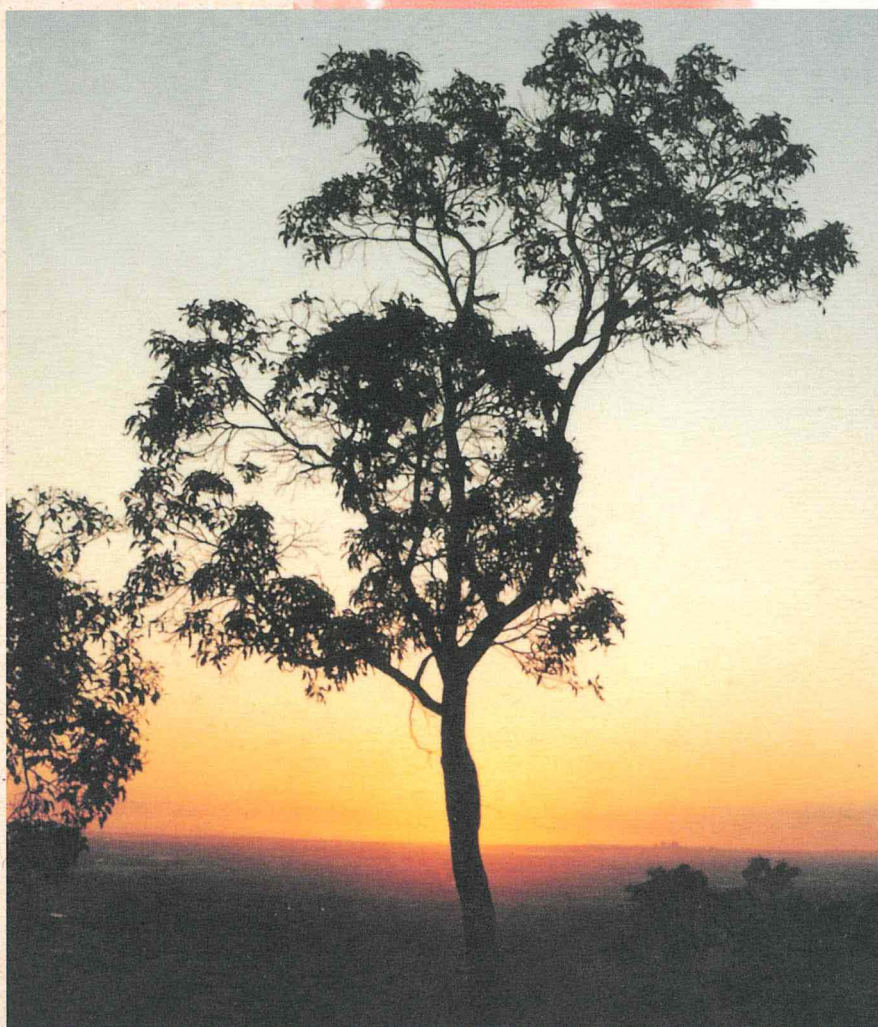


OCTOBER 1995

PROPOSALS FOR THE
DARLING RANGE REGIONAL PARK



Ministry for Planning
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Proposals for the **D**arling Range Regional Park

Final

Prepared for the Western Australian Planning Commission
by the Ministry for Planning
Albert Facey House
469 Wellington Street
Perth 6000 Western Australia



Ministry for Planning

October 1995

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FOREWORD

The Darling Range is one of the most attractive and distinctive landscapes in the Perth metropolitan region. The Range's natural bushland and rivers intermingled with character homes, buildings and orchards provide pleasing vistas. The 'hills' environment is very important to the people of Perth, not only to its residents who enjoy the special lifestyle, but also to the many visitors who spend time relaxing in this unique area.

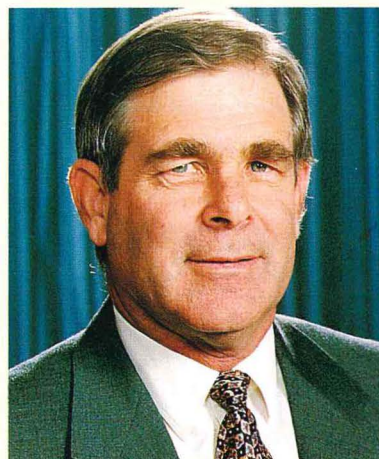
The Darling Range also provides safe habitats for a wide range of animals and birds and refuge for some rare and endangered native flora and fauna.

Establishment of the Darling Range Regional Park will ensure the area's environmental values are protected. The full establishment of the park will require an amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme to reserve and acquire additional land so that eventually the total area of the park, including government land, will be over 38,000 hectares. Mechanisms for effective administration and management planning for the Darling Range Regional Park are proposed.

This final report has been prepared following the consideration of public submissions on the proposals for the park contained in the draft report.

A Community Consultative Committee played an important role in developing and finalising the park proposals and analysing public submissions. Environmental groups, local interest groups, industry and business, agriculture and local authorities were represented on the Committee. I would like to thank the members for their contribution.

The Darling Range Regional Park is set to become the largest of 16 regional parks to be established in the Perth metropolitan region to protect the outstanding environmental, recreation and landscape values of key areas of Perth for future generations.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Richard Lewis', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

RICHARD LEWIS JP MLA

MINISTER FOR PLANNING

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Region Open Space in Gooseberry Hill.

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Walyunga National Park is a delightful spot to enjoy a picnic.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The proposal to establish the Darling Range Regional Park was announced in 1990 and was followed by a study to identify boundaries and issues associated with the park which would lead to its establishment.

This final report for the Darling Range Regional Park identifies broad issues associated with the establishment of the park and provides planning strategies to manage those issues. It describes the areas proposed for inclusion in the park in broad terms and proposes interim and final management structures.

The report is not a detailed management plan. Management planning will be undertaken at a later stage as with other regional parks in Perth.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Darling Range Regional Park are to:

- provide for the protection of the environmental, landscape and heritage values of the Darling Range Regional Park area through the reservation of land and an effective administrative and management structure;
- protect the habitat of a variety of flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species;
- establish open space resources and provide for recreation opportunities in the outer metropolitan region;
- protect watercourses and water catchment areas from inappropriate use; and
- mitigate against bush fire hazard.

Full implementation of the park requires a number of steps, the first of which will be an amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme to reserve additional land for Parks and Recreation for inclusion in the park. Compensation provisions of the *Metropolitan Region Scheme Act 1959* will apply to affected private land which will be gradually acquired over time.

The recommendations for the establishment of the Darling Range Regional Park are as follows:

Recommendations

1. The Western Australian Planning Commission initiates an amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme to reserve land within the proposed park boundary for Parks and Recreation.
2. The Western Australian Planning Commission prepares a planning policy for the Darling Range Regional Park Policy Area to assist government authorities in the determination of applications for rezoning, development and subdivision.
3. The Department of Conservation and Land Management coordinates management of the park in conjunction with the Water Authority of Western Australia and the shires of Swan, Mundaring, Kalamunda, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the cities of Armadale and Gosnells, and prepares Joint Management Agreements for the care, control and management of the park.
4. The Department of Conservation and Land Management establishes an Interim Management Committee comprised of local authorities, the Ministry for Planning, the Water Authority of



Western Australia and a community representative. In conjunction, two Community Advisory Committees be established one comprising the shires of Swan, Mundaring and Kalamunda and the other the cities of Gosnells and Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. The community representative on the Interim Management Committee is to be the Chairman of the Community Advisory Committees.

5. The Department of Conservation and Land Management coordinates the preparation of Park Management Plans in conjunction with the Water Authority of Western Australia and local authorities represented in the proposed park and the community.
6. The Department of Land Administration be requested to undertake the amalgamation and revesting of lands to give effect to the establishment of the Darling Range Regional Park.
7. The Ministry for Planning and the Department of Conservation and Land Management develop appropriate arrangements for the interim management and funding of Western Australian Planning Commission landholdings and other land within the proposed regional park.
8. Interim management has regard for existing management plans and arrangements and be based on a review of existing funding arrangements.



M & I Morcombe

The Rainbow Bee-eater is a summer migrant to the south-west, spending the winter in the far north or the Indonesian islands. It nests in a burrow in the ground.

INTRODUCTION

The Darling Range is a major landform feature in the Perth metropolitan region. The Range has significant conservation and recreation values and provides for diverse lifestyle opportunities. Economically, it contains important forestry, mining and water catchment resources and provides for water catchment, agricultural, urban development and commercial land uses.

