

# Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves

## **ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

**TO THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2008**

Department of Environment and Conservation  
for the  
Conservation Commission of Western Australia  
Perth, Western Australia.

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## 1. Introduction

This document is an Analysis of Public Submissions (APS) to the *Draft Management Plan for the Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves*.

On 27 August 2006, the *Draft Management Plan for the Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves* was released for public comment. At this time, advertisements were placed in local and Statewide newspapers (including two editions of *The West Australian*) advising that the draft management plan was available for comment. The draft plan was distributed to state and local government agencies, tertiary institutions, peak bodies, recreation and conservation stakeholder groups, libraries and numerous individuals who expressed interest during the planning process. A 'Have Your Say' glossy brochure was produced and distributed with each copy of the draft management plan to assist the community in preparing a submission. A 'Reply Paid' form also accompanied copies of the draft plan to assist people in making a submission. Copies of the plan were available for perusal at Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and local government offices. Electronic copies of the draft plan and submission form were also made available on DEC's *NatureBase* web site and interested members of the public were able to lodge a submission electronically.

The public submission period closed on 1 December 2006. However, late submissions were accepted where arrangements had been made.

## 2. Numbers of Submissions

A total of 55 public submissions were received. Of these, one submission referred entirely to the *Indicative Management Plan for the Proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park* and one submission was a repeated submission from a submission made earlier by the same person. Therefore, a total of 53 public submissions were considered during the APS (Table 1). The comments made in each submission were collated according to the section of the draft plan they addressed.

Of the total number of submissions, the largest percentage were received from individuals (38 %) and State Government agencies (22 %) (Table 1).

Submitters to the *Draft Management Plan for the Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves* are listed in Appendix 1.

**Table 1. Number and origin of submissions.**

Category	Number (% <sup>1</sup> )
Individuals	20 (38)
Community Organisations	13 (24)
Private Sector Companies	3 (6)
Commonwealth Government	1 (2)
State Government	12 (22)
Local Government	4 (8)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>

<sup>1</sup> = figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## 3. Analysis of Submissions

### Summary of comments

Most of the public submissions received made comments about a variety of issues. In the first instance, all submissions were collated into a table for the analysis (Table 4). Comments were summarised based on what the purpose of the comment was (e.g. supported, concerned, suggested) and what the main point of the comment was.

In total, there were 523 comments received on the draft plan. By far the greatest numbers of comments received (41 %) were associated with issues to do with 'Managing the Natural Environment' (Table 2). Parts of the draft plan that also had relatively higher numbers of comments were 'Managing Visitor Use' (16 %) and 'Managing Resource Use' (12 %).

**Table 2. Number of comments on parts of the draft management plan.**

<b>Chapter (Part)</b>	<b>Number (%)<sup>1</sup></b>
General	29 (6)
Part A. Introduction	39 (8)
Part B. Management Directions and Purpose	35 (7)
Part C. Managing Wilderness Values	19 (4)
Part D. Managing the Natural Environment	214 (41)
Part E. Managing Our Cultural Heritage	11 (2)
Part F. Managing Visitor Use	83 (16)
Part G. Managing Resource Use	62 (12)
Part H. Involving the Community	6 (1)
Part I. Monitoring and Implementing the Plan	9 (2)
Appendices, maps and other parts of the Plan	16 (3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>523</b>

<sup>1</sup> = figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

In terms of the more specific sections of the draft plan, most comments were received for the sections on 'fire' (17 %), 'visitor activities' (7 %), 'introduced and other problem animals' (6 %), 'water resources' (5 %), 'hydrology and catchment protection' (4 %) and the 'planning area' (4 %) (Table 3).

**Table 3. Number of comments on sections of the draft management plan.**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Number</b>
1. Brief Overview	2
2. Regional Context	9
3. Planning Area	22
4. Key Values	6
5. Public Participation	0
6. Vision	10
7. Legislative Framework	11
8. Management Arrangements with Aboriginal People	3
9. Management Planning	1
10. Performance Assessment	2
11. Proposed Tenure, Purpose, Vesting and Boundary Changes	8
12. Identification and Dedication of Wilderness Areas	15
13. Management of Wilderness Areas	4
14. Biogeography	2
15. Climate	7
16. Geology, Landforms and Soils	8
17. Hydrology and Catchment Protection	20
18. Landscape	7
19. Native Plants and Vegetation	10
20. Native Animals	8
21. Ecological Communities	15
22. Environmental Weeds	5
23. Introduced and Other Problem Animals	31
24. Diseases	12
25. Fire	87
26. Indigenous Heritage	3
27. Non-Indigenous Heritage	7
28. Visitor Opportunities	13
29. Visitor Access	9
30. Visitor Activities	38
31. Visitor Accommodation	8
32. Visitor Fees	7
33. Commercial Operations	3
34. Visitor Safety	1
35. Domestic Animals	4

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36. Indigenous Customary Activities	1
37. Mining	11
38. Commercial Fishing	0
39. Defence Training	0
40. Public Utilities and Services	4
41. Rehabilitation	0
42. Beekeeping	7
43. Flora Harvesting	1
44. Removal of Trees and Firewood and Craftwood Utilisation	14
45. Water Resources	24
46. Information, Interpretation and Education	3
47. Community Involvement and Liaison	3
48. Research and Monitoring	9
49. Term of the Plan	0
Glossary	2
Acronyms	1
Personal Communications	1
Maps	6
Appendices	6
General	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>523</b>

## Submission Analysis

Each comment on the *Draft Management Plan for the Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves* was analysed according to the process depicted in the flow chart (Figure 1). For each comment, the analysis table (Table 4) was amended with information on:

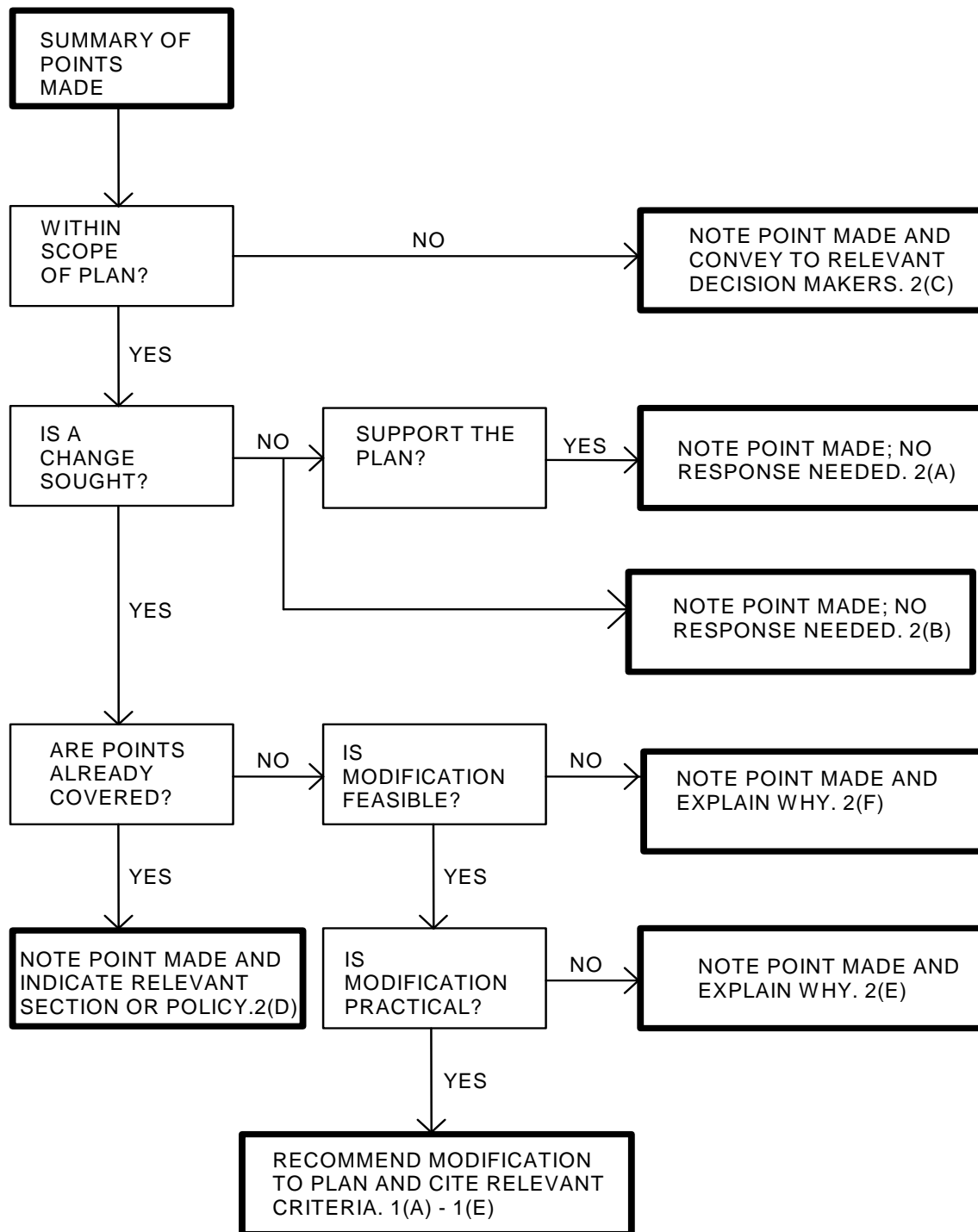
- whether or not the point resulted in an amendment to the final plan;
- the criteria by which each point was assessed; and
- why the point did not result in an amendment to the final plan, or an indication of what action was taken in the final plan.

Each comment made was assessed using the following criteria:

1. The draft management plan **was amended** if the comment:
  - (a) provided additional resource information of direct relevance to management;
  - (b) provided additional information on affected visitor groups of direct relevance to management;
  - (c) indicated a change in (or clarified) Government legislation, management commitment or management policy;
  - (d) proposed strategies that would better achieve management objectives and aims; or
  - (e) indicated omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.
  
2. The draft management plan **was not amended** if the comment:
  - (a) clearly supported the draft proposals;
  - (b) offered a neutral statement, or no change was sought;
  - (c) addressed issues beyond the scope of the plan;
  - (d) made points that were already in the plan;
  - (e) was one of several widely divergent viewpoints received on the topic and the strategy of the draft plan was still considered the preferred option;
  - (f) contributed options that were not possible (generally due to some aspect of existing legislation, or Government policy).

Comments made in submissions have been assessed entirely on the cogency of points raised. No subjective weighting has been given to any submission for reasons of its origin or any other factor that could give cause to elevate the importance of any submission above another.

Figure 1. Analysis Flowchart



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Table 4. Analysis of public submissions.

No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>General</b>				
1	1	Commends the approaches taken to a range of community issues that are vital to communities living on the southern coast.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
2	14	Supports the broad concept of the proposed Walpole Wilderness, adding that a properly managed Walpole Wilderness will assist retention of Walpole's character and aid its marketability into the future.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
3	14	Congratulates DEC and the advisory committee for their effort and contribution towards the preparation of the draft plan.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
4	14	Concerned about the likely indirect cost impacts on local government that have been overlooked in the draft plan.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  DEC will continue to maintain dialogue with local governments to ensure development of public utilities will have a common interest.
5	14	Concerned that without additional State Government resources for implementation and ongoing management of the Walpole Wilderness, stated objectives will be difficult to achieve.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Achievement of stated objectives does not necessarily depend on additional resources, but rather appropriate prioritisation and allocation of available resources.
6	17	Prefers to have been involved in the development of the draft management plan rather than included in the public submission phase.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
7	19	Supports the plan in terms of its positiveness of catering for access and a wide range of physical recreation activities.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
8	26	Congratulates DEC, the Conservation Commission and the Walpole Wilderness Area Community Advisory Committee on the production of the plan.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
9	26	Suggests the Draft Management Plan is comprehensive.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
10	27	Suggests the title should be 'Walpole Wilderness Areas and Adjacent Parks and Reserves', to avoid the misleading impression that there is a single and expansive area of wilderness.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The title of the management plan has been reviewed, and the 'Walpole Wilderness Area' has been shortened to 'Walpole Wilderness' to avoid confusion with wilderness areas that are classified under the CALM Act.
11	27	Concerned the plan gives inordinate attention to Departmental instructions that apply to all reserves and parks, is difficult to read, too expansive on theory of sustaining biodiversity and park management and lacking on operational management action. Suggests the theory should be offered as a separate document for application to all parks and reserves.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan needs to provide an appropriate level of background information about policies, theory and, where relevant, history. Management plans do not generally carry separate subsidiary documents (i.e. they are 'stand alone'), and generally are not dramatically altered between the draft and final plans.
12	27	Concerned this and other recent draft management plans (Wellington and Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux) do not constitute functional management plans to be used as working documents guiding the activities of managers, but rather attempt to justify a particular policy position without representing alternative management strategies.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan needs to provide an appropriate level of background information about policies, theory and, where relevant, history. Management plans do not generally carry separate subsidiary documents (i.e. they are 'stand alone'), and generally are not dramatically altered between the draft and final plans.
13	27	Suggests it is not logical to include the Shannon NP in the Walpole Wilderness and not D'Entrecasteaux NP.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
14	27	Concerned that the plan fails to give appropriate recognition to the economic, social and cultural values associated with the sawmilling industry in the Walpole Wilderness.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  The plan mentions the timber industry at several relevant points in the plan, but this issue is related to the Government restructure of the timber industry where DEC has little responsibility. On-site interpretation addresses this issue.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
15	18	Concerned about when updated data on research would be available and whether it will be subject to public comment and wider peer review.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The advisory committee has been updated on research prior to the approval of the Final Management Plan. The plan has incorporated relevant new information. Research normally incorporates scientific peer review.
16	36	Suggests inclusion of a definition of old growth forest.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A definition of 'old growth forest' (Ecologically mature forest where the effects of unnatural disturbance are now negligible. The definition focuses on forest in which the upper stratum or overstorey is in a late mature to senescent growth stage) has been included in the Glossary.
17	36	Concerned the plan appears to be more of a policy document than a management plan, and suggests it would be easier to understand if it set out policies, strategic plans, management actions and budget planning.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan needs to provide an appropriate level of background information about policies, theory and, where relevant, history. Management plans do not generally carry separate subsidiary documents (i.e. they are 'stand alone'), and generally are not dramatically altered between the draft and final plans.
18	36	Concerned that timber production has been excluded.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness was determined by the State Government's 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy, and the tenures of lands within the WW exclude timber production, other than other forest produce.
19	36	Suggests that there is insufficient evidence that timber production has caused any harm to the environment.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
20	36	Suggests that other activities like mining, flora cutting, beekeeping and fires during prohibited periods cause more damage than timber production.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  These activities may cause damage to the environment, however, the establishment of the Walpole Wilderness was determined by the State Government's 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy, which excludes timber production.
21	36	Suggests that timber production is compatible with the objectives of forest conservation.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness was determined by the State Government's 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy, which excludes timber production.
22	40	Concerned that the Key Points boxes (eg page 23) look cluttered.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The format of the Key Points Boxes are considered by DEC and the Conservation Commission to be an adequate presentation of summary points for the different sections of the plan.
23	40	Suggests the performance measures information in key points boxes (eg page 23) is a repetition of appendix 2.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC and Conservation Commission consider that the performance measure information needs to be displayed in relevant sections as well as in a summary table of all KPIs in an appendix.
24	41	Concerned about the changes made to the draft plan from a carefully considered and agreed to draft plan, which have made a mockery of an open accountable and transparent community consultation process.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
25	41	Suggests the issues identified in the Supplement are fully addressed and resolved.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The issues raised in the Supplement have been addressed with the advisory committee and Conservation Commission prior to the approval of the Final Management Plan.
26	51	Suggests the plan embraces more of an ecological perspective, recognising and protecting the inter-relationships which maintain biodiversity, rather than the current parcelling of units of forest.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The maintenance of discrete management units within the larger parks and reserves is needed to enable effective and efficient management. The management unit boundaries are predicated on access, and access has historically been established on alignments that lend themselves to all weather trafficability.



