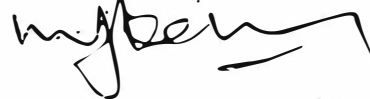


REPORT SUMMARY

REPORT TO: STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

Agenda Item No: S.4.6.4  
Report:SPC/493  
File 801-10-5-1 V5  
DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



Current Year: \$50,000 (other)

Approved Budget \$50,000

Following Years:

(Shark Bay)

SUBJECT: SHARK BAY REGION PLAN

BACKGROUND:

The Shark Bay Region Plan was launched on 11 April, 1987. At the end of public submission period there has been 167 submissions received from various government organisation, interest groups and individuals. The general response to the plan indicates a good public support for the strategies.

The Shark Bay Region Plan deals with planning issues, however most submissions address management issues.

The attached report recommends changes and alterations to the Shark Bay Region Plan, in the light of public comment and further discussions held, so that the Plan can be submitted to the Hon. Minister for Education and Planning and Conservation and Land Management for subsequent adoption by Government.

The report emphasises the appropriateness of a statutory Land Use Plan for Shark Bay.

The report was considered at a special Country Planning Council meeting held on 14 December, 1987 and it was resolved to adopt the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the State Planning Commission resolve to;

1. adopt the Shark Bay Region Plan as amended and refer it for transmission to the Hon. Minister for Education and Planning and the Hon. Minister for Conservation and Land Management with the recommendation that they convey the report to Cabinet for adoption as the Government's Policy on Shark Bay.

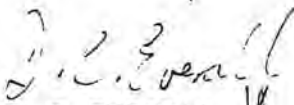
2. request State Planning Commission and Department of Conservation and Land Management to liaise with other Government Departments and prepare budget estimates for the implementation of initiatives proposed in the plan in the form of a 5 year plan so that Government may be advised of the cost implications of the proposals when it considers the Plan's adoption.
3. request State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation and Land Management to advise the Hon. Minister of the need for consultation with the lessees of Dirk Hartog Island in order to negotiate the Island's future with the objective of reserving it for a National Park for announcement by Government.
4. request State Planning Commission and Department of Conservation and Land Management to seek funds in next years budget for publication of the final plan.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

- Hon. Minister for Education and Planning
- Hon. Minister for Conservation and Land Management
- Cabinet

**NEXT ACTION BY:**

State Planning Commission and Department of Conservation and Land Management.

  
D C EVERALL  
PROJECT MANAGER

(C SPASESKI)

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

SHARK BAY REGION PLAN

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to recommend changes and alterations to the Shark Bay Region Plan, in the light of public comment and further discussions held, so that the plan can be submitted to the Hon. Ministers for Education and Planning and Conservation and Land Management for subsequent adoption by Government.

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

**2.1 PLANNING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

In March 1986 State Cabinet resolved that the State Planning Commission (SPC) and Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) in conjunction with Consultative and Technical Committees prepare a Planning Strategy which identifies and provides for the regions development, community and conservation needs.

The strategy also was to:

- (i) identify the preferred and multiple uses for the land and marine environments.
- (ii) indicate reservations of the land and marine environments.
- (iii) include broad guidelines for subsequent formulation of management programmes.

The Plan prepared jointly by the State Planning Commission and Department of Conservation and Land Management, suggests how this combination can be achieved. The strategies in the Plan provide a means of maintaining and improving the accessibility of Shark Bay's natural resources and features for all residents of the State, as well as providing improved recreational facilities for residents and visitors alike.

The Region Plan provides a resolution to many planning issues and offers a framework for resolving planning issues in the future and was not intended to address specific management issues which would be dealt with at a later management planning stage by

relevant authorities. The plan provides a framework for achieving the best use of the resources of Shark Bay and for the conservation of environmental and cultural features.

The plan recommends specific actions which are required for implementing the plan. This includes co-ordinating the efforts and activities of all levels of government, providing for on-ground management and providing a statutory basis for multiple use of land and marine areas.

The plan indicates that the renewable natural resources of Shark Bay are the most important features, that exploitation of these resources to date has sustained the region's community and economic activity and that wise management of these limited and fragile resources is the key to the future.

Conservation of natural systems is the major theme.

The preferred and multiple uses of the land and marine environments have been identified, and where necessary, reservations to secure conservation values have been proposed and broad guidelines for subsequent management of these areas have been indicated. Measures needed to ensure orderly economic and community development in this setting in the future have also been identified. Proposals to implement the specific strategies are provided.

Community and economic development strategies proposed recognise the importance of existing industries and community infrastructure and the need for continuity of enterprise and further development within the capacity of regional and community resources. Tourism is seen as the major potential growth industry.

## **2.2 SUBMISSIONS ON THE PLAN**

The Plan was released by the Hon. Premier in Denham in April 1987, for a three month public review period. This review period was subsequently extended for a further 1 month, to August 10, 1987.