The many natural and semi-natural areas contribute towards the character of the Darling Range. For those who live in the area, the continuation of lifestyle and the preservation of the remnant vegetation and natural resources are of great importance.

The proximity of the Darling Range to the urban areas of Perth makes it a popular day trip destination for many people and a special area for most Perth residents.

The proposal to establish the Darling Range Regional Park was announced in 1990. The study to identify boundaries and issues associated with the park which would lead to its formal establishment was assisted by a Steering Committee, a Community Consultative Committee and a Technical Panel.

The Community Consultative Committee was established by the then Minister for Planning, the Hon. Kay Hallahan MLC, and chaired by Mr Fred McKenzie MLC, the then Member for East Metropolitan Region. In 1994, the Hon. Richard Lewis MLA, Minister for Planning, appointed Mr John Day MLA, Member for Darling Range, as Chairman to reconvene the Committee and finalise the study.

Details of committees are contained in appendices 1 and 2. The draft report *Darling Range Regional Park and Landscape Study* (DPUD 1993) was released for public comment between January and April 1993. The comments were reviewed and the draft report has been modified accordingly. A detailed separate report on the public submissions is contained in the *Darling Range Regional Park and Landscape Study: Report on public submissions* available from the Ministry for Planning.

} * !



BACKGROUND

PLANNING BACKGROUND

The land reserved for Parks and Recreation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme in the Darling Range locality is some of the most important in the metropolitan region and has been identified as a major component of the regional parks system.

The *System 6 Red Book* (DCE 1983) recognised the recreation and conservation importance of the area and made a number of recommendations for 30 areas in the Darling Range and Scarp including the planning and management of the areas in a coordinated manner as part of a regional park.

Much of the land proposed to be included in the regional park has been reserved for Parks and Recreation purposes in the Metropolitan Region Scheme for many years or has been identified in the System 6 report.

THE DARLING RANGE REGIONAL PARK CONCEPT

The Darling Range Regional Park is one of a number of regional parks proposed to be established in the Perth metropolitan region. A regional park is regional open space identified as having outstanding conservation, recreation and landscape values. The concept was introduced in the Stephenson-Hepburn Plan of 1955 and is intended to provide for the protection of open space of regional significance.

The objectives of the Darling Range Regional Park are to:

- provide for the protection of the environmental, landscape and heritage values of the Darling



M & I Morcombe

The Numbat, or Marsupial Anteater, was once widespread across southern Australia, but is now usually seen only in a few remnant bushland reserves.

Range Regional Park area through the reservation of land and an effective administration and management structure;

- protect the habitat of a variety of flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species;
- establish open space resources and provide for recreation opportunities in the outer



M & I Morcombe

The Chuditch was once quite common but now only occurs in the south-west of the State.

metropolitan region;

- protect watercourses and water catchment areas from inappropriate use; and
- mitigate against bush fire hazard.

Land within the Darling Range Regional Park, together with land immediately outside the regional park boundary with identified environmental and landscape values, will form the Darling Range Regional Park Policy Area. It is proposed that this area comprise land reserved for



M & I Morecombe

The Brush-tailed phascogale is a small fierce carnivore coming from its refuge in hollow branches at night to hunt for roosting birds, mice or insects.



M & I Morecombe

The pygmy possum is a mouse-sized marsupial, hunting insects and searching for wildflower nectar at night, hiding by day in dense vegetation.

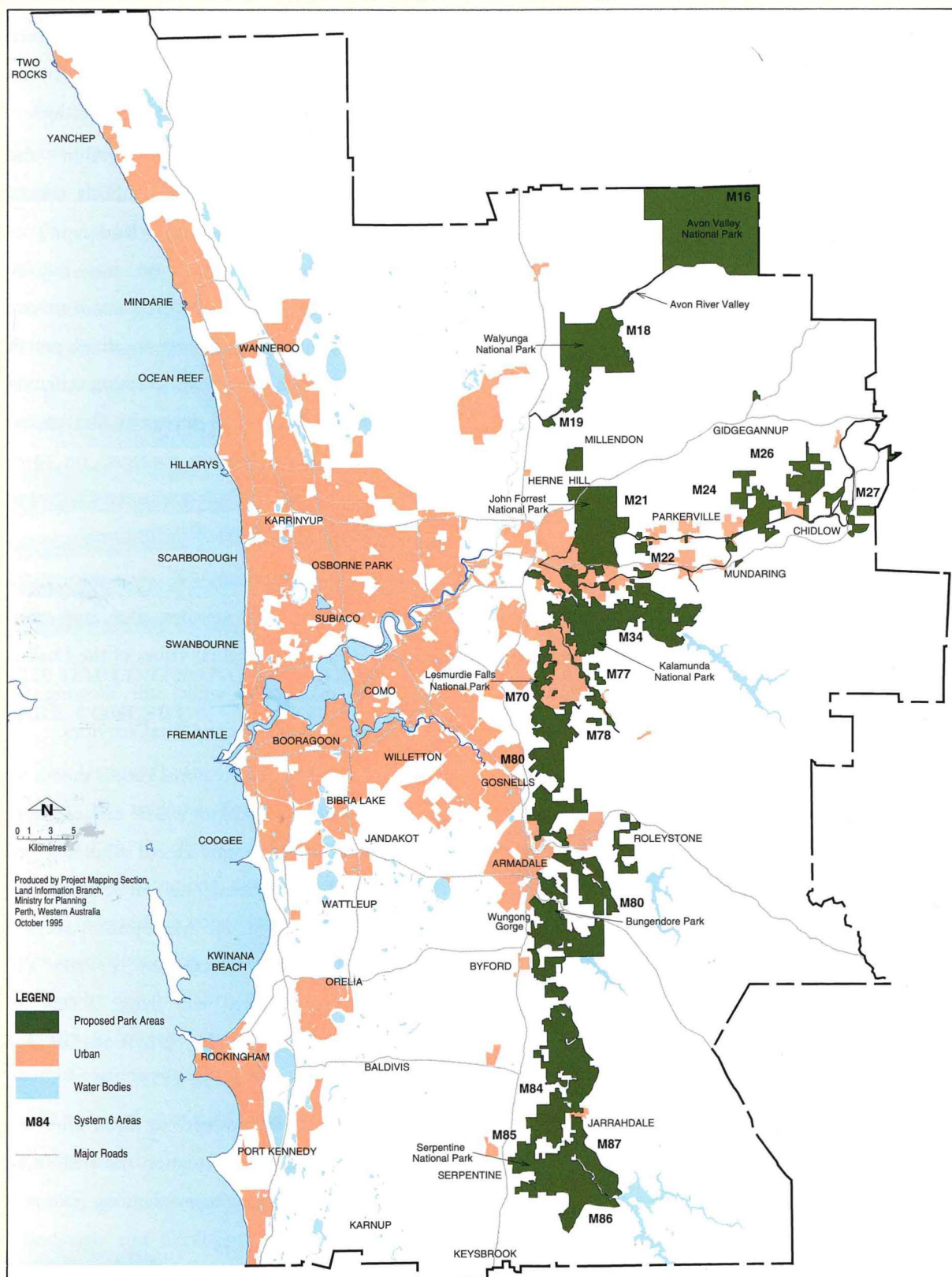
Parks and Recreation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme or State Forest (and other Department of Conservation and Land Management [CALM] managed lands) and land covered by a Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) policy protecting Darling Range environmental values.

The most significant conservation and recreation areas will be reserved, publicly owned and managed. Areas with landscape or environmental value which do not require reservation and acquisition will remain in private ownership and will be subject to development control measures in local town planning schemes. The planning policy will recognise the special nature of the area, provide guidance on town planning schemes and ensure a consistent approach towards planning by all councils involved.

These dual methods of reservation and planning policy will ensure the important landscape and environmental values of the Darling Range are maintained while still allowing for appropriate development and rural activities.

The Darling Range Regional Park is shown on map 1. Detailed investigations will be carried out to determine the precise boundaries of additional land to be reserved and acquired. This will be effected by a major amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme. Landowners affected by a Parks and Recreation reservation will have access to compensation through the provisions of the *Metropolitan Region Scheme Act 1959*.

Further work is required to determine the objectives, criteria, implementation and areas to be covered by the complementary planning policy.



Map 1. Darling Range Regional Park Concept



KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

THE REGIONAL PARK AND SYSTEM 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The System 6 Red Book report was released in 1983 by the then Department of Conservation and Environment.