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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
27	53	Concerned that the plan is far too long and contains far too much material, and suggests that the Conservation Commission and DEC produce policies on the overarching issues addressed (as headings) in the plan, makes these available on the web and only refer to them in plans, and then restrict what is said in the plan to what is actually relevant to the reserve under consideration.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan needs to provide an appropriate level of background information about policies, theory and, where relevant, history. Management plans do not generally carry separate subsidiary documents (i.e. they are 'stand alone'), and generally are not dramatically altered between the draft and final plans.
28	53	Suggests all planning and management should have as their overriding priority the protection and conservation of the biodiversity of the planning area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This is only part of the Department's responsibility, and DEC also manages resources in a way that balances their sustainable use, protects the environment and enriches the quality of people's lives, now and in the future.
29	53	Suggests all planning and management should follow the precautionary principle and the principle of intergenerational equity.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  These principles are contained within the Department's Corporate Plan and embodied within all management of the Department.
<b>Part A. Introduction</b>				
<b>Brief Overview</b>				
30	40	Concerned that on page 1 second paragraph the acronym 'CAR' has been used without defining it.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  CAR has been defined in this paragraph.
31	40	Questions on page 1 third paragraph in what way has the planning area been long recognised.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A substantial amount of literature describes how the area has been recognised for various natural values. Christensen (1980) describes how the Mt Lindesay/Sheepwash area should be considered for reservation. Fernie and Fernie (1989) describe how Sir James Mitchell visited Nornalup in 1910 recognising the natural values of the area. The Draft Management Plan for the Walpole-Nornalup National Park (1990) recognises many natural values of the local area and Christensen (1992) identifies many natural values of the region. These specific references have been added to the sentence.
<b>Regional Context</b>				
32	26	Suggests linkage to NRM Regional Councils and partnerships with State Agencies under the bilateral agreement in this section.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The preamble of Part D <i>Managing the Natural Environment</i> has been amended to include this information.
33	29	Suggests tourism does not play as important a role in small communities.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Carlsen and Wood (2004) show that tourism generates significant revenue in the Southern Forest region.
34	29	Suggests the current increase in tourist expenditure should not be used as a justification for additional tourist facilities in the Walpole Wilderness.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Additional tourist facilities in the Walpole Wilderness are promoted by the State Government's 'Tourism Policy and 'Ecotourism Strategy for WA' and their development depends on a range of factors such as visitor risk, environmental impacts, social benefit, equity, public demand and potential economic benefit.
35	29	Suggests that 'development' funds be better spent on improved land management practices.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While it is important to manage the natural environment as preferred that can be done, it is also important to inform visitors about and enrich their experience of the natural environment.
36	31	Suggests acknowledgement of the distinction between employment of pulp plantations and high-value timber plantations.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  With the variation in timber plantations throughout the two regions, the distinction is not sufficiently significant to change the generalisation of 'timber plantations'.
37	31	Suggests that high value timber plantations should be encouraged to offset employment reductions in the native timber industry.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  With the variation in timber plantations throughout the two regions, the distinction is not sufficiently significant to change the generalisation of 'timber plantations'.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
38	31	Suggests references to the state forest timber industry as 'native timber industry' is inaccurate as there is a native timber industry from plantation grown wood and privately managed forests.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Reference to 'native timber industry' has been replaced with 'timber industry based on reductions in availability of timber from state forests'.
39	36	Concerned that the Walpole Wilderness is also important to the community of Albany, which has not been mentioned and which is closer to the Walpole Wilderness than Manjimup, Cranbrook and Kojonup.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Albany has been added to the second last paragraph on page 2.
40	40	Questions on page 3 Table 1 the use of a full stop after note 4.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The full stop has been deleted from Table 1 note 4 on page 3.
<b>Planning Area</b>				
41	23	Strongly opposed to changing the ocean boundary of Walpole-Nornalup National Park and Quarram Nature Reserve to the low water mark because (i) the current situation works well and there are no reasons/evidence to the contrary provided, and (ii) impacts on dunes and wildlife don't exist.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The approach taken in the plan will ensure consistency and clarity of management across DEC managed estate.
42	26	Suggests the planning area is a subset of planning for the wider management of natural resources in the sub region.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The management of natural resources in the plan takes into account values beyond the planning area, where relevant.
43	26	Suggests that there is a need for boundary re-alignment for the various stakeholders.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
44	40	Suggests the use of the Conservation Commission in the first paragraph on page 4 be the full title.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Conservation Commission has been cited in full on page 1 where it is first mentioned.
45	40	Suggests on page 4 paragraph 1 that the CALM Act is defined as the definitions of acronyms have to start from page 1 and definitions in the Preface do not count.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  CALM Act on page 4 has been cited in full in the first instance.
46	40	Suggests referencing consistently with the use of a comma between the reference and the year and cites page 4 as an example.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The standard citation for references in the plan is with no comma, and the plan has been checked to ensure consistency.
47	40	Questions on page 4 paragraph 1 whether all management plans over 10 years old are overdue for review.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
48	40	Suggests all DEC reserves be vested to the low water mark to properly manage the coastline.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
49	40	Suggests material between page 5 and page 16 be in a table in an appendix.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  It is important that this information remain, as it provides administrative detail and local context and direction for individual reserves in a strategic plan.
<b>State Forest and Timber Reserves</b>				
50	27	Concerned that there is no documented justification for the re-classification of State forest and Timber reserves to Forest Conservation Area given that (i) 46% of the Warren Bioregion is in a formal conservation reserve, (ii) State forest and Timber reserves are secured as forest in perpetuity, (iii) the management can be consistent with the objectives of the Walpole Wilderness, and (iv) placement into FCA reduces future options for forest management.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.
51	29	Supports the cessation of all commercial logging in the Walpole Wilderness, which is a necessary step towards the stabilisation of the regional ecosystems and the development of sustainable land uses.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
52	29	Concerned the use of State forest for timber collection as "timber production on a sustained yield basis" does not represent the proposed activity.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This purpose is specified under the CALM Act and allows for a range of activities.
53	29	Concerned that the proposed activity to collect timber is not consistent with the purpose of the Walpole Wilderness, being for conservation.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government, which includes areas of State forest to be classified as forest conservation area in which a number of activities can occur.
54	29	Suggests that there are many other sources of acceptable 'craft-quality' timber in the region.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The State Government has determined that small areas of forest conservation area should be a part of the Walpole Wilderness to provide communities with limited resource opportunities that would not be available if these areas were included into parks and reserves.
55	51	Concerned that it is inappropriate to allow any form of resource extraction in the Walpole Wilderness and considers human disturbance will threaten (i) habitat (e.g. firewood and wildflowers are integral parts of the habitat), (ii) disease, (iii) reduced soil fertility, (iv) reduced soil moisture, and (v) indigenous species through the influence of honeybees, and suggests alternative areas are available outside the plan area and all State forest, timber reserve and proposed FCA areas become Class A reserves.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.
56	54	Concerned that the small satellite reserves outside the Redmond State Forest located in South Coast Region (F187/25, F190/25, F221/25 and F188/25) are proposed to be classified as Forest Conservation Areas, and suggests that because they are in excellent condition and have been managed for many years as potential future nature reserves, that they be reconsidered for designation as nature reserves with a purpose of Conservation of Flora and Fauna.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government. The tenure of State forest and timber reserves will be reviewed at the end of the life of this management plan.
<b>CALM Act Section 5(1)(g) and (h) reserves</b>				
57	18	Concerned that there has been a significant reduction in area of 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves from earlier in the consultation process, particularly the removal of the proposed 5(1)(g) and (h) buffer of Styx and half of Thames and Trent, which could have a significant impact on local craftwood operators, loss of actively managed forest that provides a fire buffer to adjoining freehold.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.
58	18	Suggests the convoluted boundary within Mossop and Weld blocks be transferred to 5(1)(g) and (h) reserves to compensate for the significant reduction in area of 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves and allow for sustainable craft and art-wood extraction.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
59	35	Concerned that the first paragraph under this subsection does not adequately reflect the reasons why these reserves are created and suggests rewording to "Reserves managed under section 5(1)(g) and (h) of the CALM Act have been placed in the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission and are managed to achieve the purposes of their specific vesting or reservation. The reserves are established under the powers of the now defunct <i>Land Act 1933</i> [5(1)(g) reserves] or the later <i>Land Administration Act 1997</i> [5(1)(h) reserves], although the reservations may have been achieved by specific legislation. The reserves usually have multiple purposes that include conservation. However, they also have other important (often future) purposes that may not be fully compatible with the management objectives of national parks, conservation parks or nature reserves as set out in the CALM Act. This is the reason for their separate reservation".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The current wording is considered more appropriate than that suggested, which gives a wrong impression to the public, particularly as the purpose of reserve 46405 also mentioned in this section is partly for "conservation and recreation".
<b>Marine Reserves</b>				
60	18	Concerned that visitors accessing the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets need to be alerted to the risk of mercury contaminated seafood from the potential marine park.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
61	29	Suggests the proposed marine park include the offshore islands.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The offshore islands are within the scope of this plan, as these reserves are terrestrial environments.
62	44	Advises that a Marine Bioregional Plan for waters of the South-west Marine Bioregion under the EPBC Act is being prepared, an MOU between the Commonwealth, DEC and WA Fisheries has recently been signed to facilitate cooperation in marine planning, and the current planning process for the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park plan does not impact on the bioregional planning.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
<b>Key Values</b>				
63	26	Suggests the plan consider the (economic) value of the parks to other parts of the catchments.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
64	27	Suggests red flowering gum be included in the list of values.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Red flowering gum has been added to the fifth dot point under 'Natural Values'.
65	27	Suggests apiculture be included in the list of values.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Apiary is already recognised in the third dot point under 'Economic Values'.
66	27	Suggests many other economic values be included in the list of values.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Whilst there may be many indirect and related economic values, the values listed are a sufficient summary of the major economic values applicable to the plan.
67	31	Suggests the plan specifically include surfing.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Surfing is an activity principally conducted outside the planning area. The plan already covers this activity in some detail, and doesn't intend to mention every activity in the list of values.
68	40	Suggests using a full stop after each section of values.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A full stop has been added after each section of values.

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Analysis of Public Submissions

No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>Part B. Management Directions and Purpose</b>				
<b>Vision</b>				
69	27	Concerned that the global significance of the red flowering gum is overlooked.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This specific value should not be specifically mentioned in the Vision as the comment suggests because this is too specific a value for a broad vision and because many other equally specific and important values are also not included. However, the global significance of red flowering gum has been mentioned in more detail in relevant parts of the plan, particularly the flora section.
70	47	Supports the vision statement.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
71	47	Concerned that the vision should be genuinely incorporated into the rest of the document and the future management strategies for the area.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The objectives and strategies outline how we get to some future point described by the vision, and in this way take the vision into account.
72	53	Concerned the vision is anthropocentric.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The vision is not considered to be anthropocentric (i.e Collins Dictionary definition as "regarding the human being as the most important factor in the universe").
73	53	Concerned the vision omits non-indigenous cultural heritage.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This was referred to the advisory committee, and it was agreed that non-indigenous cultural heritage is covered broadly under cultural values and does not need to be specifically highlighted here.
74	53	Concerned the vision omits the important vegetation type of heathlands, and suggests changing the first paragraph of the vision to "The Walpole Wilderness Area is a vast natural and wild landscape embracing the essence of the southern forests and coast of Western Australia. Old majestic jarrah, karri and tingle forests surround imposing granite peaks, peaceful rivers, <u>heathlands</u> , wetlands and tranquil inlets, and overlook picturesque sandy beaches, sheer coastal cliffs and the Southern Ocean".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested change was referred to the advisory committee, and it was agreed that this will be incorporated into the plan.
75	53	Suggests changing the second paragraph of the Vision to "The Walpole Wilderness Area will be recognised as an important component of an international biodiversity hotspot, where natural values, such as wilderness, a threatened and highly endemic and relictual flora and fauna, threatened ecological communities, old growth forests and wetlands, <u>and cultural values, such as indigenous and non-indigenous heritage sites, will be protected and maintained. Our knowledge and appreciation of these values will be fostered and increased</u> ".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The suggested change was referred to the advisory committee, and it was agreed that this passage should not be changed.
76	53	Suggests changing the third paragraph of the Vision to "This ancient landscape <u>and all its natural components</u> will be recognised for <u>their right to continue to exist and evolve into the future as they have done for millions of years: for their great visual and aesthetic appeal; and for their rich Aboriginal heritage and stewardship, which will be encouraged through joint management with Aboriginal people</u> ".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The suggested change was referred to the advisory committee, and it was agreed that this passage should not be changed.
77	53	Suggests changing the last paragraph of the Vision to "People will find inspiration, enjoyment and livelihoods, and understand <u>and appreciate</u> the natural environment <u>and cultural heritage</u> of the Walpole Wilderness Area. Sustainable use of the area will ensure it <u>provides the same benefits to future generations</u> ".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested change was referred to the advisory committee, and it was agreed that the suggestions will largely be incorporated into the plan, except that the last sentence will read "Sustainable use of the area, reflecting a custodial spirit, will provide benefits to future generations".

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
78	53	Suggests all planning and management should implement the vision for the Walpole Wilderness (as amended).	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The objectives and strategies outline how we get to some future point described by the vision, and in this way take the vision into account.
<b>Legislative Framework</b>				
79	7	Suggests amendment to the section on "Man and the Biosphere Program", as well as the Key Points, Objective and Strategies in the Key Points Box, to include comment on the benefits of biosphere accreditation and support for the establishment of a biosphere in the Wilson Inlet Catchment.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan already provides links to further information about the value of biosphere reserves and support for the establishment of a biosphere reserve in the lower Great Southern Region, although this issue is not a current priority for DEC.
80	27	Supports the National Reserves System program and development of a CAR reserve system, but is concerned that the plan goes well beyond the requirements of the NRS and CAR system identified through the RFA process.	2(a), 2(e)	Noted. Comment supports the plan, but also is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.
81	44	Suggests an action will require approval under the EPBC Act if the action has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on one of the following matters of national environmental significance: (i) World Heritage properties, (ii) National Heritage properties, (iii) Ramsar Wetlands of international importance, (iv) threatened species and ecological communities, (v) migratory species protected under international agreements, (vi) the Commonwealth marine environment, or (vii) nuclear actions.	1(a)	Noted. Comment provides additional resource information.  Legislation and Policy in Section 7 has been amended with this additional information.
82	44	Suggests that if an action proposed to be taken is likely to have a significant impact, then a referral must be made to DEH for a decision on whether assessment and approval is required under the EPBC Act, otherwise substantial penalties apply for taking an action without approval.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in the plan under Section 7.
83	44	Suggests consideration of options for information exchange on regional species and ecological communities protected under the EPBC Act to support a consistent understanding of the occurrence of protected species and ecological communities and the potential for future development to impact on these entities.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Department-based processes are already established in agreements and in other places to do this.
84	44	Suggests that the plan consider activities within the Walpole Wilderness that have the potential to impact on the ecological character of the Muir-Byenup System Ramsar wetland, including the habitat for EPBC Act listed migratory bird species that potentially migrate between the Muir-Byenup System wetland and the Nationally Important wetlands of Owingup and Soho within the Walpole Wilderness.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Changed hydrological processes or the development of water resources might have potential to impact on the habitat for migratory bird species. However, these are addressed in the plan and any proposals for significant water use would be referred to the EPA for assessment.
85	51	Concerned that DEC is not legally bound to protect fauna under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 until either the Biodiversity Conservation Act is enacted or the WCA is amended, and suggests the plan not be finalised until after the Biodiversity Conservation Act is enacted or is amended in line with the Biodiversity Conservation Act.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The new Biodiversity Conservation Act is mentioned in Part D, and a strategy is contained in section 7 about ensuring plan implementation is consistent with state obligations.
86	52	Concerned there is no mention of the anticipated Biodiversity Conservation Act.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The new Biodiversity Conservation Act is mentioned in Part D, and a strategy is contained in section 7 about ensuring plan implementation is consistent with state obligations.
87	52	Suggests there is an assurance in the plan that the new Biodiversity Conservation Act will take its place in management as soon as it becomes an Act.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The new Biodiversity Conservation Act is mentioned in Part D, and a strategy is contained in section 7 about ensuring plan implementation is consistent with state obligations.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
88	53	Suggests finalisation of the plan be deferred until the Biodiversity Conservation Act is in place as it is likely to influence the content of the plan, with a further period of public comment on the plan once the Act is passed, or if the plan is finalised before the Act is in place then the plan is reviewed in two years time to ensure it complies with the Act.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The new Biodiversity Conservation Act is mentioned in Part D, and a strategy is contained in section 7 about ensuring plan implementation is consistent with state obligations.
89	53	Suggests a key performance indicator be included where any breaches to laws described in this section be reported in the Conservation Commission annual report.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
<b>Management Arrangement with Aboriginal People</b>				
90	3	Strongly supports the establishment of a Park Council.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
91	3	Suggests that a Park Council be linked to training/job opportunities.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  A strategy aimed at encouraging training, employment and economic development is on page 120.
92	53	Suggests the reporting requirement on the successful establishment of the Park Council or similar arrangement should be within two years of commencement of the plan, not five years.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The 5-year reporting timeframe is a standard half-term assessment period for the management plan, and also provides a reasonable timeframe to achieve this target, especially in a complex area of management.
<b>Management Planning</b>				
93	40	Suggests that it would be better to produce a few plans to cover the Walpole Wilderness than one massive document so that more detail can be given to the reserves.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Considerably more time and resources would be spent producing separate plans.
<b>Performance Assessment</b>				
94	27	KPIs for all forest management should include criteria for social and economic sustainability, as well as environmental criteria.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Monitoring is limited by resources and it is important to select only the most important key performance indicators that will provide an indication of trends rather than covering the 'triple bottom line' for every section of the plan.
95	36	KPIs should include indicators of economic and social sustainability.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Monitoring is limited by resources and it is important to select only the most important key performance indicators that will provide an indication of trends rather than covering the 'triple bottom line' for every section of the plan.
<b>Proposed Tenure, Purpose, Vesting and Boundary Changes</b>				
96	27	Suggests that the CAR system is already secured in the Warren Bioregion, State forest and Timber reserve is adequate security of tenure allowing flexibility in management which would not be possible under FCA, adding more land may have funding and management issues, and the proposals should be objectively assessed against alternative options for land tenure.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.
97	29	Suggests inclusion of reserve 2006 is dependent on the decision to construct a water supply dam on the Denmark River.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Inclusion in the plan will not affect later consideration for alternate uses/tenures.
98	29	Does not support the damming of the Denmark River and would like reserve 46405 included in the national park.	2(e), 2(f)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option. Comment also suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
99	36	Concerned the proposal to reclassify State forest and Timber reserves to Forest Conservation Area will impose unnecessary restrictions on future use of this land and, given there are already adequate reserves to meet the National Reserves System of CAR reserves, suggests retaining State forest and Timber reserves to enable future communities to use these forests for flexible purposes such as water supply and timber production.	2(e), 2(f)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option. Comment also suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.
100	40	Suggests Table 5 be an appendix.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  Table 5 has been transferred into an appendix.
101	53	Supports the objectives, the means by which it will be achieved, the proposed changes in tenure, and the KPI time-frame for their implementation.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
102	55	Suggests inclusion of a provision in the plan that a 50 or 100 metre buffer zone be required on from the inlets on adjacent foreshore areas on UCL and Shire lands as a setback from any permitted activities and their infrastructure.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  These areas are not under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.
103	55	Suggests Lot 650 foreshores, township foreshores and Collier Creek foreshores be transferred into Walpole-Nornalup National Park, as Walpole would then be entirely surrounded by national park, which would (i) further protect the inlets, (ii) be a selling point for the area and potentially bring economic benefits, and (iii) may potentially overcome future contentious issues such as potential residential development to the east of Walpole townsite.	1(a)	Noted. Comment provides additional resource information.  Lot 650 foreshore, which is currently UCL, has been added to the list of land administration issues that DEC will pursue for inclusion in the national park (Appendix 3). Collier Creek foreshores will be included into the national park in the near future. It is unlikely that the Townsite foreshores will be included at this stage.
<b>Part C. Managing Wilderness Values</b>				
<b>Identification and Dedication of Wilderness Areas</b>				
104	14	Supports the overall intention of a wilderness area given (i) the uniqueness of the Walpole environment, (ii) the general lack of widespread development and (iii) its relative pristine condition.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
105	17	Suggests that the Nuyts area be considered for gazetting as a wilderness area, or at least be managed according to if it were classified as a wilderness area, particularly as this area has been managed as such since 1975.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The Nuyts area cannot be considered for gazettal because it does not meet the size criterion for a wilderness area. The Nuyts area is proposed to be managed under a class 2 'Natural' setting, which aligns closely with how the area has been managed since 1975.
106	21	Rejects the proposal for the Willmott-Quindinillup wilderness area on the basis that access and use of the Yerriminup Pools on the Kent River for camping, cattle grazing, historical sites, swimming and fishing dates back 150 years.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The heritage values of this site will be recognised and visitors will be able to access this site, however, horseriders will not be permitted within the proposed wilderness area.
107	21	Suggests enlarging the Peak/Roe wilderness eastwards to the Nornalup Road.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This option would only deliver one wilderness area of about 16,000 ha in the Walpole Wilderness, and would also not be supported because of the larger area with less management access, particularly for fire.
108	22	Concerned that if the Willmott-Quindinillup wilderness area is accepted, part of the heritage trail would not be accessible including Yerriminup Pool, the site of the historical stockman's cottage, stockyards and hunters camp oven.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The heritage values of this site will be recognised and visitors will be able to access this site, however, horseriders will not be permitted within the proposed wilderness area.
109	22	Suggests an alternative option to the proposed Willmott-Quindinillup wilderness area being to use the historical horse trail as the eastern boundary of the wilderness area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This option would reduce the wilderness area to the limit of the size criterion, and may even make the option unviable once the effect of the trail is taken into account. The proposal is considered to be of greater benefit and importance than the use of this relatively small part of the trail.



