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**Department of Conservation and Land Management**

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# **FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK**

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP HELD ON  
THURSDAY 10 MARCH 1988**

**May 1988**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

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THURSDAY 10 MARCH 1988 AT FITZGERALD

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May 1988

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The one-day workshop was jointly organised by the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee and the Department of Conservation and Land Management. It was chaired by Tom Atterby, Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The workshop was based on invitations extended to groups with an interest in Fitzgerald River National Park. A list of those invited is given in Appendix 1.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- provide an opportunity for different groups of people to explain their use of the Park and their perception of the Park's values.
- encourage representatives of groups to suggest ways of resolving some of the Park's management problems.

The workshop was attended by 42 people representing conservation groups, recreation groups, local residents and local and State government, including Park management staff (App. 1).

Representation was:

Conservation Groups	6
Recreation Groups	4
Landowner's Groups/Progress Associations	6
Local Government Authorities	2
State Government (other than CALM)	4
Advisory Committee members (including Chairman)	8
CALM (including Project Team)	9
Others	<u>3</u>
	42

## 2. STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop was held in two parts (App. 2). In the morning a series of short talks were given by representatives of the various groups. In the afternoon the workshop was split into five smaller groups. Each group had a pre-determined mix of representatives to ensure inclusion of as wide a range of views as possible.

The afternoon's discussions were based on two sessions. In the first session each group was asked to consider the question "What do you consider to be the issues affecting the management of Fitzgerald River National Park?" Each person wrote a private list of issues. The group leader (a member of the Advisory Committee) collected these lists, read them out and encouraged the group to discuss any issues which were unclear. Each person was then asked to rank what they considered to be the most important issues. These were used by the group leader to produce a ranking of the five major issues. Each of the group leaders then presented their group's five major issues to the workshop.

In the second session each group was assigned one of their five issues and asked to develop options and strategies. Each group's findings were then presented to the workshop.

### 3. SUMMARY OF TALKS

Introduction - Tom Atterby, Chairman, Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee (AC) has been set up to advise CALM on preparation of a management plan for Fitzgerald River National Park. The AC has 10 members nominated by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management. The AC has called this workshop to help them provide advice to CALM.

The National Park has two primary values - conservation and recreation. The Park has a tremendous diversity of plants, many of which occur nowhere else. It also has a number of animals which are rare and endangered: heath mouse, western mouse, dibbler, tamar and ground parrot. The Park is used by locals, other West Australians, interstate and overseas visitors.

Fishing - Rod Daw, South Coast Recreation Association.

I have been in the area all my life, and have had the opportunity to open up parts of the Park. I have been able to teach my boys how to fish and enjoy the natural environment.

The Fitzgerald coastline offers a range of experiences, from families to "man's country". I have travelled the whole coastline from Bremer to Esperance but have spent the majority of my leisure time in the area Pt Ann to East Mt Barren.

Fishing covers a range of areas - cliffs, beaches, inlets, estuaries and rivers. It also includes crabbing. Fishing may be either family-based or men-only. The rocks are rugged and accidents can easily occur. Fishing trips may also include sight-seeing walks to scenic spots (generally mountain peaks). Camping may occur on the beach behind the dunes or in more sheltered areas with more shade on the inlets.

Choice of fishing spots depends very much on the weather conditions. Every channel suits a different wind direction. If the conditions are wrong at one spot it is difficult to go to another spot as it can take 3-4 hours - so one needs to study weather conditions carefully prior to selecting a spot for the occasion.

My main interest is in groper fishing off the rocks. However beach fishing is also good - large taylor, skipjack, also herring and shark. You can also catch bream, leatherjacket, silver drummer, flathead, mullet, sweep, salmon and salmon trout, the odd kingfish and snapper.

I also feel that the area is unlikely to get fished out.

#### DISCUSSION

Accessibility is against commercial fishing. Salmon fishing would be the only likely commercial use, however Hamersley Beach, which is the only beach with large numbers of salmon in the eastern half of the Park, is too rough for boat launching and netting. Some netting does occur on Trigelow and Fitzgerald Beaches.

I feel that existing access (rough, 4WD, challenging) to central parts of the Park is adequate. The existing number of tracks is sufficient, it still allows some areas to only be reached on foot.

It appears as if groper are not being fished out, but rather are becoming hook-shy in the areas more often frequented.

Timing of tides and conditions is critical to a successful trip.

Bushwalking - Libby Sandiford, CALM Albany

Bushwalking means any walking from half-hour to 4-5 day walks. I will concentrate today on longer walks as I believe Fitzgerald River National Park has great potential in this regard and the precedent has been set by the so called 'coastal walk'.

First some general comments on walking:

- . bushwalking is an excellent way to see a place. You see, hear and smell more than any other mode of travelling. This is important not only in terms of visitor enjoyment, but also in terms of Park management as visitors familiar with, and appreciative of a place, are less likely to act irresponsibly.
- . bushwalking is for anyone - including overnight walking. But people must be introduced on appropriately graded trails.
- . bushwalking is safe - providing again they use appropriate trails.