The study reviewed the natural resources of the System 6 land area and identified and made recommendations for areas of land which were desirable for inclusion in national parks, nature reserves, regional parks and recreation areas.

As part of the Darling Range Regional Park study, the boundaries of 30 System 6 areas in the Darling Range were reviewed. The regional park boundary defined in the report will be used in the current System 6 update.

Planning Strategy

Many of the recommendations of the 1983 System 6 study and its current review will be implemented through reservations in the Metropolitan Region Scheme and the eventual acquisition of private land.

Other System 6 recommendations will be met through the implementation of the planning policy.

FLORA AND FAUNA PROTECTION

The conservation of remnant bushland areas in the Perth metropolitan region including the Darling Scarp and Range is an important issue.

The Government recently released its *Urban Bushland Strategy*, following consultation and comment on a draft report produced in 1994. The Strategy introduces a number of important new



The Holly-leaved Hovea, *Hovea chorizemifolia*, is aptly named. It produces its iridescent purple-blue flowers as a mass display in winter.



Acacia teretifolia. This small prickly member of the wattle family flowers early in winter before most of its relatives.

measures, including the development of a regional bushland strategic plan and the establishment of an Urban Bushland Advisory Service. A separate Urban Bushland Advisory Group will provide advice to the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Legislative review proposed in the *Urban Bushland Strategy* includes the creation of a regional



The Common Donkey Orchid, *Diuris corymbosa*, is extremely variable in form and is found in many situations ranging from swampy ground to forest floors.

parks category of land under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* for management purposes. A key feature of the Strategy is the commitment to fully establish the Darling Range Regional Park.



Olearia paucidentata. A medium sized shrub only found in the Scarp in the Perth region but extends further south towards Albany.

Much of the important flora and fauna areas in the metropolitan region are already protected in land managed by CALM including State Forest, Water Authority of Western Australia (WAWA) lands, Crown Reserves or Metropolitan Region Scheme reservations. Other areas have also been identified and are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park.

Under provisions of its legislation, CALM can enter into agreements with private landowners to ensure the protection of rare and endangered flora and fauna on private property.

Planning Strategy

New areas have been identified and are proposed for inclusion in the Darling Range Regional Park and recommendations have been made to expand some national parks to offer further protection to some areas.

In addition, the planning policy will be applied to areas of land which will not be reserved to encourage retention of existing vegetation, promote wildlife linkages, mitigate against bush-fires and control development.

Rivers and watercourses and associated vegetation can be protected in this way.

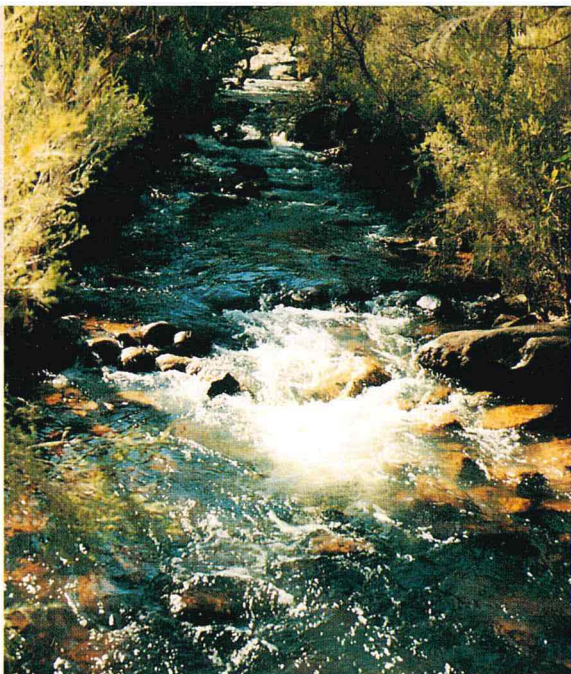
During the management planning phase detailed flora and fauna surveys should be undertaken to update existing information and to help formulate plans to ensure the conservation and proper management of bushland areas.

Management plans will be required prior to any development or management work taking place.

FIRE PROTECTION

Following the release of the Darling Range Regional Park draft report, the Working Group Investigating the Darling Range Fire Hazard, chaired by Mr John Day MLA, presented its report in 1994. The recommendations of this Committee are wide-ranging and include the preparation of a comprehensive bush fire hazard analysis of the study area as a matter of priority. This will be conducted by the Bush Fires Board and the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board in consultation with other agencies.





Jane Brook, one of the many smaller watercourses in the Darling Range area.

In addition, the Working Group recommended that the Western Australian Planning Commission guidelines for bushfire prevention be reviewed in consultation with the Bush Fires Board, the



M & I Morcombe

The White breasted Robin is a bird of the forest undergrowth, often foraging in the damp leaf-litter of valleys in the Range.

Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, CALM, and local authorities, and made mandatory through legislative change. The group also recommended the finalisation of management and funding arrangements for the proposed Darling Range Regional Park as soon as possible.



Bush Fires Board

Fire is a danger to bushland and private property in the Darling Range area.



Kingia australis. The Drumsticks Grass Tree is endemic to south western Australia. It very rarely forms branches and usually only flowers after fire.

Planning Strategy

A number of operational procedures of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Bush Fires Board and the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board have already been modified as recommended by the Working Group.

A manual, 'Integrated planning and fire protection for Western Australia', to guide government authorities, landowners and developers in integrated planning for fire protection is being prepared for the Shire of Swan through the Integrated Local Area Planning (ILAP) program which will inform and guide developers and planners on matters relevant to subdivision and development.

A review of the WAPC guidelines for fire prevention with special reference to the Darling Range will be carried out. The need to consider bush fire hazards will be recognised, in terms of both conservation and safety issues, when plans are developed to amend the Metropolitan Region Scheme to reserve additional land for inclusion in the park.

Other fire protection issues will be addressed at the management planning stage and fire management plans will be drawn up for the area as appropriate.

LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

The issue of landscape protection has been discussed by the various planning authorities in Western Australia over many years. As the Perth region grows and urbanisation expands into the rural outer metropolitan area, the physical characteristics and landscape amenity of these areas will change.

The Government, local authorities and local communities recognise the importance of retaining

the positive aspects of the landscape character of the Darling Scarp and Range. There is a need to identify significant landscapes which contribute to the region's unique visual and natural character and to formulate policies on land use controls and protect these resources from inappropriate development.

Landscapes viewed from the Darling Range have considerable scenic value and offer tourism opportunities.

Planning Strategy

The Western Australian Planning Commission planning policy will include rural landscape protection for the Darling Range Regional Park Policy Area.

Local authorities have proceeded with the designation of areas for landscape protection in local authority town



Distinctive views are available from the Darling Scarp over the Swan Coastal Plain.

planning schemes, as rural strategies have been completed and schemes reviewed. Zoning adopted for landscape protection will be important in the development of the planning policy.

Management planning should take into consideration opportunities for identifying scenic viewpoints from the Darling Range in relation to tourism opportunities.

GOVERNMENT LANDS

At present the Ministry for Planning, the Water Authority of Western Australia, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Department of Land Administration, the Department of Education and local authorities all own and manage large areas of land within the proposed park.

Much of the public land is adequately managed and protected under existing arrangements. Opportunities exist, however, to coordinate the management of public land in line with common objectives and liaison between State Government agencies.

For example, some of the WAWA land could be managed as part of the regional park to allow for an increase in recreational access to appropriate areas.

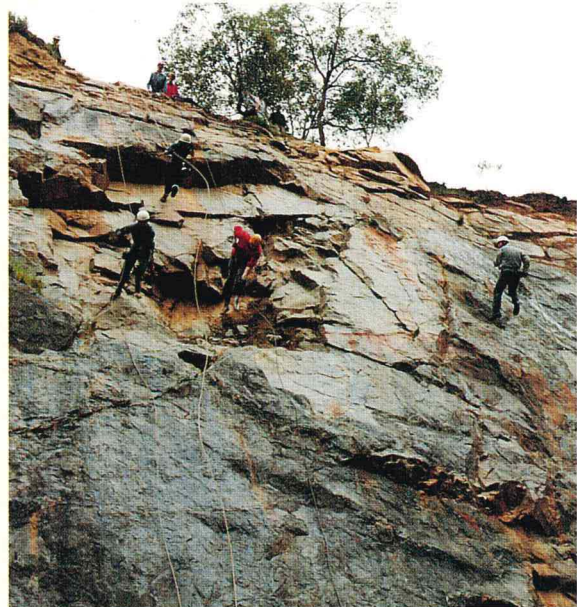
Areas of vacant Crown land, Crown Reserves and Crown land vested in local authorities need to be rationalised and vestings altered where appropriate for more efficient management.

