require that funds for impact assessment studies and funds for ongoing management be provided by the developer. CALM would encourage development in the region that is environmentally and socially sensitive and that is of educative or interpretive value to visitors.

Recommendations

- 1. Liaise with tour operators to inform them of regional and local management initiatives, developments and road conditions.**
- 2. Ensure that commercial tour operators maintain appropriate standards with respect to information, quality of service provided and minimal impact operations.**
- 3. Ensure tour operators obtain the appropriate level of permission to operate within the Park and pay the necessary fees for their activities.**
- 4. Identify the sustainable level of tourist operator use where concessionaires wish to operate, monitor the impacts of these activities and regulate them as required.**
- 5. Call for expressions of interest for concessionaires and limit the number of operators to a sustainable level.**
- 6. Encourage tourism within the region that is of educative or interpretive value to visitors.**
- 7. Advise on locations for proposed tourist complexes giving preference to those outside the Park, its catchment and those that are environmentally and socially sensitive.**

33. LEASES

The objective is to ensure that lease arrangements and activities within the Park are compatible with other Park values and management objectives.

Currently two types of leases affect the Park: apiary sites and waterskiing. Leases within the Park include six apiary sites (Map 6). Locations of these apiary sites depend on fresh water supplies, as do fire suppression activities. Conflict has occurred between these two operations due to the limited number of fresh water points. The safety of operational staff and volunteers during fire suppression activities is a concern.

It would be appropriate to consider relocation of some of the apiary sites to reduce the hazard associated with some of the present locations to campers, other visitors and managers. No further licences should be permitted until the results of a review of beekeeping, are known (CALM Policy Statement No 41).

Some swarms have established bee hives outside of apiary sites. These should be located and removed. Beekeepers should also be kept informed of annual burning programs and notified before each prescribed burn.

The Bunbury Waterskiing Club, which operates on Harvey Shire land, is another lease holder which carries out its activities in the Park (Map 2). The impact that water skiing has on the Park's conservation values will need to be assessed. Conservation values that may be affected include the use of the lake by large numbers of Shelduck and Musk Duck. The impact of waterskiing on Lake Preston on Shelduck moult migration needs to be assessed.

The use of the lake by the Waterskiing Club tends to be intensive during summer, particularly over long weekends and school holidays. More than 60 people have been counted on the foreshore reserve, and a large number of these camped within the local government reserve. The adequacy of existing facilities to handle these numbers needs to be determined. Nutrient enrichment of Lake Preston may be resulting from the existing toilet facility. An assessment of the impact of the lease activity will need to take this into consideration.

Recommendations

- 1. Investigate the possibility of relocating some apiary sites.**
- 2. Ensure that the present location of apiary sites or naturally established bee hives cause no inconvenience or danger to Park staff or visitors.**
- 3. Require occupiers of registered sites to comply with notice of hive ownership, as required by the Beekeepers' Act.**
- 4. Implement a system of permanent signposting showing apiary site numbers at each site.**
- 5. Assess what impact waterskiing has on Lake Preston and assess the environmental impact of the foreshore facilities provided.**

PART G. INTERACTION WITH NEARBY LANDS AND WATERS

34. PRIVATE PROPERTY

The objective is to encourage management of nearby private property to be in sympathy with management of the Park.

Private property owners within the groundwater divide of Lake Clifton and Lake Preston shall be encouraged to manage their properties so as not to increase nutrient input into the Lakes. Preliminary evidence suggests that Lake Clifton may have reached its nutrient assimilative capacity and further uncontrolled development may reduce water quality. This could destroy living stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton. Overland water flow could be the main contributor to nutrient loading in the lake at present. Fringing vegetation along the foreshore and along drains will help to ameliorate this.

Land-use activities in the Lake Clifton and Lake Preston Catchments, that cause the fringing vegetation between private property and the lake to deteriorate, could result in an increase in nutrient loading. Protecting the lake foreshore buffer areas by excluding stock, managing weed intrusions, fire and other inappropriate uses is important to maintain this area. Rehabilitation of existing remnant vegetation with indigenous species, within the area of fringing vegetation, should be encouraged.

Any proposals for irrigated agriculture or intensive agriculture within the Lake Clifton and Lake Preston Catchments, particularly on the eastern shoreline of Lake Clifton, which are likely to increase nutrient input may be subject to an assessment by Department of Planning and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Authority, Water Authority of WA and WA Department of Agriculture. Proposals to subdivide, particularly along the eastern shoreline of Lake Clifton, are unlikely to be supported unless the proponent is able to show that the subdivision will not result in an increase in nutrient input into Lake Clifton.

Increased residential or tourist density, through rezoning or allowing chalets or caravan parks on rural land, is unlikely to be supported because of the increased pressures on the environment and requirements for septic tank sewage disposal. Because of the potential contamination of the groundwater, conventional septic tank leach drain systems may not be considered adequate, and any proposals for new on-site effluent disposal systems may also be subject to an assessment within the Lake Clifton and Lake Preston catchments.

The shape of the Park creates many long mutual boundaries with land holders. Controlling disease, weeds and feral animals requires continued liaison between CALM, private land owners and the Agriculture Protection Board (see Sections 15, 16, 17). Fuel reduction burning programs and fire suppression activities require continued liaison with the Bush Fires Board and the Bush Fire Brigades (see Section 18).

Recommendations

- 1. Encourage private property owners to manage their properties to reduce nutrient input into the lakes.**

2. Encourage private property owners to protect fringing vegetation between private property and the lakes by excluding stock, weeds, fire and any use of the area that may degrade the soil or vegetation.
3. Encourage private property owners to rehabilitate areas of fringing vegetation with indigenous species, provide plants and trees when possible and inform property owners of preferred species to plant.
4. Seek to inform present and prospective landowners of allowable land-use practices and environmental constraints on land-use in the Lake Clifton and Lake Preston catchments.
5. Encourage private land owners to fence their properties and control stock, the spread of disease, weeds, feral animals and fire particularly in areas near any of the lakes.
6. Inform Park neighbours about Park management practices and encourage them to manage their lands in sympathy with Park objectives.

35. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The objectives are to:

- Negotiate with local government to introduce land management practices that complement Park management.
- Negotiate for local government planning to be consistent with Park management objectives.

Yalgorup National Park is within three local government authority boundaries: Shire of Harvey, Shire of Waroona and the City of Mandurah. Each authority has foreshore reserves or road reserves, including fringing vegetation along either Lake Clifton or Lake Preston. In order to manage these consistently, the foreshore reserves and the fringing vegetation along Road Reserve No. 233, outside the 20 metre width required for road construction, should be vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. Other reserves in local government control with very high conservation and recreation value, which are adjacent to the Park, should be considered for addition to the Park (See Section 4).

It will be desirable for local government reserves and road reserves adjacent to or nearby the Park to be managed in a complementary way to Park management. The townsites of Melros, Preston Beach and Myalup and associated facilities, such as caravan parks, golf courses, day-use sites and beach access points, need to be carefully planned and managed. Managing these townsites and their reserves is easier with a management plan in place. Preston Beach coastal area and the Preston Beach Townsite have plans in place from DPUD and local government addressing long-term development strategies sensitive to CALM's interim management guidelines for the national park. Management plans for each of the reserves or road reserves

are important, where conservation values within the reserve are at risk, if fire management needs to be considered to protect people and property in adjoining areas or if activities within the area have a potential for adversely affecting the Yalgorup National Park.

The planning process at the local government level can act to inform present and prospective landowners of allowable land uses and environmental constraints in Town Planning Schemes. One way to protect areas of fringing vegetation may be to designate a 300 metre landscape protection area around Lake Clifton and Lake Preston. No clearing or filling of landscape protection areas would be allowed without permission from local government. Land covenants could be imposed on land titles at the time of subdivision, to protect Park values. Rural Studies, District Planning Strategies and Coastal Management Plans are important inputs into Town Planning Schemes.

The Authority responsible for implementing the Town Planning Scheme is the Local Government Council. Any proposal to develop or change land that is likely to have an affect on Park values, should be referred to CALM for advice and recommendations. The onus of proof that the proposal will not result in an increase of nutrients into Lake Clifton or Lake Preston, or will not intensify land-use within the Lake Clifton catchment, will rest with the developer.