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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
110	22	Suggests an alternative option to the proposed Willmott-Quindinillup wilderness area being to extend the existing proposed area on the Kent River further south.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This option would deliver a wilderness area of about 11,000 ha in the Walpole Wilderness. The risk of uncontrollable wildfire significantly increases due to the closeness to private property and reduced access, and parts of the historic horse trail would further be impacted by this option.
111	22	Suggests an alternative option to the proposed Willmott-Quindinillup wilderness area being to extend the Peak-Roe wilderness area in a south-easterly direction to make one large wilderness area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This option would only deliver one wilderness area of about 18,000 ha in the Walpole Wilderness, and significantly increases the risk of uncontrollable wildfire due to the closeness to private property and reduced access.
112	27	Concerned that the plan fails to justify the designation of a wilderness area.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The two proposed wilderness areas have been justified on the basis of community concern over the decline in area and quality of remote and natural land in Australia, meeting wilderness area criteria and specific values that are contained within these areas.
113	27	Concerned that a designation of a wilderness area adds nothing to the values of the area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While there is some value in having areas of high wilderness quality in the planning area, it is considered to be of tremendous value in having gazetted wilderness areas that are managed and recognised for these high wilderness qualities.
114	37	Suggests Sharpe block not be considered as a wilderness area because of its value for potentially world class low impact recreation/tourism such as walk tracks and camping opportunities, particularly along the Deep River.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  A number of factors would need to be assessed during planning for the next management plan, which is when this area would be considered further.
115	40	Suggests that there should be a stronger commitment to create wilderness in the plan by identifying more candidate areas.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The number, area and location of options for candidate wilderness areas is mostly dependent on the ability to manage the areas as wilderness. Larger or more areas are principally restricted in the requirement for access and fire management.
116	51	Concerned that the two proposed wilderness areas will not be wilderness until disturbances are defined and remedied.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan discusses the disturbances and how these will be managed.
117	51	Suggests the identification of wilderness areas be re-assessed after the Biodiversity Conservation Act is enacted.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
118	53	Supports the objective, the means by which it will be achieved, and the KPI.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
<b>Management of Wilderness Areas</b>				
119	47	Suggests that there should be clear guidelines for fire management in wilderness areas, including those considered to have potential.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Policy 62 provides guidelines for managing fire in wilderness areas, and sections 13 and 25 discuss fire management in wilderness areas in detail. A multitude of factors need to be taken into account that influence what strategies and tactics are utilised in managing fire in wilderness areas.
120	47	Suggests that fire management in wilderness areas should be conducted solely for protection of biodiversity and natural values, as opposed to current burn plans that are primarily planned for protection of human values and assets.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan outlines that fire management in wilderness areas should be in accordance with Department policies, Policy 62 of which specifies that biodiversity will be protected from threatening processes and that prescribed burning may be carried out for the protection and maintenance of natural values.
121	53	Supports the objective, the means by which it will be achieved, and the KPI.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
122	53	Concerned about conflict with the proposed fire management of the wilderness areas.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan outlines that fire management in wilderness areas should be in accordance with Department policies, Policy 62 of which specifies that biodiversity will be protected from threatening processes and that prescribed burning may be carried out for the protection and maintenance of natural values.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>Part D. Managing the Natural Environment</b>				
123	52	Advises that the plan should recognise that it is of the utmost importance to the planet that Australia is a major biodiversity hotspot, and that 5 of Australia's 15 national biodiversity hotspots are located in the South west.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is referred to in the Brief Overview, Vision and Part D preamble.
124	51	Suggests DEC embrace its role as protector and custodian of the natural environment.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is one of DEC's roles, which is embraced by the plan throughout the document.
<b>Biogeography</b>				
125	29	Concerned the potential marine reserve adjacent to William Bay National Park is not shown on any maps.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The waters off William Bay National Park is only a candidate area for a marine park and is dependent on further planning analysis. There is no area defined for the candidate area for the marine park.
126	53	Suggests the targets for reservation and a CAR reserves system should be revised upwards and take into account the vegetation mapping of Hopper and Goia and the implications of climate change on the protection and conservation of biodiversity, and that a KPI be developed including these recommendations with progress reports after 5 and 10 years.	2(d), 2(c)	Noted. Some aspects of this comment are either already covered in the plan or are beyond the scope of the plan.  Targets for reservation are set outside of the management planning process. The Forest Management Plan caters for a KPI for the representation of ecosystems in formal reserves.
<b>Climate</b>				
127	3	Asks whether climate change been fully anticipated and explored?	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Although information on climate change is increasing day-by-day, information is still very poor, only generally indicative and not useful to the plan any further than is already indicated.
128	26	Suggests that there is a need for increased coordination across the region on strategies to limit the impact of climate change, and interagency cooperation will be an ongoing requirement of continued funding.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is a whole-of-Government issue and a collaborative approach will be required.
129	31	Suggests adding point 6 "Introducing management actions that encourage the conversion of cleared farmland to high-value native timber plantations".	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is not the role of DEC, but more aligned to the Forest Products Commission or Department of Agriculture and Food.
130	47	Concerned about the issue of the impact of combined stresses on highly localised communities, particularly the lack of progress in reviewing the fire regimes for tingle and ficifolia communities to ensure that they are being managed appropriately and the risks to these communities are mitigated.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Strategy 4 (revised to strategy 11) under the Fire section covers the development of specific fire management guidelines for tingle and ficifolia communities.
131	47	Suggests research be done on the effect that the reduced rainfall has had on forest's ability to recover after fire and review the frequency of fire application accordingly.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Although this is resource dependant, current research will provide a basis to assess this.
132	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
133	53	Suggests there be a KPI with reports after 5 and 10 years.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Given that one of the main strategies for responding to the effects of climate change is limiting non-climate stresses, the objective can be measured by examining the KPIs for a range of other elements of the natural environment that are in this plan.
<b>Geology, Landforms and Soils</b>				
134	26	Concerned that the plan falls short of discussing objectives to manage water erosion, associated siltation and nutrient movement in areas adjoining streams, waterways and rivers, and of burning for fuel reduction in riparian vegetation.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in Sections 16, 17 and 25. Fire policy and planning will ensure appropriate fire regimes are utilised.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
135	26	Suggests consideration be given to excluding riparian buffer areas from burning regimes.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  It is not possible to exclude riparian buffer areas from burning regimes, although where moisture differentials exist they may not burn.
136	39	Suggests including other known minerals in the area like peat, kaolin, silica sand, graphite and potential for tungsten.	1(a), 1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity, and provides additional resource information.  This information has been incorporated into the Geology section.
137	39	Advises that (i) a Register of State Geoheritage Sites for Western Australia is being developed, (ii) the proposed definition for these officially recognised sites is "Geological features of the Earth that are considered to be unique and of outstanding value within Western Australia and to have significant scientific and educational values", (iii) no geoheritage sites have been nominated by the Geological Society within the planning area, (iv) there have been no nominations from the V and C Semeniuk Research Group for official geoheritage listing, and (v) the geoheritage sites referred to by V and C Semeniuk Research Group should be termed "potential nominations for geoheritage sites".	1(a), 1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity, and provides additional resource information.  The subsection on Geoheritage has been amended to include this information.
138	51	Suggests the plan state and explain the connection between peat loss due to changed fire regimes and salinisation and acidification of soils and water.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This is not a salinisation issue, but rather a changed soil chemistry issue, which the impacts of are the subject of current research and improvement. The plan has been amended by including "The removal of peat by burning could expose acid forming soils to oxidation, only if acid sulphate soils are substrates to peatlands. This could result in a drop in pH, which may have effects on the surrounding biota including aquatic communities".
139	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
140	53	Suggests there should be an additional KPI relating to the 20 sites of geoheritage (such as no damage to these sites).	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DOIR has advised that there are no formally recognised geoheritage sites in the planning area, and that the sites mentioned can be considered as potential nominations for geoheritage sites.
141	53	Suggests there should be an additional KPI relating to acid sulphate soils (should be mapped within 5 years and no new areas be allowed to develop).	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Since the draft plan was written, additional Acid Sulphate Soil mapping has recently been completed that covers the planning area (see Western Australian Planning Commission Planning Bulletin No. 64). Acid sulphate soils are not considered to be a sufficiently significant issue in the planning area to warrant special focus through a KPI.
<b>Hydrology and Catchment Protection</b>				
142	3	Asks whether salinity is an issue?	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Salinity is an issue within the planning area, but has been covered by the plan.
143	14	Generally supports the objectives to protect and conserve the quality and quantity of water.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
144	14	Concerned that the words "do not significantly affect the hydrological values" may affect neighbouring landholders who might want to establish bluegum plantations.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Strategy 3 in the Hydrology and Catchment Protection section has been amended to replace "ensure" with "request and recommend".
145	14	Concerned that the plan may not have the statutory authority to enforce EPA assessment for the establishment of bluegum plantations that is permissible under the current Town Planning Scheme.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  A referral to the EPA for environmental assessment can be made by anyone in Western Australia.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
146	26	Concerned that the plan should be tailored to protect the significant water resource catchments of the many unique short-river catchments close to the coast.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan caters for this, amongst the many other objectives, where DEC is able to.
147	26	Concerned that large sediment, salt and nutrient loads following episodic event in larger catchments threaten ecosystems and require coordinated action.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This mainly relates to the extent of disturbance in upper catchments and, while the plan covers potential impacts from roads and recreation sites in the planning area, the ability to manage large sediment, salt and nutrient loads following episodic events is extremely limited.
148	26	Suggests that sites be established to monitor the quality and quantity of flow through the installation of data loggers in cooperation with Department of Water, so that collected data may be used to document the impact of various management options and to gain information about and coordinate action with catchment groups adjoining the study area.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Department of Water has primary responsibility for this role, although DEC will cooperate and facilitate where appropriate.
149	26	Concerned that nutrient issues have been overlooked.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in Section 17.
150	26	Concerned that acid groundwater occurring in the area has killed areas of vegetation as groundwater tables have risen.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  Localised occurrences may occur in the planning area. The plan has been amended to include a strategy: "identifying sites where acid groundwater occurs and has killed areas of vegetation, and undertaking site amelioration using revegetation with acid tolerant plants, organic matter replacement and other experimental techniques".
151	35	Suggests adding in Water Quality/Quantity subsection "The Department of Water carries out monitoring programs on rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the management area. These monitoring programs provide water quantity and quality status and trend information for a variety of purposes including private and public water source planning, salinity and eutrophication management, floodplain management, waterway restoration and State of the Environment and other reporting programs".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended to include the suggested passage.
152	35	Suggests on page 50 paragraph 2, replace "intact and are quite pristine" with "relatively undisturbed".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested amendment has been incorporated into the plan.
153	35	Suggests on page 51 paragraph 2 deleting "groundwater pumping and engineering".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested amendment has been incorporated into the plan.
154	35	Concerned that the third sentence on page 52 is unclear in terms of which Department the passage is referring to.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended to include ".of Water" after "Department".
155	40	Suggests Table 6 be an appendix.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Table 6 has been moved to an appendix.
156	40	Suggests 'ground water' under the subheading of 'Groundwater' on page 49 be one word.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This is the only occurrence of this anomaly in the plan, and has been changed to 'groundwater'.
157	40	Concerned the subheading of 'Disruption of Hydrological Processes' is odd and suggests the use of 'Hydrology'.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This subheading has been deleted in favour of two subheadings for 'Water Quality' and 'Water Quantity'.
158	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.

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159	53	Salinity should be addressed in relation to the ecology of the waterways and not the suitability of water for human consumption and use.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The water quality subheading of the plan makes general references to protecting or enhancing the natural values of waterways and catchments, and specific reference to consumptive use is made in the context of the Denmark River Catchment.
160	53	Suggests an additional KPI promoting no further increase in sedimentation, eutrophication and salinisation of rivers, streams and wetlands in the planning area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While the plan contains strategies aimed at preventing any further increase in these processes, monitoring of these processes is undertaken by the Department of Water.
161	53	Suggests an additional KPI that waterways be monitored regularly and reported on after 5 years.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While the plan contains strategies aimed at preventing any further increase in these processes, monitoring of these processes is undertaken by the Department of Water.
<b>Landscape</b>				
162	3	Strongly supports this section.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
163	3	Suggests that this section needs to be adequately resourced.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Achievement of stated objectives does not necessarily depend on additional resources, but rather appropriate prioritisation and allocation of available resources.
164	14	Supports the objective.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
165	14	Suggests the proposed approach is ill defined, subjective and, in the absence of visual management guidelines, is of little or no practical application.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan, as well as Policy 34, provides visual and written guidelines.
166	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
167	53	Suggests ecological imperatives must take precedence over visual amenity in planning fire management programs so as to minimise negative visual impacts.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Ecological imperatives mostly do take precedence, although there is a balance to be met with appropriate weighting depending on the specific characteristics of a site. Strategy 4 of the Landscape section has been amended to read "planning fire management programs so that there is an appropriate balance between ecological imperatives and the minimisation of negative visual impacts, with appropriate weighting depending on the specific characteristics of a site".
168	53	Suggests a KPI relating to visual amenity be developed and reported on after 5 years.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  There is a question of priority and need for a KPI for Visual Landscape Management given the need to focus resources on other more important KPIs.
<b>Native Plants and Vegetation</b>				
169	27	Suggests information about ecosystems and species of interest be available through visitor centres, interpretive material and supporting documents, particularly <i>Eucalyptus brevistylis</i> and the colour variations of <i>Corymbia ficifolia</i> , and should be made explicit in the plan.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Covered in strategy 9 of this section.
170	29	Supports the sentiment that 'the impacts of fire and other disturbance vectors on the endemic, relictual and disjunct species in the area should be considered and analysed'.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
171	29	Suggests that the strategy of "the impacts of fire and other disturbance vectors on the endemic, relictual and disjunct species in the area should be considered and analysed" should be applied more widely through the Walpole Wilderness.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  While not specifically mentioned in the plan, this practice is already widely applied within the District/planning area.
172	29	Suggests that care is needed to ensure overburning doesn't occur, particularly where <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> is found and in areas where peat soils occur.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  These values, and many others, are routinely taken into account at the prescription level.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
173	29	Suggests that prescribed burns be conducted less frequently and on a smaller scale.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The factors of burn size and frequency are taken into account in the Master Burn Plan process. Management unit boundaries determine the size of prescribed burns.
174	29	Suggests that areas be set aside where no burning occurs for comparison of burnt and unburnt areas.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Fire Exclusion Reference Areas are set aside in the plan as reference sites that are long unburnt.
175	40	Concerned about the lack of common names for plants on page 60 and suggests that the plan be consistent.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A consistent approach to common names for both flora and fauna has been used, where the common name is mentioned before the scientific name (without brackets) and any subsequent reference to that species is only mentioned in terms of the common name.
176	47	Concerned about the listing of actions in the plan that call for further research for species of conservation significance, such as single species, and the modification of management accordingly to take into account the ways different ecotypes respond to fire, and yet there has been no change by, or requirement to change placed on, the Department in the immediate to short term.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Significant changes have been made and DEC will continue to use adaptive management through the Master Burn Plan process based on current knowledge.
177	53	Supports the objective, the means by which it will be achieved and the KPIs.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
178	53	Suggests the KPIs be expanded to cover the current flora species in the planning area and not just the threatened species because what is now common may quickly become threatened under current and likely threatening processes.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  KPIs are only indicators, and not everything needs to be measured everywhere all of the time. The Department monitors Priority flora species on an annual basis to see whether they need to be elevated in conservation status.
<b>Native Animals</b>				
179	40	Concerned about how planning can be done without having more fauna information.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  It is not practical to gain a substantial amount of information about fauna in such a short period of time to be of use to the planning process.
180	51	Concerned about the quality of data sourced.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Information was collated from sources inside and external to DEC and was the best summary information at the time of writing.
181	51	Suggests that there will not be an improvement in funding to support high quality research and fauna protection until such time as DEC is legally bound to protect fauna.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC is legally bound to protect fauna under the Commonwealth <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> . The new Biodiversity Conservation Act will strengthen special protection for identified threatened species and extend this protection to threatened ecological communities.
182	52	Concerned that several of the endangered birds found in the Southwest Australia Endemic Bird list are found in the Walpole Wilderness and the plan describes some of them as "very common".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The information was sourced from Christensen (1992). Some species (e.g. western rosella, white-breasted robin, red-winged fairy wren, red-capped parrot) that are endemic to the (greater) southwest of Western Australia are relatively common in certain habitat types, such as karri forest, or within this region, although they may be less common in other places in the southwest or at the extremities of their distribution.
183	52	Concerned that management will pay insufficient attention to our unique and exceptional levels of biodiversity.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The management plan clearly outlines the Department's approach to the conservation of animals in the planning area.
184	52	Suggests proposed management practices need to spell out how our endangered species will be protected.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is addressed by recovery planning for the various endangered species.
185	53	Supports the objective, the means by which it will be achieved and the KPIs.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
186	53	Suggests the KPIs be expanded to cover the current fauna species in the planning area and not just the threatened species because what is now common may quickly become threatened under current and likely threatening processes.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The suggested KPI would be very difficult to monitor and achieve given the low level of current knowledge about locations and extent of all species present. It is wiser use of time and resources to monitor the threatened species of concern (which may change anyway over time as a result of changes in threatening processes) and indicator species (which may provide an indication of trends in threatening processes), and selected specific sites where general long term impacts/changes can be detected. The new Biodiversity Conservation Act will strengthen special protection for identified threatened species and extend this protection to threatened ecological communities.
<b>Ecological Communities</b>				
187	27	Suggests the extent of old growth karri forest is not correct because of the 1937 fire and based on accounts from A.C Shedley and P.N. Shedley.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The extent of old growth forests is the latest data from Forest Management Branch that have refined this information since data was generated during the RFA.
188	27	Concerned the issue of the renewal of senescent high forest is not addressed.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Old growth forest (the tree component) is a fraction of the natural seral progression and will collapse and regenerate in time. Fire may or may not be a contributing factor to this change of state.
189	27	Concerned that there is no definition of old growth forest.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A definition of 'old growth forest' (Ecologically mature forest where the effects of unnatural disturbance are now negligible. The definition focuses on forest in which the upper stratum or overstorey is in a late mature to senescent growth stage) has been added to the Glossary.
190	27	Concerned that visitors to the Walpole Wilderness cannot use the Plan to locate areas of genuine old growth forests.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Information maps within the plan are indicative only. Visitors interested in specific areas of old growth forest should visit local DEC offices where larger and more specific maps can be viewed.
191	27	Concerned that the "one Ministerially-endorsed threatened ecological community" is not named.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The "one Ministerially-endorsed threatened ecological community" of Mt Lindesay-Little Mt Lindesay Granite TEC is mentioned on page 71.
192	27	Supports the KPI of no loss of flora species in Threatened Ecological Communities especially the Mt Lindesay-Little Mt Lindesay Granite TEC.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
193	40	Suggests "riparian habitats" in the subheading be in title case.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Title case has been used for these heading words.
194	47	Concerned that action 2 is too conceptual and suggests that communities of conservation significance be given first consideration in any development proposal and that no developments that seek to clear or pose any threat to these communities be approved.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This management plan and other statutory processes will be rigorously used to maximise protection of conservation values from disturbance.
195	47	Concerned that areas have been burnt that have not taken action 4 or action 5 into account, particularly the tingle forests, sunset frog populations and regionally important wetlands in Soho, and suggests the plan needs to be far more prescriptive if it aims to implement these actions.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is at the prescription and burn planning level and not at the management plan level, which is far more strategic.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
196	53	Doesn't support the special fire protection of immature post-logging regrowth karri (on page 74) because this gives higher priority to karri than to any other component of the biodiversity of the Walpole Wilderness and reflects a forestry bias of the writers of the plan.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Karri is a major component of the overstorey and has significant biological value. Karri younger than about 25 years is fire sensitive and can be killed by moderate to high intensity fire. It takes more than 30 years to set seed, so being killed young would result in major impacts on forest structure and therefore habitat diversity. Protection of young karri has very little to do with its potential merchantable value at a timber species. Because of its contiguous and clumpy distribution there are significant fire risks associated with karri regrowth in terms of wildfire impacts - these areas need special attention because of these risks. However, the plan has been amended to provide priority protection of other significant natural values (such as threatened flora, fauna and communities) over young karri regrowth unless these other values do not occur adjacent to regrowth areas.
197	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
198	53	Concerned that appropriate fire regimes are not known for most ecosystems, and suggests the responsible approach is to apply the precautionary principle.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The responsible precautionary approach is applied through the application of a diverse range of fire regimes across the landscape that encourage variation in the season, frequency, size, intensity and spatial diversity, which prevent inappropriate fire regimes.
199	53	Suggests the highest priority should be given to long unburnt vegetation of all types, not just wetland vegetation, as long unburnt vegetation is rare and precious.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The balance between appropriate fire management regimes and long unburnt areas will be maintained through the Master Burn Plan process and in accordance with the fuel age distribution in Figure 9.
200	53	Suggests the threats to ecological communities and habitats of all types should be reduced by reducing and eliminating inappropriate fire regimes, not by reducing the impact of inappropriate fire regimes.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  It may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate some inappropriate fire regimes such as infrequent intense fires, although a reduction of their occurrence and impact may be possible.
201	53	Suggests an additional KPI that no ecological community should move to a more threatened status over the life of the plan.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While the direction of this suggested KPI is supported, there is insufficient information known about the conservation status of many ecological communities in the planning area to warrant a general KPI of this nature.
<b>Environmental Weeds</b>				
202	37	Concerned about the possible detrimental impacts on wilderness areas from increased weed populations with lack of control, and suggests the closure of large areas for wilderness should not be considered until this impact on the two proposed wilderness areas can be measured.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The lack of information should not be used to delay implementation of actions that protect remote and natural areas. Management actions can still be undertaken to control weeds in wilderness areas.
203	40	Suggests Table 8 be an appendix.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  Table 8 has been moved to an appendix.
204	53	Doesn't support the objective, and suggests it be amended to minimise, and where possible, eliminate environmental weeds in the planning area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  It may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate many weeds. However, the plan contains strategies aimed at eradication of new and emerging weeds or of introduced trial plots, which may be possible.
205	53	Suggests a further KPI that no new environmental weeds be allowed to invade the planning area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This objective would be very difficult to monitor and achieve given (i) the low level of current knowledge about locations and extent of species present, (ii) the many vectors of spread that could introduce species and (iii) higher management priorities. A new KPI has been added though that measures the removal of former introduced tree species and trials.



