

An introduction to the Department of Environment and Conservation

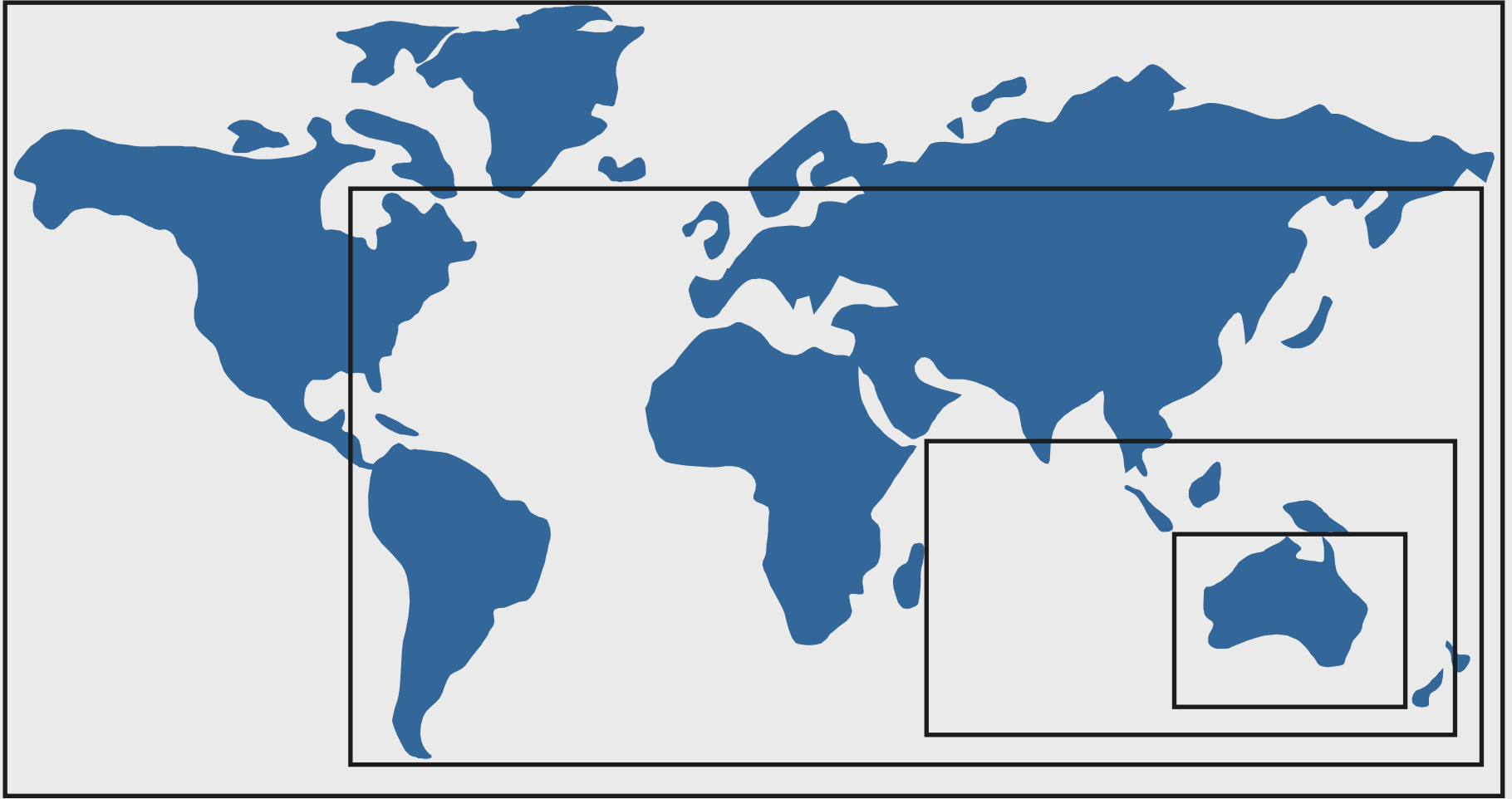


**Presentation to Graduate Recruits
Dwellingup**

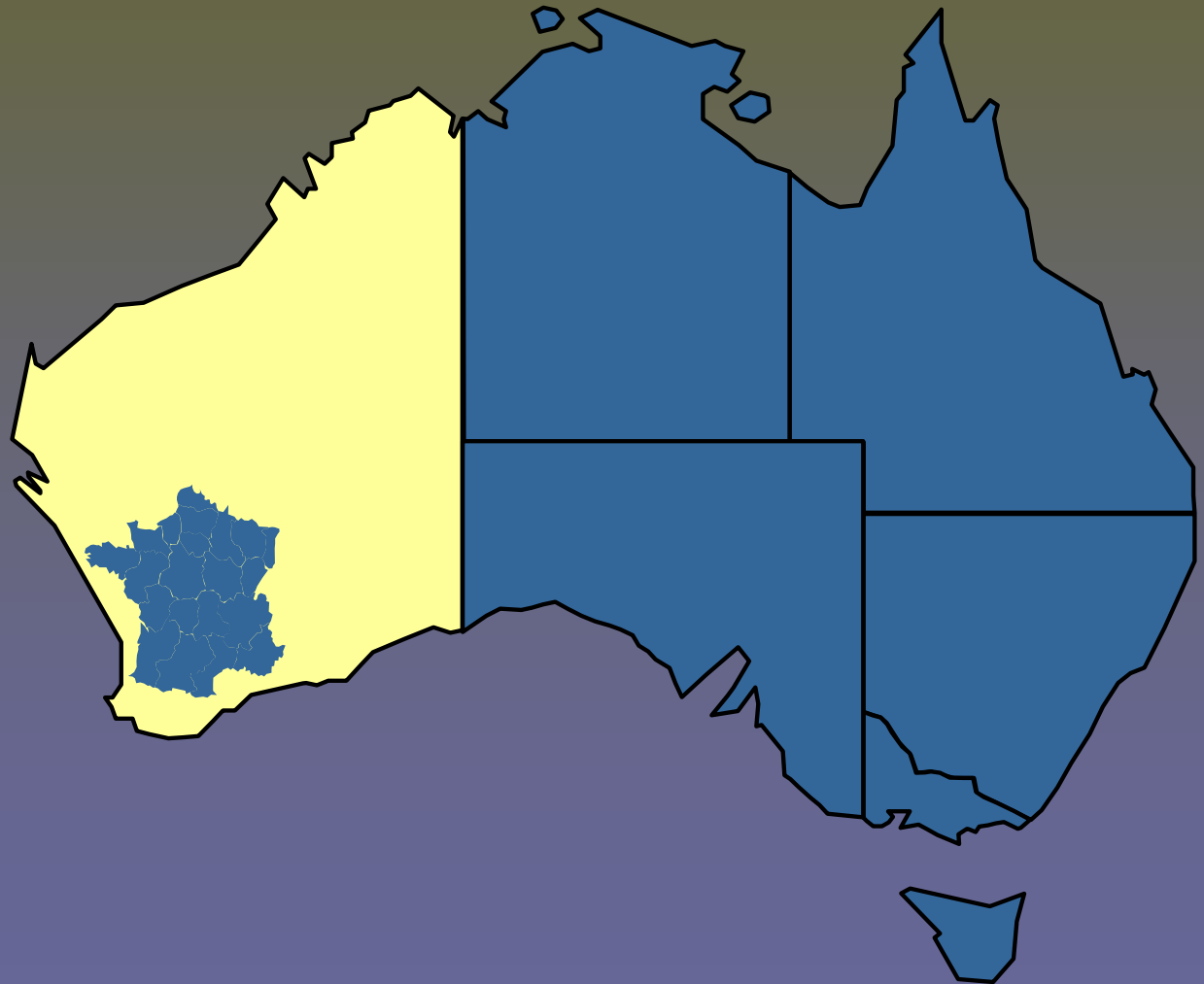
**Alan Walker
Director Regional Services**

11 June 2007





France
occupies a
