

WEST. AUST. NAT. RESERVE MANAGE. PLAN No. 4

(Audit of Public Submissions and Amendments to the Draft Plan)

LAKE MAGENTA NATURE RESERVE



by
IAN G. CROOK

and

ANDREW A. BURBIDGE



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN No. 4
(AUDIT OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN)

LAKE MAGENTA NATURE RESERVE

BY

IAN G. CROOK AND ANDREW A. BURBIDGE
Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre,
P.O. Box 51, Wanneroo 6065

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
108 Adelaide Terrace
Perth 6000

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INTRODUCTION

The draft management plan for the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve was published on 14 March 1981 and remained open for comments and submissions from the public until 30 June. This period included two extensions, each of one month's duration from an original proposed closing date of 30 April.

The Lake Magenta plan varied from earlier numbers in the present series by virtue of the discussions with the principal interested local authority (the Council of the Shire of Kent) which occurred prior to its publication. These were based on a "pre-publication" version of the plan and, as a result, a number of changes were made which were incorporated in the published draft. The most important of these concerned the provision for the establishment of a Management Advisory Committee for the Reserve.

This approach to consultation with the interested local authority proved to be most successful, and formal discussions of this type, based on pre-publication versions of draft management plans, has been written into the planning process as an optional procedure.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT PLAN

A total of 102 copies of the Lake Magenta plan were distributed within Western Australia. Procedures for identifying interested individuals and groups, particularly within the local community, were revised in the process.

Three lines of distribution were employed for this plan:

Group 1. Standard Address List

Comprising central Government organisations, naturalists and conservation groups and members of the public who have expressed a general interest in Nature Reserves and their management as a result of earlier plans in the series.

Group 2. Reserve Neighbours and Local Authorities

Includes owners of land adjoining the Reserve together with nearby local authorities, including all those which might be affected by the Reserve and its management irrespective of whether or not parts of the Reserve fall within their areas of jurisdiction.

Group 3. Other Interested Parties

Includes all other individuals and groups who may feel moved to respond to this particular plan but who are not known at the time of its publication.

The standard practice of seeking response by newspaper advertisements and soliciting of the publication of news items in regional and city newspapers continued for this plan (Fig. 1).

The practice of distributing unsolicited copies of the draft plan to Reserve neighbours stems from the desirability of maximising opportunities for the local community to participate in the planning process. The comments evoked by doing so were encouraging:

"..It has been encouraging to know you realise we exist..."

"...I would like to commend you on sending a copy of the Lake Magenta reserve programme to adjoining landholders, as I see this as a long overdue step in improving communication between both parties..."

Seven out of twenty eight immediate neighbours to whom copies were distributed actually made written responses. This is similar to the response to earlier plans in the series, in which positive neighbour interest has continued into the implementation phase of the plans concerned. A similar level of communication with reserve neighbours will be maintained as a standard procedure of the management planning process.

Identification of parties who come under the "group 3" heading, above, remains the weakest aspect of draft plan distribution, however. This will be subject of further development in future plans in the series. Particular attention will be paid to promotion of plans in the printed media.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN

Written submissions on the draft plan were received from the following 20 bodies and individuals:

1. Forests Department
2. Department of Conservation and Environment
3. Agriculture Protection Board of Western Australia
4. National Parks Authority
5. Bush Fires Board
6. Shire of Kent
7. Shire of Lake Grace
8. Western Australian Naturalists Club (Inc)
9. Conservation Council of Western Australia Inc.
10. The Tree Society
11. Dr D. L. Serventy
12. Mrs M. Duncombe (Reserve neighbour)
13. Mr and Mrs G. & R. Cugley (Reserve neighbours)
14. Mr N. Grant-Williams (Reserve neighbour)
15. Mr J. A. Morgan (Reserve neighbour)
16. Mr K. Newby (consultant botanist)
17. Mr M.G. Ryan (Reserve neighbour)
18. Mr and Mrs M. & P. Thompson
19. Mr and Mrs R. & M. Townsend (Reserve neighbours)
20. Mrs C. Walsh (Reserve neighbour).

The response to the Lake Magenta plan compares favourably with those to earlier plans in the series (23, 15 and 6 written submissions, respectively), and the degree of interest and the tenor of the responses of reserve neighbours was particularly encouraging.