A total of 167 submissions were received, 19 from government agencies and 148 from the private sector. Particularly significant submissions were received from the Environmental Protection Authority, National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, the Shire of Shark Bay, Fisheries Department and the Shark Bay Action Group. All submissions were acknowledged, and SPC and CALM wish to record their appreciation of the organisations and individuals who made submissions.

## **2.3 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS**

Forty seven percent of submissions indicated their varying support for the Plan, including 29% who strongly supported the

Plan in its current form and eighteen percent who supported the Plan but with some modifications. Submissions in this group included individuals and groups with scientific, commerce, mining and tourist and pastoralists interests together with members of the local community. These submissions generally considered that the plan provides for a balance of conservation and development within the Shark Bay region.

Ten percent, primarily from members of the environmental movement and students, indicated they did not support the strategies in the Plan, but had a preference for implementation of the EPA System 9 recommendations.

Forty three percent, including amateur and professional fishing groups, members of the local community, students, government departments, individuals with a general interest in the region did not specifically indicate their support or otherwise for the plan but addressed particular issues of concern.

In particular a high number of the fishing industry groups expressed concern on the proposed marine Parks indicating that commercial fishing should be allowed in marine Parks and in areas zoned for Dugong protection.

The issues attracting most comment from the public were:

- . The need for protection of the Terrestrial environment
- . The need for protection of the Marine environment
- . World Heritage Listing
- . Tourism is likely to be a major economic growth area
- . The environment effects of pastoralism
- . Expansion of the Solar Salt Venture
- . Proposed Gypsum mine and loader on Peron Peninsula
- . The need for further controls on recreational fishing
- . Proposed User Fee at Shark Bay
- . Denham to be the main Tourist Centre
- . The need for onground management of Tourism

A report entitled "Analysis of Public Submissions to the Shark Bay Region Plan" has been published, and contains a detailed summary of viewpoints.



### 3.0 PLAN OBJECTIVES

3.1 Three objectives were proposed for Shark Bay in the Plan for the foreseeable future:

1. **Community Development.** "To provide for the social and recreational needs of local residents and visitors to the area, consistent with land use capabilities."
2. **Economic Development.** "To provide for appropriate levels and types of economic development in the area, consistent with land use capabilities."
3. **Conservation.** "To achieve the intent of the Environmental Protection Authority's System 9 recommendations for Shark Bay and to protect cultural and historic features of the area while allowing for uses and the needs of local residents and visitors."

3.2 These objectives were widely accepted by the public, although there were different emphases between sectors.

The Environmental Protection Authority believes the plan does not achieve the intent of its System 9 recommendations, however it is considered the objective remains valid. This question is further discussed below.

It is considered that these objectives are suitable for adoption by Government as part of its Policy for Shark Bay.

### 4.0 STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

The Shark Bay Region Plan proposed a statutory land use plan of fourteen zones as a principle strategy to achieve all three objectives. Fifty eight other strategies were suggested in three groups relating to the Development, Community and Conservation objectives.

#### 4.1 LAND USE PLANNING STRATEGY

4.1.1 Public response to the Shark Bay Region Plan indicated that there is a general lack of understanding of planning and its relation to management and management planning of the kind commonly undertaken by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Many comments which related to management issues will be referred to the relevant management Authorities.

It is considered that there is a need to clarify the purpose, use and function of a statutory land use plan and its relationship to management.

#### 4.1.2 Relationship of Planning to Management

Planning, implementation and management are considered to be a continuum, forming an overall policy framework for a region, rather than distinct isolated processes. The concise statement of goals, objectives and strategies allows all branches of government and the community to work towards common goals in a changing social, economic and physical environment.

However, within that overall policy framework, particular organisations have quite separate functions. This is best demonstrated by examination of the principal acts controlling the State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the joint partners in this planning strategy.

The preamble to the State Planning Commission act 1985 states -

"AN ACT to establish a body with responsibility for urban, rural and regional land use planning and land development and related matters in the State, and to provide for a planning council for the metropolitan region and a planning council for the remainder of the State, and for connected purposes.",

while that of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1986 states -

"AN ACT to make better provision for the use, protection and management of certain public lands and waters and the flora and fauna thereof, to establish authorities to be responsible therefor, and for incidental or connected purposes."

Other Departments and Instrumentalities have analogous specific charters and the process of planning, that is, formulating an overall regional policy framework, must necessarily involve all sections of the community and its government agencies.

Conservation and Land Management's principal role in Shark Bay upon adoption of the Shark Bay Region Plan will be in the establishment and management of National and Marine Parks and Nature Reserves, as well as the management of wildlife generally. There are formal processes prescribed in the Act for both establishment of Parks and the preparation of Management Plans, which look in detail at management problems and measures of the kind raised by many submissions.

The State Planning Commission's principal role is Land Use planning in Western Australia. At Shark Bay it is proposed that there should be a Statutory Land Use Plan, based on the Land Use Plan in the Shark Bay Region Plan. This would be administered by State Planning Commission with many powers delegated to the Local Authorities. It would be expected that local Town Planning Schemes would be eventually brought into line with the Statutory Land-Use Plan.