land area
about a
quarter the
size of
Western
Australia



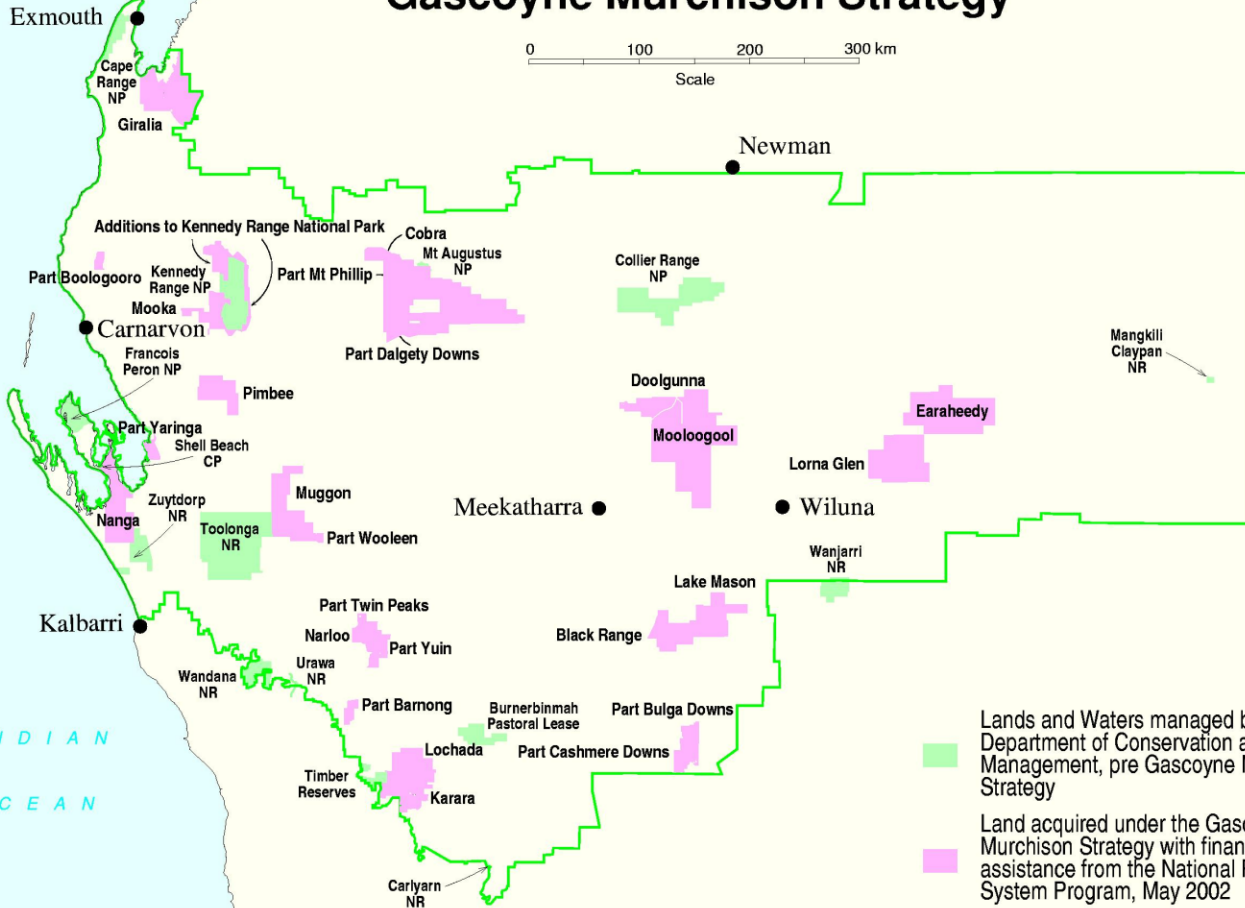
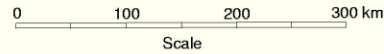
OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Lands and Waters managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation

	Hectares
National parks	5,593,000
Conservation parks	843,000
Nature reserves	10,860,000
Regional parks	33,000
State forest and timber reserves	1,428,000
Marine parks and reserves	1,536,000
Leasehold	5,091,000
Other	955,000
Total	26,339,000
Unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves	89,151,000

As at 1 July 2006

Gascoyne Murchison Strategy



Light green: Lands and Waters managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, pre Gascoyne Murchison Strategy

Pink: Land acquired under the Gascoyne Murchison Strategy with financial assistance from the National Reserve System Program, May 2002

LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED

Acts

Conservation and Land Management Act 1984;
Wildlife Conservation Act 1950;
Sandalwood Act 1929;
Environmental Protection Act 1986;
Contaminated Sites Act 2003;
Carbon Rights Act 2003;
Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998.

Regulations

Forest Management Regulations
Conservation and Land Management Regulations
Wildlife Conservation Regulations

PORTFOLIO AUTHORITIES AND BOARDS

- Environmental Protection Authority
- Conservation Commission of Western Australia
- Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
- Keep Australia Beautiful Council
- Swan River Trust
- Waste Management Board
- Contaminated Sites Committee

OUR VISION

A healthy, diverse and well-managed Western Australian environment.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Environment and Conservation is in the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change. The department is also part of a greater environmental community and has distinct responsibilities for implementing Government policy within that community. Protection and conservation of the environment is a collective role.

OUR VALUES

People make organisations and the values they adopt shape those organisations. We endeavour to behave with:

- **Honesty, Courage and Integrity**

By acting ethically, lawfully, in the public interest and treating people fairly and with impartiality.

- **Respect**

Understanding and respecting individual differences.

- **Commitment**

By being responsible, accountable and dedicated to our work.

- **Openness**

By having processes that are fair, transparent and understandable.

- **Innovation**

Continually seeking new and better ways of achieving desired outcomes.

OUR VALUES

We will demonstrate

- **Teamwork**
By working collaboratively and cooperatively.
- **Leadership**
Being progressive, showing courage, initiative and creativity.
- **Professionalism**
Using sound scientific principles and accurate information in our work.
- **Value**
Delivering the best possible result through continual improvement of our efforts.
- **Learning-based culture**
Open to new ideas and concepts learnt from experience and others.

DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR 2007-2009

- Coordinating a whole-of-government response to climate change
- Implementation of the Western Australian Greenhouse Strategy
- Finalising a State Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Biodiversity Conservation Bill
- Continuing the establishment of the conservation reserve system
- Further developing a world class parks system
- Implementing the Contaminated Sites Act 2003
- Fostering a whole-of-government and community approach to sustainability
- Effectively engaging Aboriginal people and the wider community

DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR 2007-2009

Public participation and consultation will be a cornerstone of DEC's operations, and we look forward to working constructively with other organisations and government agencies, industry, our neighbours, indigenous communities, our volunteers, partners and sponsors, other stakeholders and the general public.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Director, John Byrne

The Corporate Services Division delivers a range of corporate services including human resources, finance, and information services and technology.

Corporate Services Division:

- Provides strategic planning, policy development and formulation, advice and coordination in the management of the department's people. Services are provided in the functional areas of personnel, payroll, labour relations, training and development and risk management;
- Provides advice to operational managers on purchasing and fleet management, manages accounts receivable and accounts payable processes, and asset records, coordinates remote area housing, consolidates department budgets, maintains core financial software that is shared by all parts of the department, and produces management, tax and statutory reports.
- Plans, coordinates and implements the department's information systems support, and is responsible for corporate document and records management; and
- Maintains corporate spatial databases, provides a land-related information service for parks, conservation and native forests, publishes maps, and provides support for regional and desktop GIS (geographic information system) activities.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIVISION

Director: Ron Kawalilak

The Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division is responsible for internal and external communications, marketing, advertising and for a variety of corporate programs. It also coordinates corporate planning and organisational development. The division's business is to assist management in the effective use of communications as a business tool; to develop, administer and deliver organisational development and communication services and products that support the department's immediate business needs and long-term corporate objectives; and also to assist stakeholders develop an understanding of, involvement in, and support for the activities, services and policies of the department.

Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division:

- Initiates, develops and implements communication strategies, including media liaison and community relations, to address environment and conservation issues;
- Produces publications, displays and multimedia productions;
- Designs and stages special events;
- Coordinates the department's media and promotional activities;
- Provides the community with an information service; and
- Coordinates internal communications.

SCIENCE DIVISION

Director, Neil Burrows

The Science Division is responsible for providing up-to-date, scientifically sound information to uphold effective environmental protection, the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management. Its research programs provide a scientifically objective and independent source of reliable knowledge and understanding about conserving species and ecological communities. The division's expertise ensures that science is brought to bear on the State's most pressing conservation and land management problems.

Science Division:

- Provides a scientifically objective source of reliable knowledge and understanding about conserving species and ecological communities in WA, managing the public lands and waters entrusted to the department, and carrying out the department's other legislative responsibilities;
- Provides advice on sustainable resource development opportunities and to promote the conservation of biological resources through their sustainable utilisation;
- Publishes scientific research in national and international scientific journals, and electronically;
- Manages the Perth Observatory, which carries out astronomical research; and
- Manages the WA Herbarium, which houses more than 600,000 flora specimens.

NATURE CONSERVATION DIVISION

Director, Gordon Wyre

The Nature Conservation Division is responsible for the development and implementation of programs for flora and fauna conservation, for threatened species and ecological communities and for commercially exploited species according to the principles of ecological sustainability; the acquisition, conservation and protection of representative ecosystems; and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation services and policies.