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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
206	53	Suggests a further KPI that there be no expansion of the current cover of weeds that are already present.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This objective would be very difficult to monitor and achieve given (i) the low level of current knowledge about locations and extent of species present, (ii) the many vectors of spread that could introduce species and (iii) higher management priorities. A new KPI has been added though that measures the removal of former introduced tree species and trials.
<b>Introduced and Other Problem Animals</b>				
207	3	Suggests that cats should be classified as a 'high' priority.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Table 9 has been amended to include this suggested change in priority.
208	3	Asks whether we are prepared for cane toads and starlings etc ahead of time?	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended to include a statement that the control of feral animals in the planning area needs to be a balanced approach that weighs the risks of the presence and impacts of species with other factors such as the control effort, resource availability, priorities etc.
209	9	Satisfied that the draft addresses the issue of pest animal control and acknowledges the contribution (past and future) of community based groups. Comments that well organised groups can provide worthwhile cost and problem free contribution.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
210	14	Concerned about the exclusion of dogs to aid in the hunting of pigs.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended to permit dogs in the planning area to facilitate the control of feral pigs with appropriate training and permits.
211	14	Supports feral animal control, particularly in the Lake Muir/Rocky Gully area.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
212	14	Concerned about the lack of resources to address the level of feral animals on Department managed land.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Achievement of stated objectives does not necessarily depend on additional resources, but rather appropriate prioritisation and allocation of available resources.
213	14	Concerned that the dedicated wilderness areas will become a refuge for feral animals.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Biodiversity, ecological communities and natural processes are to be protected in wilderness area from unnatural disturbances, and feral animal control will continue to be a priority in this area, including the development of new, innovative and alternate methods of feral animal control where necessary.
214	24	Supports the plan in terms of the management of introduced species.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
215	24	Supports the plan in terms of the high management priority assigned to feral pigs.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
216	24	Supports the plan in terms of the fostering of working relationships between community groups and DEC.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
217	24	Suggests Red Deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> ) is added to Table 9.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Table 9 has been amended to include this species, as it is present in the planning area.
218	24	Concerned about reduction of access that would compromise feral pig control activities.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Biodiversity, ecological communities and natural processes are to be protected in wilderness area from unnatural disturbances, and feral animal control will continue to be a priority in this area, including the development of new, innovative and alternate methods of feral animal control where necessary.
219	24	Suggests that dogs be allowed to be used to facilitate hunting of feral pigs, with appropriate controls such as permits and training to find and bail up pigs but not physically attacking pigs.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended to permit dogs in the planning area to facilitate the control of feral pigs with appropriate training and permits.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
220	26	Suggests the management of invasive species is a priority in the region.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is one of the priorities for managing the natural environment in the planning area (see preamble on page 34).
221	26	Suggests the management of invasive species requires coordination with adjoining landholder groups.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Strategy 8 covers this point.
222	26	Suggests the management of invasive species requires ongoing research and implementation of invasive species management plans.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Strategy 11 covers this point.
223	26	Supports the plan in terms of (i) the management of introduced species, (ii) the high management priority assigned to feral pigs, and (iii) the fostering of working relationships between community groups and DEC.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
224	26	Suggests Red Deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> ) is added to Table 9.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Table 9 has been amended to include this species, as it is present in the planning area.
225	26	Concerned about reduction of access that would compromise feral pig control activities.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Biodiversity, ecological communities and natural processes are to be protected in wilderness area from unnatural disturbances, and feral animal control will continue to be a priority in this area, including the development of new, innovative and alternate methods of feral animal control where necessary.
226	26	Suggests that dogs be allowed to be used to facilitate hunting of feral pigs, with appropriate controls such as permits and training to find and bail up pigs but not physically attacking pigs.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended to permit dogs in the planning area to facilitate the control of feral pigs with appropriate training and permits.
227	30	Supports the maintenance of the control of feral animals, particularly the fox, cat and pig.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
228	30	Suggests that feral bees be "reduced from the area".	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  While strategy 5 focuses on eradicating feral honeybees from around recreation sites, the strategy has been adjusted to include "...and across the planning area".
229	31	Suggests adding a point about encouraging high quality construction and maintenance of adequate fencing on private property to restrict introduced animals from straying into the proposed park.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is outside the responsibility of DEC and the role of the management plan.
230	31	Suggests adding a point about enforcing compliance with the requirement to prevent straying stock.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is outside the responsibility of DEC and the role of the management plan.
231	31	Suggests adding a point about promoting cat caveats to be placed on titles adjacent to and nearby the proposed park.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is outside the responsibility of DEC and the role of the management plan.
232	37	Concerned about the possible detrimental impacts on wilderness areas from increased feral animal invasion, especially the feral pig which is already known to be inhabiting the wilderness area and will be able to roam with much less control or trapping occurring, and suggests the closure of large areas for wilderness should not be considered until this impact on the two proposed wilderness areas can be measured.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The lack of information should not be used to delay implementation of actions that protect remote and natural areas. Management actions can still be undertaken to control feral animals in wilderness areas.
233	40	Suggests on page 82 no stocking of trout on or upstream of conservation lands, given the purposes of these reserves, using the EPBC Act.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This suggestion will be taken on board in the establishment of guidelines by DEC and the Conservation Commission.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
234	40	Questions on page 85 why management of feral animals is any different in a wilderness area and why another section is needed.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Specific management of wilderness areas is covered under Section 13, and the plan has been amended to delete, where relevant, all subheadings for wilderness in other sections of the plan.
235	43	Concerned that the plan does not make provision for the use of dogs to aid in feral animal control, particularly with feral pigs, and suggests that the plan identifies that the use of dogs by parties contracted to undertake feral animal control programs within the Walpole Wilderness be permitted.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended to permit dogs in the planning area to facilitate the control of feral pigs with appropriate training and permits.
236	53	Doesn't support the objective, and suggests it be amended to minimise, and where possible, eliminate problem animals in the planning area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  It may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate many introduced and other problem animals. However, the plan contains strategies aimed at eradication of new introduced and other problem animals, which may be possible.
237	53	Suggests a further KPI that there should be no increase in the number of populations and the numbers of introduced and other problem animals (not just feral pigs) in the planning area, and preferably a decrease.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The suggested KPI would be extremely difficult to measure, and may not be as effective for feral animal species that do not have a higher priority for control or that do not impact as much on key values.
<b>Diseases</b>				
238	3	Questions whether other <i>Phytophthora</i> sp. in the region have been assessed for risk.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  There are eight species of <i>Phytophthora</i> in Western Australia and, while <i>P. cinnamomi</i> , is the most damaging often causing major permanent change in ecosystems it infects, the other species (e.g. <i>P. megasperma</i> , <i>P. citricola</i> , <i>P. drechsleri</i> , and <i>P. cryptogea</i> ) generally cause only very localised and minor damage in native vegetation, which often recovers fully. The plan has been amended to cover these other species.
239	3	Suggests that we need to get much more serious about <i>Phytophthora</i> control given that it is arguably the greatest threat to the area.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan highlights <i>Phytophthora</i> as one of the greatest threats to ecosystems, and proposes new strategies for management.
240	3	Suggests that there needs to be more research and resourcing.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan already highlights the need for further research on the distribution and impacts of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> .
241	29	Concerned that clearing of firebreaks significantly affects the soils and vegetation of the area and creates a high risk of <i>P. cinnamomi</i> infection, and suggests that no fire suppression equipment be permitted into unaffected areas.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  <i>P. cinnamomi</i> management is built into fire suppression methodologies to minimise risk. Decisions to use fire suppression equipment to establish fireline is balanced against the risk of disease spread and potential impacts of fire on a case by case basis. Fire break maintenance is dealt with by hygiene prescriptions focussed on minimising risk of introduction or spread.
242	40	Questions on page 89 where the protectable areas are located and why they are not shown on Figure 5.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  An assessment of protectable areas has not been undertaken to date as a strategic analysis of dieback occurrence across the area has only just been completed. The plan suggests a management approach that will be undertaken over the life of the plan.
243	40	Questions on page 92 second paragraph why disease has not been mapped.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  Mapping of disease occurrence has been principally associated with timber harvesting and, as this activity has historically been restricted to pockets in the west of the planning area and mapping is a very resource intensive activity, a substantial portion of the planning area has not been mapped. However, a strategic analysis of dieback occurrence across the area has only just been completed.

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244	51	Concerned that the plan overlooks the role of fire in facilitating the spread of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> , where fire removes the organic matter from the soil surface permitting solar radiation to heat moist soils providing ideal conditions for the rapid reproduction of <i>P. cinnamomi</i> .	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  It has been noted in the plan that fire can reduce ground cover and remove organic matter from the soil, which can alter soil microbial and nutritional status, affect soil radiation and therefore soil temperature, and can locally affect soil water relations due to a decrease in evapotranspiration for a short period after fire. These conditions are present for a short period and can favour the development of <i>P. cinnamomi</i> if it is on site. This may contribute to heightened impact on susceptible vegetation occurring on that site. However, greater soil moisture and higher inoculum levels in the soil would also increase the likelihood of surface and subsurface movement of the pathogen.
245	53	Supports the objective.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
246	53	Suggests "uninfected areas" are included in the protection of threatened species and communities and protectable areas in the objective because not trying to protect uninfected areas even if they are not identified as protectable is an abdication of DEC's legal obligations.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan still protects uninfested areas through the listed strategies, but makes a clear priority for protection of protectable areas because protection of these specific areas is likely to be more strategic and successful.
247	53	Supports the means of achieving the objective.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
248	53	Suggests amendment to KPI 24.1 target to include within "uninfected areas".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The level of knowledge about all uninfested areas is low because detailed fieldwork is required, whereas smaller parcels of strategic protectable areas can be identified and monitored over the life of the plan. However, the focus on a KPI that provides a better indication of whether the situation is getting better or worse has led to the development of two new KPIs: 24.1 to measure "The identification and establishment of protectable areas that are a priority for protection" with its target of "Protectable areas that are a priority for protection have been identified and established", and 24.2 to measure "Development of further dieback KPIs" with its target of "Further dieback KPIs have been developed" within 2 years.
249	53	Suggests that, in KPI 24.1, all uninfected and protectable areas should have a priority for protection.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The level of knowledge about all uninfested areas is low because detailed fieldwork is required, whereas smaller parcels of strategic protectable areas can be identified and monitored over the life of the plan.
<b>Fire</b>				
250	5	Concerned that Table 13 does not adequately describe the threat of wildfire to the Townsite of Nornalup, and that no consideration has been given to the "Community Risk" factor given the delay in implementation of a number of burns (F405, F407 and WNHB14) and pressure from the South Coast Environment Group.	1(e), 2(c)	Noted. First part of comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity. Second part of comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Table 13 has been deleted.  The 'community risk factor' is also an operational issue that should be addressed through the Master Burn Plan process, which takes into account the community risk factor, and community consultation, where the opportunity to adjust the burn program through public input is available prior to each burn season.
251	5	Requests that the appropriate authority undertake prescribed burning in the F405, F407 and WNHB14 areas to protect the Nornalup community from wildfire.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is an operational issue that should be addressed through the Master Burn Plan process and community consultation.
252	13	Concerned about bush fire management in relation to the need for ongoing fuel reduction programmes to protect not only the Wilderness Area but also adjacent land.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The Master Burn Plan process provides for ongoing fuel reduction for a variety of purposes including protection of biodiversity and community values. Operational outputs of the Master Burn Plan process are the 'rolling three-year' indicative burn program and 'annual' burn program that are reviewed and updated twice each year to account for work completed or postponed due to difficulty in safely achieving burn objectives, the occurrence of wildfire and improving conservation knowledge.
253	14	Supports this section including the community involvement process and strategies.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.

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254	14	Questions the establishment of forest conservation areas surrounded by freehold land where there is a likely higher obligation to manage fire risk to surrounding communities.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government. However, the risk to surrounding communities is an operational issue that should be addressed through the Master Burn Plan process, which takes into account the community risk factor.
255	16	Strongly opposed to the establishment of any eucalypt high forest as a National Park in which the Management Plan makes no provision for the replacement and renewal of that forest.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Old growth forest (the tree component) is a fraction of the natural seral progression and will collapse and regenerate in time. Fire may or may not be a contributing factor to this change of state.
256	20	Strongly supports the need for an active prescribed burn throughout the area over the life of the plan.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
257	20	Supports the statement that fire is both essential for conservation of biodiversity and is capable of threatening biodiversity, life and community assets.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
258	20	Supports view on aboriginal fire history.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
259	20	Supports the principle that no single regime is optimal for all species of flora or fauna.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
260	20	Supports the principle that low intensity fires and resulting mosaics are beneficial to fauna.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
261	20	Supports the recognition of the "Showgrounds" grasslands and the need for a suitable fire regime for this area.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
262	20	Strongly rejects the notion that historical burning is no longer relevant in all areas, and suggests that wilderness and national park areas should attempt to continue the values that existed prior to European interference.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Society and the landscape within which we live, has changed considerably since the exploration and settlement of Europeans, and fire management now has to take this into account in managing for natural, cultural and a range of other values.
263	20	Suggests that doubling the burn time of the slowest maturing fire sensitive species is conservative.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The application of the precautionary principle assumes that if the more fire sensitive biota persists then less fire sensitive biota should also continue to persist, and that each fire event is of an intensity sufficient to kill every plant on the site (which is not realistic). The plan says that this concept is a conservative guide to determining an appropriate interfire period.
264	20	Suggests that doubling the burn time of the slowest maturing fire sensitive species may have adverse effects on other species.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The application of the precautionary principle assumes that if the more fire sensitive biota persists then less fire sensitive biota should also continue to persist, and that each fire event is of an intensity sufficient to kill every plant on the site (which is not realistic). The plan says that this concept is a conservative guide to determining an appropriate interfire period. The fire sensitive and threatened species and communities are of the most concern in managing for fire, and application of fire at an appropriate scale, season, intensity and frequency will ensure that unburnt patches remain.
265	20	Suggests that doubling the burn time of the slowest maturing fire sensitive species needs close scientific monitoring.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  There is routine post-burn monitoring undertaken, as well as a number of research trials monitoring this aspect of fire ecology, both within the planning area and across the south-west.
266	20	Suggests that regular low intensity fires provide a greater chance of parent plant survival.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Regular low intensity fires do provide a greater chance of parent plant survival, provided that the intensity of these fires is insufficient to kill the entire cohort of parent plants.

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267	20	Suggests that a balanced regime is essential for tingle forest while study is undertaken.	1(e), 2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan, but indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The Master Burn Plan process ensures a balanced approach is taken towards management of all ecosystems, including tingle forests. The following sentence has been added to the last paragraph on page 103 "The Master Burn Plan process will include assessment of the fire history of tingle and red flowering gum forests to ensure a spread of recently burnt through to long unburnt fuel ages will be maintained across the variety of these species associations at all times".
268	20	Suggests that at least some clear and litter free floor areas existed when the Thompsons brought their goods from Albany through tingle forests on bullock wagons.	2(b)	Noted. Comment offers a neutral statement or seeks no change.
269	20	Supports the restriction of areas with little or no burning to smaller areas of a suitable landform type and used for scientific research.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
270	27	Concerned that there is too much emphasis on the impact of fire on the understorey vegetation (which is known to be supremely well adapted to periodic fire) and does not appear likely to protect the forest from large high intensity wildfire.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Fire management needs to cater for all elements of the landscape/ecosystems including understorey vegetation, where many of the fire sensitive species are located. Most of the fuels available for wildfire are located in the understorey component of the landscape.
271	27	Concerned that the Regional Master Burn Plan does not say in detail in the plan how fire will be specifically applied to the wide range of conditions that exist in the Walpole Wilderness.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  Fixed zonings or programs in a plan have the disadvantage of being 'out-of-date' if they are changed and may require frequent amendments to the plan. In addition, for a plan this size, it is considered more effective and efficient to describe management in a strategic manner, which allows for the flexibility over time for adaptive management.
272	27	Concerned that there is no mention of the intense fires needed to regenerate senescent karri forests.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Old growth forest (the tree component) is a fraction of the natural seral progression and will collapse and regenerate in time. Fire may or may not be a contributing factor to this change of state.
273	27	Suggests changing "regimes, including prescribed burning since the 1960s, may have already contributed to changes in biodiversity" to "abandoning the regular burning practiced by aborigines and the early coastal graziers has already contributed to changes in the original biodiversity. Returning to the regimes of more frequent burning may assist in restoring the original biodiversity".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan already covers this historical perspective. Regimes need to consider the guidance provided by principles, the use of adaptive management, and management in a continually changing environment.
274	28	Concerned that fire fighting resources are concentrated at prescribed burn sites, which affects effective bush fire suppression capacity elsewhere and risks escapes from summer prescribed burning, and suggests that all prescribed burning during the dangerous summer months be halted and instead resources be concentrated on bush fire surveillance and rapid response suppression during the period from November to April.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  In 2005/06 less than 1% of wildfires, in all forest types, were due to escapes from prescribed burning. Less than 2% of wildfires were greater than 100ha. This performance is typical of previous years indicating that the balance of suppression resources to wildfire risk used by DEC is effective.
275	28	Suggests long unburnt areas within the planning area be excluded from the prescribed burning program and the Minister nominate and fund an independent body to monitor the litter or fuel loading in long unburnt forests and adjacent prescribed burnt areas over the life of the plan.	2(d), 2(c)	Noted. Part of the comment is already covered in the plan. Part of the comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Some long unburnt areas are excluded, but some don't meet the criteria. Diversity in fuel ages is fostered by the Master Burn Plan process, including the long unburnt Fire Exclusion Reference Areas. Monitoring of fuel loads by an independent body is a matter for the Minister.