#### 4.1.3 Statutory Land Use Plan

The purpose of a Statutory Land-Use Plan is threefold:

- Firstly it would provide security of purpose for the various land uses in that a change of land use proposed by any person, and agreed by the Local Authority and the Commission, would be the subject of a legal amendment procedure which includes a period for public submissions.
- Secondly it would provide for reservation of lands for public purposes of different kinds, and provisions for compensation for any injurious affection to the landholder.
- Thirdly it would provide development control measures for lands reserved in the plan and in other areas. Most of these powers would be delegated to the Local Authorities.

Such a statutory Land Use Plan provides a mechanism for the husbandry of land use change in the future, security of purpose and protection from capricious change, and a compensation mechanism should the process lead to injurious affection to a landholder.

It is considered that the above explanatory paragraphs should be inserted in the introduction of the Shark Bay Region Plan.

#### 4.1.4 Changes to the Land Use Plan

##### A Drafting Errors

These were several drafting errors in the plan and accompanying table. These have been corrected and appear in the final plan and table. Appendix 1 contains a list of these corrections.



## **B Statutory Plan Format**

Several submissions suggested that the plan was unnecessarily complicated with fourteen zones plus symbols. The plan and tables have been altered to amalgamate some zones and place them in a format of "Zones" and "Reserves for Public Purposes" which will enable the plan to be implemented as a statutory plan. These changes are detailed in Appendix 1.

## **C Protection of Coastal Landforms and Vegetation**

The Shark Bay Region Plan foreshadows that Dirk Hartog Island will become a National Park in the future, and indicates some of the sensitivities associated with acquisition at this time for that purpose. Many submissions including those of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNC) and the Environmental Protection Authority urge the immediate control of goat damage and grazing. The lessee wishes to remain, and has indicated he is willing to develop tourism facilities on the Island if that were the Government's wish. The submission of the NPNC recognises the sensitivities of the situation and proposes quiet negotiation between the Government and the lessee, so that an equitable policy on the island's future can be announced. It is considered that such a recommendation should be made to Government.

In Planning terms, "Protection of Coastal Landforms" is a public purpose and is recommended as a reserve in a statutory plan.

The existing pastoral activity is acknowledged, but there is a need for some measures to be applied with a view to reserving the area for National Park in the long term.

The long term purpose of the area should be emphasised and should be subject to adequate planning controls, that exclude pastoralism in fragile areas. In the long term the aim for the area is a complete phasing out of pastoral activity.

In the short term, whilst the appropriate areas can be used for pastoralism, the intention of management practices should be directed towards protection of coastal fragile areas and vegetation, so as to prevent any possibilities of degradation.

Table 3 should be amended accordingly.

## **D Mining Zone**

Thirty four submissions opposed the proposed gypsum mine and loader facilities on the Peron Peninsula. This proposal is unlikely to proceed in the near future and is adequately dealt with under Strategies for Mining Development. Guichenault Point on Peron Peninsula is an important conservation site as it supports the best stands of mangrove community in Shark Bay as well as forming a major habitat for wading birds. The subject area should be deleted from the Mining Zone.

The question of access for mineral exploration is dealt with below.

### **4.2 STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The major issues identified in public responses were:

- the lack of potable water is a key planning issue
- the need for improvement of recreational facilities and general amenity in the area, particularly Denham

There was support for a foreshore and amenity study of Denham. Minor changes have thus been made to the relevant sections of the report.

### **4.3 STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT**

The major issues identified in public responses were

- tourism based on the area's unique natural resources is the principal future growth industry of Shark Bay
- water supply is a limiting factor
- continued access for mineral exploration is essential
- new industries such as research and education should be promoted
- conservation initiatives are themselves a growth industry which will contribute to the region's economy

There was support for the economic study (with reference to tourism) for the region, in fact much debate centred on the relative contributions of each industry to the local economy. The EPA developed the proposal further to suggest that a Tourism Development and Management Plan was necessary before large scale development occurs.

The strategy relating to mineral exploration was objected to by the mining industry who requested it be changed from "in accordance with State Government Policy" to "in accordance with the Mining Act".

These concepts and suggestions have been included with several minor text changes.

#### **4.4 STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING CONSERVATION**

- 4.4.1 A large proportion of public submissions were concerned with conservation issues. There was general acceptance of marine conservation proposals, and of the commercial fishing industry's ongoing presence. That industry was most concerned to ensure that the Fisheries Department remained the responsible agency for the fishing should a marine park be created at Shark Bay.

Many submissions were concerned with the environmental impact of development, particularly a proposed gypsum mine on the Peron Peninsula, and management problems arising from recreational use.

Some submissions considered the terrestrial conservation proposals to be deficient because

- the plan proposes too few reserves to protect areas representative of all systems in the Region
- the plan places insufficient emphasis on Conservation

#### **4.4.2 Overall Planning Goal**

One submission remarked that it was curious that none of the planning zones proposed contained the word conservation.

The Plan reflects the view that conservation is an all embracing concept for all land uses and should not be limited in peoples minds to areas designated by reservation for that purpose.