Planning Strategy

Land within the regional park which is vested in various State government departments could be revested in either CALM or a local authority for management.

This will require the cooperation of the Department of Land Administration and other agencies to progress the land transfers necessary to establish and manage the park.

Vesting of Crown Reserves could be changed to a more appropriate management agency. This also applies to some vacant Crown land.



Abseiling is a popular activity in the many disused quarries in the Darling Range.

QUARRYING AND MINING

Quarrying of hard rock such as granite and dolerite was identified as a key issue because of its potential to significantly impact on the landscape amenity of the scarp face. Mining of minerals, such as bauxite, is a significant activity but does not have the same visual impact.

The Darling Range is the principal source of hard rock used to supply aggregate for concrete and road construction.

The quarrying of hard rock resources from the Darling Scarp's western face is highly visible from

the coastal plain and other areas and, therefore, raises concern about the landscape and scenic quality of the Scarp. Companies have adjusted their quarrying and rehabilitation techniques to minimise this visual impact.

The Darling Escarpment Aggregate Resources Committee has investigated the hard rock resources in some detail and identified 29 possible hard rock quarry areas on the Darling Range.

Of the 29 possible hard rock sites, eight sites are designated as resource areas in the Western Australian Planning Commission's *Basic Raw Materials Policy Statement 1992*. This statement is currently under review. Four of these sites are existing quarries and they have been identified as key extraction areas.

Two of the other sites have received approval

for extraction. A further two sites still require detailed environmental impact assessment as well as review of economic, social and environmental factors.

The continuation of supplies of basic raw materials is essential for an expanding metropolitan area; however, for at least the next 25 to 35 years, it has been shown there are adequate existing supplies of hard rock in the sites designated in the *Basic Raw Materials Policy Statement*. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry is currently preparing a report on the supply of and demand for these materials.

Lateritic gravels are excavated from pits situated on private land and State Forest areas. This road construction material is used by local authorities, CALM and Main Roads Western Australia. Adjacent to the escarpment, there are deposits of heavy mineral sands. Mining of these deposits for their mineral content is currently being reviewed.

Active mining of bauxite by Alcoa occurs over much of the Darling Range with a large area covered by Mining Lease 1SA agreed to by the *Alumina Refinery Agreement Act 1961*. Alcoa operates through agreed five and 25 year mining plans. Other legislation relevant to this mining activity includes the *Alumina Refinery (Pinjarra) Agreement Act 1969*, the *Alumina Refinery (Wagerup) Agreement Acts Amendment Act 1978* and the *Alumina Refinery (Worsley) Agreements Act 1973*.

Red and white clay deposits used in brick and tile manufacture occur in the upper reaches of valleys in the Darling Range. There is also exploration for gold mineralisation in the northern

Hard rock quarrying techniques have been adjusted to minimise visual impact from the coastal plain.

By introducing exotic acacias that are infesting the adjacent reserves!



areas of the study area. Pockets of sand occur within the laterite mantle and provide material for house pads.

Planning Strategy

Extraction of basic raw materials and minerals within the Darling Range Regional Park is subject to environmental and planning approval.

Areas proposed to be included in Parks and Recreation reservations will be closely scrutinised with respect to existing mining leases. The WAPC planning policy protecting environmental values will cover areas outside the reserved land but will not affect any mining or mining lease activity.

Numerous disused gravel extraction sites require rehabilitation by the appropriate bodies. Long-term use and rehabilitation plans need to incorporate appropriate multiple or sequential land use strategies where possible.

WATER RESOURCES

The Darling Range plays a very important role in providing water catchment areas which collect surface water for supply to the Perth metropolitan area, goldfields and certain agricultural areas.

Perth is extremely fortunate that the quality of water collected from the catchment areas requires only basic treatment (i.e. chlorination) before it is reticulated for domestic use. Water catchment areas need to be protected from land uses that may degrade the water quality of reservoir supplies.

Surface run-off water is stored in the Helena Valley, Churchmans Brook, Canning, Wungong and Serpentine Reservoirs, the Lower Helena and Bickley Brook Pumpback Reservoirs and the new Victoria Reservoir.

The following catchment areas are within the Darling Range in the Perth metropolitan region:

- Mundaring Weir Catchment Area
- Lower Helena Pumpback Water Catchment Area
- Canning River Catchment Area
- Victoria Reservoir Catchment Area
- Lower Bickley Catchment Area
- Upper Bickley Catchment Area
- Wungong Brook Catchment Area
- Churchman Brook Catchment Area
- Serpentine Pipehead Dam Catchment Area
- Serpentine River Catchment Area
- Gooralong Water Reserve
- Dirk Brook Water Reserve
- Kangaroo Gully Catchment Area
- and
- Lower Canning Catchment Area.

There are other future catchment areas and water reserves in the Darling Range Regional Park which are not yet gazetted.

The major rivers in the area are the Swan/Avon, Helena, Canning, Serpentine and Wungong. Many other smaller watercourses dissect the Darling Range and Scarp.

Numerous water supply tanks, pipelines and facilities are located within Parks and Recreation reservation areas, on land owned by the WAPC, WAWA and other State government owned land.

The WAWA has the responsibility to plan for and service the future water needs of the metropolitan region. Even with an active water use efficiency strategy designed to limit water

consumption per household, new supply dams, pumpback dams, access routes and storage tanks will be required in the Darling Range.

Perth's water future : a supply strategy for Perth and Mandurah (WAWA 1995) outlines some new facilities proposed to meet future water needs for Perth into the next century. These include a new pumpback facility on Jane Brook to supply the Goldfields and the Agricultural Water Supply System and the possibility of raising Mundaring Weir.

considered on environmental, social and economic grounds and approval will be subject to the normal planning and environmental impact assessment processes.

Planning Strategy

Perth has good quality water supplies which are delivered at a reasonable cost. The continuation of economic and potable water supplies for Perth is a major issue. Future recreational use of water catchment lands should proceed in a cautious manner to ensure the protection of water quality. Water supply dams and reservoirs, however, provide natural focal points for recreational activities and, where appropriate, WAWA land should be incorporated into the regional park and managed for multiple objectives of water catchment protection, conservation and recreation.

Further discussions will be held with the WAWA about those catchment areas where multiple objectives may be achieved without risking degradation of water supplies.

The Metropolitan Region Scheme will recognise these areas by reserving WAWA owned or vested land for Parks and Recreation where it is to be included in the regional park.

The siting and construction of new WAWA facilities and water source proposals in the regional park will need to take account of environmental, social and economic considerations.

Further investigations and discussions with WAWA are required regarding recreational access to land under its control including water supply dams and water catchment areas, and its role in regional park management.

Other smaller water courses and streamside vegetation will be protected by the proposed planning policy.



Reservoirs such as Bickley Brook pictured here provide important storage for Perth's drinking water.

New water source facilities which are proposed to be constructed within areas designated for the Darling Range Regional Park and within Parks and Recreation reservations need to be carefully

HERITAGE

The Darling Range is significant to the Aboriginal people, particularly the Beeloo tribe, which originally inhabited most of this area. Use of the land was mainly restricted to seasonal visits for hunting and gathering food and collecting stones; however, there is some evidence of ceremonial sites and artefacts.

Almost 140 sites in the Darling Range have been classified by the Aboriginal Sites Department of the Western Australian Museum. These sites are significant for mythological and archaeological reasons.

There is also much evidence of European use of the Darling Range over the past 160 years, particularly for the timber, orchard, mining and quarrying industries. There are many historic sites and buildings classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and many are listed on the Register of the National Estate.

Planning Strategy

Management planning for the park will require more detailed surveys and consultation with Aboriginal people to ensure future park developments do not adversely affect significant sites. There is an opportunity for Aboriginal interpretation information to be incorporated in park development and for Aboriginal people to be employed in park management.