Local councils should consider groundwater flows, proximity to either lake, objectives of management plans in the area, the Yalgorup National Park Management Plan and particularly the potential impact of any proposal, on water quality within the lakes. Proposals that do not appear to be consistent with achieving the Park plan's objectives should be referred to CALM for advice.

Recommendations

- 1. Negotiate with local government authorities to manage land near the Park in a way that is consistent with Park management objectives.**
- 2. Encourage local government to prepare management plans where property and conservation values of the Park, or in adjacent reserves, are at risk.**
- 3. Liaise with local government planning staff and councillors to ensure that any proposal on private land is adequately assessed for potential impacts on Park values.**
- 4. Negotiate with local government to refer any land development proposal to CALM if it may potentially affect Park values.**
- 5. Assist local Shires and others, where possible, to conserve natural areas, particularly areas adjacent to the Park.**

36. STATE GOVERNMENT

The objectives are to:

- Negotiate complementary management of nearby State Government land with management of the Park.
- Negotiate State Government planning to be consistent with Park management objectives.

Land vested in State Government Departments includes the vacant crown land (coastal strip adjacent to the Park) vested in the Department of Land Administration, the Marram Grass Reserve 25912 vested in the Department of Agriculture, and Reserve 39349 vested in the Water Authority of Western Australia. Recommendations to include these areas into the Park have been made in Table 1 (Section 4).

Any land owner in the South West Coastal Groundwater Area, seeking approval from local government to sink a bore, is required to consult with the Water Authority of Western Australia and its advisory committee. The Environmental Protection Authority can also be called in to assess groundwater applications and make recommendations. In April 1991 the EPA assessed four applications for well licenses within the Lake Clifton catchment. Three of these were considered to be environmentally unacceptable. The one application considered environmentally acceptable was a well license for domestic consumption, while the three opposed were part of irrigated land proposals that could contribute to nutrient enrichment of Lake Clifton.

The Environmental Protection Authority has now set a precedent with these decisions, and further proposals will be easier to deal with if an Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) is in place. Instead of recommending against environmentally unacceptable land uses on an individual basis, such a Policy would inform landowners in advance of acceptable land uses in the catchment.

The Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD) is in the position of giving final approval to subdivisions and rezoning proposals, and has recently had to put a number of conditions on a proposal within the Lake Clifton catchment. A legal agreement was also involved. The DPUD was involved in extensive liaison with other State Government departments in setting these conditions. DPUD would have a much easier task if an EPP and an associated DPUD document was in place, which could guide local government Council decisions and town planning scheme revisions.

Regional plans being prepared by DPUD, which affect the Yalgorup National Park, include the Peel Regional Plan and the Draft Wellington Bunbury Regional Plan. These plans can address environmental strategies that use catchment boundaries to determine locations for preferred land uses and can detail environmental constraints on land use within these catchment boundaries. Area plans such as the Preston Beach Coastal Plan, which affect the National Park, can be produced by DPUD. Other management plans which DPUD helps to commission and supervise, such as the Coastal Management Plan for the City of Mandurah, will also effect the National Park. DPUD can direct policy and control development and is also responsible for processing town planning schemes.

The Department of Agriculture advises on any special residential, rural residential or intensive agriculture development proposals. Local government councils can also refer to land capability mapping provided by the Department of Agriculture. The most recent updating of these maps will include information on wetland phosphate retention for wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain. The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency operating out of the Peel Harvey Community Catchment Centre in Pinjarra. This catchment borders on the Clifton/Preston Catchment. Experience in community involvement and strategies and prescriptions to reduce nutrient loading can be drawn from this interdepartmental group.

All persons proposing to clear over 1ha of native vegetation must obtain permission from the Commissioner of Soil Conservation. Private property can also be protected under the Soil and Land Conservation Act to preserve vegetation threatened by land degradation.

The Main Roads Department has recently widened the Old Coast Road and a new major road development proposal may dissect a portion of the proposed addition to the Park. Limestone mining is also required to provide road building materials. This occurs in various locations outside the Park. CALM State Forest proposed to be added to the Park, includes some areas with potential high grade limestone and areas that require fuel reduction burning to protect adjacent pine plantations. The old Whittakers Mill Site, within this location, is a recreation day-use area. The remainder of this area is proposed to be zoned 'natural environment'. A closer evaluation of conservation values and resource management requirements will need to be done to determine the most appropriate area suitable for addition to the Park. The areas with the highest conservation values may include Tuart/Peppermint vegetation with good fauna habitat potential and/or areas with priority flora or important vegetation groups. Some of the State Forest to the south is also considered important for migration of fauna between the Park and a system of swamps to the east (EPA, 1983).

The Marine and Harbours Department approved a gazetted water ski area in the southern section of Lake Preston in 1967 (Map 3). The Bunbury Water Ski Club has a lease on Harvey Shire land and the club has located facilities near the lake. Waterskiing occurring within the National Park on Lake Preston, will need to be reviewed to determine whether the activity can continue or whether the operation needs to be modified to reduce any environmental impact. The Fisheries Department and Marine and Harbours are the agencies with which CALM will also need to liaise to protect the fisheries resource and monitor coastal erosion by wave action. The Department of Health is responsible for mosquito and midge control and with the Environmental Protection Authority is involved in the location of refuse disposal sites and effluent disposal specifications. Consultation with these State Government agencies and others responsible for utilities and services will need to increase as urban pressures increase. Consultation with the Agriculture Protection Board, the Bush Fires Board and the Integrated Catchment Management Coordinating Group mentioned in other sections of the Plan will also need to increase over time.

Recommendations

- 1. Advise all land owners seeking approval from local government to construct a bore in the Clifton/Preston catchment that they are required to consult with the Water Authority and the South West Coastal Groundwater Advisory Committee.**

2. Encourage the Environmental Protection Authority to prepare an Environmental Protection Policy which provides for the protection of Lake Clifton and Lake Preston and in particular the associated vegetation and water quality.
3. Encourage the Department of Planning and Urban Development to:
 - i) incorporate and elaborate on the Environmental Protection Policy in a policy document of their own.
 - ii) be consistent with CALM's planning and policy documents in giving direction to local government on development control in drafting the Wellington Bunbury Regional Plan, in the final draft of the Peel Regional Plan, and in determining subdivision application.
4. Encourage the Department of Agriculture and the Community Catchment Support Group (Peel Harvey Community Catchment Centre in Pinjarra) to advise, educate and involve the Clifton/Preston Catchment Community to manage their properties to minimise nutrient loading and pollution in the catchment.
5. Encourage other State Government Departments to plan for operations and management consistent with CALM's planning and policy documents in the area.
6. Use a coordinated approach between the relevant authorities, departments and landowners to ensure land uses or sub-divisions of enclaves or adjoining private land do not adversely affect Park values.
7. Liaise with relevant authorities and departments to ensure that land-use on adjoining land does not adversely affect Park values.
8. Review the boundaries of the areas of State Forest proposed for addition to the Park to ensure that conservation values and resource management requirements are adequately accounted for.

PART H. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

37. RESEARCH STRATEGY

Research efforts should be integrated so that a clearer picture about the ecology of the area can be built up, using a number of contributions to achieve a greater depth of knowledge. As part of wider management programs the knowledge base becomes broader, and further integration and information exchange occurs in a more holistic manner.

Studies required include monitoring groundwater quality, quantity and overland flow, weeds, feral animals, plant diseases, native flora and fauna species surveys; and studies to assess the impact of fire on weeds and Tuart regeneration, and the effect of horse riding and water-based recreation on conservation values of the Park. A greater understanding of benthic microbial communities and water chemistry requirements, and a greater understanding of the processes determining Lake Clifton's nutrient status are important for government agencies to decide what protection measures are required for the survival and growth of the stromatolite, thrombolites and benthic microbial communities.