The Plan states

"The Study shows that the renewable natural resources of Shark Bay are the most important features, that exploitation of these resources to date has sustained the region's community and economic activity and that wise management of these limited and fragile resources is the key to the future.

Conservation of natural systems is the major theme.

The preferred and multiple uses of the land and marine environments have been identified, and where necessary, reservations to secure conservation values have been proposed and broad guidelines for subsequent management of these areas have been indicated. Measures needed to ensure orderly economic and community development in this setting in the future have also been identified. Proposals to implement the specific strategies are provided."

The Plan also proposes a definition of Conservation viz

"Conservation is the wise use of resources; it includes man's nexus with nature and the continuities between past, present and future". (Report of the National Estate P26, Canberra 1974).

"Conservation of Natural Resources" defined in the above terms should be made more obvious in the Plan by inserting it as an overall Planning Goal and Government Policy for Shark Bay, because it is accepted by all that industry, economic activity, recreation, life style and all other values are dependant on the retention and wise management of Shark Bay's natural resources.

#### 4.4.3 Representative Reserve System

The Shark Bay Action Group submission criticises the SBRP in that it does not propose a reserve system adequately representative of the "vegetation systems" of the region. There is some truth in this criticism. However most systems are well represented in existing reserves and in the proposals for more reserves and extensions to existing reserves in the Shark Bay Region Plan.

There are twelve vegetation systems at Shark Bay (Beard), and most are represented in the proposed reserves of the Shark Bay Region Plan.

(A) The following systems are well presented within existing reserves and in the proposals for additional reserves in the Shark Bay Region Plan.

- . Tamala - Cooloomia Nature Reserve and proposed additions
- . Edel - well presented in the proposal for Edel National Park
- . Bernier - Already well represented in Bernier and Dorre Island Nature Reserves

- . Zuytdorp - Already represented in the unvested Zuytdorp National Park, however it would be enlarged by the proposals in the Shark Bay Regional Plan.
  - . Denham - included in the proposed Peron National Park
  - . Lharidon - included in the proposed Peron National Park
  - . Carrarang - included in the proposal for a public reserve under the Statutory Land Use Plan
  - . Hartog - included in the proposal for a public reserve under the Statutory Land Use Plan.
- (B) The following systems are not provided for in the Shark Bay Regional Plan, but it is considered that a new strategy should be inserted recognising the need to identify representative areas through the biological survey proposed.
- . Peron - a further study required to determine representative boundary
  - . Wooramel - a small strip bordering the proposed Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve is included. A strategy on the possibility of acquiring a portion of the Gladstone Common is discussed under section 4.4.6
- (C) The following Systems are not within the Boundaries of the Shark Bay Region Plan, but are included within the proposed Nerren Nerren Nature Reserve (CTRC, System 7, Recommendation 9.6).
- . Toolonga South
  - . Toolonga North

It is considered that a new strategy should be inserted, recognising the need to identify representative areas through the biological survey proposed, in close consultation with landholders. Particular attention should be paid to the size, condition, boundaries and manageability of such reserves.



#### 4.4.4 Marine Parks

The SBRP identified statutory difficulties in establishing a marine park at Shark Bay and proposed a phased implementation system involving the establishment of Marine Parks in key areas under the existing CALM Legislation, with the remainder of the embayment areas being established after substantial amendment of the CALM Act.

Discussions are occurring between CALM and Fisheries Department to clarify the position to allow the creation of a single marine park.

The concerns of the fishing industry are that commercial fishing should continue in marine parks, and that the industry should continue to be managed by Fisheries Department. Fisheries Department have expressed concern that commercial fishing should be allowed in marine parks. There is an agreement between the Department of CALM and Fisheries that the Department of Fisheries will manage both commercial and recreational fishing in marine parks.

Many submissions calling for a marine park with zoning analogous to that of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park can be satisfied because the CALM Act provides for management planning which embodies zoning concepts.

The Plan text has been altered to reflect these concepts.

The Environmental Protection Authority has suggested that in order to include representation of high energy marine environments within the marine reserve systems, consideration should be given to the desirability of extending the marine reserves adjacent to Bernier Dorre and Dirk Hartog Islands around the western sides of these Islands.

This proposal will undoubtedly cause concern to the Fishing Industry as these waters are areas of major fishing effort. The proposal has merit however and a strategy recommending such an investigation in consultation with the Fishing Industry and Fisheries Department has been included in the text. A Committee called Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group established under the Department of Conservation and Land Management is presently examining the need for marine parks representative reserves in Western Australia. It should be consulted.

#### 4.4.5 Conservation in the Pastoral Zone

The plan identified the need for pastoral management to take account of conservation objectives but did not specify the kinds of measures which could apply, other than to indicate that the co-operation of pastoralists could be expected with such a programme.