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276	28	Suggests an independent body monitor <i>Phytophthora</i> and the health of forests, flora and fauna in prescribed burnt and long unburnt forests of similar types.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The Bushfire CRC project is examining a range of environmental attributes in areas that have experienced differing fire regimes over the past 3 decades. The results of the CRC research project will be published in peer reviewed scientific journals. DEC's performance in these and other issues addressed by management plans is audited and reviewed by the Conservation Commission, an independent body reporting directly to the Minister for the Environment.
277	28	Suggests that core samples of tingle, karri and jarrah be taken in different areas to establish a fire history prior to prescribed burning.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  There are vagaries associated with this technique and it is not reliable for determining long term fire history.
278	28	Suggests that an independent body investigate the present fuel load monitoring method used by DEC in an attempt to gauge the appropriateness it has, particularly as it is apparent at present that an open understorey long unburnt leaf floor forest is considered to have a vastly higher fuel loading than a post prescribed burn forest with dense understorey species 3-4m tall.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Litter fuels do have a much higher loading than understorey shrub fuels because they are more compact. This is well established through research. However, understorey fuel does make a significant contribution to fire behaviour because of its arrangement and aerated condition. This is taken into account by scrub flammability factors used in the Forest Fire Behaviour Tables, and is recognised in the fuel hazard assessment techniques developed during Project Vesta. Fuel sampling methodologies used by DEC are underpinned by extensive published research by scientists from DEC, CSIRO and a number of tertiary institutions, and are recognised as best practice by the international scientific community.
279	28	Suggests that it be recognised that fuel levels in South west forests have developed over thousands of years so that they decline over time, and suggests that DEC not destroy this evidence through the targeting and not providing genuine bushfire protection for these areas, such as the long unburnt Rates Tingle in Soho block.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Research, including from Project Vesta, has determined that forest ecosystems accumulate combustible material (fuel) over time in accordance with a positive exponential curve that tends to plateau dependent on forest type and site productivity variables. The plateau fuel load is sufficient to support extreme fire behaviour under typical summer conditions in all forest types in the Walpole Wilderness. If fire was to be removed from the ecosystems of the Walpole Wilderness, fuels would accumulate and an unacceptable risk of high intensity, ecologically damaging wildfires would occur.
280	29	Suggests from Figure 6 that the stabilisation of fauna correlates to the stabilisation of flora and that a stable forest ecosystem emerges about 20 years after fire, and on this basis areas not essential to prescribed burning (i.e. areas over 5kms from human settlement) be left unburnt so they become stable and less flammable, which is likely to reduce fire intensity more effectively than frequent prescribed burns.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Figure 6 illustrates the post fire abundance of a selection of species, which demonstrates that different species of fauna require different structural habitats that are closely associated with post fire seral stages. Diversity of vegetation structure (and therefore post fire seral stages) spatially and temporally across the landscape provides resilience to the ecosystems and biota of the Walpole Wilderness. Changes in arrangement of fuel and in the relative contribution of litter, understorey shrubs and woody fuels do take place. Bark continues to accumulate on rough barked tree species for many decades.  Research, including from Project Vesta, has determined that forest ecosystems accumulate combustible material (fuel) over time in accordance with a positive exponential curve that tends to plateau dependent on forest type and site productivity variables. The plateau fuel load is sufficient to support extreme fire behaviour under typical summer conditions in all forest types in the Walpole Wilderness. If fire was to be removed from the ecosystems of the Walpole Wilderness, fuels would accumulate and an unacceptable risk of high intensity, ecologically damaging wildfires would occur.
281	29	Suggests areas that have not been burnt for over 30 years be indicated on Map 10.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The fire history/fuel age information will change over the life of the plan, and hence this map has been deleted from the plan. This information is available through the Master Burn Plan process, where knowledge about specific areas exists.
282	29	Suggests areas that have not been burnt for over 30 years be identified as 'control' areas for study.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Guidelines for Fire Exclusion Reference Areas determine the locations and extent of long unburnt areas that are identified as potential areas for study and excluded from prescribed burning.

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283	29	Concerned the section on granite outcrops appears contradictory, and suggests that if one granite outcrop community does not recover well from fire then other granite communities might also be negatively affected.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The sensitivity of species and communities to fire varies depending on the types of species and communities present on individual rock outcrops, the frequency, patchiness and intensity of fires, and whether dieback is present on the site or not. Occasional (15-45 years), patchy and low-moderate intensity fires are necessary for the maintenance of floristic and structural diversity of heathlands, shrublands and woodlands on outcrops.
284	34	Suggests the fine grain mosaic be considered as an option for use in the plan instead of waiting for the long term outcome of the research trial.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  In the absence of definitive knowledge, the collective fire science wisdom suggests that the fine grain, fire induced mosaic approach is ecologically sound and should be applied more widely. The plan suggests that fire management in the planning area will be reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted in response to research results, which may allow this regime to be applied more widely within the planning area during the life of this plan.
285	34	Concerned that the closure of many strategic roads hinders prevention of large uncontrollable fires, which puts fire-sensitive species at risk.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Very few roads are proposed to be closed in the plan, and only those associated with the two proposed wilderness areas. However, there are a number of effective strategies to limit the potential size and impact of wildfires. Reducing access in concert with reducing the extent of or increasing the interfire period of prescribed fire will significantly increase the risk of unacceptable wildfire.
286	37	Concerned about the possible detrimental impacts on wilderness areas from increased fire regime and its effect, and suggests the closure of large areas for wilderness should not be considered until this impact on the two proposed wilderness areas can be measured.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The lack of information should not be used to delay implementation of actions that protect remote and natural areas. Management actions can still be undertaken to manage fire and biodiversity in wilderness areas.
287	40	Suggests there is too much background information just to say that fuel reduction will continue.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC and Conservation Commission consider that plans need to provide an appropriate level of background information about policy, theory and, where relevant, history, particularly on such a complex, controversial and developing area of managing fire for biodiversity.
288	40	Suggests in the fourth dot point on page 110 that the "vice versa" situation also applies (i.e that the managed fuels in surrounding blocks will also prevent fire from entering the wilderness).	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended to reflect this situation.
289	40	Suggests a map of what is going to be burnt be included, even if it is only an indication over 5 years.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Detailed maps outlining a three year burn program are presented to the public each year, and it is considered inappropriate for a strategic plan over the medium term to show this level of detail, which may be subject to continual change.
290	41	Suggests the fire section not be used as a forum for prescribed burning.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC and Conservation Commission consider that plans need to provide an appropriate level of background information about policy, theory and practice, particularly on such a complex, controversial and developing area of managing fire for biodiversity.
291	41	Suggests reference to the Balga hypothesis should be deleted as there are ongoing differences of academic opinion and it confuses the threat to biodiversity from inappropriate fire management.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The last two sentences of the first paragraph on page 97 have been replaced with "Fire history research utilising balga stem analysis techniques has indicated that parts of the south-west of WA were exposed to fire over a short rotation prior to European settlement (Ward <i>et al.</i> 2001, Lamont <i>et al.</i> 2003). Further research (Burrows and Wardell-Johnson 2003, Enright <i>et al.</i> 2005, Wells, Hopper and Dickson 2004) has questioned the validity of the balga technique (and its widespread application) and highlighted the need for validation using alternative methods such as remote sensing and examination of fire occurrence records. Debate on differing conclusions is not uncommon in an area of active scientific research. Further research, including rigorous testing of the method across a variety of sites, is required before firm conclusions can be drawn about the validity of the technique and the inferred fire history associated with the results of stem analysis".



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292	41	Suggests it is totally irrelevant today what traditional Aboriginal burning practices were pre European settlement.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  DEC and Conservation Commission consider that plans need to provide an appropriate level of background information about policy, theory and, where relevant, history, particularly on such a complex, controversial and developing area of managing fire for biodiversity.
293	41	Suggests the recommendations of the January 2005 COAG report be implemented, in particular the "zoning" principle that coupled to a rigorous risk analysis process will challenge the current simplistic and flawed annual area burnt target approach to prescribed burning.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The principles of rigorous risk analysis are used in the Master Burn Plan process to determine the appropriate rolling annual burn program.
294	41	Suggests that a Key Performance Indicator for biodiversity protection be developed for prescribed burning operations.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Most of the KPIs in the plan relate to prescribed burning and the values that are being managed. It is not appropriate to have a KPI in the plan for specific operations, which also have their own specific monitoring requirements.
295	42	Concerned that the plan suggests that tingle forest should be managed with a low frequency fire regime could lead to significant biological damage, and suggests a stronger statement of intent on fire management in tingle forests to remove ambiguity as to what the plan suggests is appropriate, such as saying that (i) fuels need to be managed to acceptable levels, (ii) prescribed fire should be used to undertake this, (iii) stem damage should be minimised, and (iv) fire sensitive values be considered in developing prescribed fire plans.	1(e), 2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan, although the comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan contains sufficient statements about management of fuel loads (under the Master Burn Plan process) and reviewing burning practices in the tingle forest types. The following sentence has been added to the last paragraph on page 103 "The Master Burn Plan process will include assessment of the fire history of tingle and red flowering gum forests to ensure a spread of recently burnt through to long unburnt fuel ages will be maintained across the variety of these species associations at all times".
296	42	Suggests deleting the second sentence on page 105 paragraph 5 because this approach is still embryonic and too early to be introduced into the plan, and would raise expectations and continue to provide uncertainty about how fire is managed.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Reference to developing regimes based on Fauna Habitat Types has been deleted from the plan.
297	42	Concerned it would be difficult in practice to obtain the Director General's permission for mechanised access in wilderness areas, suggesting it would be better to develop guidelines for mechanised access acceptable to the Director General that will be applied to all fire suppression operations in wilderness areas.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Policy 62 is explicit in requiring the Director General's approval.
298	42	Suggests in Table 13 that the plan needs to be consistent in describing the "acceptable outcomes", as some are described as potential impacts of fire.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The table has been deleted from the plan.
299	46	Suggests there needs to be specific, accessible records of whether burn prescriptions are directed to and do achieve sustainability of local populations of fire sensitive species at the individual FMU level and that this would be needed well ahead of the "after 5 year" reporting timeframe.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Burn prescriptions take into account the occurrence of populations of fire sensitive species across a broader scale. Any impact on a population at the FMU level is weighed against the impact on the species across the broader level.
300	46	Suggests the advice in the 'Supplement' is incorporated in the final management plan.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended with advice contained in the 'Supplement'.

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301	46	Suggests that wilderness areas deserve special and timely consideration and enhanced resource allocation in the Indicative Burn Program to arrive at a prescription that is consistent with the purposes in the plan.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The Master Burn Plan process is a tool that can be managed to provide special attention to specific areas of value such as wilderness areas, recreation sites and areas with high conservation value. A multitude of factors need to be taken into account that influence what strategies and tactics are utilised in managing fire in wilderness areas. As such, the plan has been amended to include a general statement that the Department will manage fire in wilderness areas through a range of strategies and tactics in accordance with Department's policies, including consideration of longer inter-fire intervals within wilderness areas and shorter inter-fire intervals in surrounding areas. The last paragraph on page 109 has also been amended by adding "The introduction of fire into wilderness areas will be planned and managed within the Master Burn Plan process. The Master Burn Plan process will focus on achieving ongoing fire management that protects the natural values and ecological processes of the area and surrounding areas".
302	46	Concerned about progress towards the new direction, and suggests the fire section be revised to give a clearer picture as to whether or not the apparent internal tensions are being resolved in a way that provides clear and readily audited direction to the Conservation Commission, DEC staff and the public.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While fire management may be controversial in some areas, DEC's Fire Policy No. 19 provides clear direction for fire management. There are many current documents that have been developed and new documents that are being prepared that contribute to burn planning.
303	47	Suggests rewriting the fire section and immediate implementation of (i) the COAG findings, particularly those relating to a 'zoning approach', (ii) EPA (2004) recommendations, (iii) the Minister's calls for review into Tingle and Ficifolia burning practices, (iv) the protection of remaining long unburnt areas.	1(e), 2(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity, although the comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The principles of rigorous risk analysis are used in the Master Burn Plan process to determine the appropriate rolling annual burn program. A review of tingle and ficifolia burning practices is a strategy that the plan will address. The following sentence has been added to the last paragraph on page 103 "The Master Burn Plan process will include assessment of the fire history of tingle and red flowering gum forests to ensure a spread of recently burnt through to long unburnt fuel ages will be maintained across the variety of these species associations at all times".
304	47	Concerned that, while logging no longer occurs, other factors such as inappropriate fire regimes still threaten the area's biodiversity and the structure of forests, heaths and woodlands.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This point is repeated throughout the fire section.
305	51	Suggests current fire regimes will need to be reviewed in the light of basic research findings on its impact on fauna and organic soils, and suggests biodiversity should be the priority.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  These points are covered in the fire section.
306	53	Concerned the fire section is too long, amounts to de-facto publication of unpublished and unrefereed material, and is an apology for DEC's prescribed burning of the Walpole Wilderness, and suggests the section refer to DEC's fire management policy and then link the specifics of the Walpole Wilderness to that policy.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC and Conservation Commission consider that plans need to provide an appropriate level of background information about policy, theory and, where relevant, history, particularly on such a complex, controversial and developing area of managing fire for biodiversity. It is considered that a sufficient level of detail is provided for a strategic level management plan.
307	53	Concerned that management of the Walpole Wilderness is still dictated by forest blocks that have nothing to do with ecology and should not dictate fire management in the Walpole Wilderness, and suggests new fire management areas be developed even if this means closing and rehabilitating existing roads and tracks and establishing new ones.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The management unit boundaries are predicated on access, and access has historically been established on alignments that lend themselves to all weather trafficability. Effective management of many issues requires some degree of access to the land to undertake operations, such as safe ignition and wildfire suppression, weed and feral animal control, etc. Fire management often uses unit boundaries that are smaller than blocks where there is sufficient access and reason to do so (such as for Townsite protection or habitat regeneration). Establishing new access may cause unnecessary disturbance.

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308	53	Concerned questionable material that has no place in the plan, particularly the pseudo-science about the frequency of Aboriginal burning that is presented as fact, and research that supports prescribed burning is included whereas research that indicates the contrary is not such as the research that shows that frequent fires may reduce the numbers of invertebrates by up to 50% and remove the decomposers from the ecosystem with serious adverse consequences for ecological sustainability.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan is not intended to be a review of fire, but rather contains relevant scientific information supporting the intent of the plan. With regard to the paragraph about the frequency of aboriginal burning (first paragraph on page 97), the last two sentences have been replaced with "Fire history research utilising balga stem analysis techniques has indicated that parts of the south-west of WA were exposed to fire over a short rotation prior to European settlement (Ward <i>et al.</i> 2001, Lamont <i>et al.</i> 2003). Further research (Burrows and Wardell-Johnson 2003, Enright <i>et al.</i> 2005, Wells, Hopper and Dickson 2004) has questioned the validity of the balga technique (and its widespread application) and highlighted the need for validation using alternative methods such as remote sensing and examination of fire occurrence records. Debate on differing conclusions is not uncommon in an area of active scientific research. Further research, including rigorous testing of the method across a variety of sites, is required before firm conclusions can be drawn about the validity of the technique and the inferred fire history associated with the results of stem analysis."
309	53	Suggests the precautionary and adaptive approach taken to fire management should not be by the maintenance of a diversity of post-fire successional stages but by the retention of as much long-unburnt vegetation as possible for as long as possible.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The threat of serious and irreversible damage to species and ecosystems is greater by leaving areas to accumulate high fuel loads than in applying a balanced fire management regime within and surrounding the area of these species/ecosystems (e.g Nuys wildfire).
310	53	Disagrees with fire in wilderness being acceptable to achieve biodiversity outcomes and that prescribed fire will be routinely applied to wilderness areas to manage fuel accumulation rates (page 109), and suggests a precautionary and adaptive approach to fire management be taken in wilderness areas by the retention of as much long-unburnt vegetation as possible for as long as possible.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested approach is neither precautionary nor adaptive and may be contrary to Policy 62 by threatening biodiversity. However, a multitude of factors need to be taken into account that influence what strategies and tactics are utilised in managing fire in wilderness areas. As such, the plan has been amended to include a general statement that the Department will manage fire in wilderness areas through a range of strategies and tactics in accordance with Department's policies, including consideration of longer inter-fire intervals within wilderness areas and shorter inter-fire intervals in surrounding areas.
311	53	Disagrees with the acceptable outcome in relation to natural values (page 111), and suggests that the loss may be irreparable with recovery, regeneration, translocation and rehabilitation impossible even in the long term.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The table has been deleted from the plan.
312	53	Concerned the "Wildfire Threat Analysis" is not a risk assessment and the section does not take into account the Fire Management Policy's reference to the AS/NZS 4360 Risk Management as the basis for its approach to wildfire risk management, and suggests the Conservation Commission conduct a proper risk assessment of the Walpole Wilderness.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The Wildfire Threat Analysis is a risk assessment and meets Australian Standard 4360, as it contains the essential elements of risk assessment, although doesn't appear as the same structure as the Australian Standard.
313	53	Suggests inclusion of the scientific principles in the plan.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This information is readily available as part of the Department's Fire Management Policy and in the Burrows and Abbott (2003) reference.
314	53	Concerned second dot point on page 114 is misleading and that not all the planning area is fire prone, and suggests changing.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This sentence has been amended to include the word "generally" before "fire prone environment".
315	53	Concerned with fourth dot point on page 114 that after 40 years of prescribed burning at intervals of 10 years or less, any species that cannot survive fires at this frequency is likely to have disappeared, and that fire sensitive species may have been far more widely spread before frequent prescribed burning began.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  There is no evidence in fire ecology research in WA forest ecosystems to suggest that historical prescribed burning regimes have damaged these ecosystems in any way. Long term research studies suggest that no species has ceased to persist or has exhibited a trend toward local extinction. There is evidence that ecosystems exposed to large scale, severe wildfires require long periods to recover and exhibit pre-fire diversity. Not all parts of the Walpole Wilderness have been subject to prescribed fire at intervals of less than 10 years. The Bushfire CRC project is investigating how ecosystems have responded to different fire regimes over the past 3 decades and will directly address this issue.

