

Conservation Commission of Western Australia

# Strategic Plan



2001-2003



## Vision

Western Australia is recognised as a place where biological diversity and the natural environment are valued and protected and natural resources are managed sustainably.

## Mission

By its leadership and actions the Conservation Commission will work to conserve the State's biological diversity and to ensure the conservation estate for which it has responsibility is managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.



## Guiding Principles

The decisions of the Commissioners and the staff of the Conservation Commission will be guided by:

- The need to comply with relevant State Government policies and national and international treaties, protocols and conventions relating to ecologically sustainable development and biological diversity conservation.
- The need for the application of the precautionary principle.
- The need for intergenerational equity.
- The need for community involvement and participation.
- The need for the involvement of Indigenous peoples and consideration of their perspectives, cultural needs and rights.
- The need for community appreciation and enjoyment of the natural environment.
- The need to maintain a diverse range of values, including cultural and heritage values.



## Values

The Commissioners and the Conservation Commission staff aspire to the highest standards of:

**Accountability** - all processes and decisions will be transparent and measurable.

**Integrity** - we will act honestly and ethically, with respect and openness with one another and with other stakeholders.

**Leadership** - we will provide leadership in the conservation of biological diversity and the natural environment.

**Equity** - we are open to a wide range of views and committed to achieving equitable outcomes.

**Quality** - we are committed to achieving high work standards.

## Strategic context

The Conservation Commission was established in November 2000 under amendments to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, and is the body in which the State's conservation reserves are vested. It is comprised of nine members and is managed by a small executive team.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management is charged with managing the land on behalf of the Conservation Commission, and the Forest Products Commission undertakes commercial production, allocation and sale of forest products.

The statutory functions of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia include:

### POLICY

To develop policies -

- (i) for the preservation of the natural environment of the State and the provision of facilities for the enjoyment of that environment by the community;
- (ii) for promoting the appreciation of flora and fauna and the natural environment;
- (iii) to achieve or promote the objectives for management plans, taking into account specific requirements referred to in the *Conservation and Land Management Act* pertaining to indigenous State forests or timber reserves, national parks and conservation reserves, nature reserves, and marine nature reserves, marine parks and marine management areas;
- (iv) to advise the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on the development of policies for the conservation and management of biodiversity and biodiversity components throughout the State;
- (v) with the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, to cause study or research to be undertaken for the purposes of the development of policies.

### ESTATE

To have vested in it State forest, timber reserves, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, relevant land referred to in the Act and to have the joint management function with other bodies as provided for in the Act.

To have (through its advisory role) the care, control and management of relevant land placed with it. To consider any cancellation, change of purpose, or boundary alteration in respect of land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Conservation Commission.

To be consulted on matters relating to the granting of licences, leases, permits and mining tenement applications on land vested in the Conservation Commission.





## MANAGEMENT PLANS

To be responsible for the preparation of proposed management plans, and the review of existing management plans for all lands vested in the Conservation Commission.

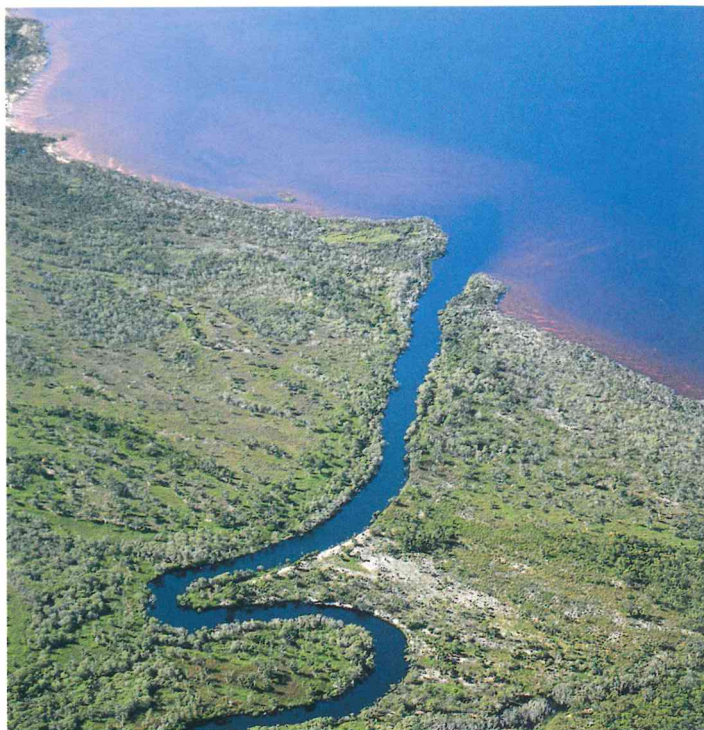
To prepare (as a controlling body) proposed management plans for land vested in the Conservation Commission -

- (i) through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management;
- (ii) if the vested land is State forest or a timber reserve, the Conservation Commission through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management acting jointly with the Forest Products Commission; or
- (iii) if the vested land is or includes a public water catchment area, the Conservation Commission through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management acting jointly with the Water and Rivers Commission and any relevant water utility.

To submit proposed management plans to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage for approval.

In relation to management plans for land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Conservation Commission -

- (i) to develop guidelines for monitoring and assessing the implementation of the management plans by the Department of Conservation and Land Management;
- (ii) to set performance criteria for assessing and auditing the performance of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Forest Products Commission in carrying out and complying with the management plans; and
- (iii) to assess and audit the performance of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Forest Products Commission in carrying out and complying with the management plans.



