

Lake Barker Reserve (No 24049) Purpose: Flora and Fauna,  
'C' Class, not vested.

Area 516,000 acres.

The Reserves Advisory Council recommended (Resolution~~ed~~ ? )  
that the boundaries of this reserve be enlarged, that it be  
declared 'A' class and that it be vested in the W.A.W.L.A.

Within the existing reserve are about 78 mineral claims  
lodged by Kennecott Explorations and 10 lodged by Allan  
Lawson Alexander. These are for nickel and associated minerals.  
If the reserve were enlarged as proposed by the RAC it would  
take in a further 21 claims lodged by Kennecott in the eastern  
sector and probably a large number by various companies to the  
N.W.

Objections to the original 78 claims by Kennecott were  
heard by the Wardens Court in Southern Cross on May 14, 1969.  
Objections were lodged by the W.A.W.L.A. and the department as  
well as the Tree Society, the Nature Conservation Council of W.A.,  
the W.A. Wildflower Society and the National Trust.

Briefly the Lake Barker Reserve is of major importance  
because 1) It is within the line of overlap of the floristic  
elements of the South Western and Ereamean Flora Provinces.  
This mingling of flora types has produced a great amount of  
endemism and a great variety of vegetational associations. The  
area is known to contain a large number of unique species, some  
as yet undescribed.

2) It is on the outer fringe of the wheat-belt and is  
thought to be a refuge for many species of animals now known to  
be extinct in agricultural areas. That this is so is document-  
ed by the fact that a field party in 1969 collected over 20  
species<sup>mens</sup> of the gecko Oedura reticulata while the W.A. Museum previously  
possessed only a total of 5 specimens from wheat belt areas.  
Little is known of the mammalian life but it is thought that  
a number of rare marsupials may occur in the reserve. Little  
is known of the zoology of the reserve as emphasis has been  
placed on areas where the habitat was being destroyed by  
agriculture.

3) It provides an area of minimum artificial disturb-  
ance against which the changes in agricultural areas can be  
measured. This is particularly important when considering the  
biological control of pest species.

4) It will probably become an outstanding tourist  
attraction because of the profusion of wildflowers contained  
within it.

In his<sup>deserved</sup> decision the Warden (Mr J.B. Anton, S.M.) did not  
record that the Department or the W.A.W.L.A. had even objected,  
only recognising the Tree Society, the Nature Conservation

Council and the National Trust. He recognised the biological significance of the reserve and accepted that restoration from a biological point of view is impossible. However, he recommended the claims be approved subject to stringent conditions. The department has not been asked to suggest any such conditions.