Studies that are outside the Park, but within the Park catchment area, include groundwater studies by CSIRO and the Water Authority, and should also include studies of the impact of land-use activities in the catchment and studies to determine filter strip characteristics important in protecting conservation values of the lakes. CALM is involved with research in the Lake Clifton area to enable knowledge-based decisions to be made to protect the stromatolites and thrombolites. Volunteers and educational institutions should be encouraged to participate in research programs, particularly those that have priority in terms of conservation values at risk.

The social research strategy is to increase the data base that currently includes Rangers' observations from 1988, recent surveys of neighbours and visitor surveys, a Martins Tank camping registration survey, and traffic counter data. The Park is "young" in that it is not well known and has a very high proportion of first-time visitors. Preferences and perceptions will be important to assess in the early stages, and promotion of the Park should be strategically planned to keep ahead of recreational pressures. Park promotion, social research and information, interpretation and education programs need to be run hand in hand. The most important step will be to involve the neighbours of the Park, particularly those along the eastern foreshore of Lake Clifton.

The pressures exerted by recreational activities will need to be assessed regularly. The need for additional facilities will need to be monitored taking into consideration population growth in nearby areas, zoning and access. A sustainable level of use by tourist operator use will need to be determined. Volunteer activities, such as camp ground hosts and educational institution social research projects, should be encouraged. Social research should be integrated with other CALM research or any other related research.

38. NATURE CONSERVATION RESEARCH

The objectives are to:

- Increase knowledge of the Park's flora and fauna.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of the Park's natural processes.

The Park's flora and fauna require a great deal more survey and research. The fauna distribution and abundance is important, particularly with regard to the Grey Kangaroo which may or may not be having an impact on dune stabilisation. Feral animals, particularly the rabbit and the fox, are recognised as having an impact on conservation values, and monitoring in association with control should be escalated in cooperation with the Agriculture Protection Board and property owners. Further surveys are needed to establish whether the Ring-tail Possum, Honey Possum, Pigmy Possum, Bandicoot, Wambenger and Quokka are present. If any of these are present, management will need to ensure that their habitat is conserved and will need to consider specific requirements for each species particularly in relation to predation, fire regimes and plant disease occurrence.

A detailed flora survey has been completed for the coast of the City of Mandurah, which includes much of the northern section of the Park. This survey should be extended to cover all of Yalgorup National Park. The vegetation groups could then be considered on a smaller scale when planning for new facility and track locations. Fortunately most new recreational developments are to be located in the area that has recently been surveyed. The numbers of threatened or priority species known to be present within the Park are likely to increase with more intense surveys through the remainder of the Park.

The benthic microbial communities, their association with water chemistry and, in particular, the associations responsible for the survival and growth of stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton need further research. An integrated catchment management approach will be important in researching patterns and processes within the Park's catchment area. The impacts of catchment land-use and management practices on ground and surface waters need to be researched so as to allow predictions on how the Park's conservation values may be affected. CALM, CSIRO and a number of other government departments and educational institutions will be working together to improve knowledge and understanding of the natural processes important for sustaining ecological systems.

Universities have undertaken a great deal of research in the Park and are well positioned with their expertise to continue to contribute. The University of Western Australia and the early observations of Neville Stanley himself have lead to a number of post graduate research projects and publications drawing world attention to the important conservation values of the Yalgorup lake system.

Volunteers from the community, such as the RAOU and secondary institutions, are an important part of the integrated research approach. Areas of high priority research, suitable for students, include the ecology of the lakes, flora, fauna, weed and fire ecology research. A surface runoff monitoring project would be a valuable contribution that could be made by secondary school students as part of the Ribbons of Blue Program, which is administered by

the Waterways Commission. Volunteers from the vicinity and students may also be suitable for monitoring the impact that may be occurring from any particular activity in the Park.

Plant diseases in the Park need further research, particularly *Armillaria* which seems to have the greatest impact in the Quindalup Dune System. Rehabilitation strategies for dune stabilisation, rehabilitation after mining and Tuart regeneration and rehabilitation all need to continue to evolve with concerted effort, and can be good community involvement projects. Fire management research depends on preliminary assessments of flora and fauna to determine the suitable locations for experimental burning prescriptions.

The area between the Martins Tank chain of lakes and Lake Clifton has been intensively researched by CSIRO. Coring and subsequent groundwater monitoring has yielded a great deal of important information on stratigraphy, history and groundwater hydrology. This area has also been selected as a possible release site for the Ring-tailed Possum. Any site selected for the release of fauna would also require a fox control program. Burning of this area should be subject to a survey of the flora and fauna before and after the burn. The hydrological impact of burning could also be assessed. Fire in relation to weeds and Tuart regeneration will need further research efforts to fine tune burning prescriptions.

Water-based recreation possibilities in the future may include Martins Tank Lake where canoeing will be investigated. In the southern section of Lake Preston waterskiing and canoeing have been permitted since 1967. The use of this area needs to be assessed to determine if there is a significant impact on conservation values such as would warrant either disallowing the activity, or modifying the time and location of the activity. Horse riding will be allowed subject to continuous assessment by CALM. The Department may disallow or modify management if the activity is found to impact adversely on the Park's values.

Recommendations

- 1. Implement an integrated program of nature conservation research, survey and monitoring within the Park and in surrounding areas, and investigate reporting on this program annually to the community.**
- 2. Encourage research by CALM staff and others into aspects of the Park relevant to its management. Modify management practices on the basis of improved knowledge.**
- 3. Carry out more detailed surveys to record the distribution, abundance and other details of flora and fauna.**
- 4. Carry out detailed surveys of the Park's flora and vegetation to complement work recently done in the northern section.**
- 5. Assess the efficiency of management control of weeds and feral animals and any effects these controls have on non-target species. Make changes to procedures if required.**

6. Continue research to increase knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes in the Park's ecosystem and, particularly, within Lake Clifton and the Park catchment.
7. Actively encourage research into the hydrology of the Park, and monitor the impacts of catchment land-use practices on ground and surface waters of the Park.
8. Monitor the effectiveness and impacts of fire management measures and make any necessary changes to procedures in the light of research and experience.
9. Monitor the status of all plant diseases in the Park and carry out any necessary management actions in the event that new disease threats to the Park develop.
10. Review management prescriptions in the light of any new research into the introduction, spread, impact or control of plant disease in the Park.
11. Monitor the effectiveness of rehabilitation and carry out additional work where required.
12. Investigate the habitat requirements and ecology of vulnerable species in relation to the impact of feral predators, fire regimes and plant disease occurrence.
13. Assess the Park's flora and fauna to determine appropriate release sites for the Ring-tailed Possum and any other native fauna. Implement a fox control program, and integrate and coordinate research efforts in the area.
14. Assess the effects of water-based recreation and disallow or modify management of the activity if environmental impacts are unacceptable.
15. Monitor the impacts of horse riding and disallow or modify management of the activity if environmental impacts are found to be unacceptable.
16. Encourage volunteers, educational institutions and other organisations to participate in nature conservation research projects.

39. SOCIAL RESEARCH

The objectives are to:

- Monitor visitor use including experience and perceptions and forecast future recreational demands.
- Monitor the impact of visitor use, land use and management activities.
- Increase knowledge of cultural values.

Social research and monitoring are important components of effective management and provide a basis for improving management practices.

A number of surveys have already been conducted in the Park including observations by Park Rangers of recreational activities. A report on these observations, from January 1988 to April 1990, has been placed on a data base. This type of information shows trends and helps forecast future recreational demands.

Neighbour and visitor surveys have also recently been conducted in the Park. These surveys indicate visitors' perceptions and levels of satisfaction of the Park, as well as the types of activities occurring.

In the user survey, the majority of visitors were visiting the Park for the first time. It will be important to assess the perceptions of visitors in these early stages and to use this information to determine the best strategy to promote the park. This information can also be used to assess the need for additional facilities. In the user survey most visitors were with a partner or family group and were from the metropolitan area. The feature that users liked the least about the Park was the lack of facilities, and the aspect they liked most was the natural environment, the quiet and its feeling of isolation. Suggested improvements for the Park included providing more facilities and more information on the Park and its flora and fauna.