Generally, the comments received indicate public approval for the Nature Reserve and the management plan. The Council of the Shire of Kent gave its formal approval to the plan "...in principle..." and the Department was commended on the plan as a whole by a number of respondents. Specific comments and resulting amendments to the plan are summarised under the headings in which they appear in the draft.

1. HISTORY OF THE RESERVE

Dr D. L. Serventy, who played such a major part in the early history of this Reserve provided a personal insight into the events leading up to inspection of the Lake Magenta area:

"You have covered the history of the origin of the reserve remarkably well. Actually it was Ray Aitken when he was headmaster of the Nyabing School who originally put us on to the idea of having a mallee reserve, primarily for Mallee Fowl. We often used to see him in those days. I put up the proposal to the Lands Department, as you narrate, and had a very sympathetic audience in the Under Secretary H. E. Smith. But it was really the late Tom Cleave, Assistant Surveyor-General, who suggested the Lake Magenta area. I knew Tom very well and before writing officially I conferred with Tom as to what to do. So I wrote officially to the Under-Secretary. Without Tom's guidance we wouldn't have got anywhere."

This new perspective provided by Dr Serventy has been added to the narrative on the history of the Reserve in the revised draft of the management plan.

2. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

No comments were received referring specifically to the description of the physical features of the Reserve contained in the draft plan, but two of the immediate neighbours of the Reserve (Mrs M. Duncombe and Mr and Mrs R. & M. Townsend) noted the agricultural values of the land which makes up the western part of the Reserve. Both these respondents would like to see parts of the Reserve released for farm development.

In expressing this view, however, Mrs Duncombe, who has the interests of her sons at heart, also sees considerable values in the Reserve:

"I have spent many relaxing hours observing the beautiful birds and bush...We look upon the wild turkeys (Mallee Fowl) as ours and would be upset to see them harmed."

Two other submissions from members of the local community (Mrs R. Cugley and Mr J. Morgan) recommended the existing Reserve be extended to the north and east. These considerations, whether of reduction or extension of the present area of the Reserve, are outside the scope of present considerations except where they have management consequences or are based to some extent on management problems.*

In general terms, however, this call for release of land within the Reserve is part of a debate which began with the exclusion of 41 600 ha of some of the most useful land for agriculture (to the west of the present Reserve) from Dr Serventy's original proposal (see Fig. 3 of the draft plan) and which ended, after several years of intense study and discussion, with the confirmation of the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve in its present location and area by the then Premier, the Hon. D. (later Sir David) Brand, in 1964.

3. VEGETATION AND FLORA

Mr and Mrs R. and G. Cugley noted the presence of two plants in the area which are Gazetted as rare flora under the provisions of the Wildlife Conservation Act. The presence of these species (Grevillea involucrata and G. prostrata) add significantly to the nature conservation value of the Reserve.

4. FAUNA

Several members of the local community referred to Mallee Fowl. Mr N. Grant-Williams expressed concern that the present course of development of land to the north of the Reserve may deny these birds and other fauna adequate access to water in the area. He suggested establishment of a reliable source of water on the Reserve as an alternative.†

*In this connection a number of near neighbours of the Reserve referred to problems of land management stemming from the existence of the Reserve - animal damage to crops and stock and fire being prominent among them. In more than one response there is an implication that a lack of effective management in the past has added an element of insult to the injury already done to the farming community by virtue of creating the Reserve in the first place: i.e. denying the community use of some potentially very valuable land for farming purposes. These points are taken up in the following appropriate sections 5.2 and 5.3 of this Audit.

† see section 5.4.

Mr J. Morgan reported Mallee Fowl in the area east of the present Reserve, while Mr Townsend, who maintains the firebreaks on the Reserve under contract from the Department, has seen the birds on uncleared land nearby but not on the Reserve itself.

It is clear from these comments that Mallee Fowl are reasonably abundant in the area. It is also clear that the occurrence of Mallee Fowl on the Reserve is regarded by members of the public and reserve neighbours in particular as being a factor of major importance in the establishment and continuance of the Reserve. The broader nature conservation values of the area may require some promotion among the local community.

5. THE PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT

The great majority of comments received pertained to the management provisions detailed in Part B of the draft plan. These were numerous and in many instances quite detailed. To facilitate their assessment an index of comments has been prepared which is included in Appendix I to this Audit.

5.1. Establishment of a Management Advisory Committee

All references to the proposal for a management advisory committee supported the idea, and two expressions of interest in membership were received. The Bush Fires Board, which also supported the proposal, further recommended that, in the interests of the promotion of fire protection, the neighbouring Shires of Lake Grace and Gnowangerup be invited to nominate members to the committee.