Three issues are pertinent:

- . conservative management of pastoral leases requires security of tenure to enable the investment of adequate capital to ensure proper control and management of stock and prevent the tendency to over exploit land as leases approach expiry.
- . the following measures exist for the protection of pastoral areas:
  - (i) Pastoral Act - control of grazing, vermin and weed.
  - (ii) Soil Conservation Act - control of soil degradation and erosion.
  - (iii) Wildlife Conservation Act - protection of rare Flora.

Pastoralists need to be informed and monitored and legislation needs to be enforced where necessary.

- . pastoralists need to be advised of the conservation values of their lands and the objectives for them. The plan recommends a biological survey to establish these values and monitor them.

It is considered that exclusion of Shark Bay Pastoral Leases from the option of secure tenure could prejudice conservation values. The powers of a Statutory Land Use Plan will allow an orderly change of landuse, with equitable compensation should these leases be required for Government purposes, including conservation in the future. The Plan has been altered to emphasise these matters.

The Environmental Protection Authority has expressed concern about the continuance of grazing in sensitive coastal environments.

The Plan recognised such concerns but opted for continuance of the industry in suitable areas placing reliance on the fact that conservative grazing practices already occur, and measures are available to Government to ensure degradation does not occur. The Plan foreshadows the phasing out of grazing on Dirk Hartog Island. The EPA was also concerned to ensure that conservative pastoral land management practices are established on lands within the watershed draining into Shark Bay, particularly within the catchment of the Wooramel River. This view is endorsed and a strategy to this effect has been added to the text.

#### 4.4.6 Gladstone Common

The Gladstone Common is an unvested reserve of 3,312 ha which is situated between Wooramel and Yaringa Stations. It is the only point of easy access from the West Coast Highway to the waters of Shark Bay, and is a popular fishing and camping spot. The adjacent waters off the Wooramel delta are a crucial locality for dugong feeding and possibly breeding in summer, and concern has been expressed that there may be conflict between the dugongs and recreational boating.

The Plan proposes day use of the area only, with camping being withdrawn to the Wooramel Roadhouse and Wooramel Crossing areas. It also suggests that boats should be restricted to an existing channel leading to deep water fishing grounds. As the area is proposed for inclusion in a marine park, this perceived conflict should be capable of resolution by management measures which take advantage of the seasonality of dugong migration.

The Common is being sought for addition to both Yaringa and Wooramel Stations. The lessee of Yaringa and Carbla Stations proposes a land exchange between the areas of Carbla and Yaringa proposed for inclusion in the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve and the Common.

This proposal is strongly supported, however there is first the need to examine the area (which is not grazed) as a possible representative reserve which is poorly represented in the Shark Bay Region Plan and the CTCRC report.

It is recommended that the Department of Conservation and Land Management should consider options on the exchanges of the common for lands required for Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve for Carbla and Yaringa Stations, less the following excisions.

1. a small day use public area (5 ha) near Gladstone Jetty. Consideration should be given for a best site to be identified that incorporates boat launching facilities and a public road
2. any area identified and required for vegetation protection
3. exchange about 100 hectares of the Common adjacent to the Wooramel Woolshed for a public camping reserve at the Wooramel crossing, to enable improved management around the Woolshed, and provide for future camping requirements

## 5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1 Options for Administration of the Region

Few submissions commented specifically on the options proposed for the administration of the Region, but it may be inferred from general comments that those respondents who favoured the System 9 recommendations preferred Option 2 (a large national park administered by CALM, possibly with a reduced role for the Shire of Shark Bay).

Similar inference may suggest support for the Shark Bay Region Trust (option 3). Some respondents suggested the inclusion of other departments and bodies, and there were some sceptical comments suggesting it was unrealistic to expect co-ordination between Government Departments as proposed. Some respondents preferred the status quo (option 1).

Several submissions warned that World Heritage Nomination could be prejudiced by inappropriate management or administrative arrangements.

The Shire of Shark Bay has expressed interest in joint management of National Parks with CALM, and discussions have been held between CALM and Fisheries Department concerning marine park management. It is considered that administrative objectives are secure for the time being, and in view of the relationship to the World Heritage question could be deferred for further consideration by the Working Group on Administration already agreed by Cabinet.

### 5.2 Shark Bay Use Fee

There was general support for the concept of a use fee, but most felt it should be levied at specific locations such as Monkey Mia. This is complex and needs further consideration by the Working Group.

### 5.3 Legislative Requirements

Legislative needs for

- Administration
- Establishment of Marine Parks
- Establishment of a Statutory Plan
- Establishment of a Shark Bay Use Fee
- Pastoral Lease Land Tenure

are the subject of further study at present and should be referred to the Working Group in due course.

### 6.0 Recommendations -

The text of the Shark Bay Region Plan is being amended with suggestions for alterations to the text interleaved at the appropriate places, this will be tabled at the meeting. The alterations include all of the points mentioned above, with many other minor corrections of fact, interpretation or emphasis.

Dr Alistair Gilmore, a consultant on the Shark Bay Region Plan, has also prepared a report which takes into consideration public comments. The report is consistent with the recommendations of this report and a summary of findings is attached.