In the neighbour survey, two activities that neighbours liked least were the recreational use of motorbikes and four wheel drive vehicles. Activities that the neighbours liked most were observing the natural environment, wildlife and birds. Many of the neighbours wished the Park to be left as it is and a number requested the development of a horse riding trail in the Park. Continued liaison and involvement with Park neighbours will be very important to assess levels of satisfaction and to help monitor impacts.

While initial data have already been collected on the uses and use levels in the Park, research needs to be continued to monitor trends and ensure that adequate provision of facilities precedes increased use of the Park. This will in turn minimise degradation.

The social research strategy will include installing a traffic counter on North Preston Beach Road to ascertain visitor numbers. Visitors using Martins Tank Camp Ground are required to sign a registration book and this also helps to ascertain visitor numbers and the need for additional facilities.

Existing and future tourist operations will need to be assessed in terms of likely impact. Conscientious regulation and monitoring of tourist operations and visitor numbers will help to

determine a sustainable level for tourist operator use. Any increase in facilities or recreational opportunities will need to consider increases in population and access, particularly coming from the north where the greatest population increases will occur.

Social research and monitoring projects should determine if recreation, environmental education and interpretation activities are meeting visitor needs. The impacts of all activities should be monitored, and changes made if any impacts are unacceptable. It is appropriate that research and monitoring involves as wide a range of people as possible. The involvement of volunteers, educational institutions and individual researchers can reduce research and monitoring costs, and help provide quality information for the benefit of the broader community.

Recommendations

- 1. Implement an integrated program of social research, survey and monitoring within the Park to determine visitor numbers, patterns, preferences and perceptions, and to assess levels of satisfaction with Park management.**
- 2. Monitor the need for additional facilities resulting from changes in visitor use, and consider their provision subject to an assessment of their likely impact.**
- 3. Encourage volunteers, educational institutions and other organisations to participate in social research projects.**

PART I. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

40. PRIORITIES

The objective is to manage the Park according to assigned priorities for implementation.

The conservation value in the Park that is most under threat is Lake Clifton and its stromatolites and thrombolites. Recommendations to reduce nutrient flow into Lake Clifton are the highest priority to carry out and are listed in Group 1. Those which would immediately protect the Park's other conservation values are also high priority and are listed in Group 2. Group 3 includes high priority management, research or information dissemination recommendations that need to proceed along with recommendations that more directly protect and restore conservation values. Often the development of increased recreational opportunities and associated facilities can direct, control and minimise impact from recreational activities, particularly when educational and interpretive programs are part of the opportunity offered. Recreational recommendations are also included in the third group for this reason.

TABLE 8. MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES
(by Section and Recommendation)

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 1	
4. Land Tenure and Boundaries	4. Negotiate with the relevant State or local government authorities about adding to the Park the following reserves: 40372, 33285, 28796, 32261, 33843, 34745, 27458 and 25912 (Table 2).
7. Geology, Landforms and Soils	2. Minimise development along the edge of the lakes and disturbance to the vegetation and foreshores of the Vasse Lagoonal System (See Map 4).
8. Vegetation and Flora	4. Protect and restore the Vasse Lagoonal Complex and the Quindalup Dune Complex.
10. The Lake System	1. Liaise with local government to ensure that management of lakeside reserves is consistent with Park management objectives. 2. Survey poorly identified boundaries. 3. Have the Park boundaries fenced to stop stock entering the lakes. 5. Liaise with local government, DPUD, WADA, WAWA, CSIRO and the EPA to provide advice to landholders on land-use practices that are appropriate within the Park catchment area. 6. Restrict recreational activities on the lakes to waterskiing and canoeing in the lower section of Lake Preston.
23. Horse Riding	3. Permit horse riding in the Park on a designated trail on the outside boundary of the Park (Map 7). No specific additional horse riding facilities will be provided.
27. Water Based Activities	2. Continue to prohibit any water-based activities on all of the Yalgorup Lakes, except for the lower section of Lake Preston.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 1 (cont)

29. Information and Interpretation

4. Prepare and make available publications such as a brochure to inform schools, the public, and local landholders of the intrinsic value of the Park's lakes and constraints on activities permitted within the Yalgorup catchment.

34. Private Property

1. Encourage private property owners to manage their properties to reduce nutrient input into the lakes.
2. Encourage private property owners to protect fringing vegetation between private property and the lakes by excluding stock, weeds, fire and any use of the area that may degrade the soil or vegetation.
3. Encourage private property owners to rehabilitate areas of fringing vegetation with indigenous species, provide plants and trees when possible and inform property owners of preferred species to plant.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 2

7. Geology, Landforms and Soils

4. Minimise management activities in, and public access to, the coastal dunes areas.

8. Vegetation and Flora

1. Locate threatened, unnamed and priority listed flora species and store information on biology, location and herbarium specimens in CALM's Harvey District Office, the State Herbarium and at SOHQ in Como. Consult records and take appropriate action before undertaking development or management activities.
2. Extend the detailed vegetation and flora survey undertaken in the Park's northern section to cover the entire Park. Locate populations of important vegetation groups and priority and fire sensitive species, and develop management recommendations for their conservation.
3. Protect areas that are in good condition and protect and consider enhancing areas with threatened and priority flora, particularly those vegetation communities and species susceptible to disturbance, plant disease or weed invasion.

9. Fauna

1. Protect fauna habitats from the spread of weeds, disease, wildfires, and human disturbance.
3. Instigate more intensive fauna surveys and investigate reintroducing former known threatened fauna inhabitants in conjunction with a fox baiting program (See Section 17 Feral Animals).

13. Visual Landscape

3. Map the Park's scenic quality by using the Scenic Quality Frames of Reference for the Swan Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type.
4. Any visual alterations to the natural landscape should be subtle and remain subordinate to natural elements by borrowing extensively from form, line, colour, texture and scale found commonly in the surrounding landscape.

14. Erosion, Mining and Rehabilitation

2. Monitor the movement of dune blowouts. If a blowout is expanding and is likely to destroy management infrastructure or important vegetation or habitats, implement control measures.
8. Ensure that within any scenic areas, degraded landscapes (such as quarries) are rehabilitated after use or progressively in stages.

15. Disease

1. Conduct plant disease surveys and implement appropriate hygiene measures prior to commencing of any operation that requires soil or plant material movement.
2. Educate Park users about plant disease and the need to stay on well formed roads or tracks.
3. Provide educational signs for horse riders that request a clean down before entry to bridle trails.
4. Train Park staff to recognise plant diseases and in sampling and management techniques.

16. Introduced Plants and Noxious Weeds

5. Avoid any unnecessary disturbance to soil while carrying out management activities, particularly in areas adjacent to sources of weeds.
6. Clean machinery, vehicles and trucks before moving from areas with weeds into areas without weeds.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 2 (Cont)

18. Fire

1. Burning will be conducted in accordance with written prescriptions approved by CALM's Harvey District Manager. The frequency of prescribed burns will depend on the accumulation of fuel and is not likely to be less than six years.
2. Strategically placed fuel reduced areas, will be maintained, rather than narrow buffers along private property boundaries. Where possible successive burns in each block will be programmed in different seasons.
3. Roads required for fire control and essential management activities will be defined and maintained to suitable standards. Firebreak construction will be kept to a minimum. Those roads considered unsuitable for public use will remain closed to the public (See Section 22).
4. Continue to liaise with the local Bush Fire Brigades to ensure an effective fire fighting force is in place. Establish agreements with adjacent landholders, where necessary, regarding a cooperative approach to carry out fuel reduction requirements. If conditions change, review the agreements to ensure ongoing protection.
5. Implement prescribed burns in accordance with the master burning plan. Implement a range of fire regimes, including variation in season, intensity and size, particularly between different blocks according to the fire management plan (Map 6).
6. Contain all fires in or threatening the Park considering values at risk, disease risk, fire behaviour, resources and presence of low fuel areas and ecological values. Suppression actions may include direct attack, backburning from established roads or buffers, or by allowing the fire to burn out to low fuel buffers.
7. Establish a fire danger board along Preston Beach Road and at other suitable locations and actively promote public awareness of fire risk, safety and survival. Fire danger boards will be kept current by Park Rangers.