While seeing the merit of this proposal it is also considered important to limit the size of the proposed committee. In concept it is intended to be an informally convened working group and for practical reasons (such as to facilitate field inspections) it is also desirable that a maximum limit of four or five members be set.

It is therefore proposed that the first two paragraphs of the section of the plan entitled "Establishment of a Management Advisory Committee" be revised with the intent of limiting the size of the committee to five members instead of four and to allow for the appointment of one or two local members who reside in areas other than the Shire of Kent:

"The substantial interest of the local community in the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve has led to the proposal for establishment of a committee of local residents to advise and liaise with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife on questions of the management of the Reserve. The proposal has been adopted as a provision of this Management Plan.

The Committee, which will be known as the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve Management Advisory Committee, shall consist of four or five members appointed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife as follows:

- The Reserve Management Officer in charge of the Reserve (chairman);
- Two local resident members nominated by the Council of the Shire of Kent; and
- One or two local resident members nominated in conjunction with the Councils of the Shires of Gnowangerup and Lake Grace."

In addition, the Superintendent of the Bush Fires Board requested that provision be made for a staff member of the Board to be present as an observer at meetings of the committee. If adopted this suggestion would require a like response to similar requests from other Government instrumentalities (such as the Agriculture Protection Board) which have some specialist interests in the Reserve. Since the committee is seen as a working group of local people, and the terms of reference of the group range over all the facets of management of such a large and important Nature Reserve, it might not be necessary for officers from Government and semi-Government instrumentalities with special interests and expertise to be present at all its meetings.

The alternative, which is favoured, is for continuation of established patterns of liaison between officials from interested Departments and instrumentalities and for the inclusion in the terms of reference of the management advisory committee for officials to be invited to its meetings for advice as required. This course has been provided for in the revised draft of the management plan by inclusion of the following amended statement of terms of reference for the committee:

"The terms of reference of the Committee shall be to advise the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife on the application of the general provisions and principles of management set down in this Management Plan, taking into account such information as may be provided from Government and Local Government instrumentalities, research organisations or any other bodies and individuals it may seem expeditious to consult, and to provide an avenue of communication between the local community and the Department."

5.2. Fire Protection

A high proportion of the comments received dealt with aspects of fire protection management (Appendix I). In general they indicate dissatisfaction with the existing

fire protection arrangements, which are centred on a pattern of perimeter and internal six metre-wide ploughed firebreaks, and an appreciation that the new provisions for fire protection management offer a distinct improvement.

Specific comments were also received dealing with widths of firebreaks and buffer strips, methods of maintenance thereof, and fire suppression and fire suppression planning (including the use and mobilisation of heavy equipment).

A number of these more detailed comments go beyond the intended scope of the draft plan into areas intended for study by the management advisory committee. These include subjects such as widths of buffer strips, methods of maintenance of firebreaks and details of the intended fire suppression plan. No amendments to the draft plan are seen to be needed to cover these areas, and the comments received will be passed on to the management advisory committee when it is formed.

5.3. Control of Pest Animals and Plants

A number of respondents drew attention to what they see to be inadequacies in the control of pest animals. Damage to crops and fences by kangaroos and emus, stock losses caused by wild dogs and large populations of rabbits in places were all mentioned. As with the details of application of the provisions for fire protection in this plan, the proposed management advisory committee is seen as playing a pivotal role in communication between the Department and the local community on matters pertaining to pest control. No particular amendments to the draft plan are seen as being necessary to further strengthen provisions for pest control.

The Agriculture Protection Board drew attention to a provision of the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act which appears to conflict with that of the Wildlife Conservation Act insofar as access to Nature Reserves which are classified as "Prohibited Areas". In this respect the provision in the draft plan requiring officers of the Agriculture Protection Board to obtain permits for entry in the course of inspections of pest occurrence is in no way intended to limit these essential activities. On the other hand it is important that management provisions which limit public use of such an important Nature Reserve on the grounds of the disturbance to the natural environment of a primitive area (that such use may cause), should also be seen to apply to Government servants. It is therefore proposed that the specific requirement for Officers of the Agriculture Protection Board to obtain permits should be deleted from the draft plan and that a general statement concerning permitted access be added to section 5.5. (Classification).

