

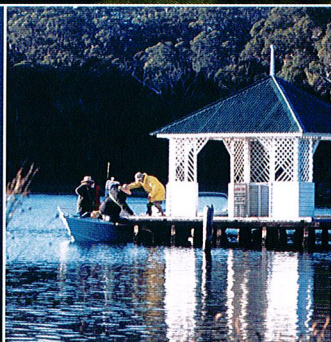
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park

have your say



An indicative management plan has been released for the proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

You are invited to have your say on how the proposed reserve is managed into the future.

Please submit your views on the indicative management plan before
Friday 1 December 2006.



Department of
Environment and Conservation



The Walpole and Nornalup Inlets – between the forest and the Southern Ocean

There are many inlets along the south coast of Western Australia. The Walpole and Nornalup Inlets, surrounded by undulating hills and eucalypt forests, are two of the region's most beautiful.

Walpole and Nornalup Inlets are geologically complex and biologically diverse compared to most estuaries in the southwest of Western Australia as the inlets are connected to each other and are both permanently open to the ocean. As a result, the inlets maintain marine-like conditions for most of the year.

The inlet basins, which are dominated by mud and sand flats with some rocky shallows, support ephemeral seagrasses and numerous species of algae. Marine worms, crustaceans and molluscs dominate the relatively rich benthic invertebrate fauna, while approximately 40 mostly marine fish species commonly occur in the inlets. Larger fish that breed in the inlets and/or lower rivers include black bream and cobbler.

The relatively deep waters of the Nornalup Inlet also provide habitat for a variety of marine species, such as sharks, that are not common in other estuaries of the region.

A diverse range of waterbirds, shorebirds and seabirds, including ospreys and white-bellied sea eagles, inhabit the wide range of marine, estuarine and terrestrial habitats in and adjacent to the inlet system.

The commitment to protecting our marine environment

Western Australia is progressively developing a marine conservation reserve system to protect its unique and special marine habitats, wildlife and ecosystems. The reserve system aims to protect representative examples of the full range of marine biodiversity in the State and also to preserve areas of scientific and special interest. The establishment of the State's marine conservation reserve system is a key environmental commitment of the Western Australian Government. Western Australia's marine conservation reserves also form part of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.

The Indicative Management Plan for the Proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park 2006 (the indicative management plan) has been developed in consultation with local communities and other interested parties to provide a framework to conserve the area's natural, social and cultural values for current and future generations.

This brochure summarises the key information in the indicative management plan, including the proposed zoning scheme and permitted uses. There will be a three-month public comment period from the date of formal release, and your views on the indicative management plan are sought.



Walpole-Nornalup a place to appreciate nature

The diverse visual landscape of tranquil waters and meandering rivers, forested hillsides, heathland and wild coastal scenery, combined with a variety of wildlife, make the inlets popular locations for nature-based tourism, canoeing, boating, water sports, nature appreciation and recreational fishing.

The inlets and surrounding lands have a long history as a tourist destination. The inlets provide excellent opportunities for nature-based tourism and remote experiences, particularly in parts of the Nornalup Inlet and the Frankland and Deep Rivers.

In the decade up to 2001, visitor numbers to the Walpole Tourist Bureau increased from approximately 17,000 to 84,000. With the close proximity of other high profile nature-orientated attractions such as the Bibbulmun Track, the Tree-Top Walk and the Walpole Wilderness Area, visitation to the area is expected to continue to increase.

Tourist facilities exist in Walpole, Nornalup and other locations including Rest Point and Coalmine Beach and adjacent to the inlets and rivers. Current commercial tourism in the area includes boat tours and houseboat hire, as well as kayak tours, dinghy hire and guided fishing.

The inlet system is an important recreational fishing destination and popular target species include black bream, King George whiting and blue-spot flathead. With their easy access, sheltered waters and high scenic values, the inlets are also a popular boating destination. While trailer powerboats are the most prevalent craft, the inlets are also used for canoeing, sailing, jet skiing and water skiing.

The estuaries are likely to have been significant hunting and gathering areas for Aboriginal communities in south-western Australia. The presence of middens, artefact scatters and fish traps on the shores of the inlet system and surrounding region provides evidence that Aboriginal groups have a long history of camping and fishing in the area. The inlets are still significant and important sites for Aboriginal people for maintaining cultural customs.