Nature Conservation Division:

- Is responsible for the development and coordination of the biodiversity conservation aspects of natural resource management policies with a major focus on integration with regional resource management groups;
- Coordinates the implementation of the State Salinity Strategy programs for biodiversity conservation funded through the department;
- Is responsible for the overall marine parks and reserves program in the department, including establishment of new marine parks and reserves, policy advice, and strategic coordination of marine activities;
- Provides policy, strategic planning and advice for the protection of nature from unlawful activities, wildlife conflict and emergencies, dieback, weeds and feral animals;
- Evaluates mining and development proposals affecting department-managed lands and waters and advises on rehabilitation of department-managed lands and waters;
- Administers wildlife licenses and permits and enforces the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Regulations; and
- is responsible for developing the strategic policy framework for clearing of native vegetation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, administering, monitoring, compliance, coordinating appeals and strategic projects relating to the clearing provisions of the Act.

PARKS AND VISITOR SERVICES DIVISION

Acting Director, Peter Sharp

The Parks and Visitor Services Division is responsible for policies and programs dealing with public involvement, visitation and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department; providing, managing and maintaining appropriate access, recreation opportunities and visitor facilities; involving Aboriginal people in park management and the provision of visitor facilities and services; and developing community awareness and support for parks, natural areas, nature-based tourism and recreation services and policies.

Parks and Visitor Services Division:

- Is responsible for the preparation of management plans for lands managed by the department;
- Develops policy and strategies for recreation and tourism and other commercial activities, including permits, leases and licences;
- Coordinates land administration and acquisition programs, and external funding opportunities;
- Coordinates visitor research and surveys;
- Coordinates management of Perth's regional parks, including the implementation of landscape and design programs and completion of on-ground operational works;
- Is responsible for recreational planning and design, landscape management and visitor interpretation services; and
- Coordinates community involvement and indigenous heritage programs.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT DIVISION

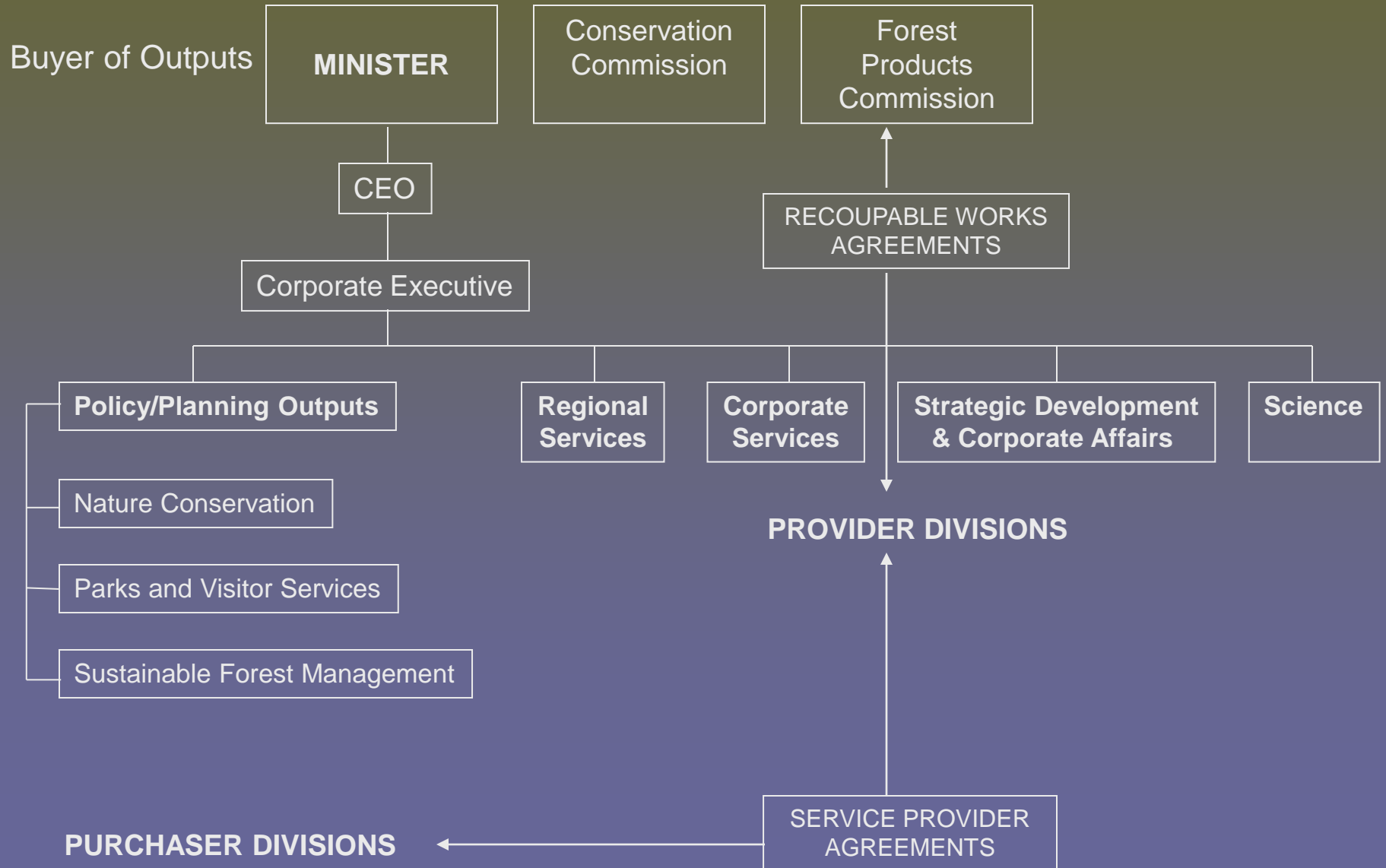
Director: Paul Jones

The Sustainable Forest Management Division is responsible for the sustainable management of State forests and timber reserves while maintaining or enhancing nature conservation, water, recreation, landscape and other values in the long term, and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for sustainable forest management, services and policies.