There is potential for the park to provide opportunities to interpret and promote the historical European heritage in the development of the park with associated tourism benefits. This will be addressed at the management planning stage.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

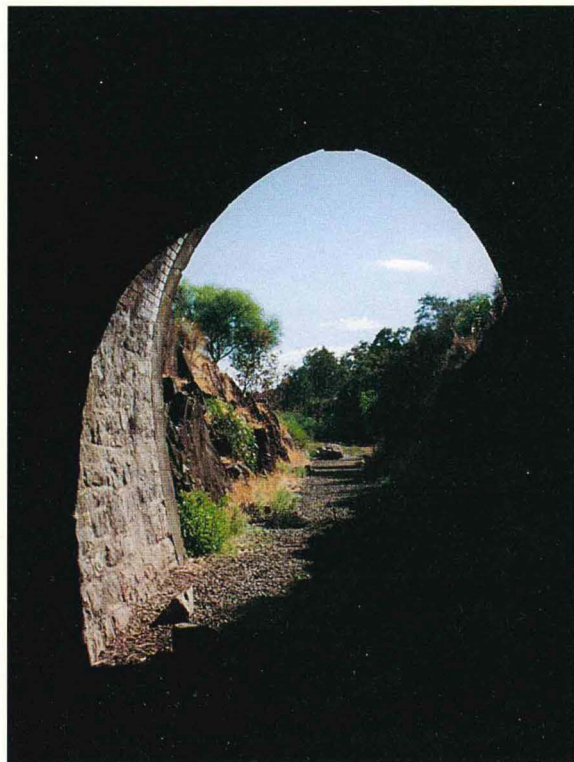
The successful establishment of the Darling Range Regional Park depends largely on community acceptance and support.

This planning study has involved the community in the decision-making process to determine what areas of land will be included in the park.

The establishment and management of the park will also involve community participation.

Planning Strategy

The ongoing role of the community in the establishment and future management of the park is of great importance.



Part of the John Forrest Heritage Trail, the Swan View railway tunnel celebrated its centenary in April 1995.

F & P Hainsworth

Two Community Advisory Committees will be established, one comprising the shires of Swan, Mundaring and Kalamunda and the other the cities of Gosnells and Armadale and the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale to assist in decision making and park management.

The Chairperson of the Community Advisory Committees will be the community representative on the Interim Management Committee thereby linking the community to management.



F & P Hainsworth

The new section of the Bibbulmun Track has already attracted more bushwalkers to the eastern part of the Regional Park.

PARK ESTABLISHMENT

The establishment of the Darling Range Regional Park will involve the amalgamation of the existing Parks and Recreation reservation areas with new areas and the formulation of appropriate vesting and management arrangements to enable the land to be managed in a coordinated manner.

The existing Parks and Recreation reservations within the regional park boundary comprise about 22,500 hectares of land. A further 15,000 hectares of State or local government owned land and Crown land are proposed to be reserved. Rearrangement of vesting and management of existing Crown, local authority and other government department landholdings is required to establish the park. About 2,100 hectares of private land are proposed to be reserved for Parks and Recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme and purchased where appropriate.

The additional land to be reserved will be carried out through an amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This will be advertised for public comment and affected landowners will be notified direct. Submissions are considered by the WAPC and the amendment may be modified through this process. The amendment will require the approval of both Houses of State Parliament and the Governor before it has effect.

Owners of land reserved for Parks and Recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme can continue to reside on and enjoy their



Boletellus obscureicoccineus. An uncommon and variable fungus which appears following winter rains.

property. Existing land uses will not be affected by reservation; however, land use changes will require the approval of the WAPC. Landowners affected by reservation may request the WAPC to purchase their property. Land reserved for Parks and Recreation will be acquired gradually through this process.

River foreshore areas proposed for inclusion in the park will not be reserved and acquired where controls in local authority town planning schemes adequately achieve the park objectives. Some of these areas will come under the umbrella of the proposed WAPC planning policy.

Areas of State Forest proposed for inclusion in the park will remain reserved for State Forests in the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

In total the proposed park boundary includes about 38,500 hectares of land. In the long term, land proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park will be reserved for Parks and Recreation, owned by the Government and vested in either the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA), managed by

CALM, or in a local authority for management.

Land acquisitions and revesting needed to establish the regional park will require consultation between the Department of Land Administration, local authorities, the Ministry for Planning, the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Water Authority of Western Australia.

PARK MANAGEMENT

The conservation values of the Darling Range and Scarp are such that a large proportion of the regional park should be managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management under the provisions of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. Other areas of the park will be managed by the respective local authorities.

To enable effective management, the Department of Conservation and Land

Management will act as the coordinating agency for the management of the Darling Range Regional Park. Joint Management Agreements will be entered into with local authorities and the WAWA to cover overall policy, management programs and funding.

A park management committee will be established by CALM and a process to incorporate community consultation will be initiated through the Community Advisory Committees.

CALM will coordinate the preparation of a formal management plan in accordance with the provisions of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* for lands to be managed by CALM, and in association with the local authorities and other agencies for those lands to be managed by them. The management plan will be in accord with CALM procedures and will address issues such as pests, weeds, access and facilities, tourism and education.

Existing management plans undertaken by CALM and local authorities will be taken into account in any new management planning undertaken.

LAND VESTINGS

In order for coordinated management of the park, various land parcels must be vested in the appropriate agencies. Those areas to be managed by CALM require vesting under the provisions of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

Areas to be managed by the local authorities will also require appropriate vesting. Vesting procedures are carried out by the Department of Land Administration (DOLA) with agreement



M & I Morcombe

The Splendid Fairy-wren occurs in the hills and on the coastal plain near Perth. It is one of Western Australia's most intensely coloured birds, clad entirely in iridescent blue and black.

from the present owners and direction from the agencies involved.

Broadly, it is proposed that conservation and natural environment land use areas be vested in the NPNCA and managed by CALM for:

- conservation;
- scientific study and education; and
- appropriate forms of recreation.

Other areas of recreational uses which may have built facilities and developed grounds should be vested in and managed by the appropriate local authority.

Because of the previous involvement and expertise of local authorities in the management of natural areas in the Darling Range, the vesting proposals will be flexible enough to allow for natural area management by local authorities.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Future management and vesting proposals will be implemented over time. While they are being arranged, an interim management phase will occur which involves:

- finalising the boundary of the Darling Range Regional Park through an amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme to reserve all additional land proposed for inclusion in the park for Parks and Recreation;
- progressive purchase of private land which is included in the proposed park;
- finalising agreements to the land vesting proposals to enable lodging of letters of agreement and subsequent implementation with DOLA;

- CALM undertaking the role of coordinating agency;
- administering an interim management committee and two community advisory committees;
- initiating joint management agreements between the WAWA, other landowners and the local authorities;
- coordinating and approving management plans for the park; and
- advising on funding allocations.

During the interim management period, existing planning controls which the Ministry for Planning and local authorities exercise will control land uses in and abutting the Darling Range Regional Park. All development work within the park will require planning and environmental approval.

REGIONAL PARK BOUNDARIES

In determining the boundary for the Darling Range Regional Park, the following factors have been considered:

- natural environment and conservation issues;
- landform and topography;
- surface drainage patterns;
- soils and vegetation;
- fire safety;
- water catchment and water reserve areas;
- Department of Agriculture land capability information;
- visual resources;
- existing land uses;
- historical and Aboriginal land uses;
- adjoining land uses to the proposed park;
- ecological information;
- land management factors;
- wildlife linkages;
- System 6 proposals;
- land reserved for Parks and Recreation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme and local authority town planning schemes;
- the extent of private landholdings and acquisition costs;
- future roads and services;
- public amenity considerations;
- access and adequate provision for a projected increase in demand for recreation sites and activities;

- community aspirations and submissions;
- existing government landholdings and reserves;
- Community Consultative Committee recommendations;
- discussions with other government agencies and local authorities; and
- the most desirable interface between the park and surrounding land.

REGIONAL PARK LOCALITIES

The proposed Darling Range Regional Park has been divided into nine localities based on geographic and cadastral boundary considerations.

Map 1 shows the broad definition of the Darling Range Regional Park and maps 2-4 show the areas in detail.

The proposed boundary includes most of the System 6 areas, existing Parks and Recreation reservations, CALM estate lands, Crown Reserves and local authority reserves, and minimises the need for new reservations and acquisition of private land. Private land proposed for inclusion in the regional park will be acquired as it becomes available and will not be available to the public or subject to public management until acquisition occurs.

The following localities are proposed for inclusion in the park. Final detailed plans will be available when an amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme is gazetted following a public submission period.

SWAN/AVON - NORTHERN LOCALITY

The area includes the Avon Valley National Park, the Walyunga National Park and the highly

scenic Avon River Valley. It has high conservation and recreation values.

The Avon Valley National Park consists of an undulating plateau which is about 200m above the river level, and a river valley sloping steeply from the plateau. The vegetation consists of an open forest of jarrah and marri on the uplands and open woodland of wandoo in the valleys and on the slopes. Flooded gums occur along the river banks.