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316	53	Concerned with fifth dot point on page 114 that the word "frequent" is not defined anywhere, DEC regards less than 10 years as frequent for all ecosystems and yet more than once every 500+ years for some ecosystems such as peatlands may be too frequent. Suggests infrequent (once every 200 years) very large intense fires were the norm prior to the arrival of Europeans judging from evidence of fire scars.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  It is important to distinguish between the frequency with which fire may be introduced to a landscape by lightning, accidental ignition or planned fire, and the frequency with which an individual point or locality in that landscape will burn. For example, fire may be introduced at intervals of 8-10 years into a management area, but it is unlikely that all of the area will burn - unless the fire occurs in late summer/early autumn and is very intense. Areas such as wet creeks, rock outcrops and swamps often don't burn during prescribed fires.
317	53	Suggests with the sixth dot point on page 114 that the word "seral" is defined in the Glossary.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A definition of 'seral stage' (The developmental stages of an ecological succession) has been incorporated into the Glossary.
318	53	Suggests with the sixth dot point on page 114 that the aim should be to have long intervals between fires as there are large areas of most ecotypes outside the conservation estate where diversity of seral stages can be found.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Attempting to keep large areas of the Walpole Wilderness free of fire for periods of several decades or longer will inevitably mean that large, intense fires will occur under dry summer conditions. This will make it difficult to protect more fire sensitive sites within the landscape.
319	53	Concerned with the sixth dot point on page 114 that patchiness is unable to be achieved on an ecosystem level because prescribed burns aim to achieve 80-90% burn cover and some ecosystems are completed burnt out, and suggests this is why prescribed burning in the planning area should be kept to a minimum.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Patchiness tends to be greater with increasing scale. For individual ecosystems, even if the aim within a FMU is 80% coverage, an individual ecosystem can still be protected from fire if that is the desired aim of management.
320	53	Concerned with the seventh dot point on page 114 that repeated burning at short intervals (less than 10-20 years, depending on the ecosystem) is more harmful to many ecosystems than severe wildfires at longer intervals.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  There is no evidence in fire ecology research in WA forest ecosystems to suggest that historical prescribed burning regimes have damaged these ecosystems in any way. Long term research studies suggest that no species has ceased to persist or has exhibited a trend toward local extinction. There is evidence that ecosystems exposed to large scale, severe wildfires require long periods to recover and exhibit pre-fire diversity and there are many negative consequences for biodiversity and other environmental values including water quality. There is well documented evidence of this from recent large wildfires in the jarrah and karri forests (eg. Nuyts 2001, Mt Cooke 2003, Perth Hills 2005, Murray Valley 2006).
321	53	Suggests with the eighth dot point on page 114 and the first action on page 115 that fire management in the Walpole Wilderness (especially wilderness areas) should receive special attention rather than just be part of the overall Master Burn Plan process.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The Master Burn Plan process is a tool that can be managed to provide special attention to specific areas of value such as wilderness areas, recreation sites and areas with high conservation value. A multitude of factors need to be taken into account that influence what strategies and tactics are utilised in managing fire in wilderness areas. As such, the plan has been amended to include a general statement that the Department will manage fire in wilderness areas through a range of strategies and tactics in accordance with Department's policies, including consideration of longer inter-fire intervals within wilderness areas and shorter inter-fire intervals in surrounding areas. The last paragraph on page 109 has also been amended by adding "The introduction of fire into wilderness areas will be planned and managed within the Master Burn Plan process. The Master Burn Plan process will focus on achieving ongoing fire management that protects the natural values and ecological processes of the area and surrounding areas".
322	53	Concerned with the eighth dot point on page 114 that there is no community input into the strategic Master Burn Plan process at the level of whether or not a burn will take place at all, and that there is very little at any other level.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Burn programs need to be put together (using a variety of information, tools, input from managers etc) before they can be commented on by the community. The burn program is influenced by the community on an annual basis.
323	53	Suggests with the ninth dot point on page 114 that it is preferable not to attempt to contain wildfires in wilderness areas if they cannot be contained by rapid initial attack because of the enormous damage caused by on-ground fire fighting, and suggests that wildfires in wilderness areas be left to burn themselves out.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The suggested approach is inconsistent with the Department Policy 19 and Policy 62. Each incident will be treated on its merits and in accordance with these policies.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
324	53	Suggests the objective be "to protect and conserve the biodiversity of ecosystems and to protect other significant community assets and human life, as (i) fire does not "promote" biodiversity, (ii) not all community assets merit protection from fire, and (iii) biodiversity is a significant community asset.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The objective has been changed to ".to protect and promote the conservation of biodiversity and natural values and to protect human life and community assets", consistent with Departmental policy.
325	53	Concerned with the second action on page 115 that the retention of a diversity of post-fire seral stages within the Walpole Wilderness should not be a priority as the short term seral stages are well represented in State forest, and suggests the aim should be to achieve and maintain long unburnt areas.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The aim is for a range of post-fire seral stages, and large areas of long unburnt seral stages are likely to be more damaging to the natural environment as well as community values.
326	53	Suggests with the third action on page 115 that since all ecosystems are at risk from climate change they should all be treated as threatened requiring careful, precautionary fire management.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Precautionary fire management in the context of climate change should focus on maintaining as much diversity (both spatial and temporal) in time since fire, season of fire, intensity of fire and patchiness grain size. This will promote and maintain a wide variety of habitat niches resulting in higher ecosystem robustness and the greatest probability of species persisting in the face of climate change.  This action has been subsequently deleted, as it is covered in other actions.
327	53	Concerned with the fifth action on page 115 that the plan gives highest priority to a single species, karri, at the expense of all other components of the ecosystem, and suggests that immature pre-logging karri regrowth must be left to take its chances and given no more protection from wildfire than any other component of the ecosystem.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Karri is a major component of the overstorey and has significant biological value. Karri younger than about 25 years is fire sensitive and can be killed by moderate to high intensity fire. It takes more than 30 years to set seed, so being killed young would result in major impacts on forest structure and therefore habitat diversity. Protection of young karri has very little to do with its potential merchantable value at a timber species. Because of its contiguous and clumpy distribution there are significant fire risks associated with karri regrowth in terms of wildfire impacts - these areas need special attention because of these risks. However, the plan has been amended to provide priority protection of other significant natural values (such as threatened flora, fauna and communities) over young karri regrowth unless these other values do not occur adjacent to regrowth areas.
328	53	Disagrees with the proposals for fire management in wilderness areas on page 115 sixth action item and that 60-80% burnout of the conservation estate, and suggests that (i) routine prescribed burning of wilderness areas not be allowed, (ii) achieving fine-grained mosaics using aerial ignition is virtually impossible, and (iii) only fires started by lightning should be allowed in wilderness areas, which should be allowed to burn themselves out.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested approaches are inconsistent with Department Policy 62. However, a multitude of factors need to be taken into account that influence what strategies and tactics are utilised in managing fire in wilderness areas. As such, the plan has been amended to include a general statement that the Department will manage fire in wilderness areas through a range of strategies and tactics in accordance with Department's policies, including consideration of longer inter-fire intervals within wilderness areas and shorter inter-fire intervals in surrounding areas. The last paragraph on page 109 has also been amended by adding "The introduction of fire into wilderness areas will be planned and managed within the Master Burn Plan process. The Master Burn Plan process will focus on achieving ongoing fire management that protects the natural values and ecological processes of the area and surrounding areas".
329	53	Suggests with action 9 on page 115 that a proper risk assessment of the planning area by independent experts be carried out.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  A Wildfire Threat Analysis has already been completed, and is routinely considered during the Master Burn Plan process.
330	53	Concerned with action 10 on page 115 that standards appropriate for roads and tracks in State forest are unlikely to be appropriate for the conservation estate.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Standards relate to the level of access required. The plan (page 133) advocates maintenance of only strategic access for management purposes or for recreational use.
331	53	Concerned with action 12 on page 115 that DEC's education tends to be propaganda that supports the fire management policies and practices using pseudo-history and pseudo-science, and suggests any new education program incorporate the most progressive elements of the old DoE's education program.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC will continue to inform the community of fire policy and practices.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
332	53	Concerned with action 13 on page 115 that DEC has never allowed the public to have any real input into burn programs, and suggests this must begin now to engage in genuine public consultation/participation/community engagement.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC has a proactive community program that will continue to engage public input into burn programs.
333	53	Suggests performance measure 25.1 be "The extent of long unburnt areas of all vegetation types", and target 25.1 be "To maintain as much long unburnt vegetation for as long as possible, consistent with reasonable protection for human life in settlements adjacent to or within the planning area".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The existing performance measure can still account for long unburnt vegetation within the diversity of post-fire seral stages. There is a greater risk that this performance measure would threaten the natural environment and community values if it promoted a less diverse post-fire seral stage that was weighted towards long unburnt vegetation.
334	53	Suggests performance measure 25.2 be "The impact on human life and significant (irreplaceable) community assets", and target 25.2 be "No loss of human life or significant (irreplaceable) community assets, including critically endangered species, or serious injury attributable to the Department's fire management, including its prescribed burn program".	1(e), 2(d)	Noted. Comment is already largely covered in the plan, but indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The word "human" has been included, but the other suggested amendments are already captured in this performance measure as well as KPI 25.4.
335	53	Suggests performance measure 25.3 be "The extent to which targets have been prepared for the fire management requirements of the various taxa and ecosystems within the planning area", target 25.3 be "Development of seral age targets for the various taxa and ecosystems within the planning area, with the emphasis on minimum burning", and reporting requirements be annually.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Developing the required information to enable this to be done for all taxa and ecosystems would be too difficult and detailed at this stage, where more general indicators are required. However, the performance measure for KPI 25.3 has been amended to "The extent to which fire management guidelines for significant habitats requiring specific fire regimes are addressed in burn objectives", and the target to "Burn objectives are met for significant habitats requiring specific fire regimes" so that operational plans can be tracked to better accommodate biodiversity outcomes.
336	53	Suggests performance measure 25.4 be "The persistence of all taxa within the planning area", and target 25.4 be "No loss of populations of any taxa within the planning area".	1(e), 2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible, but indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Developing the required information to enable this to be done for all taxa and ecosystems would be too difficult. However, the focus on a KPI that better accommodates biodiversity outcomes has led to the development of a new KPI performance measure to measure "The extent to which fire management guidelines have been prepared for significant habitats requiring specific fire regimes" and a target of "Development of published fire management guidelines for significant habitats requiring specific fire regimes".
<b>Part E. Managing Our Cultural Heritage</b>				
337	40	Suggests that, because this part is small compared to the other parts, cultural heritage will be managed much less.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The size of the section in the plan bears no relationship to the importance of and level at which cultural heritage is managed within the planning area.
<b>Indigenous Heritage</b>				
338	2	Applauds (i) the consideration of Indigenous heritage and related issues as part of the document, (ii) the involvement of Indigenous representatives in the management of the project areas, and (iii) the identification of a key objective and performance indicators which specifically relate to the protection and management of Indigenous heritage sites.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
339	3	Strongly supports this section.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
340	53	Supports the objective, the means by which it will be achieved, and the KPI.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
<b>Non-Indigenous Heritage</b>				
341	25	Wants the opportunity to preserve the many features and items found in the area dating back 120-140 years, such as hand-dug wells for water, post and rail horseyards, sheep holding pens, stone cairns and abandoned wagons.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The identification and protection of non-indigenous heritage is catered for in the plan, and specific details about new sites and locations should be discussed with appropriate local DEC managers.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
342	32	Concerned about the lack of key performance indicators for this section and that this might indicate a lack of commitment to get things done, and suggests a more definite statement be made that performance indicators will be set and progress evaluated.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A key performance indicator for this section has been included in the plan.
343	32	Suggests inclusion of a key point that recognises the contribution made by the ordinary hardy pioneers.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Reference to this point has been included in the plan.
344	32	Suggests the preservation of evidence remaining of the works of pioneers (such as the Darwin example of footprints with people's names along a walking path), and of local landmarks (e.g pine trees at Rest Point).	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in the plan in terms of the identification and protection of non-indigenous heritage, and in terms of incorporating information and interpretation into communication strategies for the area, which is partly seen in the development of the Walpole Wilderness Discovery Centre site at Swarbrick.
345	36	Concerned there was no recognition of the historical value that timber harvesting has played in the area.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in the plan on pages 121-124.
346	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
347	53	Suggests there should be a KPI for this section such as "Protection of known or identifiable heritage sites and values and no disturbance to these without formal approval".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A key performance indicator for this section has been included in the plan.
<b>Part F. Managing Visitor Use</b>				
<b>Visitor Opportunities</b>				
348	14	Concerned about the development and promotion of DEC sites without adequate consideration of the capacity of supporting local infrastructure, including the equitable distribution of resources to address the impacts particularly in terms of road conditions, waste and septage disposal.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  DEC will continue to maintain dialogue with local governments to ensure development of public utilities will have a common interest. DEC would support a call for additional resources.
349	17	Endorses the need to achieve a balance between the pressures to open up and develop areas versus preserve and protect them as wilderness.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
350	17	Suggests that the sustainability of the area would be enhanced further if visitors to the area were informed to a greater degree of the content of "Leave no Trace", minimal impact and the "Caring Code for the Bush".	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended by adding another strategy "liaising with Tread Lightly! Australia, Leave No Trace and other organisations to inform and promote responsible actions by visitors through various caring codes of practice to enhance the environmental sustainability of the planning area".
351	17	Suggests that specific materials could be developed for this area, as a "one strategy fits all" approach may not be in the best interests of the area.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended within section 28 to emphasise this point.
352	17	Suggests that a booking system be developed for the area where user groups are required to gain DEC approval to enter the area, inclusive of appropriate documentation, which would (i) prevent too many groups being in the area at the same time, (ii) assist in evacuation decisions and (iii) also allow for the collection of usage data.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  A booking system is just one of many specific control techniques for managing visitors. This technique is mentioned in the plan for camping, and also more generally for other recreation sites/activities if required.
353	36	Suggests tourism be required to be economically self sustaining.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is not the responsibility of DEC. Refer to the WA Tourism Commission.
354	36	Suggests that there should be monitoring of the economic benefits delivered by tourism.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is not the responsibility of DEC. Refer to the WA Tourism Commission.

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355	37	Suggests that the western side of the Deep River should not be inundated with tourism infrastructure, which should be spread more around the Walpole Wilderness to enhance the wilderness feel, the quality of experience and the impact on the local environment.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The management setting for this area aims at keeping recreation at a low to medium level. Recreation opportunities are spread across the Walpole Wilderness for the reasons stated, although recreation is concentrated in some areas to protect the more natural areas where only low level recreation is permitted.
356	47	Concerned that, while logging no longer occurs, other factors such as tourism developments still threaten the area's biodiversity and the structure of forests, heaths and woodlands.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This point is made in the preamble and through section 28.
357	50	Suggests that, while communication, product enhancement and marketing are important, the development of "visitor experience" is paramount and at the heart of sustainable nature based tourism, and suggests DEC uses the same guiding policy for tourism opportunities in the Nature Based Tourism Strategy for Western Australia that may arise as a result of the implementation of the plan.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan focuses on the development of the visitor experience, as well as the associated themes outlined in the Nature Based Tourism Strategy for WA model. However, the plan has been amended to include reference to the Strategy in the preamble.
358	53	Doesn't support the objective, and suggests it be amended to including an "and" between "experiences" and "to", and adding at the end "consistent with the protection and conservation of the biodiversity of the area".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The objective has been amended to "...experiences to the extent that they are consistent with conserving the natural and cultural values of the area and minimising conflict between visitors".
359	53	Supports the means by which the objective (as revised) will be achieved, and the KPI.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
360	53	Suggests that tourist infrastructure, other than minimal low-level recreation and interpretive facilities, should all be off-site.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  There is a need to cater for a full range of visitor experiences for a range of reasons from protecting the environment to providing opportunities that cannot be found elsewhere.
<b>Visitor Access</b>				
361	14	Suggests it is anticipated that some development will occur to the north east of Walpole and that the plan doesn't recognise the proposed key road linkage between Walpole Townsite and Allen Road.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This has been included in the access section of the plan, with reference to the section on utilities and services.
362	14	Suggests that Thomson Road be recognised for its significant current and historical connection between Walpole and Lake Muir communities.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This has been made more explicit in the access section of the plan.
363	14	Suggests that Thomson Road should be maintained to at least a 2WD unsealed standard.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This has been made more explicit in the access section of the plan.
364	14	Supports the closure and amalgamation of unmade and unused road reserves into the NP subject to Council and Ministerial endorsement.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
365	17	Suggests that four wheel drive vehicles be confined to made or gazetted roads because access beyond that is in conflict with the concept of "wilderness" (excluding emergencies).	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  There are few gazetted roads within the planning area. Most roads are publicly accessible to any and all vehicles, except for the few roads that are indicated to be closed to the public, although some areas may have a more remote/natural feel than others and some roads may have more particular usage than others.
366	37	Suggests that there should be no more road closures in the Ordance and Dawson blocks because of the need to cater for the valid recreational use for four wheel and two wheel driving.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Although there are very few roads proposed to be closed in the planning area, most roads and tracks that are not required for strategic access will be relegated, not maintained and left until they are required for some management purpose.
367	50	Supports existing and proposed public vehicular access routes shown on Map 12.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.