POTENTIAL

Why is the Fitzgerald valuable for bushwalking:

- . varied and spectacular landscape
- . amazing plant life
- . abundant bird and sea life
- . isolated
- . large size
- . availability of water (by digging)

The Park provides opportunities for short walks through to extended walks. Being large the Park provides for walking, 4WD and fishing and other activities without conflict.

PRESENT FACILITIES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- . Short walk trails - existing tracks are hill trails. System of trails could be improved - use sandplains and river valleys as well as peaks. Should also provide walks at major access points eg. Point Ann, Fitzgerald Inlet. Information must also be provided.

- . Disused vehicle tracks - easy to disassociate yourself from the environment, though whilst not ideal for walking should be considered in future plans.
- . Coastal trail - "Clayton's trail" exists in name but not in form. Could be a tremendous walk suitable for all, however at the moment only experienced walkers can use this trail. In places there is a bewildering number of trails diverging and converging which is environmentally unsound. A route needs to be selected and marked. The other major drawback is having to carry water for at least 2-3 days, unless users know where to dig for water.
- . Water sources - these should be marked. Some provision should be made for walkers to camp somewhere where there are no other campers, as being in "the middle of no-where" is a valuable part of the walking experience. I suggest Twin Bays should be accessible to walkers only; it has water.
- . Un-utilised areas - Eyre Range should be left for experienced walkers. Hamersley gorges, rabbit proof fence and existing inland tracks could be developed into day or overnight trails.

#### DISCUSSION

By providing a system of walk trails (for beginners through to experienced walkers) safety should be ensured. The scope for improvements is unlimited and I believe Fitzgerald River National Park could offer everyone some of the best bushwalking in southern W.A.

Vehicle-based - Steve Wilke, WA Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (Inc).

#### OVERVIEW OF WA ASSOCIATION OF 4WD CLUBS

Represents 22 4WD Clubs throughout W.A. 17 clubs are metropolitan-based. The Association is a member of the Australian National 4WD Council. The Council has recently produced a code of ethics. It is based on respect for the environment and sensible and safe driving.

Four wheel drivers generally fit into one of three categories:

- . club members (25%)
- . responsible non-club (70%)
- . irresponsible non-club members (5%)

Responsible non-club members include fishermen, farmers, older people and government departments. Irresponsible non-club members are the bane of the clubs. Unfortunately the public tend to lump all 4WDers together.

Some confusion arose with proclamation of the Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act in 1978. This Act defines an "Off-Road Vehicle" as an unlicensed vehicle, and thus embraces pursuits which are an end in themselves eg. trail bikes, dune buggies.

Most licenced 4WD vehicles are a means to an end and their use is family-based. Most vehicles cost \$15,000 - \$40,000. Given this level of investment it is important that users drive carefully.

Main activity is touring - less than 200 km (1 day), less than 1,000 km (over long weekends) and extended touring. Generally prefer camping outdoors in the natural environment.

As these vehicles are fitted with gas and power supplies and refridgerators it is important that vehicles can be parked close to the camp site.

The Fitzgerald is popular, with clubs often having a favourite site to which they return year after year.

Sites are popular to 4WD clubs if:

- . they have a difficult 4WD access which presents some challenges
- . shelter and some cleared areas for tents and vehicle parking
- . safe beach with swimming
- . reasonable fishing
- . opportunities for walking, hiking, photography and nature appreciation.

Until recent track closures, there were approximately 22 such sites.

With closures only 8 sites are available. This number has been further reduced to 4WDers by upgrading some to 2WD access.

Most clubs stay 5-10 days. Hopetoun is preferred for re-stocking. The road closures necessitate back-tracking which 4WD clubs are loath to do.

Telegraph Track should be upgraded to 2WD access. Rough tracks to the coast should be re-opened for 4WD use.

Closure of large areas of south coast to 4WDs will increase the pressure on areas which remain open, leading to their degradation.

#### DISCUSSION

Quicksands on a number of the Fitzgerald beaches make them unattractive to 4WD clubs. In Fitzgerald most clubs go to one spot and camp, coming out only for supplies. I have no personal objection to closure of beaches in Fitzgerald River National Park.

The Clubs are gradually expanding, more and more people with 4WDs are joining a club, however it is a slow process. I can see the day where people will require a permit to enter some areas. I have no real answer for irresponsible 4WDers, most of whom are young guys who see the vehicle as an end in itself (machine against the environment). 4WDers should not be stereotyped. It is also important that 2WDers have opportunities to enjoy the Park.

Wildflowers - Alan Carmichael, Ravensthorpe Shire Council

The most important thing in the Park is its wildflowers. It is arguable that fishing, bushwalking and 4WD are better elsewhere, however the Park has all the wildflowers in one place. As a wildflower picker I have picked saleable species, usually the pretty ones. These are also the ones that tourists come to look at.

How do you show people these wildflowers? I believe that the existing brochures are not suitable - they don't help people look at flowers.

The Fitzgerald does not have the horizon-to-horizon cover that the northern sandplains has. Its flowers are more dispersed. W.A. is known as the wildflower State. How do we let people know about our wildflowers and then help them find them in the Park?

You need signposts on plants, small rather than neon signs. The existing brochures for West Mt. Barren, with their line drawings, make it difficult to identify the plants. An alternative is producing a colour glossy.

