

# WELCOME



## PARKS & VISITOR SERVICES STRATEGIC & BUSINESS DIRECTIONS

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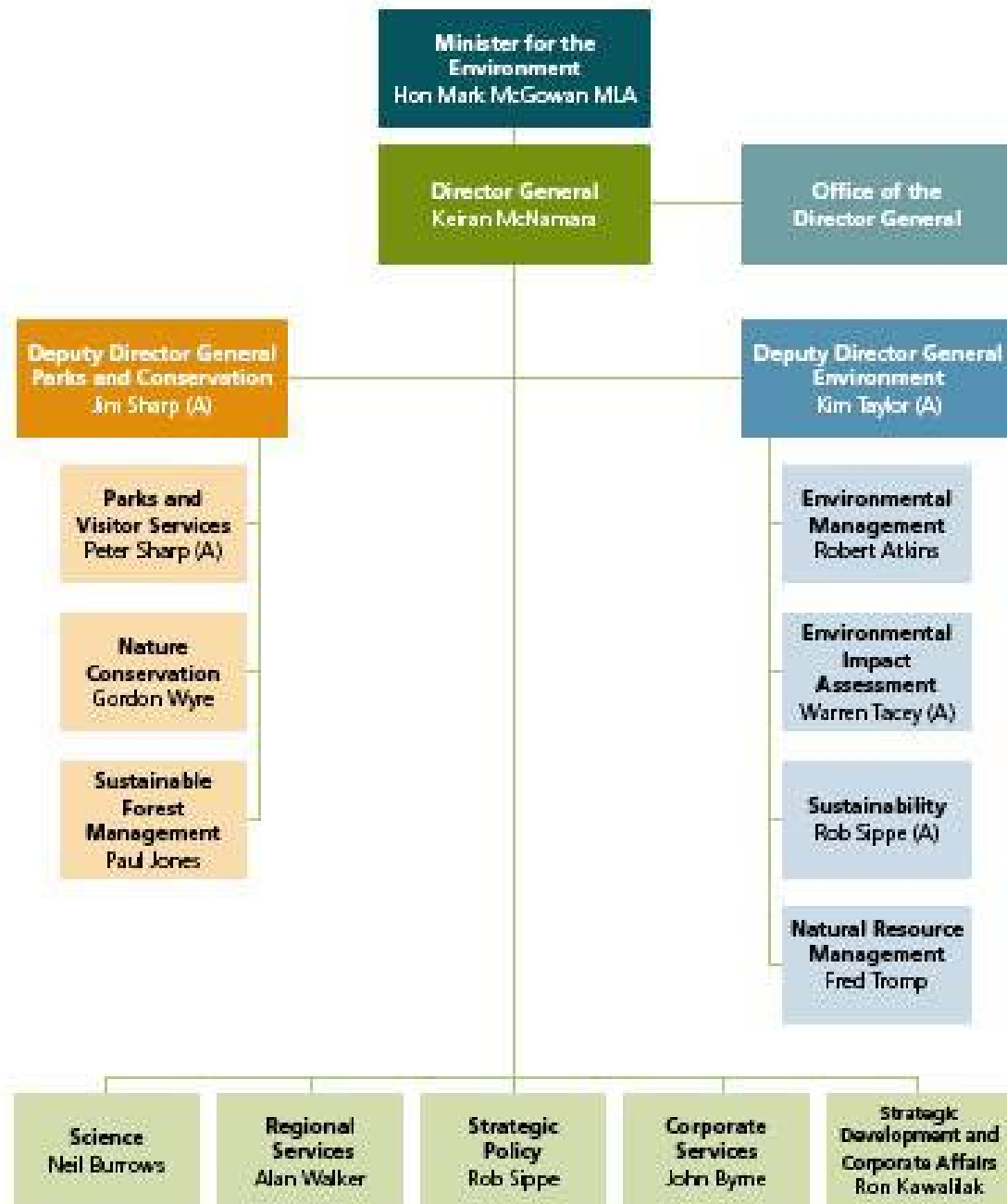
# Department of Environment and Conservation

## - Mission Statement -


- ◆ Working with the community, we will ensure that Western Australia's environment is valued, protected and conserved, for its intrinsic value, and for the benefit of present and future generations.