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368	50	Suggests the provision of additional sealed two wheel drive access to features and attractions of specific interest for tourists who are restricted by insurance companies from travelling on dirt roads, which will complement the existing unsealed two wheel drive access.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The provision of further sealed two wheel drive access may be considered where there are management circumstances that require consideration of this option such as visitor risk, environmental impacts, social benefit, and potential economic benefit.
369	53	Supports the objective and the means by which it will be achieved, and suggests there should be a KPI on implementation of the plan for visitor access.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  KPI 28.2 applies and has been included in the plan.
<b>Visitor Activities</b>				
<b>Abseiling and Climbing</b>				
370	14	Suggests that tour operators have access to wilderness areas as they would be more likely to provide a safer environment and respect the wilderness than unskilled casual visitors.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  CALM Act licences cannot be issued to tour operators for access to wilderness areas classified under section 62 of the Act. However, there is a need to look at this issue more widely over the medium term.
371	17	Suggests that Aldridge Cove, Mount Hopkins, Granite Peak and Mount Roe areas be considered for abseiling and rock climbing.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Recreational climbing/abseiling is not incompatible with these sites and this activity is permitted subject to Department Policy 18 – <i>Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services</i> , although the plan will not encourage people to visit these sites. The plan has been amended to include reference to these 'other informal sites'. There is also a threat of dieback to a number of these sites, and a strategy has been included "introducing management controls, particularly in natural areas, where disease concerns may threaten reserve values, including the provision of cleaning stations, issuing of permits, temporary resting, re-alignment or closure of tracks".
372	17	Suggests that abseiling on Mount Frankland be restricted to a single descent route to minimise vegetation damage and risk to walkers on the trail below, and that this descent (i) have 3 anchor bolts placed on each pitch, (ii) be tested and tagged, and (iii) meet existing DEC standards.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Restrictions on specific sites will be determined by the level of risk to walkers on the trail below and damage to vegetation, and in consultation with the Climbing Association of WA.
<b>Boating</b>				
373	8	Asking whether there is any planned change in 2WD access to rivers and inlets.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  There is no planned change to 2WD access to rivers and inlets.
374	8	Asking whether there is a more detailed map with road names for future trip planning.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  More detailed maps of roads can be accessed from local DEC offices.
375	12	Suggests that jet skis and water skiing be prohibited due to issues and concerns with noise, access, speed and regulation.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  While control of the waters of the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets is beyond the scope of this plan, jet skis and water ski boats have the same access rights as other watercraft.
376	17	Supports the development of paddling trails and campsites along the Deep and Frankland Rivers (for day trips and expeditions), and around the Irwin, Broke and Walpole Nornalup Inlets.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
377	17	Suggests a sea kayak trail and "wild" campsites with safe landing points could be developed.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Wild camping can occur throughout the planning area, and generally no facilities are provided for this activity.
<b>Bushwalking</b>				
378	3	Supports more grade 5 and 6 trails with a true wilderness character, and care needs to be taken to ensure these don't get developed to a class 1 over time.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
379	3	Suggests adding reference to the "2006 Plantagenet Trails Master Plan".	1(a)	Noted. Comment provides additional resource information.  The text and strategy 8 in the plan has been amended to include reference to this document and the Shire of Plantagenet.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
380	17	Suggests moving the Bibbulmun Track further from this area.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  Movement of the Bibbulmun Track is not considered appropriate, unless for a specific and important reason.
381	17	Suggests the bushwalking track ratings be consistent with the current DEC initiative headed by Stuart Harrison.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Walk trail classification and ratings must be consistent with Department Policy 18 and the Australian Standard.
382	50	Supports the creation of a greater diversity of walking opportunities including (i) tracks linked to features of specific interest, (ii) further day or two day walks and loops with facilities, and (iii) potential of multiuse tracks to cater for other users.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
383	50	Supports the integration of suitable vehicle access to existing and new tracks as well as effective signage and dissemination of information programs to walkers.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
384	50	Concerned that the plan does not articulate a coordinated and strategic approach to the promotion of existing and proposed shorter walking opportunities in the planning area, and suggests inclusion of provisions requiring DEC to work proactively with Tourism WA and the Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre (as well as the Shire of Denmark and other walking interest groups) to promote and to explore the creation of additional walking tracks in the planning area.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Strategy 8 covers this point and has been amended to include Tourism WA, local Shires, and local and adjacent Visitor Centres.
<b>Cycling</b>				
385	3	Suggests that, if there is Class 3 and 4 track activity, tracks should be designated and managed for adventure cyclists.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Strategy 2 in the section on Cycling has been amended to add at the end ".in consultation with the Shires of Denmark, Manjimup and Plantagenet and in accordance with recreational development criteria of visitor risk, environmental impacts, social benefit, equity, public demand, and potential economic benefit". A comment about designated areas/trails has also been added to the text.
386	14	Strongly supports the proposed Munda Biddi Trail, providing adequate resources are provided by the State for the long term promotion, maintenance and supervision of the trail.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
387	15	Seeks approval and support for the placement and use of trails on various sections of the historical rail trail on conservation estate for use by bushwalkers, cyclists and, where possible, horseriders.	2(c), 1(e)	Noted. Part of the comment is beyond the scope of the plan. Part of the comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The public submission process for this management plan cannot provide specific approval in this case. However, the plan has been amended to highlight the two issues of (i) planning for the Munda Biddi Trail, and (ii) the alignment and use of the Denmark-Nornalup Rail Trail. Planning for the Munda Biddi cycle trail will consider all options, and the plan has been amended to reflect this. The plan will not provide for horseriding through nature reserves. Cycling off public roads and tracks needs to be consistent with the purpose of a reserve and the likelihood of an activity being permitted, and will generally not be designated in nature reserves without consultation with the Conservation Commission. Cycling is discouraged in nature reserves, and trail development and cycling within those parts of the trail that traverse lands managed by the Department will be consistent with a number of criteria including Departmental policies and standards, visitor management settings, adequate maintenance of conservation and other values, recreational development criteria, safety standards and the rights and enjoyment of other visitors.
388	37	Suggests the route of the Munda Biddi consider traversing through the 'Wye 9' area that, with the area's old growth forests and two creeks, create a family or tourist facility perfect for a new cycle style camping ground.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This site-specific information will be incorporated into the planning for the Munda Biddi cycle trail.
389	37	Concerned Deep Road may be considered for dual use by the Munda Biddi, which is also used by four wheel drive vehicles, and suggests other roads in Ordnance and Dawson blocks that are in disrepair could be used instead.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This site-specific information will be incorporated into the planning for the Munda Biddi cycle trail.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>Enduro, motorcycle and trail bike riding</b>				
390	4	Suggests that the plan be amended by the non-inclusion or annexation of a 10ha portion of location 7399, along the adjoining boundary with CG 6723, to allow for enduro and motorcross to occur, which would (i) provide a more "permanent" home for the Denmark Motorcycle and Motorcross Club, (ii) enable regular competitive events to occur closer to Denmark, and (iii) reduce the incidence of inappropriate motorcycle use elsewhere with the planning area.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This issue will be addressed outside of the management planning process.
391	29	Concerned that recreational motorcycle riding is not compatible with other uses of the reserves system, and suggests that the use of motorbikes in the Walpole Wilderness be prohibited completely.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Motor cycles under the <i>Road Traffic Act 1974</i> can access any public road on DEC managed estate that is not closed to the public. The promotion of specific areas for motorcycle use assists management by controlling the activity.
<b>Horse riding</b>				
392	6	Concerned about the mobs of tourists versus the small bunch of horseriders who just want to ride horses for the enjoyment and exercise of both horseriders and horses. Provided a summary of the low impact activities undertaken such as rubbish control, use of firewood, bush camping, bathroom facilities, and horse manure that doesn't leave weeds.	2(b)	Noted. Comment offers a neutral statement or seeks no change.
393	13	Concerned about the development of Heritage Horse Trails, in particular about whether DEC will be supportive of the proposals for trails to go through some of the Walpole Wilderness.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan is supportive of a north-south long-distance horse riding trail and associated facilities in the eastern part of the planning area, with links to the historic stock route alignments, although assessment and identification of a suitable route has not yet been undertaken.
394	25	Concerned about the future of horseriding in the Walpole Wilderness, given that the new parks and reserves have added distances to the nearest State forest areas.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan proposes a number of opportunities for horseriding in the Walpole Wilderness.
395	25	Suggests the public be able to use existing roads, firebreaks on fence lines and some low impact areas.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC's Policy 18 regulates where horseriding can occur on DEC-managed estate, and areas for horseriding on conservation reserves must be designated within management plans.
396	25	Suggests be able to work with DEC to put together a plan that gives both parties the opportunity to work towards a satisfactory outcome.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
397	40	Suggests that there should be no horseriding in national parks or nature reserves.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Horseriders have been using the area up to the present, and the plan enables some future use in specific areas that can be managed and monitored.
398	45	Concerned the plan will exclude horseriders from Yerriminup Pools on the Kent River, which has been used by generations of cattlemen and drovers.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Visitors will be able to access this site, although horseriders will not be permitted within the proposed wilderness area.
399	45	Suggests that the wilderness proposal testifies to how little damage has been done by horses to the ecosystems.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The main features affecting wilderness quality are roads, although many other factors also contribute. Wilderness quality can improve over time.
400	45	Suggests that horseriding access will pose little or no threat to the ecology compared with off-road vehicles and motorbikes.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Off road vehicles are not permitted in the Walpole Wilderness. Horses can contribute in a similar way to disturbances that may affect environmental values.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
401	45	Suggests that proposed horse trails and existing stock routes be shown on Map 1.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Map 1 presents more of an overview of the area and specific recreation proposals are included on a separate map (Map 12), although the specific route for a long-distance north-south horseriding trail has not yet been determined.
402	45	Suggests that appreciation for Australia's cultural heritage by future generations will only be sustained if people can physically visit places.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This strategy may be central in sustaining appreciation, but is likely to be not the only strategy. A variety of interpretive products may also assist in this role.
<b>Picnicking, Barbecuing and Day-use</b>				
403	14	Strongly supports the provision of litter bins at visitor locations which prevents unreasonable levels of waste being deposited in townsite bins or on road verges.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
404	14	Suggests the provision of litter bins at visitor locations be adequately resourced to provide this service.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Achievement of stated objectives does not necessarily depend on additional resources, but rather appropriate prioritisation and allocation of available resources.
<b>Scenic and Recreational Driving</b>				
405	40	Suggests recreational driving is usually four wheel driving.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Recreational driving encompasses a wider definition than just four wheel driving.
<b>Surfing, Swimming and Sand/sail boarding</b>				
406	31	Suggests including Circus Beach, Hush Hush Beach, Long Point and Bellanger Beach in the list of suitable surfing beaches.	1(a)	Noted. Comment provides additional resource information.  This information has been incorporated into the plan.
407	31	Supports the limiting of surfing competitions in the plan.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
<b>Visitor Accommodation</b>				
<b>Camping</b>				
408	14	Questions the need for additional camping areas on private property.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Whilst there might not be the need at present, the plan is foreshadowing that with growing visitor pressures on conservation estate there may be an opportunity or need for this option in the future.
409	14	Does not support encouraging establishment of further camping areas on private property because of the statutory requirements for camping grounds such as access to power, water and sewerage.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Whilst there might not be the need at present, the plan is foreshadowing that with growing visitor pressures on conservation estate there may be an opportunity or need for this option in the future. Whilst DEC recognises the cost in establishing additional campgrounds on private property, the potential benefits to the community in the longer term might outweigh these, and this cost would be greater than the opportunity cost of missed tourism revenue and additional environmental damage.
410	14	Concerned that DEC is not subject to <i>Caravan and Camping Grounds Act 1995</i> , which results in waste and septage not being properly addressed at Department facilities.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  DEC does not facilitate tourist coaches, which is the business of Local Government. DEC does address waste and septage at relevant facilities on DEC-managed estate.
411	14	Suggests DEC partner with the Shire and Water Corporation to provide public septage disposal facilities for visitors with large campers and coaches.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  DEC supports the location of public septage disposal facilities for visitors in towns, although the provision of these facilities is a Local Government and Department of Health responsibility.
412	50	Supports sustainable opportunities in the long term for camping sites with appropriate visitor management settings, and suggests reference in the plan to working proactively with Tourism WA and the Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre to develop new camping opportunities in the planning area.	2(a), 1(d)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.  An additional strategy has been included that allows for continued liaison with Tourism WA, local and adjacent Visitor Centres and other relevant local bodies to develop new camping opportunities in the planning area.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>Campfires</b>				
413	17	Suggests that campsites accessible by vehicle should have fire rings (excluding coastal sites).	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan facilitates and encourages a variety of recreation experiences across the landscape, and fire rings at every site accessible by vehicle would homogenise the level of facilities and experiences at all camping sites and wouldn't cater for those wanting no rings or gas BBQs.
414	17	Suggests that wilderness and coastal campsites should be "fuel stove only".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The level of facilities varies according to management setting and recreation site classification. Fuel stoves are permitted in wild or remote camp sites (where there is no vehicle access and no facilities) and are preferred at beach or bush camp sites (where there is vehicle access but no facilities), although this may vary for some coastal campsites. This has been clarified in the plan.
415	27	Suggests that fires must be prohibited during the declared wildfire season.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The prohibition of campfires during periods of higher fire danger manages the risk of fire against the continued demand by the public to visit national parks, which have a recreation purpose.
<b>Visitor Fees</b>				
416	14	Concerned about the legality of imposing entry fees, particularly whether public access to the coast can be charged when no overnight camping is undertaken.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  No fees to the coast are proposed in the plan. Fees can generally be charged in accordance with section 127(c) of the CALM Act and regulation 99, and schedule 1, Division 1 of the CALM Regulations 2002.
417	14	Concerned about the inconsistency by the State in the application of fees for parks across the South West, which is unjustified and discriminates against local residents.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The decision to impose fees is dependent on a number of factors such as environmental damage, costs of administration and provision of a unique experience, resulting in only certain sites/services collecting fees.
418	27	Suggests that the 'user-pays' principle should apply to tourism as it does to other commercial activities in forests.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in section 32, although fees may not apply to all parks, facilities and services all the time because of the costs to the Department in administering this.
419	27	Suggests a KPI to monitor and evaluate the economic sustainability of tourism in forests.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is a WA Tourism Commission responsibility.
420	40	Suggests that the plan should be stating where the fees are going to be.	2(d), 2(f)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan, but also suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of fees at other sites has not been considered to date.
421	50	Concerned about ensuring that there is an equitable user-pays system adopted for visitor entry fees, camping fees, fees for permits or fees for services within national parks and other estate managed by DEC.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is covered in section 32.
422	50	Concerned about a degree of confusion by some tourists and local visitors regarding the levy of fees in some national parks and other estate and the transferability of permits between these areas, and suggests a more concerted effort to educate tourists and local visitors in cooperation with the Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  This strategy of providing information about fees to tourists and visitors in cooperation with local and adjacent Visitor Centres has been incorporated into the plan.
<b>Commercial Operations</b>				
423	27	Concerned that there is no adequate justification to terminate the existing low impact leases.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Apart from the transfer of 'Pioneer Park' to the Shire, there are no plans to terminate any of the remaining recreation-based leases in the planning area.
424	27	Suggests licences should be self funding and economically sustainable.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  DEC has no influence over the private operation of licences, other than the general conditions.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
425	40	Suggests this section should be in Part G.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This section covers licences and leases directly relevant to recreation and tourism, and there is sufficient reference made in Part G to other lease types.
<b>Visitor Safety</b>				
426	33	Concerned about risks to people associated with the use of vehicles, and suggests the plan include vehicle hazards, educating the public about vehicle safety and the road rules, and enforcement of the road rules.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  Agree with the stated risks and that the plan has a role to play in informing the public about vehicle use on DEC-managed estate, although there is less of a role in enforcement of road rules. This information has been incorporated into the plan.
<b>Domestic Animals</b>				
427	10	Supports the heritage trail which runs from Chugg Street down past the Tourist Bureau being available for the public as a town track, and suggests that it be available for people to walk their dogs.	1(d), 2(c)	Noted. Part of the comment is beyond the scope of the plan, but part of the comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The heritage trail is only partly within land managed by DEC. The plan caters for opportunities to walk dogs in the Walpole area with a number of proposals contained in the plan, including allowing dogs along that part of the heritage trail located on land managed by DEC.
428	10	Suggests that a beach be available for dog exercising in the Walpole area, as the nearest beach is at Peaceful Bay which is over thirty kilometres away, and this is supported by others in the community.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The two beaches close to Walpole are too small and there would be too many conflicts with other visitors to permit dogs on these beaches. The plan caters for opportunities to walk dogs in the Walpole area with a number of proposals contained in the plan.
429	17	Suggests that dogs be banned from the area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Dogs are not permitted in nature reserves, but can be in State forest and section 5(1)(g) and (h) reserves. Dogs can be permitted on national parks where dog access is considered to be manageable and/or there has been a history of dog access in those areas.
430	40	Suggests that there should be no dogs in national parks and nature reserves because they are contrary to the purpose of the reserves.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Dogs are not permitted in nature reserves, but can be in State forest and section 5(1)(g) and (h) reserves. Dogs can be permitted on national parks where dog access is considered to be manageable and/or there has been a history of dog access in those areas.
<b>Part G. Managing Resource Use</b>				
<b>Indigenous Customary Activities</b>				
431	1	Suggests that Aboriginal people should not be able to hunt in national parks or nature reserves.	2(d), 2(f)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan, and suggests option that is not possible.  The plan outlines that the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> allows Aboriginal people to hunt for food on lands and waters managed by the Department.
<b>Mining</b>				
432	1	Concerned that access to Basic Raw Materials within the planning area may be restricted in the future, where access will only be permitted where the resource is required within the boundary of the management area, rather than for the broader maintenance of local roads within the district, which will have considerable economic and social impacts upon the general public.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Current and future extraction of BRM is determined by the State Gravel Supply Strategy, and DEC and Conservation Commission Policy through the operational mechanism of notices of intent by local government or Main Roads WA for gravel extraction under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .
433	13	Concerned about access to road making materials, particularly the certainty regarding the taking of gravel for road maintenance and road making uses.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Current and future extraction of BRM is determined by the State Gravel Supply Strategy, and DEC and Conservation Commission Policy through the operational mechanism of notices of intent by local government or Main Roads WA for gravel extraction under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
434	14	Concerned that raw materials will not be available from DEC managed lands, which is unrealistic given that (i) there is very little privately owned land and very little known gravel supplies exist on these lands, and (ii) greater development and visitation is anticipated at the Mt Frankland and Swarbrick Discovery Centre sites, both of which are serviced by North Walpole Road and Bridge Road, which are generally in poor condition and will deteriorate quicker with increased tourism traffic.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  BRM extraction can be permitted from conservation estate and State forest under conditions indicated in the plan and in DEC and Conservation Commission Policy through the operational mechanism of notices of intent by local government or Main Roads WA for gravel extraction under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .
435	27	Supports the policy to prohibit mineral and petroleum exploration in National parks and Nature reserves.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
436	27	Suggests extending the policy to prohibit mineral and petroleum exploration in National parks and Nature reserves to prohibiting extensive clearing for mining in all tenures of public land.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
437	29	Concerned about the mining and exploration licences issued for the Walpole Wilderness and the irreparable changes in local geology, hydrology and ecosystems that are often created, and suggests mining in the Walpole Wilderness is not acceptable and cannot be justified given the environmental damage.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While the State Government's policy is to prohibit mineral and petroleum exploration and extraction in national parks and nature reserves and the Conservation Commission seeks to oppose any mineral extraction activity that may affect values within the planning area, mining can still be undertaken under Mining Act 1978 subject to various approvals.
438	39	Suggests correction to page 186 first paragraph because the mineral potential of the planning area was assessed in 1997 by the Joint Commonwealth and Western Australian Regional Forest Agreement Steering Committee (Bureau of Resource Sciences and Geological Survey of Western Australia, 1998), and the polymetallic deposit was discovered after the RFA was published, with further modelling for both lead-zinc-silver and tungsten mineralisation.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This information has been incorporated into the plan.
439	39	Suggests fifth sentence in paragraph 1 on page 186 is technically incorrect and potentially misleading in that unusually high levels of gold, copper, silver and zinc were found and, while further exploration results were disappointing, the prospectivity of the Nornalup Complex in the planning area remains significant. Mineral discoveries are commonly the result of multiple stages of exploration by different companies using different techniques, concepts, target commodities and areas of focussed work.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This information has been incorporated into the plan.
440	39	Suggests acknowledgement in the plan (last paragraph on page 186) that the State Gravel Supply Strategy investigations were completed in 2004 with twenty four areas identified as having potential for strategic gravel sources (eight within the planning area with three in proposed FCAs and five within national park).	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This information has been incorporated into the plan.
441	39	Suggests that the areas identified as having potential for strategic gravel sources within the planning area were to be excised from the national park and converted to reserves for 'gravel and rehabilitation'.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The boundaries for the Walpole Wilderness have already been declared, and there is a standard NOI process for dealing with gravel extraction.
442	39	Concerned that the use of alternative materials such as crushed rock would inevitably result in considerably higher costs for all users, and suggests that, while this may be inevitable in the long term, careful management of existing resources should ensure adequate supplies of gravel for all stakeholders for the foreseeable future.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This information has been incorporated into the plan.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>Public Utilities and Services</b>				
443	38	Suggests, in the event of any future requirement for infrastructure, continued liaison with the relevant vested authority to secure a mutually beneficial agreement to secure land tenure.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Securing land tenure from DEC-managed estate is not 'mutually beneficial'. DEC will continue to be proactively involved in a whole-of-government approach to the provision of utilities.
444	38	Suggests it is essential that there is continued access to DEC lands for maintaining existing assets.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  A new strategy has been included recognising the continued access to DEC-managed estate for maintaining existing assets.
445	38	Suggests that new and existing services will require protection via easements.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC will continue to be proactively involved in a whole-of-government approach to the provision of utilities.
446	38	Disagrees with second paragraph on page 192, and suggests a more practical arrangement that will allow access for both routine maintenance and emergencies.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The relatively little effort required in seeking permission from the District Manager (on an official or unofficial basis, depending on the operation and timeframe) is considered to be a reasonable safeguard against the introduction and spread of the particularly devastating threat to biodiversity of dieback disease.
<b>Beekkeeping</b>				
447	27	Suggests the keeping of introduced bees not be permitted in National Parks.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  DEC's Policy No. 41 provides for apiary on National parks.
448	31	Suggests no further feral honey bee sites should be granted on the basis that impacts are deleterious on conservation values and the process and incidence of bees straying from managed sites to become feral is unknown.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The apiary analysis considers impacts on conservation values across the planning area.
449	31	Suggests sites should be encouraged to locate on private land.	1(d)	Noted. Comment better achieves the plan's aims.  The plan has been amended to reflect that, where appropriate and in accordance with Policy 41, the location of apiary sites on private property will be encouraged.
450	40	Suggests that there should be no honeybees introduced into the reserves.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  DEC's Policy No. 41 provides for apiary on National parks.
451	40	Suggests that all apiary sites should be prohibited.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  DEC's Policy No. 41 provides for apiary on National parks.
452	40	Questions why the analysis wasn't done for the draft.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The apiary analysis is a long and complex process, which was not completed in time for the release of the draft plan. The plan outlines that there will be liaison and consultation with relevant beekeepers.
453	40	Questions how will there be public comment on the analysis if not included in the draft.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan outlines that there will be liaison and consultation with relevant beekeepers. For the analysis just completed, this will be undertaken prior to approval of the final plan and any re-allocation process.
<b>Flora Harvesting</b>				
454	13	Concerned about wildflower activities, particularly an apparent lack of certainty regarding licensing.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan provides for wildflower picking within forest conservation areas, the development and implementation of management controls to prevent adverse impacts, and ensuring harvesting remains sustainable, as far as practicable.
<b>Removal of Trees and Firewood and Craftwood Utilisation</b>				
455	27	The exclusion of harvesting timber products while permitting almost all other uses is unjustified given that timber harvesting has not threatened the conservation of these forests.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness has been determined by the State Government.