On the 2 tourist drives (Hamersley and Pabelup Drives) turn-offs should be provided and species signposted to identify key plants. I suggest, say five such turn-offs on each drive. People are on holiday, they saved to make their trip, it should not be an effort to find out about the flowers.

People purchasing cut flowers may be interested in seeing where the flowers have come from (eg. Japanese). Brochures in other languages may need to be produced.

Telling fibs may be a way of promoting the Park - make a story out of each species, get someone who can write a good story eg. Royal Hakea - its colour is due to its drying, in some patches (due to different soils) it doesn't colour up, its seeds open in response to fire; it grows up to 5 m tall. Select the best patch of royal hakea and make people stop. We must market our flowers. It's best to use local names eg. blue mallee rather than tallerack.

The benefits of looking at flowers are financial benefits to the local community (by bringing tourists into the area) and a greater appreciation of other values of the Park.

#### DISCUSSION

Identification keys are confusing to many people, however they may be used after a visit. I suggest signs in colour (colour is very important) which can be moved as required.

Man and the Biosphere Program - Keith Bradby, Fitzgerald Biosphere Project

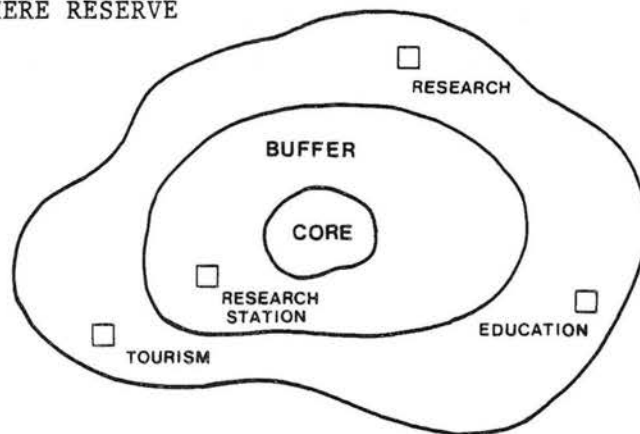
The biosphere is the skin of life surrounding this planet.

Man and the Biosphere (MAB) is a program run by UNESCO looking at the interaction between man and the biosphere. The MAB program looks at how man interacts with the biosphere and looks at how conservation and development can work together.

MAB: 1000 projects in 80-90 countries with 10,000 scientists involved.

International Biosphere Reserves are a focus for these international activities - they are seen as an action program rather than a nomination. There are 250 internationally, 12 in Australia and 2 in W.A. The program started in Paris in 1974. The two W.A. Biosphere Reserves, Fitzgerald River National Park and Prince Regent River Nature Reserve, were proclaimed in 1978.

IDEALISED BIOSPHERE RESERVE



There may be more than one core area.

The Fitzgerald was nominated by the W.A. Government, probably to protect the area from mining.

The Fitzgerald Biosphere Project was set up approximately two years ago. I see their role as a steering committee.

Just the National Park as a biosphere reserve was not what UNESCO visualised. The Park currently has a pristine core with less pristine western and eastern ends. A buffer of bush surrounds the Park. This is then surrounded by agricultural land.

Both the geography and reality of the local community fit the biosphere concept. We are a region where the local community, through groups such as the Fitzgerald River National Park Association and the two Soil Conservation Committees, are already doing what Biosphere Reserves are meant to be.

What are the benefits for the local community? It brings people's attention to the area and good land management practices - it is a "good news" story. It is good for regional unity and making the best use of scarce resources.

For management of problems such as dieback we need to look at integrated catchment management rather than intensive management of the National Park in isolation.

The value of the Fitzgerald Biosphere Project is that it looks outwards to the place of the Park and the region in the world, rather than where we should put our picnic tables and barbecues.

#### DISCUSSION

The question of traditional use (Aboriginal use) presents a fascinating area for research.

Overseas management of biosphere reserves is by committee, generally organised from the top-down (ie. generally organised by the managing authority).

Conservation Values - Andrew Chapman, Fitzgerald River National Park Association

What makes the Fitzgerald unique?

1. the geology and climate ie. the way the world is.
2. the ways in which we have changed the world.

The Fitzgerald is unique as it has a wide diversity of landscapes within a small area.

Travelling down the Hamersley Drive (West River Wheat Bin to Hopetoun) the following views unfold. The northern boundary of the Park has granites (2,500 million years old). From the edge of a tributary of the Hamersley, which the Drive crosses, a marine plain stretches to the south (formed 43 million years ago under 500-600 feet of ocean). The Barren Ranges jut out of this plain. Cliffs of spongolite can be seen along the edges of the Hamersley. Sepulchralis Hill is formed from quartzite (compressed beach sand). This 70 km section of road, with its high landscape diversity, has tremendous interpretive potential.

The geology of the Fitzgerald River National Park captures the complete geological history of the area, from Pre-cambrian (2500 million years ago) to the present. The Fitzgerald is a little "dry belt" - rainfall increases to the west of Bremer Bay and east of Hopetoun. This little known fact is important in understanding some plant and animal distribution in Fitzgerald River National Park; it is relevant to management situations eg. dieback spread. These geological and climatic features make the area unique.