The Avon River Valley between Walyunga National Park and the Avon Valley National Park consists of a steep river valley rising above the river. Reservation of land along the valley would provide access between the two national parks.

Walyunga National Park consists of woodland and open forest with granite outcrops. Jarrah is



Train travellers can appreciate the beauty of the Avon River Valley.

most common on the uplands with marri on deeper soils. The park is of considerable recreation value with the river attracting canoeists in winter. Some private land east of the Walyunga National Park will be added to relieve visitor pressure as

recommended by the System 6 report.

The following areas are proposed for inclusion in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- Avon Valley National Park and private land in System 6 area M16 surrounded by the National Park;
- private land along the Avon River Valley; and
- Walyunga National Park and private land in System 6 area M18 to the east of the National Park.

MILLENDON/BRIGADOON LOCALITY

The area consists of land south of Walyunga National Park along the Swan River Valley in the Brigadoon area and land to the north of John Forrest National Park along the Darling Scarp in the Millendon area. A substantial land parcel adjacent to the Swan River immediately south of Walyunga National Park will form a continuous link with land along the river to Great Northern Highway.

Land along Susannah Brook will be examined at the local structure planning stage.

Land owned by Pioneer Concrete abutting Susannah Brook along the Darling Scarp will be included in a restricted Parks and Recreation reservation.

The area is of high scenic quality with opportunities for recreation, conservation and research. The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- private land in System 6 area M19 along the Swan River from Walyunga National Park to Great Northern Highway;

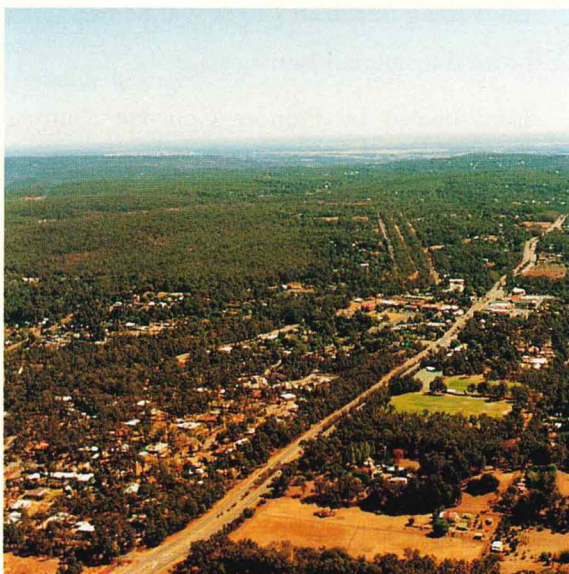
- Parks and Recreation reservation in the Brigadoon locality; and
- land along the Darling Scarp abutting Susannah Brook.

MUNDARING LOCALITY

The Mundaring locality includes John Forrest National Park, land reserved for Parks and Recreation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme, a number of System 6 areas and Crown Reserves.

The area has high conservation and recreation values. The inclusion of disused railway reserves will add a significant east-west link from John Forrest National Park and Greenmount Hill to Lake Leschenaultia with potential for passive recreation use. The railway reserves contain remnants of the indigenous vegetation and will be linked with other Crown reserves.

John Forrest National Park contains open forest and woodland of jarrah and marri. The conservation values of the Park will be expanded



Natural bushland forms a backdrop for Mundaring residents.

to include land to the north which has extensive areas of Scarp vegetation around granite outcrops.

The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- John Forrest National Park (System 6 area M21) and existing Parks and Recreation reservation to the north of the national park;
- System 6 area M22 at Parkerville;
- System 6 area M23 reserves along disused railways from Midland to Chidlow;
- System 6 area M30 Binbrook Park, Darlington;
- System 6 area M31 Reserve C32727, Mundaring;
- Parks and Recreation reservation, Ryecroft Road; and
- System 6 area M32 Reserves C18130 and C34103, Sawyers Valley.

The Shire of Mundaring is currently undertaking a review of public reserves which may impact on the proposals.

EAST MUNDARING LOCALITY

The land proposed for inclusion in the park in this locality includes a number of System 6 areas in Chidlow and the Beechina Nature Reserve (System 6 area M27).

The whole area has high conservation value with some parts, such as Lake Leschenaultia, being very popular recreation locations.

The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- System 6 area M24, Reserves north-west of Chidlow;

- ★ System 6 area M25, Lake Leschenaultia;
- System 6 M27, Beechina Nature Reserve and Beechina North Nature Reserve, north-east of Chidlow;



Hakea petiolaris occurs on granite outcrops on the Darling Scarp.

- System 6 area M27, Reserves north of Lake Manaring, excluding Reserve C36125; and
- System 6 area M28, Reserve C14278 east of Woorooloo.

KALAMUNDA-HELENA LOCALITY

Kalamunda, Gooseberry Hill and Greenmount National Parks are situated in this locality.

A new national park to incorporate the Kalamunda and Gooseberry Hill National Parks is proposed for the Helena Valley area. A name for this new national park will be determined through a public consultation process with consideration for appropriate recognition being accorded to Aboriginal use of the area. The 'Helena Valley' National Park should be managed on a multiple basis of water resource protection, conservation of flora and fauna and recreation.

The WAPC is the major landowner.

It is an area with considerable conservation and recreation values with some areas affording high scenic values, particularly along the Darling Scarp, and tourism potential within easy reach of Perth.

The area provides a north-south open space link adjacent to residential areas with much of the vegetation in its natural state.

The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- System 6 area M29, Greenmount National Park and the Parks and Recreation reservation west of Darlington Road;
- Parks and Recreation reservation east of Darlington Road;
- System 6 area M33, Helena River;
- private land in System 6 area M34, Helena Valley;
- System 6 area M77, Reserve C22865, Kalamunda and Reserve C20641, Bickley;
- System 6 area M78, Bickley Brook Water Reserve; and



Gooseberry Hill National Park viewed from Ridge Hill Road.



Drosera erythrorhiza. A common sundew which forms large colonies on the forest floor, this carnivorous plant only flowers after fire.

- private and public land in System 6 area M80, Darling Scarp from Kalamunda Road to Hardinge Road.

GOSNELLS LOCALITY

Large areas of land in this locality are reserved for Parks and Recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme and owned by the WAPC.

A new quarry to be located off the Darling Scarp will be excluded from the park.

It is an area of high conservation, scenic and recreation values.

The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- private and public land in System 6 area M80 from Hardinge Road to Brookton Highway; and
- System 6 area M79, Reserve C21171, Canning Mills.

ARMADALE LOCALITY

The land proposed for inclusion in the park in the Armadale locality includes land owned by the WAPC, including Araluen Park.

The area has high scenic, conservation, recreation and tourism values and includes the popular rock climbing area at Churchman Brook.

Araluen Park has important heritage significance to Perth residents and is managed by the Araluen Park Foundation Management Board.

The following areas are proposed for inclusion in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- private and public land in System 6 area M80 from Brookton Highway to Albany Highway;
- System 6 area M81, Reserves C19662 and C32728, Karragullen; and
- Araluen Park.



Araluen's Tulip Festival is a popular event in September

WUNGONG LOCALITY

This area includes the existing Parks and Recreation reservation along the rugged Wungong Gorge, land adjacent to the Serpentine Dam and Bungendore Park.

It has very high scenic, recreation and tourism values.

The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- private and public land in System 6 area M80 from Albany Highway to Nettleton Road;
- System 6 area M82, Reserve C5704 Springfield Road;
- WAWA land at Wungong Valley and Reservoir;
- Parks and Recreation reservation land and WAPC land in Wungong Gorge; and
- City of Armadale Reserves adjacent to WAWA freehold land.

SERPENTINE LOCALITY

The area is of high conservation and recreation values and contains the Serpentine National Park and sections of State Forest. The Serpentine Falls is a popular recreation area.

The following areas are proposed to be included in the Darling Range Regional Park:

- private and public land in System 6 area M85, Serpentine National Park;
- private and public land in System 6 area M84, M86 and M87, Gooralong, Karnet and Serpentine Management Priority areas;
- Gordon Block of State Forest; and
- private land in Jarrahdale Townsite Open Space.

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APPENDIX 1

STUDY ORGANISATION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Darling Range Regional Park Study was undertaken by the then Department of Planning and Urban Development (now the Ministry for Planning) under the direction of a Steering Committee, the Metropolitan Planning Council (now the Perth Region Planning Committee) with the assistance of a Community Consultative Committee and a Technical Panel.