Careful management of commercial and recreational activities within and adjacent to the proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park (the proposed marine park) are required to protect the estuarine environment while ensuring opportunities for sustainable and equitable use.



What are marine conservation reserves?

The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) specifies that an area can be declared as one of three types of marine conservation reserve to help protect and preserve the marine environment in Western Australia. These three types are:

- **Marine Nature Reserve:** these reserves are created for conservation and scientific research. Although low impact tourism may be permitted, they are 'look, but don't take' areas which provide the highest level of protection. No recreational or commercial fishing, aquaculture, pearling, petroleum drilling or production is allowed in these areas.
- **Marine Park:** these reserves are created to provide for the conservation and restoration of the marine environment and any features of particular archaeological, historic or scientific interest. A multiple use approach is used where opportunities for recreational and commercial activities that do not compromise the primary conservation goal are permitted.
- **Marine Management Area:** these reserves are created for managing and protecting the marine environment so that it may be used for conservation, recreational, scientific and commercial purposes. Marine management areas are usually appropriate for areas that have significant conservation value and intensive human uses such as mineral and petroleum exploration and production and/or commercial fishing.

The indicative management plan recommends that the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets area be declared a marine park. This category of reserve is considered to be the most appropriate to protect the area's estuarine environments and its educational and scientific values, while also providing for a range of sustainable recreational and commercial uses.

If declared, the marine park will be legally entrusted in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA), a seven-member non-government committee appointed by the Governor of Western Australia to provide advice on the establishment and management of Western Australia's marine conservation reserve system. The final management plan will be developed taking into consideration public comment received on this indicative management plan. The final management plan is prepared on behalf of the MPRA and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has the lead responsibility for implementing the final management plan.

The DEC was formed on 1 July 2006 through the amalgamation of the former Department of Environment and the former Department of Conservation and Land Management.





What is the indicative management plan?

The purpose of the indicative management plan is to provide a framework for the protection of the estuarine environment and the inherent educational and scientific values, while providing opportunities for a wide range of recreational uses, nature appreciation, tourism and fishing to occur in a sustainable manner.

A vision statement, which represents the local and broader community's future aspirations for the conservation, use and management for the proposed marine park has also been developed. This draft vision statement will provide a broad direction for future management.

The indicative management plan includes, or specifies:

- an overall vision and boundaries for the proposed marine park;
- a zoning scheme and the activities permitted in each zone;
- a list of generic strategies including education and interpretation, public participation, patrol and enforcement, visitor infrastructure; research and monitoring; and
- a list of the ecological and social values of the area which include specific strategies, management targets and overall objectives for each value.

The indicative management plan is an outcome-based plan, which means that the DEC and the MPRA will assess the management plan's effectiveness against the specific targets for ecological and social values listed in the plan. The ecological and social values that the indicative management plan identifies are:

Ecological values

- Geomorphology
- Sediment quality
- Water quality
- Benthic invertebrates
- Finfishes
- Sharks and rays
- Waterbirds
- Sandy beaches and shoreline vegetation

Draft vision for the proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park

To protect and improve the unique natural biodiversity, aesthetic qualities and cultural values of the inlets. The area will support sustainable human use for present and future generations, such that:

- the inlets and their shores are sustainably managed in a condition that is the same or better than today;
- the aesthetic values and ambience of the inlets are maintained;
- people can still experience a range of activities such as fishing, tours and holidays on and around the inlets;
- the biodiversity of the inlets is monitored and protected;
- economic benefits of sustainable management of the inlets will flow to the Walpole community;
- there is a substantially raised awareness of the value of the inlets; and
- the local community feels ownership of the inlets, participates in managing the area, and feels confident in their long-term protection.

DEC welcomes comments on all aspects of the indicative management plan, including proposed boundaries and type of marine reserve, the vision, the generic strategies, the ecological and social values and targets, as well as the zoning scheme.

Social values

- Recreational fishing
- Boating
- Nature-based tourism
- Aesthetic values (scenery, peace and quiet)
- Indigenous cultural significance
- European cultural significance
- Education
- Scientific research



How was the indicative management plan developed?