19. Tuart

1. Initiate research to study the population dynamics of Tuart to determine whether or not Peppermint is replacing Tuart in some stands.
2. Select recruitment methods that do not adversely effect other Park conservation values such as habitat requirements for the Ring-tailed Possum.
3. Seek NPNCA approval of recruitment methods before they proceed, if research shows that intervention is necessary.

21. Attractions and Existing Use

3. Monitor the impacts of all activities in the Park and make any necessary changes to management practices if unacceptable impacts are found to be occurring.

22. Access

1. Confine public vehicle access to existing developed roads and tracks.
6. Monitor, in association with user groups, all four wheel drive tracks, access to four wheel drive beaches, and instigate management action as necessary.
8. Maintain management tracks to a level suitable for management requirements.
12. Restrict vehicles from using the unvegetated beach face, which is generally between the low and high water marks. Discourage access into the foredunes with signs and road closures.

33. Leases

5. Assess what impact waterskiing has on Lake Preston and assess the environmental impact of the foreshore facilities provided.

38. Nature Conservation Research

3. Carry out more detailed surveys to record the distribution, abundance and other details of flora and fauna.
4. Carry out detailed surveys of the Park's vegetation and flora to complement work recently done in the northern section.
14. Assess the effects of water-based recreation and disallow or modify management of the activity if environmental impacts are unacceptable.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 3

5. Zoning

4. Inform the public of the zoning system, including where access is and is not allowed, and the reasons for the zones.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 3 (Cont)

7. Geology, Landforms and Soils

3. Locate and design recreation sites to prevent or minimise their impact on fragile geological features and landforms.
5. Locate access roads and recreation sites according to specialist advice on prevailing wind direction, stabilisation of slopes, disease-risk, and land capability.

10. The Lake System

4. Inform landholders of the importance of minimizing nutrient input into the lakes.

13. Visual Landscape

1. Plan and implement all activities in the Park to complement rather than detract from the inherent visual qualities of the environment in which they occur.
2. Consider CALM's Visual Resource Management Policy Statement No. 34 and seek specialist advice when implementing the management plan.
9. Encourage local authorities, other government agencies and private landholders to use visual resource management skills when siting facilities and signs, selecting site-compatible materials and colours, and planning for utilities and roads.

14. Erosion, Mining and Rehabilitation

1. Ensure that as far as possible any mining operations adjacent to the Park has minimum impact on the Park, particularly with regard to landscape values, spread of disease and decrease in water quality.
3. Prepare a detailed rehabilitation program that prioritises the works to be implemented and includes dune stabilization techniques.
6. Ensure native plant species that occur in the Park are used in rehabilitation for brushing, planting and seeding and that quick growing indigenous species such as Acacias are planted, managed and harvested locally for brushing.
7. Train Park staff in all aspects of disease identification and rehabilitation work. Seek specialist advice as required.

15. Disease

5. Determine how susceptible the Park's plant species are to disease, starting with all threatened and priority species.

16. Introduced Plants and Noxious Weeds

1. Liaise with the Agriculture Protection Board, landholders and local authorities regarding weed control on Park boundaries and adjacent properties.
2. Maintain a register of all known occurrences and severity of introduced weeds.
3. Prepare and implement an introduced plants and weeds control program.
4. Monitor any effects of control programs on non-target species and make changes to procedures if required.

17. Feral Animals

1. Continue to liaise with the Agriculture Protection Board to control feral animals.
2. Expand the Rabbit control program to include areas under rehabilitation.
3. Monitor feral animal populations and regularly assess the effectiveness of control programs and their threat to native flora and fauna.
4. Implement comprehensive feral animal control programs in conjunction with native fauna release programs.

22. Access

2. Ensure access is in place to evacuate the Park in an emergency.
3. Close and rehabilitate all unnecessary access tracks such as those shown in Map 2.
4. Provide two wheel drive access within walking distance of the beach by continuing North Preston Beach Road closer to the beach, and investigate the possibility of allowing four wheel drive access to the beach (Map 8 Prop. new access).
13. Provide information to Park users on appropriate for wheel drive techniques for coastal areas.

23. Horse Riding

1. Establish a code of ethics for horse riding within the Park.
2. Further assess the land's capability and suitability for horse riding and determine the exact location of the trail.
6. Close tracks when maintenance work or rehabilitation is required.
7. Monitor the impacts of horse riding and modify or further restrict use if the activity appears environmentally unacceptable.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 3 (Cont)

24. Nature Observation and Nature Trails

6. Provide a nature observation facility at the end of Mount John Road for viewing waterbirds and stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton.

25. Day Use

3. Martins Tank (High Priority)
 - Develop a day-use area at Martins Tank Lake for picnicking with a walk to Lake Pollard and further north
5. White Hill Road (High Priority)
 - Develop a day-use area at the end of White Hill Road with a lookout, picnic facilities, two wheel drive access close to the beach and four wheel drive beach access.
8. Information Bay (High Priority)
 - Maintain information facilities at this site on Preston Beach Road and consider including a toilet when the walk track to Lake Preston and the lookout has been developed.
9. Mount John Road (High Priority)
 - Design a day-use site at the end of Mount John Road with the main activity being to interpret the stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton.

26. Camping

9. Martins Tank (High Priority)
 - Continue site development at Martins Tank Camp Ground in accordance with the Recreation Development Plan.

27. Water Based Activities

1. Retain a waterskiing zone on Lake Preston subject to monitoring environmental impacts.
3. Provide information on the conservation values of Lake Clifton, Hayward and Pollard to explain to visitors why water-based activities are not permitted on these lakes.
4. Monitor the effects of water-based recreation activities on the environment and modify the activities if necessary.
7. Investigate introducing canoeing in Martins Tank Lake after an assessment has been made to determine the impact canoeing will have on the lake's conservation values.

29. Information and Interpretation

1. Develop and implement a community education and interpretation strategy for the Park.
3. Build small information/interpretation facilities at Mount John Road, Lake Hayward, Martins Tank, White Hill Road and at the Lime Kilns as funds become available.

30. Education

4. Liaise with program coordinators to modify any educational activities that may be having a detrimental impact on the Park's environment.

32. Tourism

2. Ensure that commercial tour operators maintain appropriate standards with respect to information, quality of service provided and minimal impact operations.
4. Identify the sustainable level of tourist operator use where concessionaires wish to operate, monitor the impacts of these activities and regulate them as required.
5. Call for expressions of interest for concessionaires and limit the number of operators to a sustainable level.

34. Private Property

4. Seek to inform present and prospective landowners of allowable land-use practices and environmental constraints on land-use in the Lake Clifton and Lake Preston catchments.
5. Encourage private land owners to fence their properties and control stock, the spread of disease, weeds, feral animals and fire particularly in any areas near the lakes.
6. Inform Park neighbours about Park management practices and encourage them to manage their lands in sympathy with Park objectives.

35. Local Government

1. Negotiate with local government authorities to manage land near the Park in a way that is consistent with Park management objectives.
2. Encourage local government to prepare management plans where property and conservation values of the Park, or in adjacent reserves, are at risk.

HIGH PRIORITY - GROUP 3 (Cont)

3. Liaise with local government planning staff and councillors to ensure that any proposal on private land is adequately assessed for potential impacts on Park values.
4. Negotiate with local government to refer any land development proposal to CALM if it may potentially affect Park values.
5. Assist local Shires and others, where possible, to conserve natural areas, particularly areas adjacent to the Park.

36. State Government

1. Advise all land owners seeking approval from local government to construct a bore in the Clifton/Preston catchment that they are required to consult with the Water Authority and the South West Coastal Groundwater Advisory Committee.
2. Encourage the Environmental Protection Authority to prepare an Environmental Protection Policy which provides for the protection of Lake Clifton and Lake Preston and in particular the associated vegetation and water quality.
3. Encourage the Department of Planning and Urban Development to:
 - i) incorporate and elaborate on the Environmental Protection Policy in a policy document of their own.
 - ii) be consistent with CALM's planning and policy documents in giving direction to local government on development control in drafting the Wellington Bunbury Regional Plan, in the final draft of the Peel Regional Plan, and in determining subdivision applications.
4. Encourage the Department of Agriculture and the Community Catchment Support Group (Peel Harvey Community Catchment Centre in Pinjarra) to advise, educate and involve the Clifton/Preston Catchment Community to manage their properties to minimise nutrient loading and pollution in the catchment.
6. Use a coordinated approach between the relevant authorities, departments and landowners to ensure land uses or sub-divisions of enclaves or adjoining private land do not adversely affect Park values.
7. Liaise with relevant authorities and departments to ensure that land use on adjoining land does not adversely affect Park values.