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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
456	31	Suggests, in the case of point 1, that all timber material should be openly advertised and auctioned.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Removal and sale of forest produce for 'essential works' is advertised by the Department.
457	31	Suggests that there should be a KPI for this section.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  A KPI for this section has not been included in the plan. Removal of non-sawlog forest products will be consistent with the Forest Management Plan and/or Wildlife Conservation Act, CALM Act and Forest Management Regulations.
<b>Firewood</b>				
458	1	Supports on-going public access to firewood.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
459	31	Concerned that the collection of firewood from small pockets of forest may not be sustainable and may affect adjoining landholders, and suggests that these pockets become national park.	2(f)	Noted. Comment suggests option that is not possible.  The establishment of the Walpole Wilderness was determined by the State Government's 'Protecting Our Old Growth Forests' Policy.
460	31	Suggests the establishment of a baseline study to enable credible measurement and monitoring of impacts prior to collection of firewood from any area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC does not use base-line studies for operations, but will monitor disturbance and manage appropriately.
461	31	Suggests that the plan include specific alternatives for maintaining the resource base and encourage in particular the establishment of plantations on previously cleared farmland.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Although alternative means are already provided in the plan, the specific suggestion has been incorporated.
462	40	Suggests under action 2 on page 202 that there should be no firewood collection in the national parks or nature reserves.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  National parks and nature reserves are excluded from firewood collection in the plan.
<b>Craftwood</b>				
463	1	Supports on-going public access to obtain quality timber for craft and other purposes.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
464	31	Suggests defining "low impact craftwood collection" and what impacts are acceptable.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Further definition is not necessary as craftwood management guidelines only authorise low impact removal.
465	31	Supports continuing craftwood collection from State forest only.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
466	31	Suggests craftwood collection should be subject to clear and transparent licensing.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  All craftwood operations are licensed.
467	31	Suggests the establishment of a baseline study to enable credible measurement and monitoring of impacts prior to collection of craftwood from any area.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  DEC does not use base-line studies for operations, but will monitor disturbance and manage appropriately.
468	31	Suggests that the plan include specific alternatives for maintaining the resource base and encourage in particular the establishment of plantations on previously cleared farmland.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Although alternative means are already provided in the plan, the specific suggestion has been incorporated.
<b>Water Resources</b>				
469	1	Supports the designation of Reserve A46405 as a Reserve for the purpose of " <i>Conservation, Recreation, Future Reservoir and Water Infrastructure</i> ".	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
470	3	Concerned that the words "Zones of Inundation" sounds concealing or difficult to understand and suggests calling it a 'dam'.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The term 'dam' often refers to the dam infrastructure or in a more general sense, as opposed to the area that will be inundated by waters of the reservoir.
471	3	Suggests this section is unclear in intent, issues and future pressures anticipated.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The section appears to be sufficiently clear. The process outlined in the plan addresses any issues and future pressures.
472	11	Appreciates that most concerns have been addressed.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
473	11	Concerned that water access from the Mitchell River has not been identified in the Plan.	1(e), 2(d)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity, although comment is largely already covered in the plan.  The Mitchell River has been mentioned as a potential new water source, although the plan covers any future potential water requirement and access.
474	13	Concerned about access to water resources, particularly the provision of future water sources.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan identifies priority areas for provision of future water resources and protects these areas within appropriate reserves that can cater for water supply, subject to appropriate assessment and approval, if required in the future. The plan also caters for access to potential future water resources beyond those that have been identified.
475	14	Concerned that potential demand on future water supply must be taken into consideration and the management plan should not inhibit the use of the Deep River Water Reserve for the expansion of future water supply for the Walpole community.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan does not inhibit the use of the Deep River for water supply to Walpole.
476	14	Supports the plans provision of certainty of water extraction to the Rest Point Holiday Village for the next 5 years whereafter an alternative water supply must be sourced.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
477	29	Not supportive of the proposal to use the Denmark River for drinking water supply, and suggests any water shortage can be alleviated by provision of rainwater tanks and water conservation measures.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.
478	29	Suggests that if the water is intended for use by industry then this intent should be stated.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  The intended standard for water supply is to drinking water standards, but the purposes are not known in most cases and are the jurisdiction of the managing authorities for the Great Southern Water Supply Scheme.
479	35	Suggests the plan represents the water resource issues well and accurately accommodates issues raised in consultation with the Department of Water during the preparation of the plan.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.
480	35	Concerned that promotion of recreational activities (through management settings) in and adjacent to R46405 will increase the difficulty of protecting the drinking water quality of the Denmark River in the future, and suggests any proposals that increase public access to R46405 be referred to DOW.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  For any recreation developments in this reserve, DOW will be invited to have input.
481	35	Concerned about the potential for confusion with reference to both the Department of Water and the Water and Rivers Commission, and suggests the plan be clear that they both operate as one entity and that when WRC is dissolved all legislative responsibilities will be administered by DOW.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  This has been clarified in the plan.
482	35	Suggests correction on page 203 paragraph 5 now that Butler's Creek Dam is connected to the Walpole Weir source.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended with this information.
483	35	Suggests on page 203 paragraph 5 that a sentence be added before the last sentence saying that "The Department of Water will require access to conduct investigations into these alternate water supplies".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended with this suggested information.
484	35	Suggests on page 203 paragraph 6 third sentence replace "consider the compatibility of land uses against the priority 1 classification" with "comply with the DWSPP and the landuse compatibility guidelines. Activities that predate the preparation of a DWSPP should be conducted in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination of the drinking water source".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The plan adequately covers future water supply needs.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
485	35	Suggests on page 204 paragraph 7 inserting after the final line "Access to these areas by the Department of Water will be required to allow investigation for the planning and development of these sources".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The CALM Act facilitates DOW access.
486	35	Suggests revising page 205 paragraph 1 to "The Department has nine stream gauging stations either in, adjacent to or accessed via the management area including one on the Deep, two on the weld, two on the Kent, two on the Denmark, one on the Mitchell and one on the Hay River. Officers of the Department require regular access to these sites for data collection activities and to maintain fixed assets".	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The suggested amendment has been incorporated into the plan.
487	38	Suggests that the Butlers Creek dam also requires water source protection and that it is referred to in the draft Walpole Weir and Butler's Creek Dam Catchment Areas Drinking Water Source Protection Plan.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  The Butler's Creek Dam and catchment area do not cover or affect DEC-managed estate.
488	38	Concerned references to the current water source capacity of Walpole Weir and the annual amount delivered to Walpole could lead to a misunderstanding of the current water supply situation at Walpole because the figures do not take into account the requirements for storage, water quality and source protection issues.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The plan has been amended to delete this unnecessary information and overcome this potential misunderstanding.
489	38	Advises that, since linking the Butler's Creek dam site to the existing water treatment plant, the Butler's Creek dam has been used as the primary source for Walpole due to its better water quality than the Walpole River, which assists during summer peak demand periods.	1(a)	Noted. Comment provides additional resource information.  The plan has been amended with this information.
490	38	Advises that planning for the future water supply for Walpole is currently occurring driven by potential growth and source protection issues and that, while a number of options have been identified, most options involve potential infrastructure within the boundary of the Walpole Wilderness.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan outlines processes for assessment and approval of potential infrastructure within the planning area.
491	38	Advises that a new source on the Mitchell River is under consideration to augment the existing Quickup dam and Denmark River dam sources, and suggests that a new public drinking water source area will be required if this new proposal proceeds to implementation and that this source should be indicated on Map 6 of the plan.	1(e), 2(d)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity, although comment is largely already covered in the plan.  The Mitchell River has been mentioned as a potential new water source, although the plan covers any future potential water requirement and access.
492	38	Advises that planning for the future management of treated wastewater for Walpole may involve potential new infrastructure in the Walpole Wilderness and that for some options, such as a new woodlot on existing cleared land, infiltration to dunes near the beach and disposal to the ocean through an offshore outfall, there would be a need for a pipeline easement to convey treated wastewater to the disposal site.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  An environmental impact assessment will be required for any proposed developments.
<b>Part H. Involving the Community</b>				
<b>Information, Interpretation and Education</b>				
493	26	Suggests adding the performance measure of "engagement of landholder groups from catchment areas adjoining the study area through education programs".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This more-specific KPI may not be as meaningful as a more general KPI in this instance, as the number of education programs may be low and there may not be any engagement of landholder groups in education programs in some years.
494	37	Supports the Discovery Centres at Swarbrick and Mt Frankland adding they are tasteful and well constructed.	2(a)	Noted. Comment supports the plan.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
495	37	Suggests the Munda Biddi be linked to the Swarbrick Discovery Centre site at least via Angove and Logging Roads.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This site-specific information will be incorporated into the planning for the Munda Biddi cycle trail.
<b>Community Involvement and Liaison</b>				
496	13	Suggests that effective community involvement is given a high priority over the term of the plan to ensure access for particular uses/activities is maintained.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Community involvement is an integral part of ongoing management. Demand for access will be dealt with by appropriate/relevant policy and process.
497	26	Suggests the plan be strengthened with the wider involvement of and linkages to community groups and the vegetation corridors enhanced with revegetation and protection of remnant vegetation in areas adjacent to the study area.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  DEC will continue to be involved in numerous natural resource management programs.
498	31	Suggests the plan should identify specific links with the draft Good Neighbour Policy, and should encourage more cooperative activities with adjoining rural landholders to encourage sympathetic land management practices that will protect and enhance conservation values of the proposed parks, such as cooperative and assisted feral animal and weed control programs.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Section 47 discusses the 'Good Neighbour Policy' and includes an action aimed at continued liaison with adjoining landholders. Other relevant sections also refer to liaison with neighbours and other groups in cooperative management.
<b>Part I. Monitoring and Implementing the Plan</b>				
<b>Research and Monitoring</b>				
499	26	Suggests NRM risks need to be mentioned including sedimentation, nutrient eutrophication, flooding and inundation, salinity, chemical eutrophication, fire, invasive species and drought.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is already outlined in the plan.
500	26	Suggests it is a priority for agency collaboration on research into the risks of sedimentation, nutrient eutrophication, flooding and inundation, salinity, chemical eutrophication, fire, invasive species and drought.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  DEC will look for collaborative opportunities for research on these risks.
501	26	Suggests the Key Points box include research into the impact of nutrient eutrophication, sedimentation, chemical risks (pesticides, herbicides etc) on ecosystems.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is already outlined in the plan.
502	26	Suggests the Key Points box include research into the management of invasive species and the implementation of invasive species management plans.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is already outlined in the plan.
503	26	Suggests the Key Points box include research into bushfire management with particular regard to the interface of the study area with areas used for food, fibre and energy production.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  This is already outlined in the plan.
504	27	Suggests systematic monitoring of ecosystems in the Walpole Wilderness, such as through the ForestCheck program, is essential, and that the results should be published.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  While there is no systematic monitoring, DEC will continue to use ForestCheck on an on-going basis. Results are published on DEC's website 'NatureBase'.
505	27	Concerned that the plan does not spell out how the plan will be implemented.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  Each section includes actions/strategies outlining how the plan will be implemented.
506	27	Suggests that the plan provides finite commitments not only to actions required but to the provision of estimates of staff, materials and equipment for implementing the plan including the costs associated with research and monitoring.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  Achievement of stated objectives depends on appropriate prioritisation and allocation of available resources, which may change over time. Specific research projects are planned and costed before implementation.
507	51	Suggests there is an urgent need for much research in fauna and flora, and the impact of prescribed burning regimes.	2(d)	Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.  The plan recognises and acknowledges this, although this is funding-dependant.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
<b>Other Sections at the end of the Plan</b>				
508	27	Suggests inclusion of a definition of 'old growth forest', as well as 'relictual', 'geodiversity', 'geoprocesses' and 'phytogeography'.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Definitions have been included for these suggested items.
509	53	Concerned that readily understood words (e.g. extant, geology, soil erosion and tourism) are included while difficult words are not (e.g. xeric on page 63 and seral on page 68).	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Definitions have been reviewed within the plan and, in particular, the suggested amendments have been made.
510	53	Concerned most of the items listed are abbreviations not acronyms, and suggests the title be "Abbreviations and Acronyms".	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Most, if not all, of the items listed are indeed acronyms.
511	40	Suggests the qualifications or roles of the 'other' people who provided personal communications be provided.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Personal Communications have been adjusted where details are known.
512	51	Suggests there has been an over-emphasis on fire and an under-emphasis on fauna.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Maps are used to support text in the plan or where there is a need to demonstrate a point visually. Flora and fauna location information is relatively sensitive and generally has been excluded from the maps in the plan. However, <i>Map 10 Fire History</i> has been deleted because the information it presents would readily become out-of-date throughout the life of the plan.
513	51	Suggests that the colours of maps are too similar which makes reading them difficult.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  Map colours have been adjusted where possible to improve clarity for the final plan.
514	31	Concerned about heavy fuel loads in Dawson and Swarbrick block adjacent to private land, and suggests that this threat posed to life and property be addressed immediately.	2(c)	Noted. Comment is beyond the scope of the plan.  This is an operational issue that should be addressed through the Master Burn Plan process and community consultation.
515	31	Concerned about Angove Road being depicted, which is a poorly maintained track requiring significant upgrading to improve access.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Angove Rd is shown because it is a strategic access road.
516	31	Suggests inclusion of Our Road to improve fire access.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  Many roads and tracks, including Our Rd, are not shown on maps in the plan but remain open to the public. Our Rd is not considered to be strategic fire access.
517	40	Suggests that the road system needs to be taken into account in the management settings.	1(e)	Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.  The Visitor Management Settings map has been adjusted to include the road system.
518	40	Suggests that the baseline data for all these KPIs needs to be provided in the final management plan.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  This is not required for many KPIs that are process-oriented or are outputs. Much data exists for some KPIs, but some others have very little baseline data, which might be difficult to produce in the short time frame available to prepare the final plan.
519	27	Concerned that the term 'Fire Exclusion Reference Areas' is misleading as the exclusion of fire is not a natural state for reference in WA forests, and suggests adoption of the term 'Fire Exclusion Study Areas'.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The term is considered to be appropriate for these areas. A conditional burning area for a 'Scientific Study Area' is already included.
520	53	Suggests that fire exclusion areas should not be restricted to small patches of 500ha or less and if there are larger areas, these should be protected and conserved, as long unburnt areas are rare and essential for the protection of biodiversity and scientific study.	2(e)	Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.  The number of these areas is not restricted, although there needs to be a size limit, particularly in relation to where the area is located in the landscape, as larger areas excluded from fuel management pose greater risks to environmental, community and other values.

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No.	Submitter	Summary of Comment	Criteria	Discussion/Action taken
521	53	Doesn't support giving special fire protection to immature post-logging karri regrowth as it is contrary to the vision and objectives of the plan, and suggests removing from the plan.	1(e)	<p>Noted. Comment indicates omission, inaccuracy or a lack of clarity.</p> <p>Karri is a major component of the overstorey and has significant biological value. Karri younger than about 25 years is fire sensitive and can be killed by moderate to high intensity fire. It takes more than 30 years to set seed, so being killed young would result in major impacts on forest structure and therefore habitat diversity. Protection of young karri has very little to do with its potential merchantable value at a timber species. Because of its contiguous and clumpy distribution there are significant fire risks associated with karri regrowth in terms of wildfire impacts - these areas need special attention because of these risks. However, the plan has been amended to provide priority protection of other significant natural values (such as threatened flora, fauna and communities) over young karri regrowth unless these other values do not occur adjacent to regrowth areas.</p>
522	40	Suggests there should be no vehicles in class 2 otherwise cars will occur everywhere except wilderness.	2(e)	<p>Noted. Comment is one viewpoint and the plan contains the preferred option.</p> <p>Management settings allow for a gradational effect for access. Class 2 areas are more restrictive in terms of 2WD access, and this setting is needed to distinguish between areas with no access (Class 1) and areas where 2WDs are allowed (Classes 3-5).</p>
523	40	Concerned that there is no indication of where camping fits in or how camping was classed into the settings framework.	2(d)	<p>Noted. Comment is already covered in the plan.</p> <p>Management settings incorporate camping under 'site modification' (Appendix 8 of the draft plan), and classes range in the degree of site modification and level/type of camping permitted.</p>

## Appendix 1. Submitters to the Draft Management Plan.

No.	SUBMITTER	REPRESENTATION
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>		
44	Fiona Jinman	Department of the Environment and Heritage
<b>State Government</b>		
2	Monique Pasqua	Department of Indigenous Affairs
11	Bruce Manning	Great Southern Development Commission
19	Maureen Wright	Department of Sport and Recreation Southwest
26	David Hartley	Department of Agriculture and Food
33	Chris Goodsell	Department of Environment and Conservation
35	Brett Ward	Department of Water
38	Sue Murphy	Water Corporation
39	Warren Ormsby	Department of Industry and Resources
42	Roger Armstrong	Department of Environment and Conservation
43	Bradley Barton	Department of Environment and Conservation
50	Steve Crawford	Tourism Western Australia
54	John Watson	Department of Environment and Conservation
<b>Local Government</b>		
1	Robert Fenn	City of Albany
4	Pascoe Durtanovich	Shire of Denmark
13	Peter Duncan	Shire of Plantagenet
14	Jeremy Hubble	Shire of Manjimup
<b>Private Companies</b>		
3	Sally Malone	Malone Design
15	Basil Schur	Green Skills Inc
36	David Wettenhall	Plantall Forestry
<b>Community Groups</b>		
5	Ian Payton	Nornalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
7	Dawn Atkin	Denmark Education and Innovation Centre
8	Karin Baker	Albany Canoe Club
9	Mark Foster	SSAA Hunting and Conservation, Albany
17	Ralph Gurr	Outdoors WA
18	Gary Kontoolas	Craftwood Industry
20	Eddy Liddelow	Fire for Life Inc
22	Pearl Pape	Western Australia Recreational Horseriders Association
24	Tony Higgs	Lake Muir and Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group
27	David Wettenhall	Institute of Foresters WA Division
47	Jess Beckerling	South Coast Environment Group
51		Northcliffe Environment Centre
53	Beth Schultz	Conservation Council of WA
<b>Individuals</b>		
6	Keith Prosser	
10	Jan Parola	
12	Ross Knight	
16	John Meachem	
21	Arthur Pape	
23	Alec Cull	
25	Bob Rado	
28	AJ & PD Pedro	
29	Ivor Bell	
30	David James	
31	Geoff and Sasha North	
32	John and Nance Cox	
34	R Muir	
37	Donna Selby	
40	Blake Gray	
41	Robert Versluis	

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45	Thomas DeVries	
46	Geoff Fernie	
52	Carole Perry	
55	John Kolo	