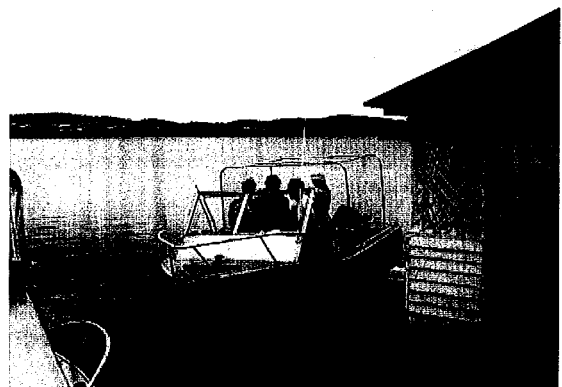
In 1994 the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group recognised the significant conservation and recreational values of the Walpole-Nornalup estuarine system and recommended that the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets, as well as the tidal parts of the Deep, Frankland and Walpole Rivers, be considered as part of the State-wide system of marine conservation reserves.

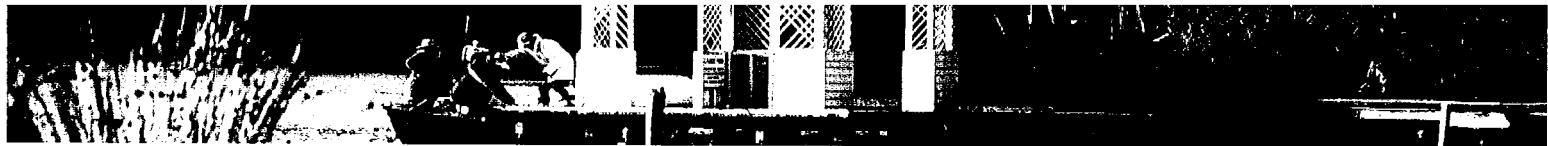
The proposal for a marine conservation reserve at the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets was initiated in 2003 with the formation of a 36-member community-based focus group comprising individuals and community group representatives from Walpole, Manjimup, Nornalup, government departments and peak bodies. The diversity of the focus group membership ensured excellent local knowledge of the area and a breadth of understanding of recreational (including fishing), science, conservation, tourism, Aboriginal heritage and commercial activities.

The focus group met five times in their deliberations on the marine reserve proposal. During the planning process, the DEC undertook a substantial education and community consultation program, including newspaper articles, pamphlets, community updates, flyers, public meetings and presentations to government committees and key interest groups.

The focus group provided advice on the type of reserve, the boundaries, values, appropriate management objectives, targets and strategies and this advice was summarised in the indicative management plan. The MPRA considered the indicative management plan and provided its advice to the Minister for the Environment. Following government consideration, the indicative management plan has been released for a three-month public comment period.

The indicative management plan complements other planning processes and management frameworks in the area, including the Draft Management Plan for the Walpole Wilderness Area and Adjacent Parks and Reserves.





The zoning scheme

Zoning is an important part of the management framework in multiple use reserves and is used to protect marine and estuarine biodiversity as well as manage recreational and commercial human uses in an equitable and sustainable way.

The CALM Act provides for four different zone types in a marine park, these being:

1. **Sanctuary zones** – ‘look but don’t take’ areas which provide a high level of protection to plants, animals and habitats while allowing passive recreation and tourism activities, nature appreciation, scientific study and education.
2. **Recreation zones** – these zones provide for conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing where this is compatible with conservation values. Commercial fishing, pearling and aquaculture are not permitted in these zones.
3. **Special purpose zones** – these zones are managed for a particular priority use or commercial activity (e.g. wildlife conservation or pearling). Activities incompatible with the specified priority purpose are not permitted in these zones.
4. **General use zones** – this zone comprises those areas not included in sanctuary zones, recreation zones or special purpose zones. Conservation of natural values is the priority of general use zones but a range of other sustainable activities are permitted provided they do not compromise ecological values of a reserve.



The indicative management plans recommends zoning the entire marine park a recreation zone. This means that the area will be managed for conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing (subject to Department of Fisheries’ regulations).

No sanctuary zones were recommended because the inlets are simple basins which show little distinct separation of habitat. Throughout the year the inlets are subject to changing salinity and temperature due to rainfall and movement of ocean waters. As a result, there is large-scale movement of animals on a daily and seasonal basis within the inlets, between the inlets and rivers, and between the inlets and the ocean. For these reasons, the focus group concentrated primarily on strategies other than the use of spatial management (i.e. zones) for the proposed marine park.