There are insufficient funds available in the State Planning Commission or Department of Conservation and Land Management this financial year to reprint the report, but funds could be sought in next years bids.

The Report was considered at a special Country Planning Council meeting held on 14 December, 1987 and it was resolved to adopt the recommendations.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the State Planning Commission resolve to;

1. adopt the Shark Bay Region Plan as amended and refer it for transmission to the Hon. Minister for Education and Planning and the Hon. Minister for Conservation and Land Management with the recommendation that they convey the report to Cabinet for adoption as the Government's Policy on Shark Bay.



2. request State Planning Commission and Department of Conservation and Land Management to liaise with other Government Departments and prepare budget estimates for the implementation of initiatives proposed in the plan in the form of a 5 year plan so that Government may be advised of the cost implications of the proposals when it considers the Plan's adoption.
3. request State Planning Commission and the Department of Conservation and Land Management to advise the Hon. Ministers of the need for consultation with the lessees of Dirk Hartog Island in order to negotiate the Island's future with the objective of reserving it for a National Park for announcement by Government.
4. request State Planning Commission and Department of Conservation and Land Management to seek funds in next years budget for publication of the final plan.

*D. C. Everall*  
D C EVERALL  
PROJECT MANAGER

SHARK BAY REGION PLAN

LIST OF CHANGES TO LAND USE PLAN (P.51.)

**A     Drafting Errors**

1.    Pink "Protection of Stromatolites and Sedimentary Deposits" zone should extend onto land around Hamelin Pool as per figure 7.
2.    Green "Prawn Nursery and Seagrass Protection Zone" should extend eastward onto land area to defined fence line.
3.    Minor Recreation Site (small circle) at Steep Point should be moved (4mm east on plan).
4.    Minor Recreation Site (small circle) around Wooramel Homestead should be deleted.
5.    Big Lagoon (Blue) on Peron Peninsula should be in Green zone (Environmental Protection & Recreation).

**B     Changes Proposed in Report**

1.    Delete Mining zone and Proposed loader on Peron Peninsula.
2.    Amalgamate "Existing National Parks and Nature Reserves" (Mid Green) with "Vegetation Protection" (Light Green) and rename "Environment Protection".
3.    Amalgamate "Dugong Habitat Protection" (Dark Blue) with "Dolphin Habitat Protection" (Dark Blue/Green) and rename "Protection of Marine Mammal Habitat".
4.    Delete "Historic Reserve" on Dirk Hartog Island and replace with symbol.
5.    Insert Historic Site Symbol on Zuytdorp Wreck site.
6.    Extend "Environment Protection" on Nanga Station northward to an east/west line between Freycinet Estuary and northernmost point of zone.
7.    Re-designate zones as Zones and Public Purpose Reserve to achieve a format suitable for a statutory Land Use Plan viz

### Zones

- . Mining
- . Pastoral Uses
- . Urban Uses
- . Commercial Fishing and Trawling and Recreation
- . Recreation and Commercial Fishing

### Public Purpose Reserves

- . Environment Protection
- . Environment Protection and Recreation
- . Protection of Stromatolites and Sedimentary Deposits
- . Protection of Marine Mammal Habitat
- . Prawn Nursery and Seagrass Protection
- . Protection of Coastal Landforms and Vegetation