# Department of Environment and Conservation

Divisional Structure 1 July 2006



# The Department's Six Key Objectives

- ◆ **Protecting the environment** – Protect the environment and people's amenity.
  - ◆ **Conserving biodiversity** - Protect, conserve and, where necessary and possible, restore WA's natural diversity.
  - ◆ **Creating sustainable community benefits** - Generate social, cultural and economic benefits through the development of a 'World Class Parks System' and provision of a range of services that are valued by the community and are consistent with the principles of ecological sustainability.
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# The Department's Six Key Objectives

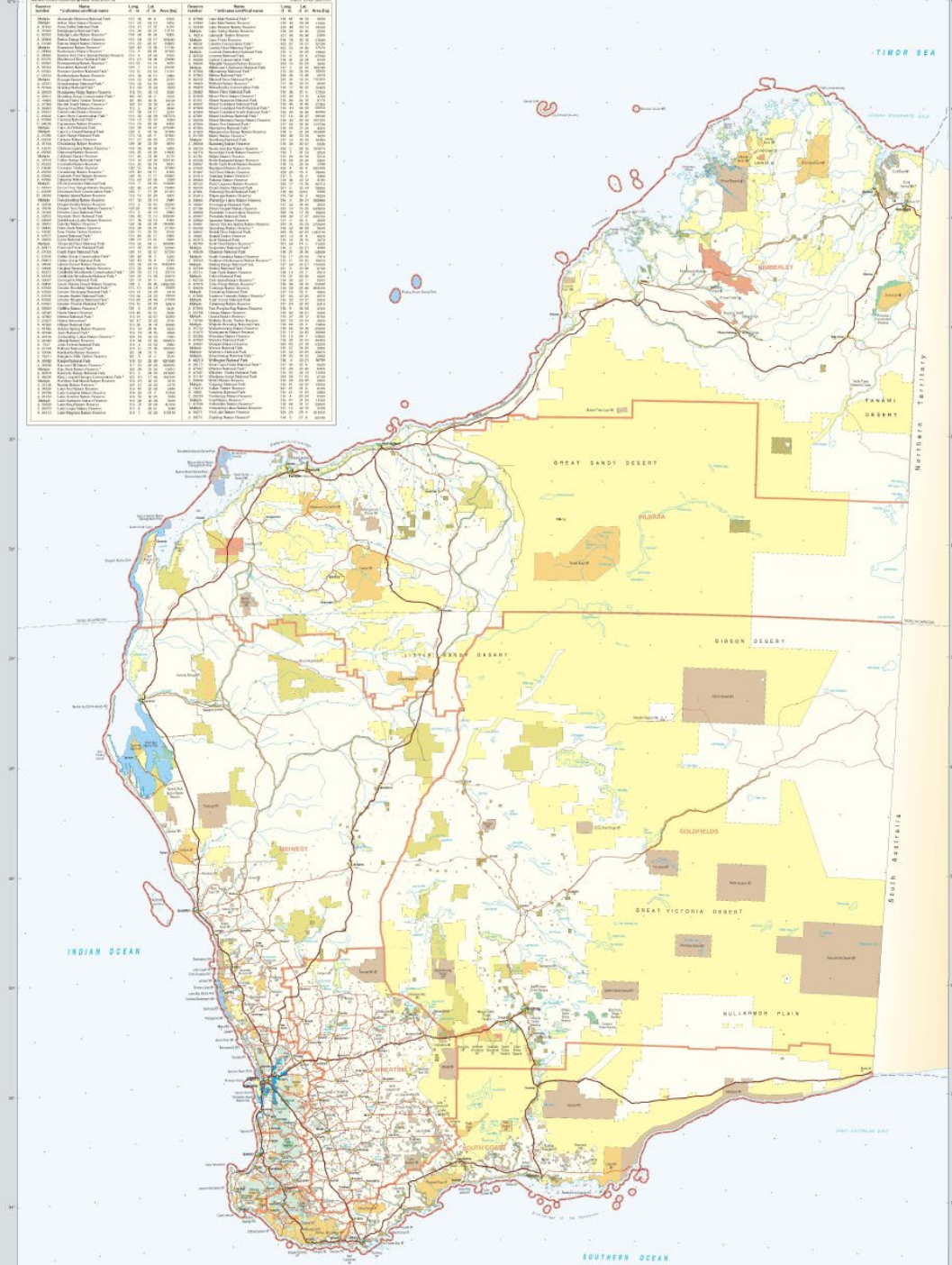
- ◆ **Maintaining community involvement and support** - Develop community awareness and appreciation of the State's rich diversity of native plants, animals and natural ecosystems, and its unique landscapes, and promote community involvement in and support for their protection, conservation and restoration.
- ◆ **Promoting sustainable industry** - Ensure waste management practices meet performance targets, and emissions and discharges meet environmental criteria.
- ◆ **Improving the way we do business** - Foster a positive work culture of trust, continuous improvement and anticipation of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation issues and customer needs, and deliver core business activities in the most effective and efficient manner.