38. Nature Conservation Research

6. Continue research to increase knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes in the Park's ecosystem and, particularly, within Lake Clifton and the Park catchment.
7. Actively encourage research into the hydrology of the Park, and monitor the impacts of catchment land-use practices on ground and surface waters of the Park.
9. Monitor the status of all plant diseases in the Park and carry out any necessary management actions in the event that new disease threats to the Park develop.
13. Assess the Park's flora and fauna to determine appropriate release sites for the Ring-tailed Possum and any other native fauna. Implement a fox control program, and integrate and coordinate research efforts in the area.
15. Monitor the impacts of horse riding and disallow or modify management of the activity if environmental impacts are unacceptable.

39. Social Research

2. Monitor the need for additional facilities resulting from changes in visitor use, and consider their provision subject to an assessment of their likely impact.

40. Priorities

3. Seek resources to implement this plan, as detailed in Staff and Funding (Section 41).

41. Staff and Funding

1. Seek the appointment of a second ranger for Yalgorup National Park or some increase in CALM staff presence particularly for the White Hill area in the northern section of the Park.
2. Actively seek a significant initial increase in the budget allocated to Yalgorup National Park to enable priority management recommendations to be completed placing emphasis on the implementation of High Priority Group 1 (Table 8).
3. Install a self registration camping fee collection station at Martins Tank. Use the funds collected to increase, improve and maintain Park facilities and services.
4. Seek revenue from external sources such as special grants, sponsorship and other alternative funding, which could be managed by a trust fund established to implement the Plan.
5. Continue to seek budget allocations for Yalgorup National Park sufficient to ensure the recommendations in this Plan are implemented.
6. Investigate introducing an entry fee to the Park.

MEDIUM PRIORITY

4. Land Tenure and Boundaries

5. Acquire for the Park or seek sympathetic management, from current vesting bodies, of Melros Reserve 33139 and Tims Thicket Reserve 24198.
6. Encourage the Waroona Shire Council to extend the purpose of Reserve 22091 to include protection of the environment.
7. Investigate the conservation values of the Bouvard Reefs and coastal waters adjacent to Yalgorup National Park and if appropriate recommend their inclusion in a Marine Park or a Nature Reserve.

5. Zoning

1. Introduce a zoning scheme to manage the Park (Map 3).
2. Develop appropriate access and recreational facilities in each zone.
3. Control access to separate incompatible activities.

7. Geology, Landforms and Soils

1. Identify specific areas of the Park that are vulnerable to damage due to the nature of the geology, soils and landforms.
6. Provide interpretive information on the Park's geology, its relationship with landforms, soils and vegetation and their vulnerability to damage.

8. Vegetation and Flora

5. Minimise or prevent the removal of or damage to vegetation from constructing and maintaining roads and tracks, and developing and maintaining facilities for visitor use.
7. Retain a proportion of each vegetation community in areas that have not been burnt for a long time (Section 18).

9. Fauna

2. Increase knowledge of the Park's fauna by recording the incidences of death or injury to fauna resulting from motor vehicles and other causes.

11. Aboriginal History

1. Identify Nyungar people having cultural links and ongoing interests in the Park.
2. Consult with Nyungar people on matters of cultural interest in Park management.
3. Report Aboriginal artefacts or other findings to the Department of Aboriginal Sites, Western Australia Museum and ensure artefacts or findings are protected.
4. Encourage archaeological and ethnographic surveys of the Yalgorup National Park.
5. Ensure that CALM's obligations under relevant legislation are fulfilled at all times in the Park.

12. European History

1. Collate existing information on historic sites located in the Park and maintain an up-to-date register of sites. Liaise closely with the National Trust and the Australian Heritage Commission to prepare and maintain registers and to evaluate potential additions.
2. Develop management guidelines for any historic sites in liaison with the WA Museum, National Trust, Australian Heritage Commission, tertiary institutions and historical societies.
3. Establish a program to conserve historic places and to develop facilities and visitor information.
4. Encourage historical research and an archeological survey to be carried out at the lime kilns.
5. Liaise with local historical societies regarding volunteer work and other activities.

13. Visual Landscape

5. The District Manager to vet site development plans before any development, maintenance or rehabilitation works are implemented to ensure conformity with landscape management principles.
6. Use interpretive and explanatory signs before and during operations that affect visual landscape qualities.
7. Focus views onto distinctive features by selective siting and aligning of roads and walking tracks..
8. Give high priority to rehabilitating previously disturbed sites, such as old quarries in the northern section of the Park, to attain the desired standard of scenic quality.

MEDIUM PRIORITY (Cont)

14. Erosion, Mining and Rehabilitation

4. Investigate more effective rehabilitation techniques and liaise with others who are involved with rehabilitation work.
5. Monitor, evaluate and record progress of rehabilitation techniques used.

21. Attractions and Existing Use

2. Assess requests to use the Park for new recreational pursuits using the following criteria:
 - suitability in a national park
 - suitability in the Regional context
 - compatibility with existing uses
 - likely environmental impact
 - availability of alternative opportunities
 - management capability.
4. Investigate opportunities for increasing public awareness and enjoyment of Park values.

22. Access

5. Prepare detailed plans and specifications for all proposed tracks and parking areas in accordance with accepted design principles and Departmental standards. These include:
 - Design and develop any new access routes as low in the topography as possible and in a manner that complements Park landscapes while maximising scenic opportunities (Section 13).
 - Locate and design access routes in the Park so that they do not degrade surface and groundwater quality.
 - Conduct a full disease assessment of all areas in which track reconstruction will occur.
 - Develop and maintain access routes in ways that minimise the risk of spreading disease.
7. Progressively develop a varied system of walking tracks within the Park, distinct from tracks for vehicles or horses.
9. Provide access close to a safe area of beach that is vehicle free.
11. Direct vehicles to the most appropriate areas, close unsuitable roads and tracks and prescribe conditions of use that will minimise environmental and social impacts.
14. Identify existing access roads and tracks suitable for bicycle riding.

23. Horse Riding

4. Ensure that the designated horse trail is signposted and managed according to strict dieback disease hygiene principles.
5. Link the horse riding trail with the existing 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail.
8. Encourage horse riding in areas outside the Park, such as pine plantations, which are able to sustain this activity.
9. Encourage horse riders to feed their horses on a seed free diet for 24 hours prior to entering the Park.
10. Require Park riders to display a license tag on their horse to show they have paid a registration fee. Use the fees to maintain horse riding trails.
11. Seek financial support from horse riding groups to establish and maintain the horse riding trail.

24. Nature Observation and Nature Trails

1. Provide a variety of walks and nature walks throughout the Park (Map 7).
2. Provide adequate information from which visitors can choose the walk best suited to their needs.
3. Designate preferred backpack camping areas along the path network where appropriate (Map 7).
4. Provide safe access to points of special natural interest where this can be achieved without threat to the natural environment or visual landscape.
5. Locate a lookout at the end of White Hill Road and include relevant interpretive material.
7. Design and develop a short nature walk from the Mount John Road day-use area.
8. Investigate the possibility of constructing a waterbird viewing area along Lake Preston.
9. Provide a walk loop to Lake Preston from the Lake Preston day-use area.
10. Provide a walk from the Preston Beach Road Information Bay to a lookout and to Lake Preston.
11. Develop a nature walk at the end of North Preston Beach Road which includes a lookout.
12. Develop a long walk from Martins Tank Lake north to location 5524 and around Lake Clifton to Mount John Road. Within this walk develop shorter loops around Lake Pollard and two varying length loops that each include a lookout in location 5524.