In the south-west of W.A. 70% of plant species and 90% of frogs are found no-where else. Also, the patterns of the land use make the Fitzgerald unique. 65% of the agricultural area is cleared, the median size of remaining reserves is 114 ha.

The blame is not being placed on agriculture, as since the 1880s, prior to widespread agricultural development, many of the medium-sized mammals had disappeared. For example, the heath mouse was formerly found through-out the south-west, it has now only been recorded in the Fitzgerald and Ravensthorpe Ranges. Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe Shires are one of the few places where large areas of uncleared land remain in the agricultural belt. This explains in part why the area attracts so much conservation interest. Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the few relatively undisturbed landscapes where we can study our flora and fauna.

## DISCUSSION

Small reserves can not maintain viable communities. The smaller the reserve the more likely it is to be affected by processes of attrition (eg. rubbish dumping, weeds). With smaller reserves one perturbation (eg. fire, dieback) can destroy the whole area, with little chance of recolonisation. Little, however, is known about inbreeding on these small reserves - no one has been around long enough.

Research Values - Ken Newbey, Fitzgerald River National Park Association

20% (1750 species) of the plants known in W.A. are found in the Park.

Research into ability of native plants to survive on nutrient-poor soils may be of use for grain production.

A 2 year biological survey has set up permanent sites which can be used by other scientists. Still only scratching the surface in terms of our knowledge about the Park's ecosystems and their interrelationships eg. climatic influences, fire ecology.

The interaction within ecosystems is important and needs research. The landscape, soils and salinity should be studied to find out what makes the environment tick. Findings can be extended to some surrounding areas, particularly in relation to salinity.

Research can either be one-off or ongoing. Monitoring is particularly important to understand year to year changes.

Manipulation is also important. Fire is particularly important - need to know how fire interacts with the flora and fauna. Buffer zones (International Biosphere Reserve concept) are the best place to start experimenting. Findings can then be extended/used in core areas.

Locals can carry out research and bring money into the community (FRNPA has bought \$120,000 of research money into the community).

Current Research -

- . English student studying geology of the Barrens.

The people around the Park are also important. The Park is part of the community and the community is part of the Park. Need research into the public's use/perception of the Park.

So much needs to be done, therefore priorities are important. The highest priority is rare fauna (mammals and birds) in the new northern part of the Fitzgerald. We need to know what habitat they need and what are the critical population numbers.

Fire ecology is also important - fire affects habitat, it can also be used to protect the Park and adjoining lands. Experimenting and manipulating are necessary to develop the best techniques. Research findings in the Park can be extrapolated to other coastal areas, and also areas of sandplain up to 100 km inland.

DISCUSSION

There are differences in how often vegetation will burn. In the northern Fitzgerald the vegetation will only burn at a minimum of 15 years. My personal view is that Fitzgerald should only be burnt every 30 or 50 years. The rare fauna has only been recorded in large areas which haven't been burnt for at least 20 years. Fire from lightning strikes generally occurs in late summer and autumn. I have a gut feeling against spring burning as most plants are flowering and/or setting seed at this time.

The biggest risk to the rare fauna in the northern part of the Park is fire; careful recreational use should not damage these species.

Protection of species in the case of large wildfires is dependent on size of patches left after the fire.

Local Government Perspective - Geoff Bee, Jerramungup Shire Council

Local Government is based on the best democratic representation of local people. The centres of power in our district are Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe.

I could say:

The National Park is a bloody nuisance; it should be opened up for agriculture and add to the rate base. Visitors to the Park wear out our roads. Fires originate in the Park and damage adjacent farming lands. But this is not the way the local community views the Park.

A lot more work is needed in terms of fire control - more co-operation is needed between CALM, the Shire and adjoining farmers. CALM has a lot of equipment which is useful, plus finance available for fire control. Both of these are useful for local government. The main conflict comes between paid CALM staff and volunteers (generally local farmers). To overcome this problem control should be placed in the hands of local fire brigades, with advice from CALM. The CALM rangers have a very good relationship with local farmers.

Jerramungup has a district, including the Park, to be proud of. The future is the exciting area. The natural history and natural bush aspects of the Park are very exciting. Visitor centres and research stations are also exciting. They may not be feasible in the short term, but they are good long term goals.

The District Soil Conservation Committees are attracting funds. The Biosphere Project has the potential to tie together agriculture and conservation, and also to attract funding. The Biosphere Project has potential to stimulate exciting developments.

Fitzgerald has a number of fantastic plants and interesting animals. We should start with simple ideas. Could popularise facets of the Fitzgerald through children's stories (eg. Gumnut babies).

Local government represents all "corners" and views in Shire and has a role tying together all these views. Local authorities are truly democratic in representing the local area. Covers a small enough area that rate payers know their representative. Ratio of elected to ratepayers is quite low (1:140).

#### DISCUSSION

The idea of an "artist-in-residence" was discussed. The use or promotion of mythology was also raised.

Fire protection was discussed further. The Park has a system of perimeter firebreaks, but these are not fool-proof. In recent history most fires have started in farmland and burnt into the Park.