# DEC Estate

- ◆ National Parks
- ◆ Conservation Parks
- ◆ Marine Parks
- ◆ Marine Management Areas
- ◆ State Forest & Timber Reserves
- ◆ Nature Reserves (Marine & Terrestrial)
- ◆ 5(1)(G) & 5(1)(H) Reserves
- ◆ Management Areas (Sect.16 & 16A)
- ◆ Other Reserves, Leasehold, Freehold land



# DEC Estate



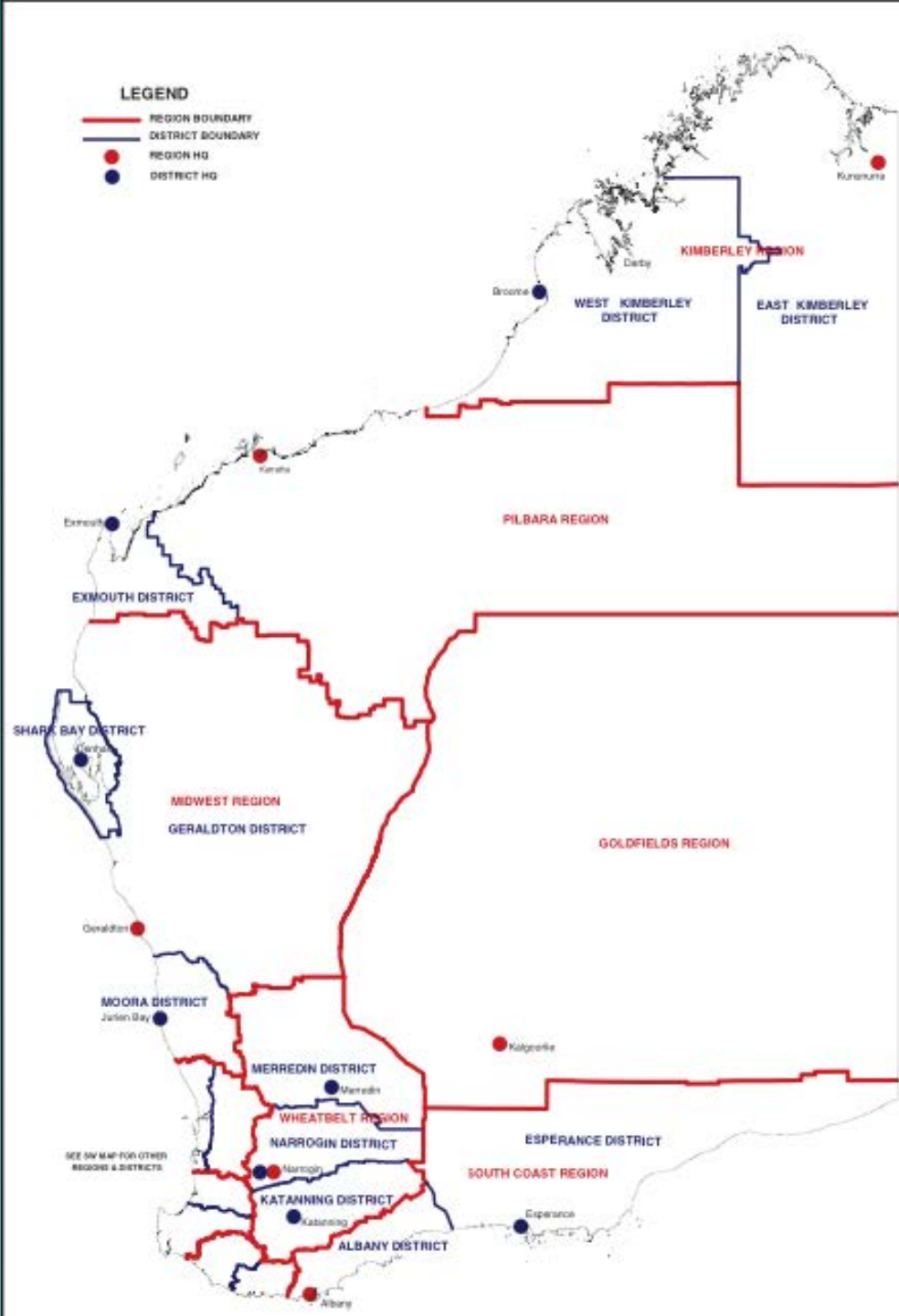


# Controlling Bodies

- ◆ Conservation Commission
- ◆ Marine Parks and Reserves Authority



# DEC Region and District Boundaries



# South-West Region and District Boundaries



# SERVICE

## Parks and Visitor Services

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# OBJECTIVE

- ◆ To provide world-class recreation and tourism opportunities, services and facilities for visitors to the public conservation estate while maintaining in perpetuity Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

"Helping people to get outdoors and enjoy nature"





# TWO COMPONENTS

1. People experiencing, enjoying and therefore appreciating and valuing the wildlife and natural environment.
2. People being given the opportunity to be meaningfully engaged and involved in maintaining biodiversity through contributing to management.

# PVS Services Strategy Focus

- ◆ Ecological sustainability
  - ◆ Sense of place
  - ◆ Customer satisfaction
  - ◆ Enriching visitor experience
  - ◆ Spectrum of opportunities
  - ◆ Quality
  - ◆ Planning
  - ◆ Protecting heritage values
  - ◆ Innovation
  - ◆ Equity
  - ◆ Partnerships
  - ◆ Staff skills and expertise
  - ◆ Visitor safety
  - ◆ Accountability
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# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

- ◆ Over 26.3 million hectares of lands and waters (17 million in 1985).
- ◆ Creation of 36 new national parks (now 97 in total) and nature reserves, and 10 new conservation parks promised under the Government's Old Growth Forest policy.
- ◆ Parks and reserves increasingly valued for economic and social contribution, eg Bibbulmun Track; Tree Top Walk.



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

- ◆ Increase in area of marine parks and reserves.
- ◆ Increased focus on management planning.
- ◆ Dramatic increase in visitation over a decade, up to 11.84 million visits (doubling over decade).
- ◆ Dramatic increase in number of volunteers and their support.
- ◆ High level of satisfaction of visitors about the job we are doing.