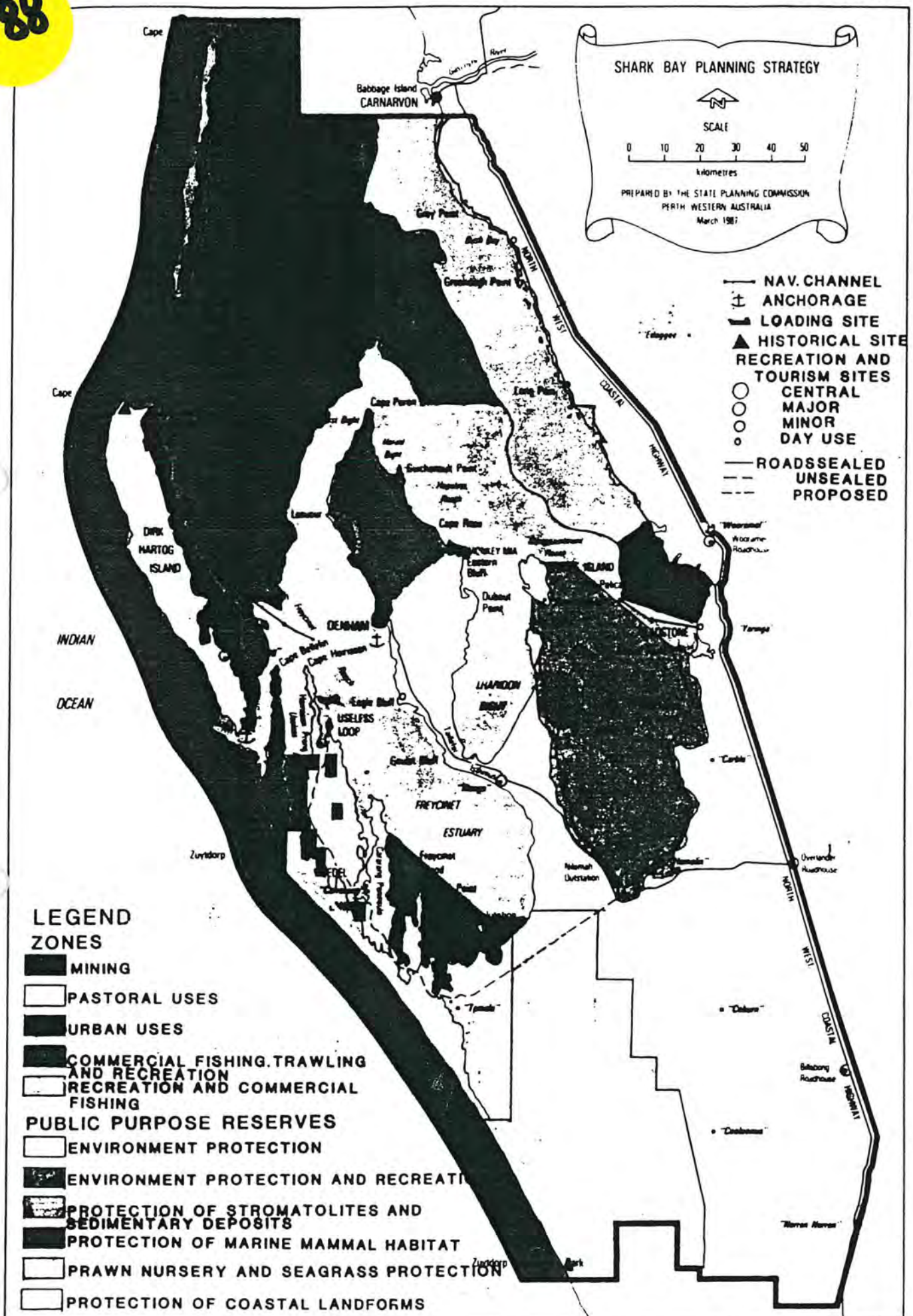




TABLE 3—LAND USE ZONES

PROPOSED LAND USE	LOCATION	MULTIPLE USES	MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS	PUBLIC ACCESS	TOWN PLANNING SCHEME	PROPOSED TENURE
1. MINING	Useless Loop Brown Inlet	Mining. Pastoral uses. Residential.	Management and protection of environment. Rehabilitation of mine sites. Subject to E.P.A.'s Environmental Assessment procedures.	Restricted vehicle access. No public access to mining areas.	Extractive industry.	Agreement Act Mining Tenements.
2. PASTORAL USES	Stations: Brick House, Wooramel, Edaggoo, Yeringa, Carble, Hamelin, Peron, Hanga, Faure Island, Tamala, Carranang, Coburn, Nerran Nerran, Meadow	Pastoral uses. Mining. Forestry. Recreation. Limited tourism development.	Management of pastoral values, prevention and rehabilitation of erosion. Maintenance of vegetation. Control of recreational use and trespass.	Public access only by consent of lessee. Access to recreation sites by public road through pastoral lease.	Rural.	Pastoral lease.
3. URBAN USES	Denham	Residential. Industry and Commerce. Tourist resorts. Caravan parks.	Provision of recreation and leisure facilities including accommodation.	Open public access.	Various, urban and other zones.	Freehold. Leasehold.
4. COMMERCIAL FISHING AND TRAWLING, RECREATION	Shark Bay: Areas deeper than 11 metres.	Commercial fishing for prawns, scallops, snapper. Shipping. Recreational fishing and boating.	Management of commercial and amateur fishing. Shipping. Management of boating. Research.	Public boating access.	Waterway.	Waterway.
5. RECREATION AND COMMERCIAL FISHING	Freyinet Estuary, Dauphin Point Beach and Lharidon Bight	Recreational and commercial fishing. Beach seine fishing. Aquatic recreation. Seagrass protection.	Management of seagrass and marine environment. Management of commercial and amateur fishing. Maximise public use and enjoyment of area.	Open access for recreational fishing and boating.	Marine park. Includes 40 metres above high water mark.	Marine park. Includes 40 metres above high water mark.