Local Government Perspective - Jim Lawrence, Ravensthorpe Shire Council

Functions of Council:

- . statutory duties - administers Acts either as sole agent or for bureaucracies in Perth
- . representative duties - elected and represents community.

Statutory responsibilities in terms of the Fitzgerald River National Park:

- . State Planning Act - district planning responsibilities rest with Shire.
- . implementation of Bush Fires Act and involvement in fire management plan. Fire management plan covers control of fire (both ecological implications and protection of the National Park and adjacent properties). Plan must be approved by relevant local government authority and the Bush Fires Board. Approval under Section 34 of the Bush Fires Act means that adjoining landholders can no longer enter the Park and carry out protective burning.
- . Health Act - administered by Councils on behalf of Public Health Department; limited involvement.
- . Local Government Act (and by-laws under the Act) - roading, unsafe buildings, licensing of brothels.

Representational duties in terms of Fitzgerald River National Park:

For locals: Access is the key word. Since the 1970s have been involved in discussions regarding access to traditional areas. In certain places 2WD access should be available. Also should make provision for picnic sites, camping and barbecues.

For tourists: At present FRNP has little tourism value to local community, but has large potential dependent largely on access. Present estimates of local tourism: 50% caravaners, 30% campers, 20% coaches.

Frequent questions are: can we drive east to west through the Park and where can I take a caravan? There is a need to improve accessibility for caravans and to provide better advisory signs and information.

Some thought needs to be given to access for State Emergency Services and access in the case of emergency.

Lack of access to National Park is placing increasing pressure on other coastal areas (1/3 of these are Shire managed, 2/3 managed by CALM).

I also express doubts about whether CALM will take any notice of the advice of the Advisory Committee and I have heard the approach being taken being referred to as a "snowball" job. This information was received in conversation and is not a personal opinion. I do not feel that there is sufficient information to be able to formulate an opinion on the bona-fides of the parties involved.

Local people respect the conservation values, however, it is not the overwhelming value. This opinion is not held by me or the Ravensthorpe Shire Council.

Adjacent Landowner's Viewpoint - Jim McCulloch, Hopetoun Progress Association.

Scenic views of Park are spectacular, particularly East Mt Barren.

The main value I would like to talk about is the wildflowers. I am particularly concerned about improving roadsides. With particular treatment their values could be vastly improved. This treatment is achieved by a cold burn. It will involve selecting 2-3 chain, logging or knocking it down and then burning on dusk on a cool night. Only the dead material will burn, and then 3-4 months later in spring there will be a magnificent show of wildflowers. Burning must be carried out at the right time. This time is very dependent on the amount of rain received. This approach could be commercialised by someone else; therefore it should be confined to very small areas to prevent commercialisation.

This approach would result in a major tourist attraction which could have economic benefits for the local community. Hot burning does not

create a good show of flowers. In the first year after burning the plants are too small to be attractive.

CALM Management Perspective - Hugh Chevis, CALM Albany

My role is as a District Manager; I am also speaking on behalf of the rangers and Albany staff.

The Manager's role is to prepare and implement works programs based on:

- . objectives and priorities of the Department
- . regional, issue and area plans.

Today, we're talking about an area plan - the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan.

We have a role to cater both for recreation and to protect the natural environment within national parks.

To put Fitzgerald River National Park in a regional context: it is one of six manned parks in the Albany district; it has 3 rangers, supplemented by one mobile ranger over summer. Support is provided by CALM staff in Albany.

Important features of Fitzgerald River National Park:

1. Large reserve - diverse habitats  
- "complete" flora and fauna
2. Large number of species - many rare  
- sensitive to fire, dieback.
3. Almost free of dieback - unique in the south-west.
4. Great scenic beauty.
5. Popular recreation destination.

CALM has a very small budget for the Park, therefore there is strong reliance on local groups and volunteers. Need a sense of ownership by the local community.

In the short term, management of dieback, fire and feral animals is very important. Dieback is known to attack 900 species, will take out a whole number of species, not just one or two. Management by CALM is

based on establishing dry roads - the aim is to prevent introduction and if introduced, to minimise spread.

The aim with regard to fire is to minimise the area burnt and to keep fire out of rare fauna areas. The strategies to achieve this are to provide perimeter buffers and some internal buffers. The next step will be to manipulate fire to work out the best regime for the biota of the Park.

Feral animals include cats, foxes and rabbits. The longer term goal is to reduce feral numbers and hopefully increase the numbers of native animals.

Other key issues are provision for recreation, education, liaison with the local community, and gaining greater understanding of the Park (ie. research).

#### DISCUSSION

If a fire occurs in the northern extension, which is not yet part of the Park, it is not CALM's responsibility until the area is vested. However CALM will assist in any fire control activities.

In terms of the Biosphere Reserve concept the Park is important and should be considered as a core area. As to how the wider context applies, this will be covered in the management plan.

#### 4 WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The approach used to the two workshop sessions is outlined in Section 2.

##### 4.1 FIRST SESSION - IDENTIFYING ISSUES

The following table lists the five most important issues, listed from highest to lowest priority, as identified by the five groups. Members of each of the five groups are listed in Appendix 3.