## FOREST MANAGEMENT

To advise the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management in the management of -

- (i) State forest and timber reserves; and
- (ii) forest produce throughout the State.

To advise the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on the production and harvesting, on a sustained yield basis, of forest produce throughout the State.

## ADVICE AND PROMOTION

To inquire into, and after relevant consultation, to advise the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on any matter on which the Minister requests advice.

To provide advice, upon request, on matters relating to land and waters vested in the Conservation Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, to any body or person, if the provision of the advice is in the public interest and it is practicable for the Conservation Commission to provide it.

**In undertaking its statutory functions the Conservation Commission recognises the statutory functions and the roles and responsibilities of other departments in the protection of the biological diversity and natural environment of Western Australia.**

## Key Result Area: Policy

### Objective

**To develop and maintain policy and provide policy advice to the Minister for the Environment.**

### Strategies

- Develop policies that promote the conservation of the natural environment of the State.
- Develop policies that promote the creation of facilities for the enjoyment of the natural environment by the community and promote the appreciation of flora and fauna and the natural environment.
- Develop policies that recognise the roles of Aboriginal people, their knowledge and use of natural resources on lands vested in the Conservation Commission, for the protection and preservation of Aboriginal interests and cultural values and for the establishment of genuine co-operative management of the conservation estate in Western Australia.
- Develop policies with Aboriginal people for the protection of biological diversity and management of the natural environment on Aboriginal lands.
- Undertake research approved by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage for the purposes of policy development.

## Key Result Area: Estate

### Objectives

- To identify what is required for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Western Australia.
- To consider proposed changes of purpose, or boundary, of land vested in the Conservation Commission and to evaluate potentially incompatible activities on that land with a view to maximising biological diversity.





## Strategies

- Provide advice upon request to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on applications for changes in purpose or boundaries, including advice of any contentious issues or activities or the need to excise areas that are not of value in maintaining biological diversity.
- Promote the maintenance and extension of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserves system through the strategic acquisition of key lands and innovative funding.
- Consult and provide advice on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and any other activities on land vested in the Conservation Commission

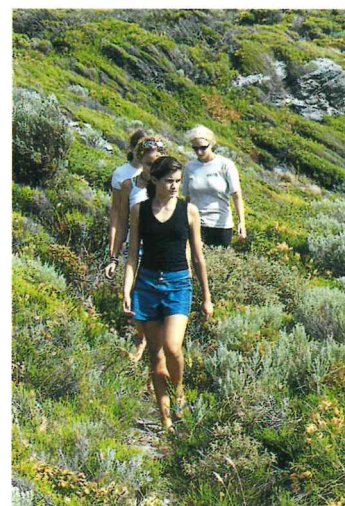
## Key Result Area: Management Plans

### Objective

- **To ensure the preparation of, and compliance with, management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission.**

### Strategies

- Develop and maintain guidelines for the preparation of management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission.
- Establish with the Department of Conservation and Land Management agreed priorities for the development and review of management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission.
- Prepare management plans through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and submit proposed management plans to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage for approval.
- Promote the objectives of management plans, pertaining to indigenous State forests or timber reserves, national parks and conservation reserves, and nature reserves.
- Develop generic guidelines for monitoring and assessing the implementation of management plans by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.
- Set generic performance criteria for assessing and auditing the performance of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Forest Products Commission in the implementation of, and compliance with, management plans and associated protocols and codes of practice.
- Assess and audit the implementation of, and compliance with, existing and new management plans prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Forests Products Commission on a regular basis.
- Undertake research and consultation as necessary in the preparation of management plans.
- Provide appropriate mechanisms whereby Indigenous groups, organisations and Traditional Owners can fully participate, in a culturally-appropriate manner, in the development and implementation of management plans.
- Include the protection and preservation of Aboriginal interests and cultural values in management plans.



## Key Result Area: Forest Management

### Objective

To have State forest and timber reserves that are vested in the Conservation Commission managed on an ecologically sustainable basis, and apply those principles in the management of forest produce throughout Western Australia.

### Strategies

- Prepare, through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management acting jointly with the Forest Products Commission, the Water and Rivers Commission and any relevant water utility, and with appropriate research and consultation, a 10-year Forest Management Plan.
- Monitor, assess and audit existing and new Forest Management Plans.
- Provide advice on principles of ecologically sustainable forest management with respect to State forest and timber reserves and forest produce and forest products throughout the State.
- Provide advice to the Minister on the production and harvesting of forest products and forest produce to maintain a sustained yield, including areas not covered by the Forest Management Plans.

## Key Result Area: Advice and Promotion

### Objective

To have the support of the Minister and of an involved, knowledgeable and informed community.

### Strategies

- Proactively provide advice to the Minister on the conservation and management of biological diversity throughout the State.
- Use working groups, advisory committees, and government agencies to develop position papers on issues relating to ecologically sustainable management.
- Promote the appreciation of flora and fauna and the natural environment and the objectives of management plans through the provision of advice to the Minister, community interactions, media releases and promulgation of policy statements.





## Evaluation

This Strategic Plan sets out the manner in which the Conservation Commission of Western Australia will meet its statutory responsibilities for the next triennium. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that the Commission is meeting its stated objectives.

The effectiveness of the Conservation Commission in meeting its responsibilities will be assessed annually through its Annual Report to Parliament.

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