25. Day Use

1. Design and develop day-use sites and facilities in accordance with the Department's Policy Statement No. 18 Recreation, Tourism and Visitor services and the Central Forest Region Regional Plan Day Use Strategies.
2. Ensure that site development plans are completed and approved by the District Manager before development, maintenance or rehabilitation works are undertaken.

MEDIUM PRIORITY (Cont)

7. **Lake Preston (Medium Priority)**
 - Redesign the day-use area to provide for picnicking, walking and birdwatching on Lake Preston.
 - Continue to rehabilitate the quarry at the Lake Preston day-use area.
 - In the redesign, investigate the potential to expand if and when the need is demonstrated.
10. **Lime Kilns (Medium Priority)**
 - Provide vehicle access, picnic facilities, interpretive information and toilets at the Lime Kilns while respecting the historical integrity of the site.
11. **Whittakers Mill (Medium Priority)**
 - Continue to use Whittakers Mill site as a day-use area for roadside resting and picnicking.
 - Upgrade picnic facilities, rationalise road and tracks and provide toilets and historical information about the site.
12. **North Preston Beach (Medium Priority)**
 - Develop a day-use site at the end of North Preston Beach Road. Provide picnic facilities in a suitable location if the need is demonstrated.
13. **Northwest of Martins Tank (Medium Priority)**
 - Develop a day-use facility that focuses on a nature walk. Provide information, interpretation, limited picnic facilities and parking.

26. Camping

1. Design and develop camping sites and facilities in accordance with the Department's Policy Statement No. 18 Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services and the Central Forest Regional Plan Camping Strategies.
2. Ensure that site development plans are completed and approved by the District Manager before development, maintenance or rehabilitation works are implemented.
3. Continue to collect camping fees in the Park to help offset the cost of providing and maintaining facilities.
4. Investigate the use of a self-registering system.
5. Maintain liaison with individuals and organizations who provide campgrounds on nearby or adjacent lands.
6. Permit backpack camping in designated sites along the walk track in location 5524.
7. Cater for a range of camping requirements, such as small and large groups, within the Park.
8. Design camping sites and facilities to ensure that potential risks to visitors and the impact on Park values are minimised.
10. **Tims Thicket Road (Medium Priority)**
 - Designate a camping area south of Tims Thicket Road if the site is added to the Park.
 - Rehabilitate all unnecessary vehicle tracks and disturbed areas.

28. Pets

1. Provide information to Park visitors explaining the Department's policy on pets, and enforce the policy if necessary.
2. Encourage the use of areas outside the Park that are able to sustain activities such as pet exercising.
3. Allow pets, on a leash, at the Whittakers Mill recreation area, which is proposed for addition to the National Park. If the beach is included in the national park, zoning for pets will be considered. Pets will not be allowed in all other areas of the Park.
4. Continue to allow guide dogs and tracker dogs used for search and rescue operations in the Park.

29. Information and Interpretation

2. Liaise with scientific study groups to develop an information base for use in education and interpretive programs.
5. Conduct seminars and information days for the public and landholders.

30. Education

1. Assist and encourage educational groups wherever appropriate.
2. Investigate the possibility of assisting the University of Western Australia to continue operating the Neville Stanley Field Station.
3. Liaise with educational groups using the Park to review the education programs and set standards for appropriate research.
5. Consider the impact of any proposed Park management activities on educational programs.

31. Community Involvement

1. Maintain and foster the active involvement of local individuals and community groups interested in Yalgorup National Park.

MEDIUM PRIORITY (Cont)

32. Tourism

1. Liaise with tour operators to inform them of regional and local management initiatives, developments and road conditions.
3. Ensure tour operators obtain the appropriate level of permission to operate within the Park and pay the necessary fees for their activities.
6. Encourage tourism within the region that is of educative or interpretive value to visitors.
7. Advise on locations for proposed tourist complexes giving preference to those outside the Park, its catchment and those that are environmentally and socially sensitive.

33. Leases

1. Investigate the possibility of relocating some apiary sites.
2. Ensure that the present locations of apiary sites or naturally established bee hives cause no inconvenience or danger to Park staff or visitors.
3. Require occupiers of registered sites to comply with notice of hive ownership, as required by the Beekeepers' Act.
4. Implement a system of permanent signposting showing apiary site numbers at each site.

36. State Government

5. Encourage other State Government Departments to plan for operations and management consistent with CALM's planning and policy documents in the area.
8. Review the boundaries of the areas of State Forest proposed for addition to the Park to ensure that conservation values and resource management requirements are adequately accounted for.

38. Nature Conservation Research

1. Implement an integrated program of natural conservation, research, survey and monitoring within the Park and in surrounding areas, and investigate reporting on this program annually to the community.
2. Encourage research by CALM staff and others into aspects of the Park relevant to its management. Modify management practices on the basis of improved knowledge.
5. Assess the efficiency of management control of weeds and feral animals and any effects these controls have on non-target species. Make changes to procedures if required.
8. Monitor the effectiveness and impacts of fire management measures and make any necessary changes to procedures in the light of research and experience.
10. Review management prescriptions in the light of any new research into the introduction, spread, impact or control of plant disease in the Park.
11. Monitor the effectiveness of rehabilitation and carry out additional work where required.
12. Investigate the habitat requirements and ecology of vulnerable species in relation to the impact of feral predators, fire regimes and plant disease occurrence.
16. Encourage volunteers, educational institutions and other organisations to participate in nature conservation research projects.

39. Social Research

1. Implement an integrated program of social research, survey and monitoring within the Park to determine visitor numbers, patterns of use, preferences and perceptions, and to assess levels of satisfaction with Park management.
3. Encourage volunteers, educational institutions and other organisations to participate in social research projects.

40. Priorities

1. Assign priorities to the management recommendations detailed in this Plan and implement them in order of priority, subject to availability of resources.
2. Review priorities periodically and make any necessary changes.

42. Evaluation and Review

1. Review the implementation of the Plan periodically to assess its progress and revise the priority status of recommendations.
2. Review recommendations in the light of new information, particularly from research and monitoring programs. If a major change in the direction of the Plan is required, any proposed revision will be released for public comment (There is a provision for this under Section 61 of the CALM Act, 1984).

LOW PRIORITY

4. Land Tenure and Boundaries

1. Continue negotiations to cancel unnecessary road reserves within the Park boundaries including Quail Road Reserve which runs east west and Road Reserves 228 and 13736, and add these to Yalgorup National Park (Map 2).
2. Extend the Park boundary along the coast to the low water mark.
3. Acquire, by purchase or exchange when opportunities arise and funds are available, private property enclaves and properties adjoining the Park that have exceptional conservation or recreation values, management benefits, or that could protect areas with these values within the Park.

8. Vegetation and Flora

6. Provide visitors with opportunities to view and increase their knowledge of the Park's vegetation. Include appropriate walk tracks and provide interpretive material.

10. The Lake System

7. Provide researchers with permits to use boats on any of the lakes for approved study purposes only.

21. Attractions Existing Use

1. Liaise with Park visitors to identify their specific needs and determine if and how opportunities and facilities to meet these needs can be provided.

22. Access

10. Provide access for motorised vehicles on roads and tracks developed and maintained to Departmental standards

25. Day Use

4. Tims Thicket Road (Low Priority)
 - Designate a day-use area south of Tims Thicket Road if the site is added to the Park.
 - Provide further day-use facilities south of Tims Thicket Road in a suitable location near the beach with a walk track to the beach if the site is added to the Park.
 - Rehabilitate all unnecessary vehicle tracks and disturbed areas.
 - Investigate the possibility of using old quarries for recreation after further rehabilitation, including earth shaping and revegetation.
6. Lake Hayward (Low Priority)
 - Expand the existing day-use area if and when needed.
 - Retain picnicking as the main activity at this site.
 - If pedestrian impacts on the foreshore of Lake Hayward are detrimental to the lake environment, consider constructing a formal viewing platform.
14. Melros Area if included in the Park (Low Priority)
 - Develop a day-use site for picnicking at Melros, if the area is included in the Park.

26. Camping

11. White Hill Road (Low Priority)
 - If Tims Thicket is not included in the Park.
 - Designate a camping area at the end of White Hill Road that caters for a range of camping requirements.