The Steering Committee's role was to oversee the project, to ensure all relevant issues were addressed, to advise on the community consultative process, to endorse the draft planning study report for submission to the relevant government agencies and to the public for comment and to submit a final report to Cabinet for approval.

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established by the then Minister for Planning, the Hon Kay Hallahan MLC, and was chaired by the Hon Fred McKenzie MLC. Fifteen members served on the committee representing a wide range of community interests, including conservation groups, local interest groups, local industry and business, agricultural interests and local authorities.

In 1994, the Hon Richard Lewis MLA, Minister for Planning, appointed Mr John Day MLA, Member for Darling Range, as Chairman of a reconvened committee to consider the public submissions on the draft report.

The Community Consultative Committee terms of reference were to:

- ensure all identified relevant issues were adequately addressed in the Planning Study and acted upon;
- initiate concepts and provide direction to the public consultation process and to ensure all relevant parties were consulted;
- have direct input on the draft report to be released for public comment;
- ensure proper assessment of public submissions to the draft report; and
- provide advice on all matters referred to the Committee.

The Technical Panel consisted of representatives from the affected local authorities (Shires of Swan, Mundaring, Kalamunda and Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the cities of Gosnells and Armadale), the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Other government departments such as the Water Authority of Western Australia, Department of Minerals and Energy, Department of Land Administration and the Bush Fires Board were consulted as required.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE
DARLING RANGE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

CHAIRPERSON

Hon F E McKenzie MLC, Member for East Metropolitan 1990-93
Mr John Day MLA, Member for Darling Range 1994-95

MEMBERS

Hon Ian Thompson MLA	Member for Darling Range 1990-93
Mrs June van de Klashorst MLA	Member for Swan Hills 1994-95
City of Armadale	Mayor Roger Stubbs
	Cr Patricia Hart*
City of Gosnells	Cr B Bradshaw*
	Cr Phillip Carney JP*
	Cr Mike Devereaux*
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	Cr Jan Star
Shire of Mundaring	Cr John Ellery
Shire of Kalamunda	Cr Derek Fletcher*
	Cr Don Lay*
	Cr John Giardina*
	Cr Owen McGrath*
	Cr Juliet Reynolds*
	Cr John Blair*
Shire of Swan	Cr Humphrey Park*
	Cr Matt Hughes*
	Cr Jan Zeck*
Crushed Stone Association	Mr Bruce Cherry*
	Mr Oscar Calleja*
Mundaring Environmental Advisory Group	Mrs Jenny Mackintosh
WA National Parks Association	Mr Graeme Rundle
Helena Valley/Boya Ratepayers Association	Mr Mike Ipkendanz
Darling Range Forum	Mrs Margaret Wilson*
	Dr A Ivey*
	Mrs Christine Heal*
	Mrs Susan Towler*
Conservation Council of WA	Mrs Joan Payne

Eastern Region Economic

Committee

Conservation 2000

Mr John Rogers

Mr Mike Devereaux*

Mrs Regina Drummond*

Mrs C Shewan*

WA Farmers Federation

Mr Kevin McMenemy*

Kuljak Aboriginal Group

Mr Ralph Winmar*

Ms Robyn Maddaferi*

CALM

Mr Allan Walker*

Mr Rob Towers*

TECHNICAL OFFICERS

Ministry for Planning

Mr Andrew Moore

Ms Marie Ward

Secretary

Mr Shane Hill MFP

Ms Marie Ward MFP

* Indicates representation for portion of time.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS *(Available at the Ministry for Planning library)*

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2. Department of Planning and Urban Development 1993, *The Natural Resources of the Darling Ranges*, DPUD, Perth.
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RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Darling Range Regional Park is covered by the following legislation:

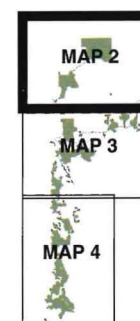
- Alumina Refinery Agreement Act 1961
- Alumina Refinery (Pinjarra) Agreement Act 1969
- Alumina Refinery (Wagerup) Agreement Acts Amendment Act 1978
- Alumina Refinery (Worsley) Agreements Act 1973
- Bush Fires Act 1954
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984
- Environmental Protection Act 1986
- Land Act 1933
- Local Government Act 1960
- Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act 1959 - 1986
- Planning Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1994
- Water Authority Act 1984

Darling Range Regional Park Concept Map 2

LEGEND

-  Land in Commonwealth, State or Local Government ownership
-  Land to be further investigated for reservation for Parks and Recreation or land already reserved, awaiting acquisition
-  Other - Including National Parks, Nature Reserves, Crown Land and State Forest
-  Land currently reserved for Parks and Recreation
-  Potential Regional Park Boundary
- M16** System 6 categories

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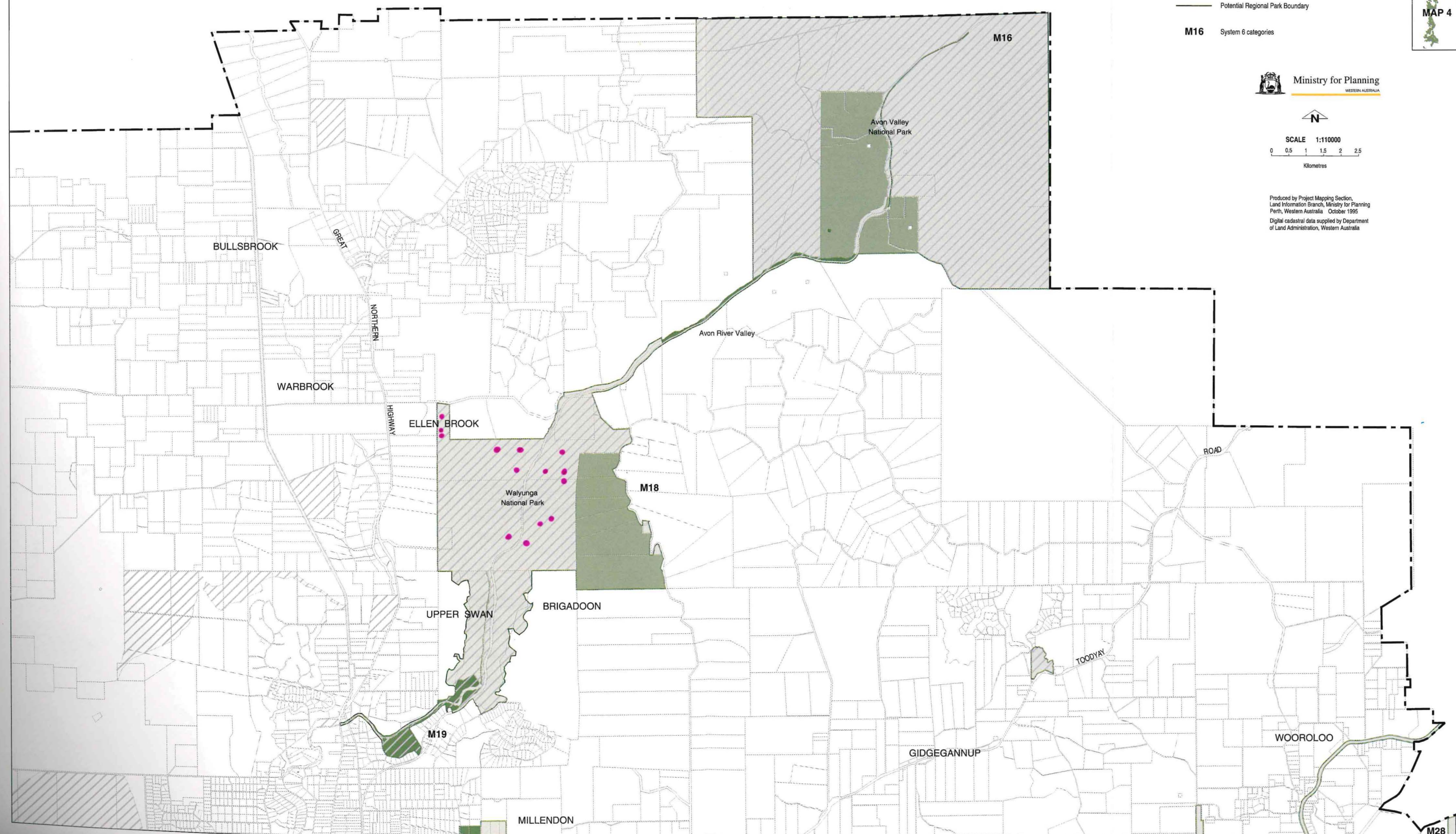