5.4. Artificial Watering Points

A number of submissions saw benefit in the construction of dams in the Reserve. The question of the provision of water on Nature Reserves is a difficult one. The Lake Magenta Nature Reserve contains no natural permanent fresh water and the wildlife which occurred there prior to settlement would have been adapted to this situation. Doubtless some species of animals have taken advantage of the development of water points on surrounding farms and a build-up of kangaroo and emu numbers, in particular, is usual in such situations, leading to the need for control.

Mallee-fowl once had a wide distribution including quite arid areas and available information leaves zoologists in little doubt that they do not need access to free water for drinking. Other species do need water occasionally, e.g. Bustards, as pointed out by Mr Grant-Williams in his letter (Appendix I p. 17).

Experience in the management of Nature Reserves elsewhere in the South West suggests that the development of artificial water points on Nature Reserves is expensive and of limited value so far as the fauna is concerned. Development sufficient to prevent kangaroos using dams on farms adjacent to Lake Magenta Nature Reserve would require a very large number of water points. This would eventually lead to an enormous build-up in kangaroo numbers which could damage the vegetation of the Reserve and cause even greater problems on surrounding crops.

Water points for fire fighting, however, can be valuable and the questions of upgrading of the dam at Sullivans Soak and/or the construction of other water points will be referred to the Management Advisory Committee.

5.5. Classification and Public Use

Four responses were received from members of the public, three of whom are Reserve neighbours, concerning public use. All comments were supportive of the provisions of the draft plan and two suggested that existing and proposed upgrading of access through the Reserve and to its boundaries are excessive. The question of the upgrading of Halls Track will be taken up with the Council of the Shire of Kent and the general provisions of the draft plan covering public access and use will be retained.

As a result of the comments of the Agriculture Protection Board (above), however, the following amended section entitled "Classification" will be included in the revised draft:

"The present classification of the Reserve under Section 12A of the Wildlife Conservation Act shall continue under the provisions of this Plan. All members of the public shall be required to obtain permits for entry to the Reserve and this provision shall extend to Government Officers on official business.

Notwithstanding this requirement nothing in the provisions of this plan shall hinder that business or conflict with provisions of legislation other than the Wildlife Conservation Act".

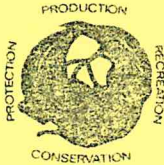
APPENDIX I : INDEX TO AND COPIES OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

APPENDIX I

INDEX TO AND COPIES OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

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FORESTS DEPARTMENT

54 BARRACK STREET, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6000
TELEPHONE 3258077

*Address all correspondence: Conservator of Forests
Your ref*

*Our ref
Inquires*

103/80 ERH:BM
Dr. Hopkins

Director

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

LAKE MAGENTA RESERVE - DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The draft plan has been studied by several officers of the Forests Department and considered to present sound procedure for management of the reserve.

I can offer no specific criticism and accept the draft in its present form.

B. J. Bezy

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS *1-20*

May 5, 1981



Department of
CONSERVATION and ENVIRONMENT


Director,
Department of Fisheries and
Wildlife.

your ref 75/55
our ref 25/81 NO:RE
enquiries

Re : Draft Management Plan - Lake Magenta Nature Reserve.

Officers of this Department have studied the above plan and have endorsed the recommendations relating to management of the reserve.

The proposal (Section 2, page 40) to establish a management advisory committee with local representatives is particularly supported.


C.F. Porter
DIRECTOR.

10 April, 1981.

1 Mount Street, Perth, W.A. 6000 tel. 322 2477



AGRICULTURE PROTECTION BOARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Jarra Road,
South Perth,
Western Australia 6151

Telephone 367 0111

Telegrams:- AGPROTECT, PERTH

Mr. B. K. Bowen,
Director,
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH. 6000

Your Ref 75/55
Our Ref 99/80
Enquires Mr Swarts
Date 1st May 1981

West Australian Natural Reserve Management Plan No. 4 (Draft).
Lake Magenta Nature Reserve No. A 25113.

In reply to your letter of 6/3/81, I wish to advise that the Board is in general agreement with the proposals contained in Section 4 of Part. B. of the draft plan, with the exception of Sub-section 4.1 headed "Permits required for Entry".

The proposed need for permits is contrary to powers given to Inspectors and Authorised Persons under Section 84 of the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act and while the Board recognises the need for close liaison and co-operation in relation to entry of reserves, the introduction of a permit system is considered too restrictive.

