

# DEPARTMENT OF **PARKS AND WILDLIFE** STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2013-14



We have a new department dedicated to working with the community in the conservation of Western Australia's unique wildlife and outstanding network of parks and other reserves.

Albert Jacob MLA  
Minister for Environment



Department of  
**Parks and Wildlife**





## WHERE WE'VE COME FROM

Western Australia's John Forrest National Park, named after the state's first Premier, is one of the oldest national parks in the world.

Land here was set aside by the Western Australian Government in 1898 and then proclaimed as a national park in 1900, just 28 years after the world's first national park was created at Yellowstone, in the United States.

Western Australia's early parks and nature reserves were managed by independent boards, followed by a series of State Government boards and other agencies. The first State forest was established in 1919 and managed by the then Forests Department.

Legislation to protect the state's native animals began with the Kangaroo Ordinance of 1853 and was designed to protect animals from over exploitation, rather than protecting habitat. The major legislation on which conservation of our wildlife is based was enacted in 1950. Further legislation in 1984 enabled the ongoing identification and vesting of natural areas for management of conservation and recreation values.

Today, there are 100 national parks and 13 marine parks in Western Australia. They are recognised as the cornerstone of conservation, places where Aboriginal people can maintain their cultural values, and they are hugely important for tourism and recreation.

The State Government has announced plans for new terrestrial and marine parks, and the introduction of a modern Biodiversity Conservation Act to strengthen conservation of Western Australia's world-renowned biodiversity.

John Forrest (centre), Alexander Forrest (right) and companions leaving Perth in 1874 to cross through the centre of Australia.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a dark green backpack and a dark green vest over a light-colored shirt, stands in the foreground looking towards a large, layered red rock cliff. A small waterfall flows down the face of the cliff. The scene is set against a clear blue sky and a body of water in the foreground.

# WHERE WE'RE HEADING

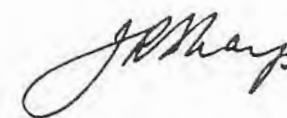
The Department of Parks and Wildlife, created on 1 July 2013, brings a new focus to conservation and promoting our parks.

To be successful, we need the community's support and the best way to achieve that is to make sure people are fully engaged in what we do and can enjoy and appreciate Western Australia's extraordinary natural environment.

The state's most precious natural assets have been entrusted to the care of the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Our conservation focus is to ensure those lands, waters and species are actively managed and protected, particularly from pest animals, weeds, disease and damaging bushfires. Bushfires can threaten our neighbours as well and we are responsible as a land manager to minimise the potential risks. We also need to continue to improve the facilities and services we offer park visitors, and the information available to help people plan and enjoy their visit.

We need to be creative and responsive in our work, we need science and research to inform our efforts and we need partnerships to be as effective as we can make them.

This document summarises our strategic directions for the department's first year of operation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jim Sharp'.

Jim Sharp  
Acting Director General  
Department of Parks and Wildlife



## VISION

The natural assets of Western Australia are conserved and valued.

## MISSION

To ensure that the nature of Western Australia is protected and conserved, for its intrinsic values and to enrich people's lives.

## WHAT WE DO

Western Australia's Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) has primary responsibility for managing the state's national parks, marine parks, State forests and other reserves, for conserving and protecting native animals and plants, and for managing many aspects of the access to and use of the state's wildlife and natural areas.

We are a regionally-focused agency and our success will be based on the relationships we continue to build with our neighbours, our visitors, our volunteers, our partners, the individuals and organisations who do business with us and the communities in which we work.

## OUR VALUES

In all of our work we will be open, accountable, creative, responsive, innovative, outcome-focused, and collaborative; and we will always act with the highest integrity.



## OUR GOALS

The department's goals in the following key areas are to work with other agencies and the community to:



### 1 PARKS

Establish and manage the state's system of national parks, marine parks, State forests and other terrestrial and marine reserves.



### 2 WILDLIFE

Conserve, protect and manage the state's native fauna and flora based on best practice science.



### 3 FIRE

Manage lands under our care to protect communities and built and natural assets from bushfires.



### 4 SUSTAINABLE USE

Manage access to the lands and waters under our care and the state's biodiversity for sustainable uses including tourism and wood production.



## OUR IMMEDIATE FOCUS

Over the first 12 months of operations the department will:



### 1 IMPLEMENT

Give the highest priority to implementing government policies and commitments.



### 2 REVIEW

Review current priorities and programs to identify management successes and those requiring refocus.