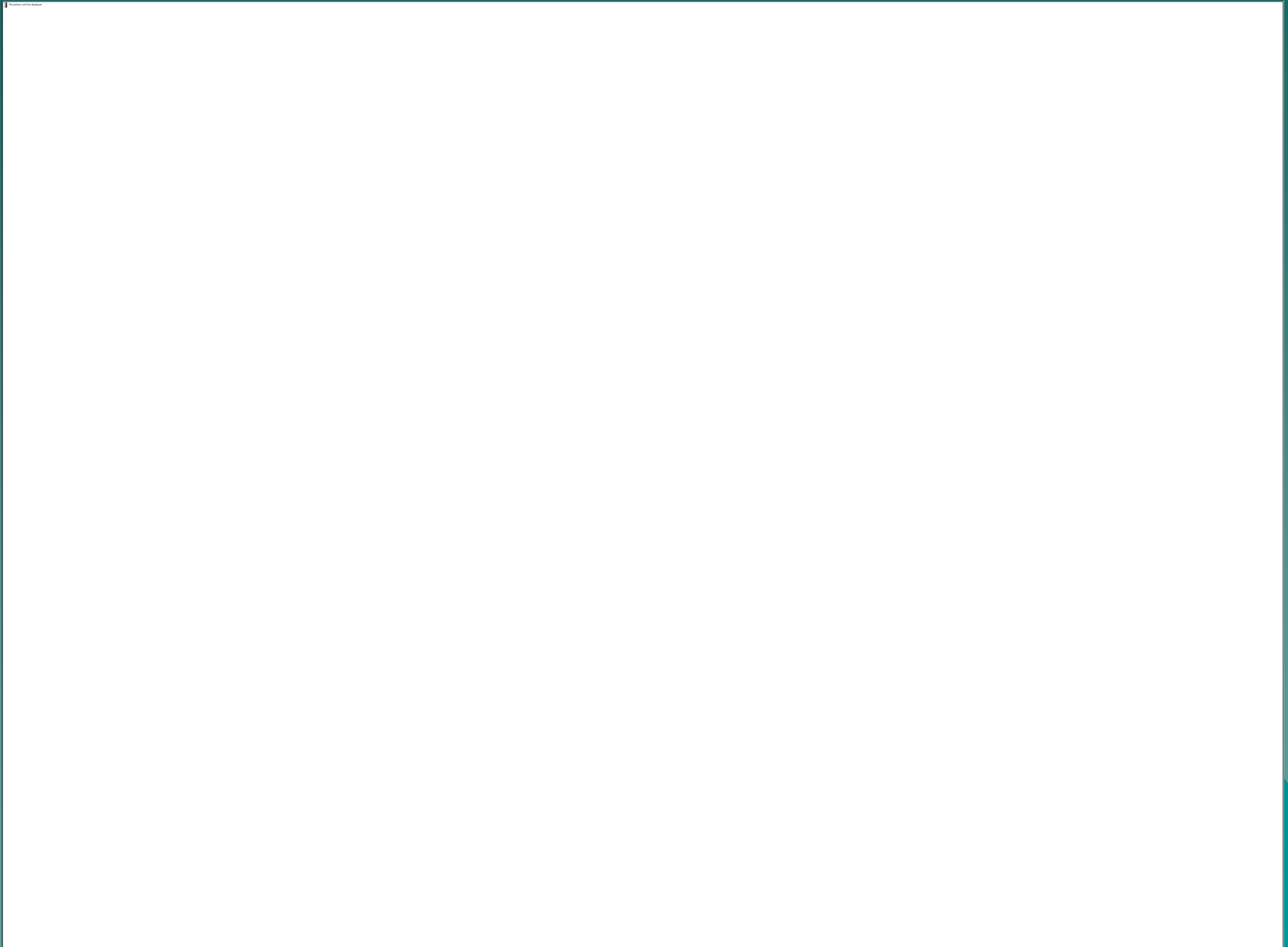
# GROWTH IN RESERVES

26.3 million hectares  
of the State's lands and waters

# GROWTH IN VISITORS

Nearly 12 million visits in  
2005/06

# PVS REVENUE



# VOLUNTEERS

**A total of 8,230 registered volunteers and 470,600 hours contributed in 2005/06**





# ISSUES / CHALLENGES

Budget, including \$56.6 million capital over 4 years.

- ◆ Management responsibilities increasing.
- ◆ Role in resolving planning issues.
- ◆ Joint management outcomes / reliant on external processes.



# CURRENT GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

## **Creation of marine parks:**

Significant progress made on establishing new marine reserves at Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston, Geographe Bay/Leeuwin-Naturaliste/Hardy Inlet and Walpole/Nornalup Inlets.

## **Indigenous involvement:**

Employment and social outcomes based on meaningful role in management.

## **Community involvement:**

Direct and meaningful involvement of the community.


# BUSINESS FOCUS

## 2006/07

- ◆ Management planning
- ◆ Indigenous liaison
- ◆ Access
- ◆ Facility development
- ◆ Community involvement
- ◆ Facility maintenance
- ◆ Revenue generation and management
- ◆ RATIS
- ◆ Resource protection

# Parks and Visitor Services Division

## **Park Policy and Services:**

- ◆ Tourism and Marketing
  - ◆ Research and Information
  - ◆ Land and External Funding
  - ◆ Administration and Finance
  - ◆ Indigenous Heritage
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# Parks and Visitor Services Division