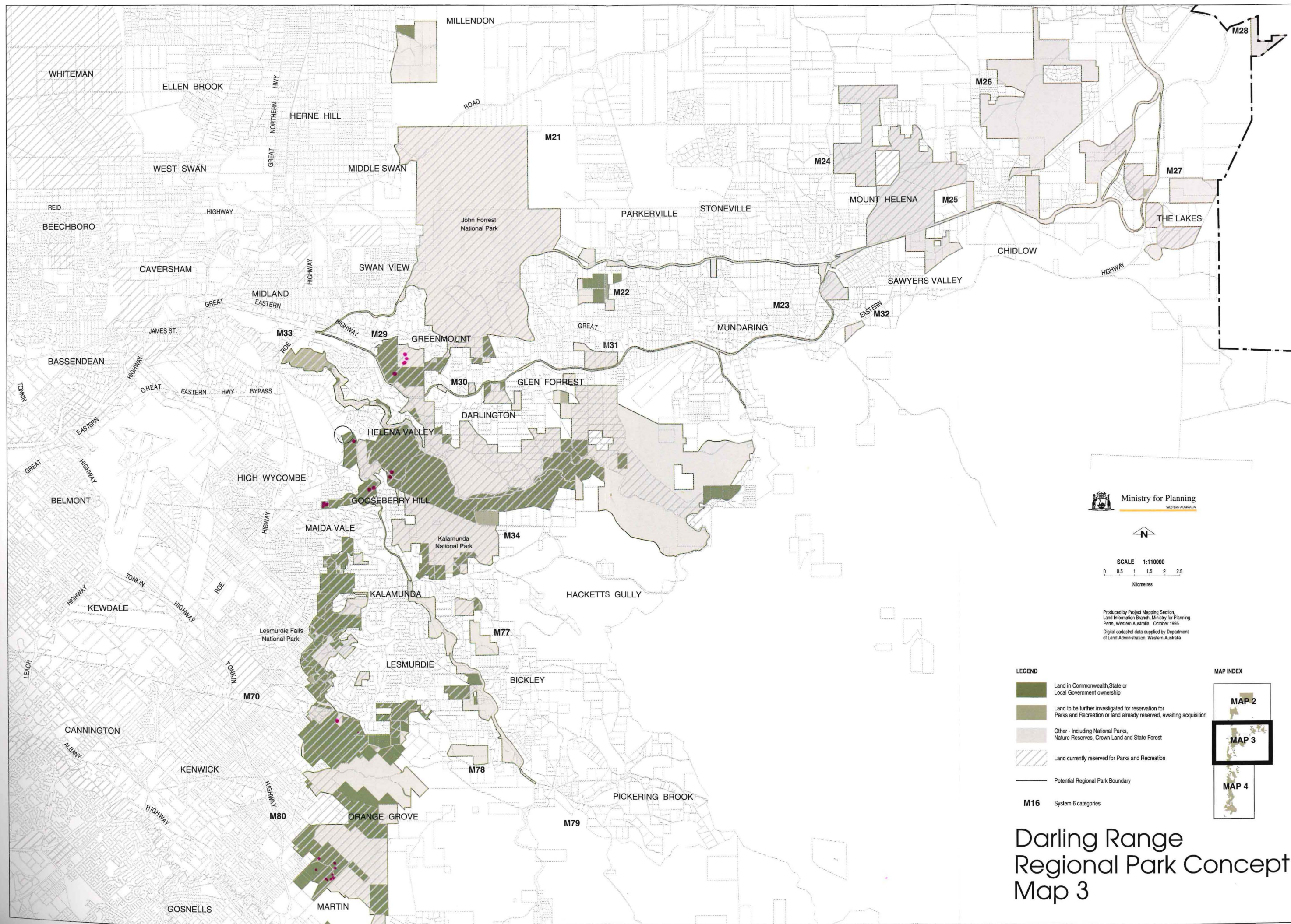
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Digital cadastral data supplied by Department
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Ministry for Planning
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



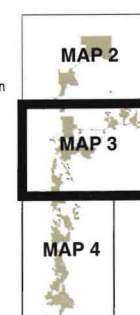
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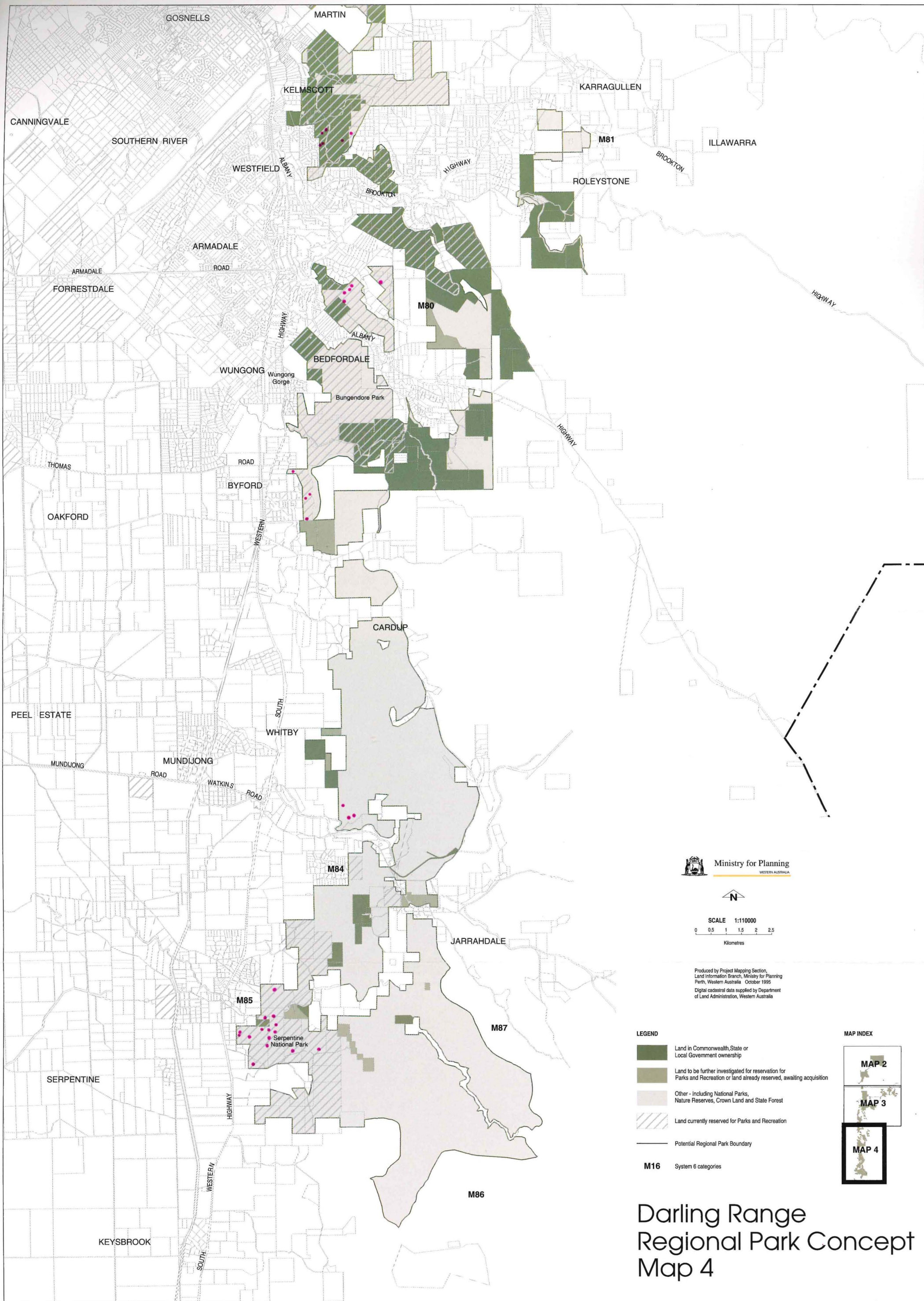
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- M16 System 6 categories

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Darling Range Regional Park Concept Map 3



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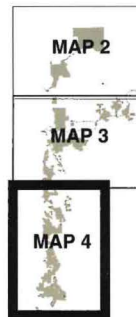


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- LEGEND**
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Darling Range Regional Park Concept Map 4