Zoning the area a recreation zone in its entirety recognises the significance of tourism and recreation as major activities in the area, while still protecting the important physical and biological characteristics of the inlets.



How can I use and enjoy the area?

Most existing activities will continue within the proposed marine park but there will be restrictions to some activities in certain areas.

Recreational uses

Recreational boating and surface water sports can continue in all areas of the proposed marine park. However, increasing visitor use, combined with the limited size of the inlet system, has the potential to create conflict amongst users, disturb wildlife and disrupt the peace and quiet and the remote, natural experience that are integral to the character of the inlet system. To ensure the estuarine environment and aesthetic values of the inlet are not diminished, restrictions on anchoring, vessel numbers, type and speed may be introduced in some areas in the future, in consultation with the community and major users.

Recreational fishing

Recreational fishing in the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets is a popular activity for visitors and locals and is an important contributor to the local economy. Recreational fishing will continue in all areas of the proposed marine park, however careful management is required to make sure the quality of the recreational fishing experience is maintained. Recreational fishing will still be subject to Department of Fisheries' bag and size limits, gear restrictions and licensing, and future management will include collaboration with the Department of Fisheries to ensure that target species are not depleted.

Commercial tourism

The proposed marine park is a popular nature-based tourism destination with the major activities offered on the inlets including boat tours and houseboat hire. Sea kayak tours operate during summer months in addition to canoe and dinghy hire operations.

Once an area is declared a marine reserve, the CALM Act specifies that all commercial activities in the reserve must be carried out under a commercial activity licence. Commercial activity licences and conditions provide a mechanism to ensure that commercial activities do not impact on the ecological or social values of the proposed marine park. There are currently no significant management issues arising from commercial tourism in the proposed marine park. However, should the number of commercial operators substantially increase, sustainable limits may need to be determined.



Specific management issues on which we would like your feedback

During the development of the indicative management plan, the focus group did not reach consensus on whether the area adjacent to the Boronia Avenue jetty and boat ramp should be included within the proposed marine park (refer map). This area is the work base for two commercial tour operators.

The MPRA considered this issue and recommended that two options for the boundary of the proposed marine park be included in the indicative management plan. Public input is sought on this issue.

If the area is included in the proposed marine park, DEC would become responsible for the maintenance of the jetty and boat ramp, including signage.

If the area is not included in the proposed marine park, the ongoing maintenance of the jetty and boat ramp would remain with the local government authority, the Shire of Manjimup.

How to make a submission

The indicative management plan has been released for a three-month public submission period, closing on 1 December 2006.

Copies of the indicative management plan can be inspected at the office and libraries of the Shires of Manjimup, Plantagenet and Denmark. Copies of the plan are available online at DEC's Naturebase website at www.naturebase.net/haveyoursay or can be obtained from the following DEC offices:

- State Operations Headquarters, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Technology Park, Western Precinct, Kensington WA 6151
- Marine Policy and Planning Branch, 47 Henry Street, Fremantle WA 6160
- Frankland District Office, South Coast Highway, Walpole WA 6398
- Donnelly District Office, Kennedy Street, Pemberton WA 6260
- Warren Regional Office, Brain Street, Manjimup WA 6258; and
- Albany Work Centre, 120 Albany Highway, Albany WA 6330.



All submissions are welcome and every submission is important. To make a submission you can:

- complete the submission form in this brochure and fold it so the return address panel is on the outside, then mail it. No stamp is required. Please include additional sheets if there is insufficient space.
- OR, send your submission electronically, either by completing the submission form online at www.naturebase.net, or by emailing walpole_nornalup.marine@dec.wa.gov.au
- OR, write a letter and mail it to the
Plan Coordinator
Indicative Management Plan for the Proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park
Marine Policy and Planning Branch
Department of Environment and Conservation
47 Henry St
Fremantle WA 6160.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 1 December 2006

If you would like more information or help to complete your submission, please contact the plan coordinator at DEC's Marine Policy and Planning Branch by ringing (08) 9336 0107.

Information and help can also be obtained from the Frankland District Office located on South Coast Highway, Walpole WA 6398 or by ringing (08) 9840 1251.

What happens next?

At the end of the public submission period all submissions received will be reviewed and, where appropriate, the MPRA may make recommendations to the Minister for the Environment to amend the indicative management plan based on feedback from the community.