### 3 SET NEW DIRECTIONS

Set directions to ensure staff and resources are focused on delivering high value outcomes.



### 4 TRANSFORM

Implement improved, service-oriented, contemporary business practices to create a vibrant, energetic and respected modern department that is focused on outcomes and positively engaged with and responsive to stakeholders.



# OUR STRATEGIES

During the first 12 months of operations the department will focus on the following strategies to help meet our goals:

GOAL	HOW	DESIRED OUTCOME
<b>1 Parks</b> Establish and manage the state's system of national parks, marine parks, State forests and other terrestrial and marine reserves.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve facilities and experiences for visitors at the most visited sites managed by the department.</li> <li>2. Begin processes to create a Wanjina National Park in the Kimberley.</li> <li>3. Complete work underway to create a marine park at Roebuck Bay and progress planning to expand the Greater Kimberley Marine Park network to the WA–Northern Territory border.</li> <li>4. Begin processes to create a new national and marine park at the Horizontal Falls.</li> <li>5. Begin a program to create new low-cost, high-quality, affordable weekend accommodation sites for families in national parks in the south-west and midwest.</li> <li>6. Finalise policy and guidelines regarding Aboriginal customary activities and begin local area arrangements at district level.</li> <li>7. Progress joint management with Aboriginal partners in regional WA.</li> <li>8. Establish a framework for assessing the value of land for Aboriginal heritage and culture.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More and improved quality, safe visitor facilities and services, including new webpages specifically developed for park visitors.</li> <li>2. A significant new Kimberley national park.</li> <li>3. New marine parks.</li> <li>4. A new national park and marine park.</li> <li>5. New sites opened.</li> <li>6. Local area arrangements to accommodate customary activities in place in each district.</li> <li>7. Expand joint management with native title groups.</li> <li>8. Incorporate assessments into existing and new management plans.</li> </ol>
<b>2 Wildlife</b> Conserve, protect and manage the state's native fauna and flora based on best practice science.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete drafting of a Biodiversity Conservation Bill to replace the outdated <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i>.</li> <li>2. Review and evaluate each nature conservation program including research programs to maintain and enhance conservation outcomes.</li> <li>3. Construct a predator proof sanctuary for woylies and numbats at Dryandra and identify innovative means to conserve priority species, including new and strengthened partnership arrangements.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Bill for introduction into Parliament with wide stakeholder support.</li> <li>2. Reinvigorate successful programs and establish new efficient programs where opportunities are identified.</li> <li>3. A safe new protected breeding area for woylies and enhanced conservation outcomes for numbats and other priority species.</li> </ol>
<b>3 Fire</b> Manage conservation and other lands to protect communities and built and natural assets from bushfires.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to implement the Government's prescribed burning program.</li> <li>2. Pursue collaborative arrangements, including integrated training programs, with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.</li> <li>3. Incorporate lessons learned, including from recent external fire reviews, into corporate doctrine and practice.</li> </ol>	An effective, efficient and accountable fire management business that is appropriately represented and reflected in the department's structure and decision making.



#### 4 Sustainable use

Manage access to the lands and waters under our care and the state's biodiversity for sustainable uses including tourism and wood production.

1. Complete development of the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 (FMP).
2. Implement the FMP and ensure improved forest management working arrangements are in place.
3. Work with Tourism Western Australia through the Naturebank initiative, to prepare sites for quality environmentally sensitive tourist accommodation in selected national parks.
4. Work with the tourism industry and associations to promote domestic tourism opportunities.
5. Review the department's processes for input into the Environmental Protection Authority, WA Planning Commission and other environmental and planning assessments.

1. A new 10-year Forest Management Plan.
2. FMP implementation underway and agreed working arrangements adopted.
3. Two new sites developed.
4. More visitor opportunities and increased direct expenditure in regional communities.
5. Consistent, timely, corporate level advice to agencies and the government.

#### 5 Corporate

1. Identify and manage risk to the public, staff and the department.
2. Produce a corporate plan in early 2014.
3. Review and implement a new executive structure and where appropriate a new senior management structure.
4. Review and where necessary reform corporate support programs.
5. Progress a new office hub for the department at Bunbury.
6. Refocus and strengthen the department's public communications.

1. Integrated risk management framework adopted.
2. A corporate plan with updated strategic directions.
3. A structure that reflects and supports the department's business goals.
4. Corporate support programs that are responsive to the departments needs.
5. Complete design and documentation.
6. Information that is current, relevant, meets customer needs and is delivered via contemporary media.