27. Water Based Activities

5. Permit "overnight resting" in vehicles along the beach adjacent to the National Park for people beach fishing. "Overnight resting" is defined as sleeping in, or next to a vehicle for no more than one night. This recommendation will be subject to the coastal strip adjacent to the National Park being added to the Park and will be subject to periodic review once in place.

29. Information and Interpretation

6. Provide information on opportunities for various types of day-use recreation activities both in the Park and on other lands in the area.
7. Provide information on points of scenic interest in the Park and provide interpretation at these points for visitors.

LOW PRIORITY (Cont)

31. Community Involvement

- 2. Monitor community response to Departmental policies and management practices through both formal and informal contacts.
- 3. Identify recommendations within this Management Plan that can be implemented by community involvement.
- 4. Seek assistance from volunteers to monitor and control weed species in the Park.
- 5. Encourage volunteer programs to help with rehabilitation work.

Implementing some of the recommendations in this plan is ongoing, and unless more concerted effort is required, they may not have been included in the three high priority categories. This does not mean that they are not important but that others require more immediate attention as new initiatives that are not necessarily being covered adequately. A medium priority recommendation is often, therefore, one which is being implemented on an ongoing basis.

Priorities should be periodically reviewed and any necessary changes made as recommendations are implemented, are no longer relevant, are no longer appropriate, or circumstances change which affect the availability of resource. Resources to implement this plan can come from a number of different sources, and may be available to implement particular recommendations which may not necessarily be the highest priority recommendations. Every effort should be made to seek resources to implement this plan's recommendations, but particular effort should be made to seek financial and human resources to implement high priority recommendations.

Recommendations

- 1. Assign priorities to the management recommendations detailed in this Plan and implement them in order of priority, subject to availability of resources.
- 2. Review priorities periodically and make any necessary changes.
- 3. Seek resources to implement this plan, as detailed in Staff and Funding (Section 41).

41. STAFF AND FUNDING

The objective is to provide sufficient staff and funds from available resources and through alternative sources to implement this plan.

Yalgorup National Park extends between Mandurah and Australind and is over 40 kilometres long. The National Park Ranger resides in the centre of the Park. In the northern section of the Park new facilities and recreational activities are being proposed. The northern section is also under the greatest pressure from Mandurah's expanding population and associated recreational demands. Vandalism to signs and illegal entry into the Park is a problem in the north.

The need for a resident Ranger in the White Hill Road area was recognised, and land was acquired for this purpose a number of years ago. A second ranger or some increase in CALM staff presence in the north is a pre-requisite for implementing several important recommendations outlined in this Plan. As an interim measure a mobile ranger could be stationed in a caravan on the White Hill Road block or housed locally during peak periods. Participants at the Community Workshop expressed a desire for an additional ranger to be located in the northern section of the Park.

CALM staff from the Harvey District Office and specialist CALM staff such as research biologists, fire specialists and recreation planners frequently attend to issues to do with management or research. A greater input will be expected by all of these once the management plan is released. It will be the responsibility of the Harvey District to increase CALM's involvement in the research, planning and management of the Park to implement the Plan's high priority recommendations.

Funding will also need to be increased to implement recommendations that involve establishing new facilities. An initial increase in the budget allocation to Yalgorup will also be required to implement priority management recommendations.

Research monitoring assistance, supervision of the construction of new facilities, and greater presence for the larger number of recreators expected in the northern section of the Park, will all require more of the Ranger's time. In order to free the Ranger from collecting fees at Martins Tank a self registration camping fee collection system should be established. Fees collected will help pay for new facilities.

Alternative funding could come from special grants or sponsorship. A trust fund could be used to handle these financial arrangements.

Recommendations

- 1. Seek the appointment of a second ranger for Yalgorup National Park or some increase in CALM staff presence particularly for the White Hill Road area in the northern section of the Park.**
- 2. Actively seek a significant initial increase in the budget allocated to Yalgorup National Park to enable priority management recommendations to be completed placing emphasis on the implementation of High Priority Group 1 (Table 8).**

- 3. Install a self registration camping fee collection station at Martins Tank. Use the funds collected to increase, improve and maintain Park facilities and services.**
- 4. Seek revenue from external sources such as special grants, sponsorship and other alternative funding, which could be managed by a trust fund established to implement the Plan.**
- 5. Continue to seek budget allocations for Yalgorup National Park sufficient to ensure the recommendations in this Plan are implemented.**
- 6. Investigate introducing an entry fee to the Park.**

42. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Yalgorup National Park Advisory Committee was established to assist in preparing the draft management plan and the final plan. In the light of new information, particularly to do with either the viability of the stromatolites and thrombolites in Lake Clifton or the impact of any recreational activities on Park values, the Plan may need to be revised. Implementation of the Plan should be reviewed periodically, priorities revised and the recommendations contained in this Plan assessed when they are completed. When the final Plan is complete it will direct management of the Park for a 10 year period. At the end of the 10 year period the Plan will be revised.

Recommendations

- 1. Review the implementation of the Plan periodically to assess its progress and revise the priority status of recommendations.**
- 2. Review recommendations in the light of new information, particularly from research and monitoring programs. If a major change in the direction of the Plan is required, any proposed revision will be released for public comment (There is provision for this under Section 61 of the CALM Act, 1984).**

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Algal mat:	uniform growth of algae on a surface, resembling a grass lawn.
Benthic microbial communities:	an assemblage of bottom dwelling organisms characterised mainly by very small algae and bacteria.
Benthos:	bottom dwelling organisms.
Bioturbation:	The movement of bottom sediment of a lake due to disturbance by aquatic organisms.
Burra Charter:	Australian heritage legislation that resulted from a convention in Burra (South Australia). It contains the principles of heritage conservation which have been developed by heritage professionals throughout Australia. It has been revised a number of times over the last 10 years, with the most recent version being published in April 1988.
Blowout:	a mobile sand dune devoid of stabilizing vegetation, often being activated by the wind and often encroaching on surrounding inland areas.
Cohesive mucilaginous mat:	an algal mat which is stuck together forming a solid mass.
Confined aquifer:	underground water which and lies between two relatively impervious layers.
Cyanobacteria:	small photosynthetic cells commonly referred to as blue-green algae, that are actually bacteria.
Cyanophyta:	small photosynthetic cells that are blue-green algae (higher level taxonomic classification to cyanobacteria).
Declared rare flora:	plant species that are uncommon, not widely distributed, occurring sparsely across their range or that are presumed extinct, endangered or vulnerable over a longer period through continued depletion.
Epiphyte:	plant growing on another plant.
Fauna:	animal life.
Flora:	plant life.
Frames of reference:	the criteria by which to judge the physical features of a visual landscape as high, moderate or low scenic quality.

Glossary

Landscape character type:

a broad scale area of land with common visual characteristics based on a amalgamation of landform, climate, vegetation, waterform and land use pattern.

Microbialite:

geological/biological structures produced predominantly by the growth and metabolic activity of cyanobacteria.

Priority species:

those plant species which may be rare or threatened but for which there is insufficient survey data available to accurately determine their true status. Priority species also include rare species which are currently not threatened.

Pristine:

unspoiled.

Quaternary period:

the most recent period of geological time, from the present to about 1.8 million years ago.

Ramsar:

Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Signatories to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Convention (known as the RAMSAR Convention after the place in Turkey where it was signed), have agreed to designate suitable wetlands within their territories for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance, to ensure the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna by combining national policies with coordinated international action (UNESCO 1971). The Western Australian Government is proceeding with the implementation of RAMSAR recommendations with the listing of wetlands known to be significant waterbird habitats in the State.

Rare:

plants, animals or other organisms which are uncommon, not widely distributed, or occurring sparsely across the range.

Stromatolite:

microbialite with a layered internal framework.

Tertiary period:

period of geological time, from about 1.8 million to 65 million years ago.

Threatened:

of species or other taxa, which are naturally rare or geographically restricted, or have become so as a result of human activities and are in danger of declining further, or becoming extinct, unless adverse factors acting upon them can be identified and ameliorated.

Thrombolites:

microbialite with a clotted (unlayered) internal framework.