## **Visitor and Regional Services:**

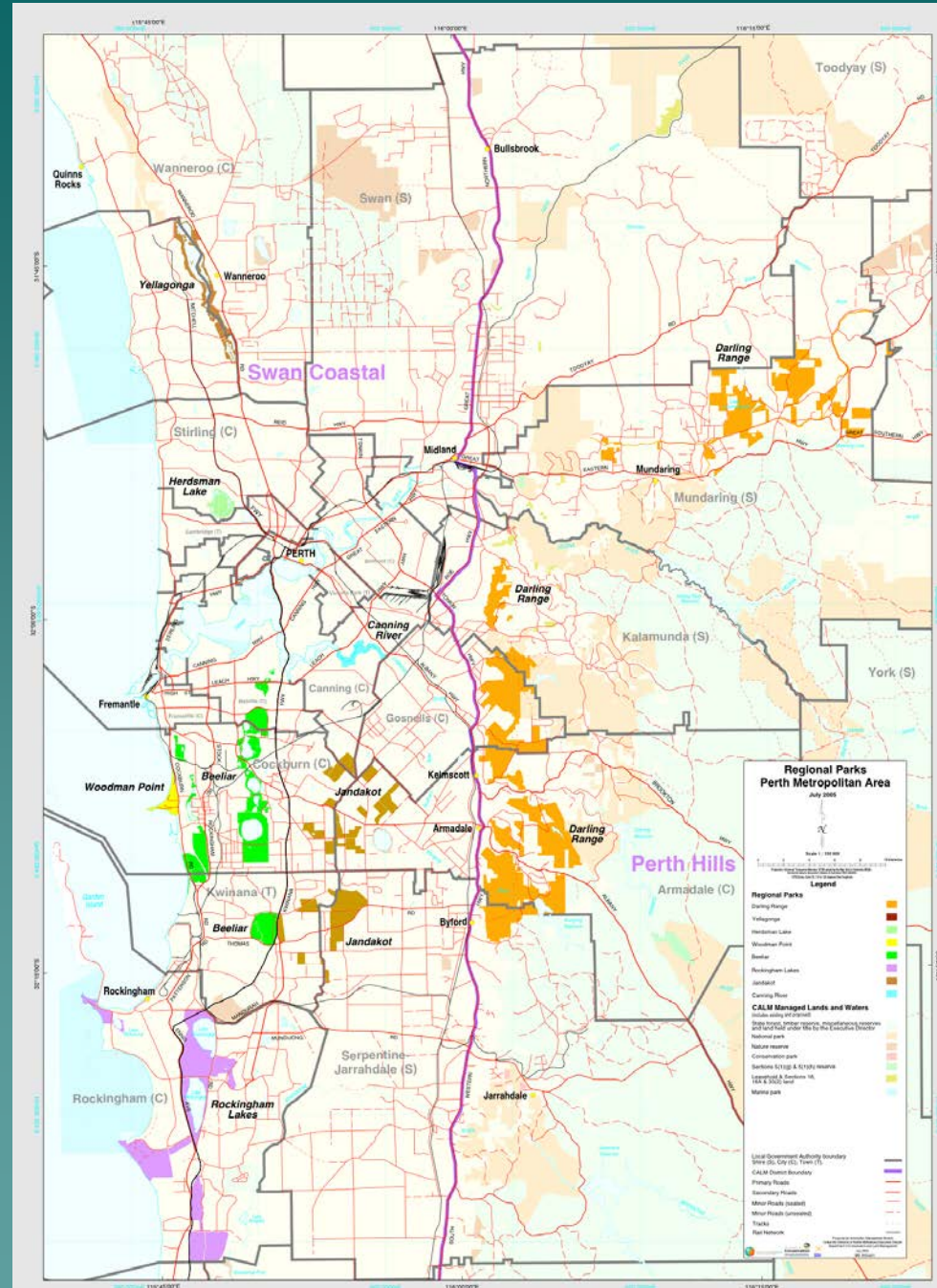
- ◆ Property
  - ◆ Management Planning
  - ◆ Recreation and Landscape
  - ◆ Interpretation and Visitor Information
  - ◆ Community Involvement
  - ◆ Tracks and Trails
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# Parks and Visitor Services Division

## Regional Parks:

- ◆ Yellagonga
- ◆ Herdsman Lake
- ◆ Canning River
- ◆ Beeliar
- ◆ Jandakot
- ◆ Darling Range
- ◆ Woodman Point
- ◆ Rockingham Lakes








## POLICY STATEMENT No. 18

### *Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services*




October, 2006


# Policy 18 - Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services

- ◆ Conservation of Estate values
  - ◆ Consistency of recreation and tourism with purpose of the Estate
  - ◆ Equity
  - ◆ Management
  - ◆ Enriching visitor experience
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# Policy 18 - Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services