Sustainable Forest Management Division:

- Implements the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013, including protection of old-growth forests;
- Carries out resource inventories, disease mapping and database management related to sustainable forest management;
- Maintains corporate resource information and geographic information system databases related to forest areas in the south-west, and prepares strategic resource plans; and
- Facilitates the harvesting of State forest and timber reserves by the Forest Products Commission.

Output Purchaser/Provider Model



Profile of Department of Environment and Conservation Employees at June 2007

	FTE	Head Count	Percentage
Totals at June 2007	1966.9	2136	
Distribution by Division			(% by FTE)
Regional Services	987.65	1077	49.49%
Science	173.18	199	8.68%
Corporate Services	152.31	161	7.63%
Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs	37.09	49	1.86%
Nature Conservation	153.02	163	7.66%
Parks and Visitor Services	90.44	98	4.53%
Sustainable Forest Management	72.5	74	3.63%
Environmental Impact Assessment	27.5	28	1.38%
Environmental Regulation	81.7	85	4.1%
Sustainability	13.1	15	0.66%
Strategic Policy	22.6	23	1.13%
Keep Australia Beautiful	14.5	16	0.73%
Swan River Trust	45.41	47	2.27%
Executive (incl. EEU, Legal, Air Quality)	95.9	101	4.8%

ABOUT REGIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

- Regions and Districts
- Fire Management Services Branch
- Director's office
 - Assistant Director
 - Advisor
 - Project and Policy Officer
 - Executive Assistant

REGIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Regions and Districts

9 Regions

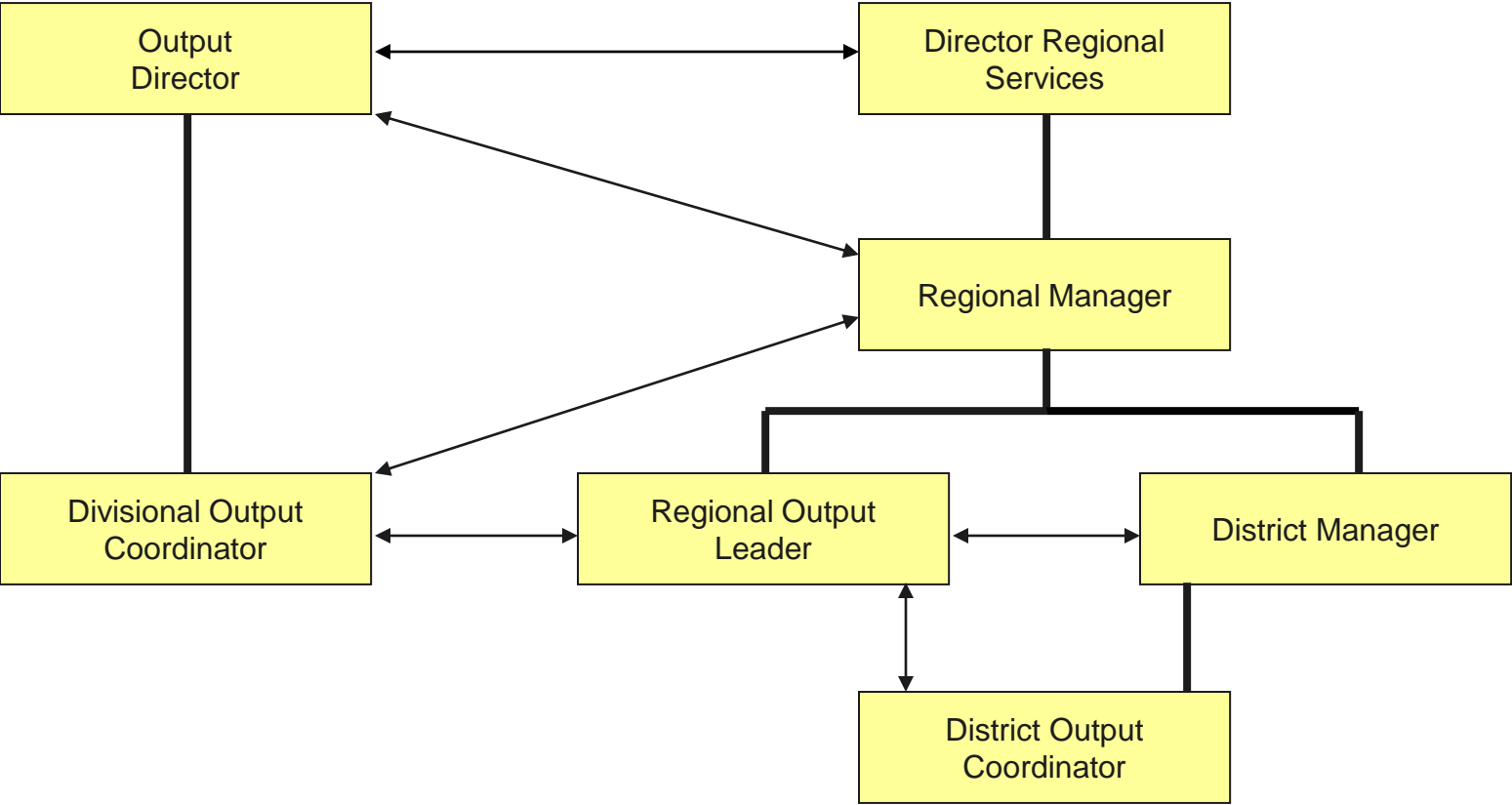
- Kimberley
- Pilbara
- Midwest
- Goldfields
- Wheatbelt
- South Coast
- Warren
- South West
- Swan

15 Districts

- West Kimberley
- Exmouth
- Geraldton, Moora, Shark Bay
- Merredin, Katanning , Narrogin
- Esperance
- Frankland, Donnelly
- Blackwood, Wellington
- Perth Hills, Swan Coastal

REGIONAL SERVICES DIVISION STRUCTURE

Reporting Relationships and Communications at Region and District Level with Outputs



———— Authority and direction
↔ Guidance and advice

REGIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Our Role

- *Custodian* - protector and manager of the estate.
- *Developing and Implementing* works programs.
- *Integrating* the delivery of outputs.

REGIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Our Role

- *Creating* new approaches to planning and management.
- *Linking* the Department to the community.
- *Advising* on the management and protection of the natural resources entrusted to the Department.
- *Cultivating* corporate ethos.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

- 604 wildfires contained
- Operation Firebird - 8 “water bombers” - Perth, Bunbury, Manjimup and Albany
- Detection fleet - 7 Champion Scouts
- Training - involving other fire agencies – 30 courses
- Smoke management - one incident in 220 burning days



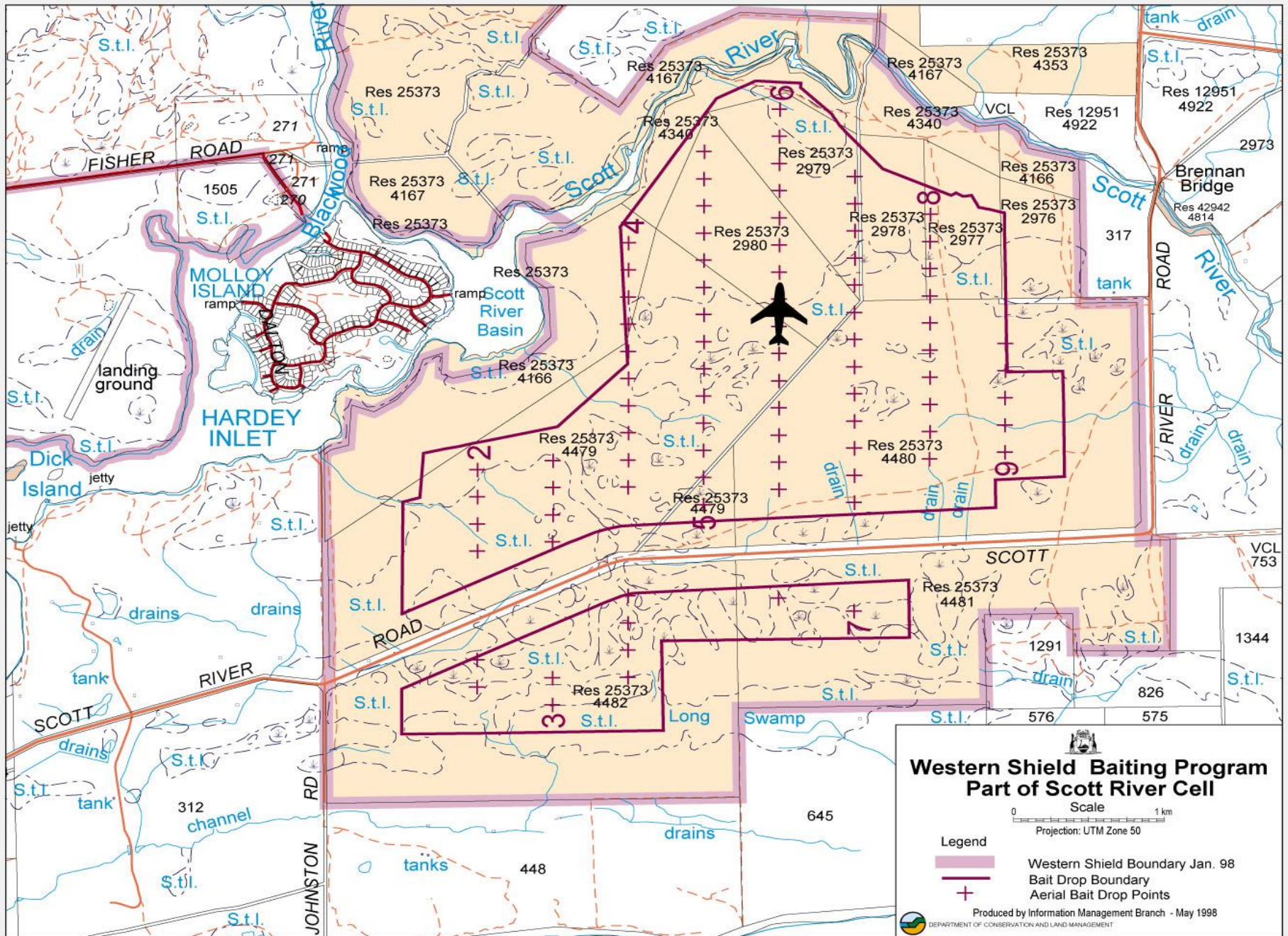




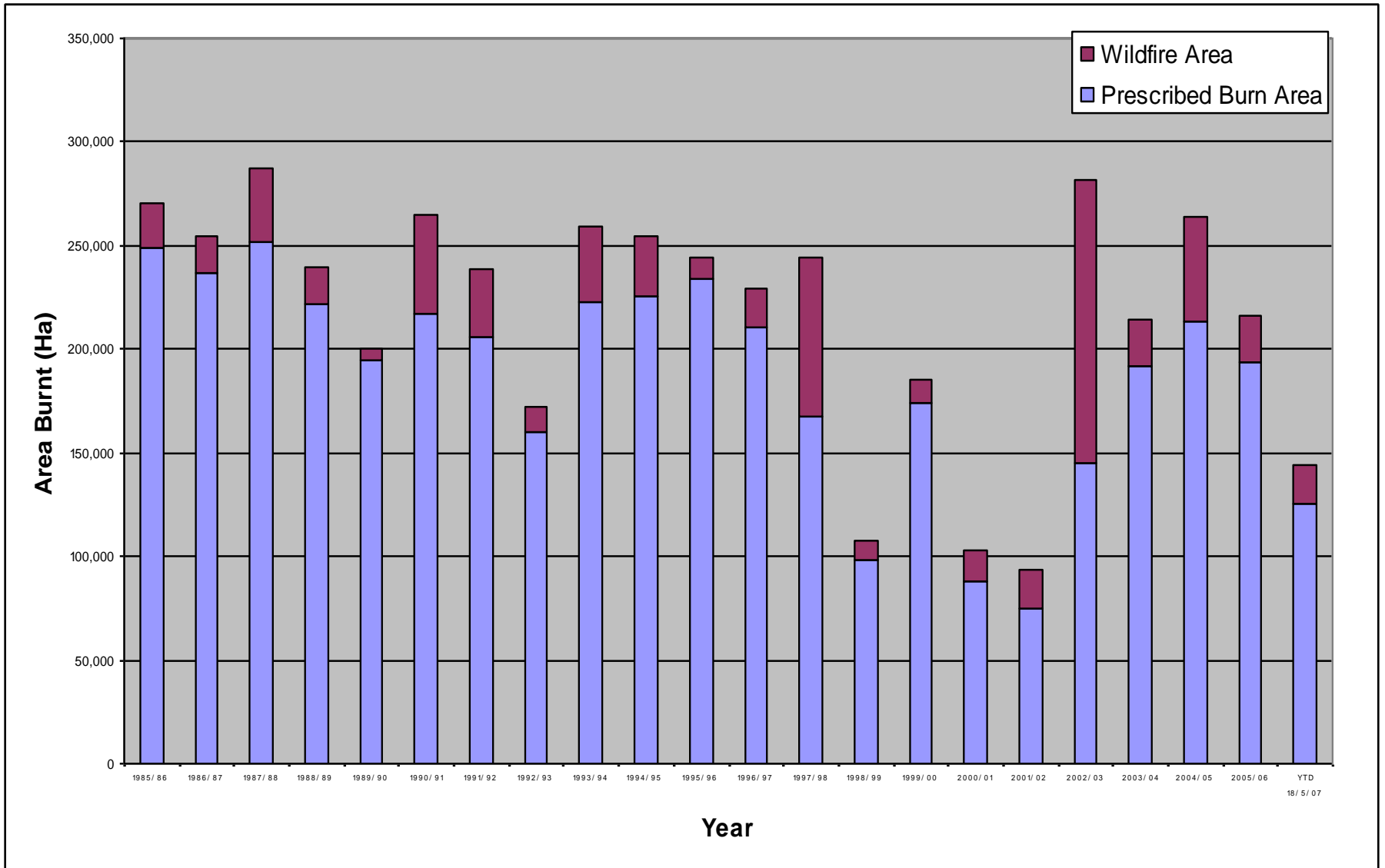








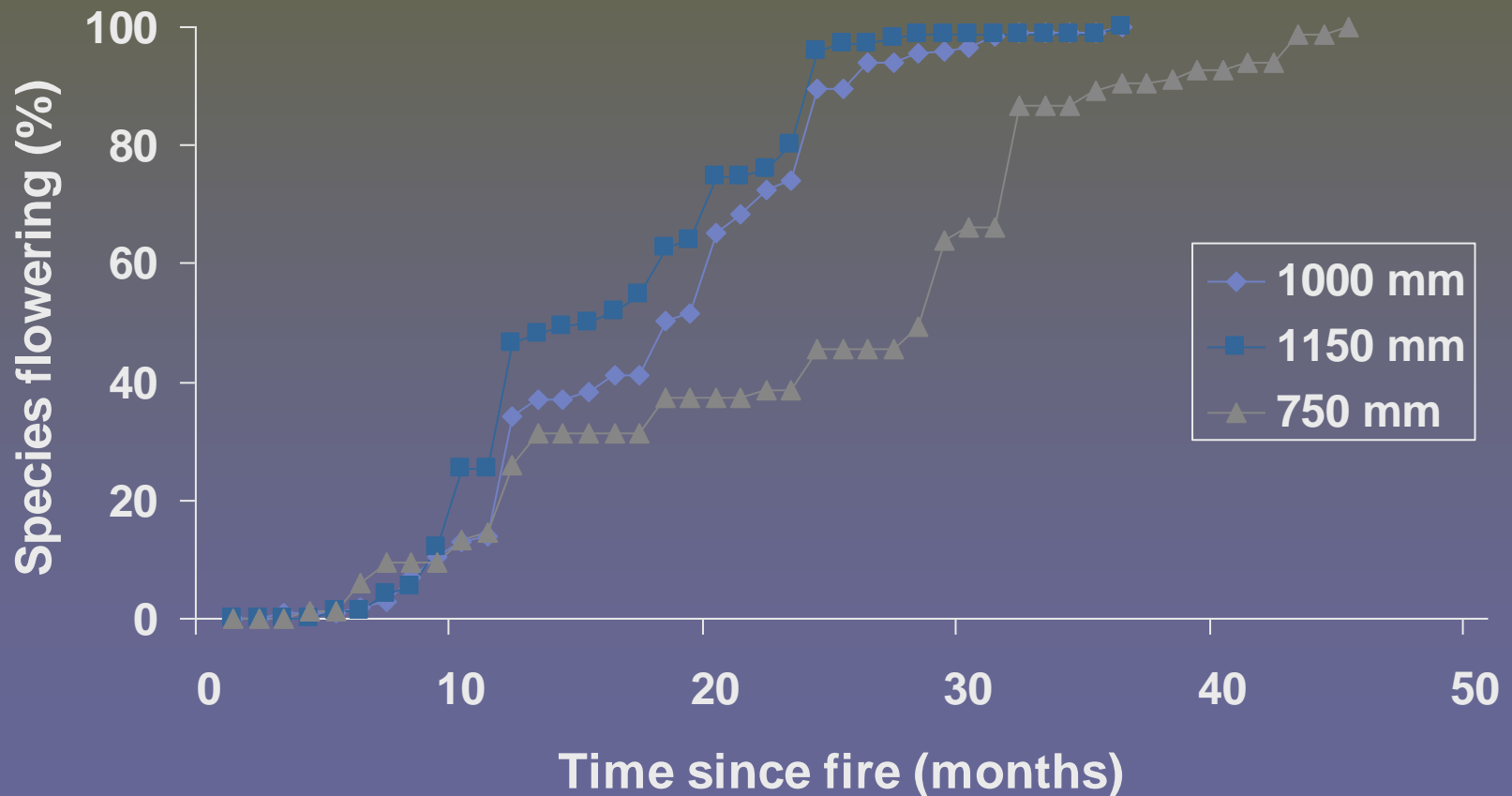
Prescribed Burning and Wildfires in DEC's Three South-West Forest Regions 1960/61 - 2006/07