---

GROUP LEADER				
BILL LULLFITZ	MAX MEADE	KEITH BRADBY	ROD DAW	PAM FORBES
CONSERVATION	CONSERVATION	COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS	ZONING, INCLUDING ACCESS	CONSERVATION
RECREATION	RESOURCES	DIEBACK	CONTROL OF USE	RECREATION
EDUCATION	RECREATION	FIRE	FIRE	FIRE
ACCESS	RESEARCH	RESEARCH	PROTECTION	COOPERATION
PROTECTION	COMMUNICATION	ACCESS	LIAISON	TOURISM

(not prioritised)

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Discussion by Keith Bradby's and Rod Daw's groups was based on a recognition of the management problems associated with conservation and recreation management. As a result they didn't list conservation and recreation in the above priorities.

More details on the above issues are provided in Appendix 4.

#### 4.2 SECOND SESSION - RESOLVING ISSUES

Each group was allocated an issue:

Bill Lullfitz - Dieback and feral animals  
 Max Meade - Conservation  
 Keith Bradby - Community perceptions  
 Rod Daw - Zoning, including access  
 Pam Forbes - Fire

The following summarises the discussion presented by each group.

Dieback and Feral Animals - Bill Lullfitz's group

DIEBACK:

- . more information needed
- . more education needed - it affects more than jarrah trees - approximately 900 species affected
- . track design and access
- . more research needed
- . some areas more susceptible
- . dealing with current outbreaks - debate as to whether they should be treated simply to stop them spreading, or treated with chemicals to get rid of the infection at all costs (particularly the case with new infections)
- . mark infected sites so walkers don't go through them
- . provide wash-downs for vehicles and shoes

FERAL ANIMALS

- . control rather than eradication
- . research to determine best control methods
- . bees, rabbits, foxes, cats of concern
- . rabbit control should concentrate on erosion-prone areas
- . fox and cat control in areas of rare fauna

KANGAROOS AND EMUS

No conclusions reached

Conservation - Max Meade's group

All agreed that conservation was very important, but were not sure how to go about managing the area for conservation and still providing access for recreation (particularly fishing).

Objective of conservation is to maintain the status quo. Zoning selected as the logical approach. Terms used: prohibited, limited, open. Had problems defining how biota could be best protected while at the same time allowing some forms of access. Further losses in access would be unacceptable to recreationists.

Problems confronting conservation:

- . mining
- . education
- . research
- . zoning

The problems experienced by this group in developing management strategies is a reflection of the difficulties faced in reaching consensus between widely differing views.

Community Perceptions - Keith Bradby's group

Could spend a whole day resolving this issue.

Groups that need to interact:

1. within CALM
2. interdepartmentally
3. other land managers
4. public groups - users
  - neighbours
  - others

Communication is currently through contention.

Need to define and set up pathways of communication.

Should keep a contact list of key people and relevant organisations.

Should have further regular workshops between CALM and interest groups - suggested should occur every 3-6 months.

CALM should look at strengthening South Coast Recreation Association and 4WD clubs, National Park groups and similar 'user' bodies.

Rangers should be encouraged to have 6 wives as ranger's wives are the general interface with the public.

Books and videos on the Park should be available.

More interpreters in prime time are required.

Responsible bodies and groups (locals) should be given more resources.

Researchers should be encouraged by providing facilities; in return researchers should ensure that information remains in the district.

School groups and camps should be encouraged to use the Park.

Zoning, including access - Rod Daw's group

Did not draw lines on the map as not all the members of the group felt they knew the area well enough.

Zones proposed:

1. Wilderness - to include suitable access for research and search-and-rescue requirements
2. Heavy use - 2WD and 4WD including provision of access and facilities.  
- in many instances this access to be re-assessed according to damage to ecology and safety.
3. Light Use - 4WD only] and possible restriction of  
- walkers ] numbers at any one time  
- access to remain as is ie. no upgrading
4. Walker's areas  
only - but some overlapping would be necessary.
5. Administration  
areas - rangers' residences  
- information bays  
- study/research centres
6. Historical and Archaeological attractions/areas and access thereto.
7. Allowance for areas in any of these zones to be scientifically researched and monitored at any time after being defined. Possibly

some areas could be defined already (ie. 80 permanent sites from biological survey).

8. Zoned areas for quarantine on a permanent or temporary basis for disease (ie. dieback) or weed eradication or control.
9. Areas to be zoned on account of fragility (eg. sand dunes, spongolite cliffs).
10. Areas zoned as required from time to time for rehabilitation ie. erosion (both water and wind), bush fire.

Fire - Pam Forbe's group

#### OPTIONS

1. To leave it all to nature.
  2. To control fires by various methods.
- Option 2 unanimously preferred.

#### STRATEGIES

- . Patches of bush occupied by rare fauna may require hot fires to regenerate the necessary habitat. Research required.
- . Protective burning required, burn all buffers on a 5 yearly interval.
- . Chequerboard of fires in remainder of Park suggested. Division into 6 north-south orientated sections suggested, with a special zone based on the northern extension (the area containing majority of rare fauna). Firebreaks must be fully maintained around this special zone.
- . Internal buffers must be hand-burnt.
- . Blocks in Park should be burnt on 20-25 year interval, for protection measures.
- . Recreation areas should be surrounded by firebreaks or buffers to prevent fires from them burning into other areas.
- . Wildfires in each block should be left to burn themselves out.
- . CALM's fire control policy should be adhered to.
- . Local bush fire brigades should only become involved when the fire occurs near the Park boundary.