- ◆ First produced in 1991
  - ◆ Extensive review of the Policy has included consultation with a wide range of recreation and tourism groups/stakeholders as well as a public comment period
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# Policy Guidelines

- ◆ Protection of recreation site values
  - ◆ Research and monitoring
  - ◆ Public access
  - ◆ Visitor risk management
  - ◆ Provision and development of facilities and services
  - ◆ Waste management
  - ◆ Visitor information and interpretation
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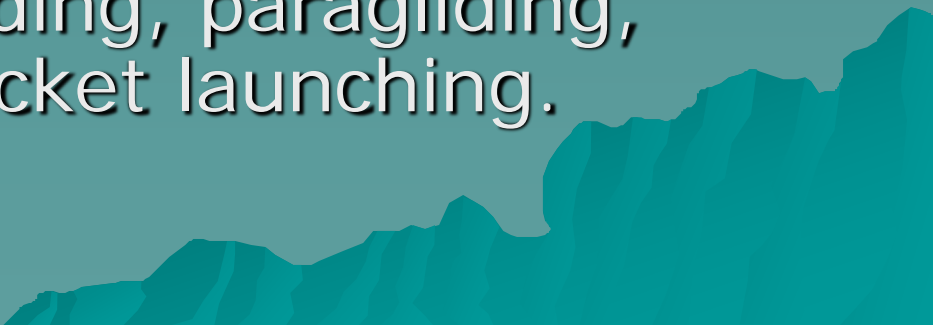
# Policy Guidelines

- ◆ Interaction with visitors by DEC staff and volunteers
  - ◆ Management of organised non-commercial education and leisure activities
  - ◆ Domestic animals / pets (including dogs)
  - ◆ Visitor fees and charges
  - ◆ Commercial concessions - leases and licences on lands and waters managed by the Dept.
  - ◆ Leases for associations and clubs
  - ◆ Consultation and liaison with organised recreation groups and tourism agencies
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# Recreation activities covered

- ◆ Bushwalking, orienteering, rogaining
  - ◆ Rock climbing and abseiling
  - ◆ Caving and cave diving
  - ◆ Horse riding
  - ◆ Shooting, hunting, fossicking
  - ◆ Cycling, including mountain biking
  - ◆ Competitive or extreme sports
  - ◆ Camping, picnicking and BBQs
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# Recreation activities covered

- ◆ Wildlife interaction
  - ◆ Scenic driving, car rallies, off-road vehicles, land yachting
  - ◆ Canoeing, kayaking, sailing, wind surfing, kite surfing, surf skiing
  - ◆ Jet boats, water skiing, parasailing
  - ◆ Surfing, swimming, snorkeling, recreational fishing
  - ◆ Aircraft use, hang gliding, paragliding, model aircraft and rocket launching.
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# Domestic animals/pets

(including dogs)

## ◆ Dogs are permitted:

- in national parks, if an area is designated, e.g. Bramley and Gull Rock National Parks
- in conservation parks and marine parks, if an area is designated
- in boats in marine parks
- generally in State forest, timber reserves and CALM Act 5(1) (g) and (h) reserves, e.g. Lane Poole Reserve.
- guide dogs for the blind permitted in all DEC-managed areas
- dogs involved in search and rescue, feral animal control
- display of animals for educational purposes may be permitted
- should be on a lead unless in a dog exercise area.


## ◆ Dogs are not permitted:

- in nature reserves and marine nature reserves

## ◆ Cats - domestic cats are not permitted in any DEC-managed area.

# Visitor fees and charges

(including camping and entry fees)

- ◆ All fees collected are retained by DEC to assist in conservation and park management, including the improvement of visitor services and facilities.
  - ◆ Fees provide a means for users of the facilities to make a contribution to the cost of providing and maintaining facilities.
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# Commercial concessions

## - leases and licences -

- ◆ Provide a means for DEC to partner with the private sector to provide appropriate facilities and services for visitors' use and enjoyment.
- ◆ Helps DEC to meet the demand for high quality services and facilities while ensuring that tourism contributes through lease rents/licence fees to costs of management.



We thank you and wish you  
many great adventures  
with the



Department of  
Environment and Conservation