The Minister for the Environment will then seek endorsement of the management plan from the Ministers for Resources and Fisheries. Once finalised, a summary of the public submissions will be made available to the community.



Indicative Management Plan for the proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park



Department of
Environment and Conservation

MPRA

Have your say

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority have prepared, in consultation with local communities and other interested parties, an indicative management plan for the proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park. The management plan specifies how the park will be managed into the future. Your suggestions and comments are important to us and we encourage you to make a submission to DEC regarding your thoughts on the indicative management plan.

Fold here

How to make a submission

To submit your comments on the indicative management plan, please complete the form, fold it as shown and post to DEC. You will not need a stamp. Alternatively, you can submit your comments electronically at www.naturebase.net or you can email your comments to walpole_nornalup.marine@dec.wa.gov.au

How to complete the submission form

To complete the submission form you will need a copy of the 'Have your say' brochure. If you would like to make more detailed comments on the individual objectives, strategies or targets to protect the ecological and social values of the proposed marine park, you will need a copy of the *Indicative Management Plan for the proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park*. Copies of the indicative management plan and the 'Have your say' brochure are available at local DEC offices or on the DEC website, www.naturebase.net

Thank you for giving us your time and information.

Please follow the folding instructions on this page, staple and post free of charge.

Office use only			

Submissions must be received by 1 December 2006

Fold here

No stamp required
if posted in Australia



Walpole and Nornalup Inlets – Have your say

Reply Paid 62341

Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

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1. Your primary interests

What are your main interests/activities in the proposed marine park:

Please number your three most important activities 1-3: 1 = most important

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational boating/ canoeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/snorkelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scuba diving | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous use | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing/tourist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing/parasailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Marinas/jetty/boat ramps | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
-

2. Reserve type

As discussed in the 'Have your say' brochure, legislation allows an area to be declared one of three different types of conservation reserve. The indicative management plan recommends that the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets be declared a marine park.

Do you agree that marine park is the most appropriate type of conservation reserve for the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, what change would you suggest?

3. Reserve boundary

Please have a look at the map in the 'Have your say' brochure and the explanation regarding the proposed boundary of the marine park.

Do you believe that:

- The Boronia Ave jetty and boat ramp ☐ should be included in the marine park?
☐ should not be included in the marine park?

Why do you prefer the option you have selected and do you have any other changes or suggestions regarding the boundaries of the proposed marine park?

4. Zoning

An overview of the zoning scheme and its development is discussed in the 'Have your say' brochure. The indicative management plans recommends zoning the entire proposed marine park a recreation zone. This means that the area will be managed for conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing (subject to Department of Fisheries' regulations).

What level of support do you have for zoning the entire proposed marine park a recreation zone?

- ☐ Support
- ☐ Would support if some changes were made
- ☐ Don't support
- ☐ No opinion

Please use this space for any other comments you would like to make relating to the zoning scheme for the proposed marine park.

5. Overall comment on the indicative management plan

The purpose of the indicative management plan is to provide a framework for the conservation of the marine park's environment and its inherent educational and scientific values, while providing opportunities for uses such as recreation, nature appreciation, tourism and fishing to occur in a sustainable manner.

Overall, what sort of balance between use and conservation do you think the indicative management plan achieves?

- ☐ Significantly more emphasis on conservation required
- ☐ More emphasis on conservation required
- ☐ Good balance
- ☐ More emphasis on use and access required
- ☐ Significantly more emphasis on use and access required

6. Other comments

Please use this space for any other comments you would like to make on the indicative management plan.

7.

Please PRINT. Required fields are marked with an asterisk*. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

Name:	<input type="text" value="Mr"/>	<input type="text" value="Ms"/>	<input type="text" value="Ms"/>	Other:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	*
Postal Address:							*
						Post code:	*

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Is this submission the official submission of an organisation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Organisation name: _____

Position (if applicable): _____ Number of people represented by submission: _____

Personal information collected by the DEC is protected by the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988* and will only be used to assist the DEC in the management of the marine park.

Further information

If you would like additional information or assistance to complete your submission, please contact the Plan Coordinator at DEC's Marine Policy and Planning Branch by ringing (08) 9336 0100.

Information and assistance can also be obtained from the Frankland District Office located on South Coast Highway, Walpole WA 6398 or by ringing (08) 9840 1251.

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The proposed Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park