. Provision of watering points also essential.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

We (the Advisory Committee) have an enormous task ahead of us. This task will be helped by us having gained today an understanding of other people's and group's problems and interests as they relate to the Park.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The workshop provided a forum for a range of people, from locals to representatives from other country areas and Perth, to get together and discuss future management of Fitzgerald River National Park.

The morning session enabled the Advisory Committee and CALM to get a good idea of the various interests in the Park. These interests included fishing, bushwalking, 4WD access, camping and appreciation of wildflowers. The broader values of the Park in terms of conservation and research and as an International Biosphere Reserve were also discussed. Local government and local resident views were also highlighted.

A number of areas of common ground were obvious. The most important of these was a general recognition of the conservation values of the National Park. The recreation values were also generally agreed to be important, particularly the ability of the Park to support a range of uses (from bushwalking to fishing) with minimal conflict between users.

The information given in the morning talks will provide a more informed basis for decision-making in the management plan.

The afternoon sessions allowed everyone to identify their individual concerns, and as part of small groups, identify and rank the five most important issues. The table in Section 4.1 summarises the issues as identified and ranked by the five groups. The highest priority issue identified by each group was: conservation (3 groups), community perceptions (1) and zoning, including access (1). One issue was

emphasised by all five groups, namely the need for better liaison and communication between managers of the National Park (CALM) and the local community.

The issues explored in detail were: dieback and feral animals, conservation, community perceptions, zoning (including access) and fire. There was particular interest in community perceptions, with a number of useful strategies proposed. These included listing groups which need to interact and setting up "communication pathways", holding regular workshops, strengthening user associations, providing interpreters (particularly in prime time) and encouraging researchers and school groups.

The afternoon sessions were particularly useful as they indicated solutions to the major issues likely to be covered in the management plan.

As a planning tool, the workshop was very valuable as it encouraged a sharing of information between, and combined problem-solving by, representatives from a wide range of groups.

NOTE: All papers and workshop notes have been checked by the speakers or group leaders except the paper presented by Jim McCulloch and the workshop session led by Bill Lullfitz (both were on holidays and therefore unavailable to check their sections at time of publication).

APPENDIX 1. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRMAN:	Tom Atterby, Chairman, Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee.
Terry Allen	Albany Branch WA Wildflower Society
Jenny Arnold	Environmental Protection Authority
Di Badcock	CALM National Park Ranger's wife
Geoff Bee	Shire of Jerramungup
(Speaker)	
Keith Bradby	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
(Speaker)	
Alan Carmichael	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
(Speaker)	
Andy Chapman	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
(Speaker)	
Hugh Chevis	CALM Albany District
(Speaker)	
Rod Daw	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
(Speaker)	
Brian Fearn	WA Recreational and Sportfishing Council
Pam Forbes	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
James Funston	Pastoralists and Graziers
Trish Funston	Fitzgerald Biosphere Project
Steve Hopper	CALM Wildlife Research
Mike Kendall	Department of Agriculture
Jim Lawrence	Shire of Ravensthorpe
(Speaker)	
Bill Lullfitz	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
Jim McCulloch	Hopetoun Progress Association
(Speaker)	
Danny Meade	Offshore Angling Club
Enid Meade	Great Southern Recreational Fishing Association
Max Meade	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
Sue Moore	CALM Planning Branch
Vicki Morris	Fitzgerald River National Park Association
John Nelson	Gaidner Progress Association
Brenda Newbey	

Ken Newbey (Speaker)	Fitzgerald River National Park Committee
Bob Newlands	CALM National Park Ranger
Arthur Phillips	Main Roads Department
Libby Sandiford (Speaker)	CALM Albany Region
Jim Saunders	Jerramungup Bush Fires Advisory Committee
Wayne Schmidt	CALM Recreation and Landscape Branch
Rachel Siewert	Conservation Council of WA
Rob Smart	Fitzgerald Progress Association
Caroline Switzer	
Helen Taylor	Ravensthorpe Historical Society
Bob Twigg	Jerramungup Soil Conservation Advisory Committee
John Watson	CALM Region
Steve Wilke (Speaker)	WA Association of 4WD Clubs
John Winton	Bush Fires Board
Kaye Vaux	
Bill Badcock	CALM National Park Ranger

UNABLE TO ATTEND/CONFIRMATION NOT RECEIVED

John McDougall	Ravensthorpe Soil Conservation Advisory Committee
Richenda Goldfinch	South Coast Recreation Association
Kevin Coates	Coates Wildlife Tours
Australian Underwater Federation	
Val Milne	Albany Residency Museum
Don Dixon	Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Tourist Committee
Monty House, MLA	Member for Katanning-Roe