## PUBLIC PURPOSE RESERVES

6. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION	Zuytdorp National Park. Cooberie Nature Reserve. Berrier and Dorre Island Small island nature reserves. Parts of Hanga and Tamala Stations.	Wildlife conservation. Fauna observation and scientific research.  Protection of vegetation.	Management of wildlife to enhance survival. Protection of rare species' habitats.  Protection of vegetation. Major part of area to be amalgamated with Cooberie Nature Reserve and Zuytdorp National Park.	Limited public access.   Present: Access by invitation of pastoral lessees. Future: Proposed nature reserve, managed access.	Nature reserve.	Nature reserve.
7. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND RECREATION	Peron Peninsula North, Edel Land Steep Point, Big Lagoon	Protection of environment. Recreation.	Proposed staged acquisition for national park. Protection of vegetation and wildlife. Control of public use and mining operations.	New road for public access to some beaches. Controlled access to areas of environmental interest.	Proposed future national park.	National park.
8. PROTECTION OF STROMATOLITES AND SEDIMENTARY DEPOSITS	Hamelin Pool Faure Sill	Stromatolite and sedimentary deposit protection. Limited recreation. Scientific research.	Management and protection of stromatolites and sedimentary deposits. Prohibit dredging and mining, except for restoration of historic buildings.	Limited public access.	Marine nature reserve.	Marine nature reserve.
9. PROTECTION OF MARINE MAMMAL HABITAT	Waters near Dirk Hartog Island Freyinet Estuary Wooramel Delta Berrier and Dorre Islands  Monkey Mia	Dugong protection. Recreational fishing. General recreation. Controlled commercial fishing at Dirk Hartog Island.  Dolphin protection. Boat launching and mooring. Recreation.	Protection and management of dugong habitats. Control of boat access and speed in certain seasons.  Protection and management of dolphin population.	Dirk Hartog Island and Freyinet Estuary— Managed public access. Berrier and Dorre Islands and Wooramel Delta— Limited public access. Controlled boat access.	Marine park.  Marine park.	Marine park.  Marine park.
10. PRAWN NURSERY AND SEAGRASS PROTECTION	Wooramel Seagrass Bank	Seagrass and marine habitat protection. Prawn nursery. Recreation at New Beach and Bush Bay. Commercial beach seine fishing.	Management and protection of marine habitats and prawn nursery areas. Management of recreational boating access.	Limited boat access to area. Recreation and boat launching. Access from New Beach and Bush Bay.	Marine park.	Marine park.
11. PROTECTION OF COASTAL LANDFORMS & VEGETATION	Dirk Hartog Island, Zuytdorp Point to Wooramel Hill	Landform protection. Historic site protection. Recreation. Limited pastoral use PROTECTION OF FRAGILE AREAS	Protection and conservation of coastal landforms. Management of erosion. Limited pastoral use PROTECTION OF FRAGILE AREAS	Public access to recreation sites by consent of pastoral lessees.	Rural.	Pastoral lease.



## SHARK BAY REGION PLAN - CONSULTANTS REPORT

Prof. A.J. Gilmour, FTS  
Macquarie University

### SUMMARY

The consultant made a brief visit to the study area and spent several days going through the public submissions and basic documents. His brief related specifically to the marine environmental issues. His main conclusions were:

#### 1. Management issues

It was clear that many submissions dealt with management rather than planning issues, viz:

##### (i) Dugong protection.

Further attention is needed on the means of protecting dugong in the presence of commercial fishing.

##### (ii) Dolphin protection

The presence of the caravan park and various commercial activities at Monkey Mia pose difficulties with respect to management and protection of the dolphins.

##### (iii) Mining

Operations at Useless Loop require environmental impact review before expansion and the development of operations on Peron Peninsula.

##### (iv) Aquaculture

Consideration should be given to determining areas which might be suitable for aquaculture development in Shark Bay.

##### (v) Sea-grass beds and seine netting

The nature and extent of the effects of fishing (particularly seine netting) on sea-grass beds needs to be assessed.

##### (vi) Legislation for marine reserves

Amendments in legislation are needed to provide a graduated system of different levels of protection.

#### 2. Management framework

The consultant drew attention to a danger he perceived that piecemeal implementation of the Shark Bay Region Plan objectives might lead to inadequate coordination of the management strategy. He provided a review of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, and the possible application of its concepts to Shark Bay, making the following points:

- (i) The primary objective of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is "conservation of the Great Barrier Reef while allowing its reasonable use".
- (ii) The whole of the Great Barrier Reef is listed as a World Heritage Site, although tourism and commercial fishing are provided for in the Marine Park. Resource exploitation and Heritage listing may be compatible.
- (iii) Federal legislation established an Authority comprising both Commonwealth and Queensland members. Day to day management is performed by officers of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- (iv) The Act provides for zoning of the Marine Park, viz. General Use Zones, Recreational-Education-Scientific Zones, and Preservation Zones, with various subdivision of each zone.
- (v) There are clear parallels between the management needs of the Great Barrier Reef and Shark Bay; a multiple-use marine park is clearly required in order to achieve co-ordinated management of the marine environment.
- (vi) A single management authority for Shark Bay, achieving integrated management would be appropriate, established under existing or new legislation.
- (vii) Some form of on-going consultative committee involving local people is highly desirable.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The general conclusions were:

- (i) In respect of the marine environment the Shark Bay Region appears to have met the intent of the 1975 EPA Red Book Report..
- (ii) The public submissions indicate broad support for the intent of the Shark Bay Region Plan, but raise a number of issues which need to be addressed in the management phase.
- (iii) The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, and the structure and function of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority may be a useful model for Shark Bay.
- (iv) Amendments to WA legislation will be necessary to provide for multiple-use marine parks with appropriate zoning provisions.