FIRE AND FLORA

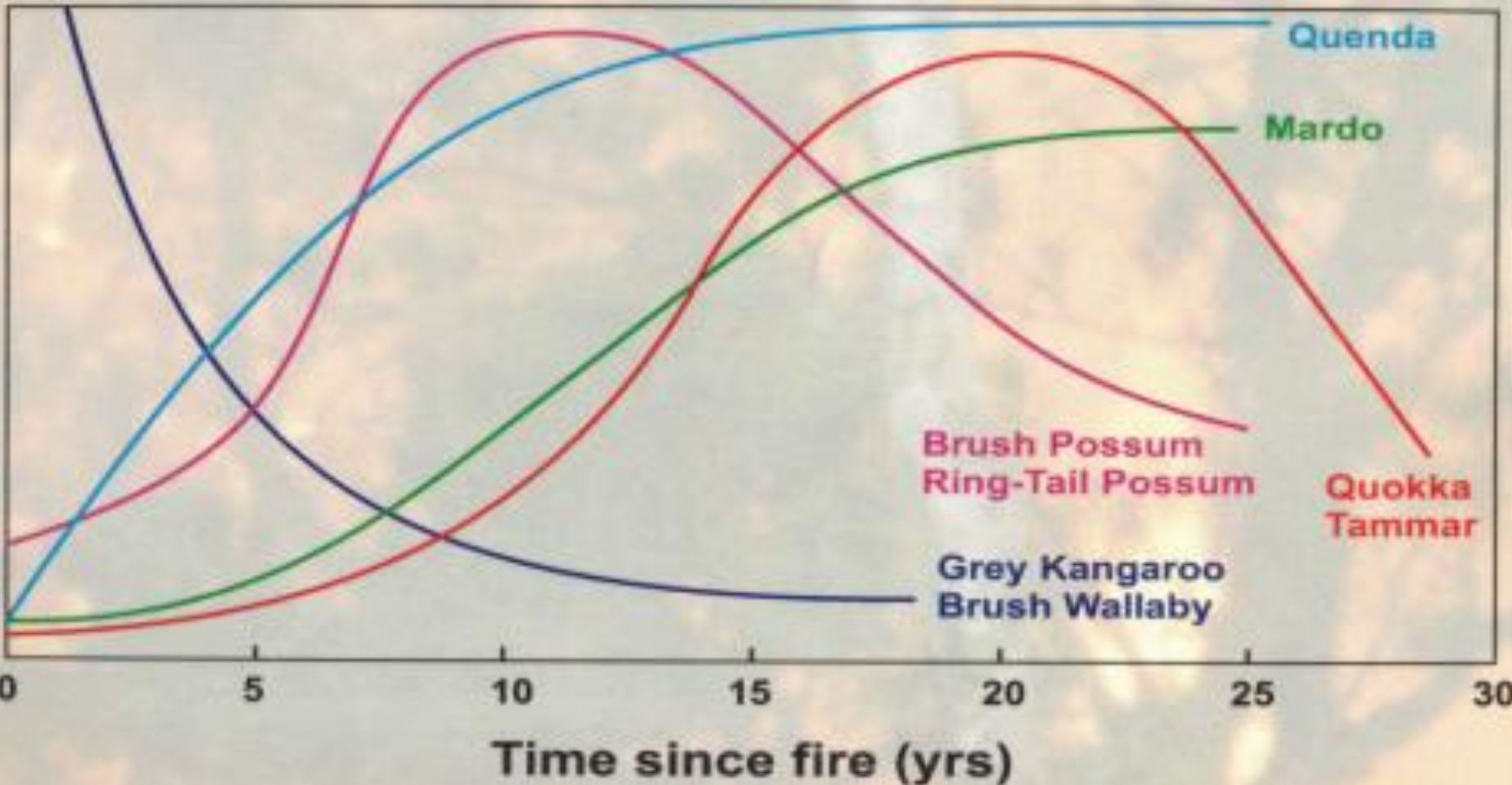
- Plants display a range of adaptations to fire.
- Many sp./communities/structures depend on fire, or benefit from fire.
- Plant sp. richness is enhanced by a diverse fire regime.
- Long periods of fire exclusion reduces plant sp. richness and structural complexity.
- Inappropriate fire regimes, such as repetitive high frequency burning or infrequent, intense fires, can reduce plant sp. richness and structure over time and encourage weeds.

Time to first flowering after fire for 300 upland forest understorey species



There is no single fire regime that is optimal for all mammals

Population



FIRE DIVERSITY PROMOTES BIODIVERSITY

- *An interlocking mosaic of patches of vegetation representing a range of fire frequencies, intervals, seasons, intensities and scales needs to be incorporated into ecologically-based fire regimes if they are to optimise the conservation of biodiversity.*





EXPECTATIONS OF GRADUATE RECRUITS

- Be a sponge. Be prepared to continue learning throughout your careers.
- Live the Department's values.
- Seek diverse experiences.
- Be enthusiastic, but cautious.
- Exhibit professional behaviour.

END