APOLOGIES

Rex Edmonson	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
Wilma Goddard	Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee
Jay Cook	Great Southern Development Authority
Dennis Wellington	Great Southern Tourism Directorate
Peter Chandler	Bushwalkers of WA
Alison Thomas	Bremer Bay Progress Association

APPENDIX 2. WORKSHOP PROGRAM

REVISED PROGRAM: FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK WORKSHOP

Thursday 10 March 1988 Fitzgerald Hall, Fitzgerald

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC AND SPEAKER</u>
8.30 - 8.40	Registration
8.40 - 8.50	Introduction by the Chairperson (Tom Atterby, Chairman, Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee) Overview of Fitzgerald River National Park
8.50 - 9.10	Fishing: Rod Daw, South Coast Recreation Association
9.10 - 9.30	Bushwalking: Libby Sandiford, CALM Albany
9.30 - 9.50	Vehicle based: Steve Wilke, W.A. Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs
9.50 - 10.10	Wildflowers: Alan Carmichael, Ravensthorpe Shire Council
10.10 - 10.30	Man and the Biosphere Program: Keith Bradby, Fitzgerald Biosphere Project
10.30 - 10.50	Morning Tea
10.50 - 11.10	Conservation values: Andrew Chapman, Fitzgerald River National Park Association
11.10 - 11.30	Research values: Ken Newbey, Fitzgerald River National Park Association
11.30 - 11.45	Local Government Perspective: George Houston/Geoff Bee, Jerramungrup Shire Council
11.45 - 12.00	Local Government Perspective: Jim Lawrence, Ravensthorpe Shire Council

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC AND SPEAKER</u>
12.00 - 12.20	Adjacent landowner's viewpoint: Jim McCulloch, Hopetoun Progress Association
12.20 - 12.40	CALM Management Perspective: Hugh Chevis, CALM Albany
12.40 - 13.40	Lunch
13.40 - 15.10	Workshop Session 1
15.10 - 15.30	Afternoon Tea
15.30 - 16.40	Workshop Session 2
16.40 - 17.00	Review and Chairperson's summary

APPENDIX 3. WORKSHOP GROUPS

GROUP LEADER: Bill Lullfitz

Hugh Chevis  
James Funston  
Enid Meade  
Jim Lawrence  
Rachael Siewert  
Kaye Vaux  
Brenda Newbey

GROUP LEADER: Rod Daw

Bob Newlands  
Jenny Arnold  
John Nelson  
Ken Newbey  
Geoff Bee  
Steve Wilke  
Caroline Switzer

GROUP LEADER: Max Meade

John Watson  
Steve Hopper  
Rob Smart  
Brian Fearn  
Helen Taylor  
Alan Carmichael  
Vicki Morris

GROUP LEADER: Pam Forbes

Bill Badcock  
Mike Kendall  
Jim McCulloch  
Andy Chapman  
Terry Allen  
Bob Twigg  
Jim Saunders

GROUP LEADER: Keith Bradby

Wayne Schmidt  
Di Badcock  
Libby Sandiford  
Danny Meade  
Tom Atterby  
Trish Funston  
John Winton

APPENDIX 4. FURTHER DETAILS ON ISSUES IDENTIFIED  
IN THE FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION

Bill Lullfitz's Group

1. Maintain Conservation Value
  - . education
  - . liaison
  - . access
  - . expansion
  - . buffer zone and vesting of
  - . protection
  - . recreation
  
2. Recreation
  - . tourism
  - . bushwalking
  - . camping
  - . 4WD
  - . fishing
  - . scenery
  - . emergency
  
3. Education
  - . communication
  - . liaison
  - . interpretation
  - . litter
  - . reasons for limitations on access
  
4. Access
  - . foot
  - . 4WD
  - . 2WD
  - . management
  - . emergency
  - . limitation of numbers
  - . dieback
  
5. Protection
  - . Liaison and communication
  - . fire - suppression, biological uses, prevention
  - . feral animals
  - . emergency procedures
  - . buffer zone

Max Meade's Group

1. Conservation
  - . development of biosphere
  - . mining
  - . health of flora and fauna

2. Resources
  - . ability to manage
  - . options to be kept open
  - . planning
  - . monitoring

4. Research

5. Communication

#### Keith Bradby's Group

1. Community Perceptions
  - . expectations
  - . interactions between managers and community
2. Dieback
3. Fire
  - . as a tool
  - . as a hazard
4. Research (knowledge)
  - . to understand how to manage and conserve
5. Access

#### Rod Daw's Group

1. Zoning of areas in relation to usage regarding heavy duty, light duty (including access to such) and also including research and monitoring of such zoning.
2. Control and understanding of usage including provision of safety and other facilities.

3. Fire Control
4. Protection (Hygiene) - dieback, feral animals, weeds.
5. Liaison on a continuing basis between CALM and local people and including education on park values.

Pam Forbe's Group

1. Conservation
  - . dieback control
  - . zoning
2. Recreation
  - . a range exists
  - . active - damage, passive - no damage
  - . access - level of roads
3. Fire control and safety provision.
4. Cooperation, education, long term effects
  - . leave something for the next generation
  - . options left open to hand on to others
  - . communication and research
5. Tourism
  - . roads
  - . publicity