Properties adjoining the reserve experience considerable rabbit problems and when inspecting these properties, it is often necessary to also inspect adjacent parts of the reserve. In such cases, the proposed need to first obtain permits for entry would be very unsatisfactory and lead to serious inefficiencies.

The need for prior consultation and Departmental approval prior to undertaking any operational work on reserves is recognised and is in accordance with current procedure.

A. W. HOGSTROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AGRICULTURE PROTECTION BOARD.

National Parks Authority of Western Australia



HACKETT DRIVE,
NEDLANDS 6009

PHONE 386 8811

Director
Department of Fisheries
and Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH W.A. 6000

Your ref: 75/55
NPA ref: JLH:SO

RE: LAKE MAGENTA NATURE RESERVE - DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN NO.4

Dear Sir,

The draft Management Plan No. 4 of Lake Magenta Nature Reserve forwarded to us for our perusal and comments has been examined and approved by the Ecologist of the National Parks Authority.

Yours faithfully,

H. COOPER
Secretary

11th May 1981



BUSH FIRES BOARD

Röbley

The Director
Department of Fisheries and
Wildlife
108 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH

C.D.O.

ATTENTION DR. I. CROOK

Re: Lake Magenta Nature Reserve - Draft Management Plan

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan and apologise for the lateness of the Board's comment which was due to my absence from the State on long service leave.

The management priorities (page 38, 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and page 38, 1.2 and 1.2.1) provide a proper basis for fire protection of both the Reserve and the surrounding farming properties and are compatible with the Bush Fires Board's views on district fire protection.

I would assure you of the Board's support to bring these objectives to fruition.

With regard to the detail of the Management Advisory Committee (page 40, (2) and Fire Protection pages 40 to 45, (3)) the following comments are made:-

(1) Management Advisory Committee (page 40, 2)

While the reserve as a whole falls within the Shire of Kent, the Shires of Lake Grace and Gnowangerup border on the north and south respectively and fires in the reserve area could be their concern. None of the three shires has what could be described as active Bush Fire Advisory Committee and as fire control is a major planning objective, involvement of the three Shires with the Management Advisory Committee could be advantageous.

The Board will continue to work towards upgrading the Bush Fire Advisory Committees in those Shires and it may well be that the local interest generated by the plan may give some added impetus to our endeavours.

(2) Internal Firebreaks (page 40, 3.1)

The concept of internal firebreaks and upgrading of selected lines to form internal buffers should enhance the limitation of fire spread within the reserve area. The quality of the breaks however will influence to a large extent the motivation of local brigades to enter the reserve and provide a fast attack while fires are small.

(3) Perimeter Firebreaks (page 41, 3.2)

The problems associated with the perimeter I see as being mainly associated with areas of private property due to be cleared over the next 2 years.

.../2.

Experience in similar areas during 1980/81 has shown that involvement of officers from our organisations during the planning and execution of these burns goes a long way to making these a very much safer and better organised operation. The Board will continue to be involved with these clearing burns in the proximity of the reserve and keep your Department advised as burns are scheduled.

(4) Fire Suppression (page 44, 3.3)

The overall strategy outlined in the plan involving local residents and brigades appears to be the only logical course available. However it is not without its problems.

I am informed that communications in the general area are not ideal due to a shortage of telephones and radios. Local attitudes to fires in the centre of the reserve have traditionally been to ignore them until such a time as they pose a direct threat to private property.

Heavy equipment suitable for fire control is scarce and mainly under the control of the Shire Councils who have not shown any great willingness to release equipment for fire control particularly in new farming areas.

While I am sure that many problems can and will be overcome with the appointment of the Katanning Reserve management team I believe there is a need to start with the implementation of your plan once it has reached its final published form. It is our experience that delays in implementation frequently have adverse effects on credibility locally.

With this in mind I would offer the assistance of Board field staff to your Department along the following lines:-

- (a) Assist with implementation of the notification system to be established by the Management Advisory Committee.
- (b) Assist with the liaison necessary to establish a first, and preferably fast, attack on fires and within our staff constraints to provide intelligence data associated with paragraph 3.3.2.1 page 44.
- (c) Assist with coordination of fire suppression forces as required.
- (d) Assist your management staff with the preparation of a fire suppression plan.

In general the local fire organisation in this area has not reached the stage of development or sophistication as exists in areas already covered by your management plans i.e. Avon Valley, Serpentine/Jarrahdale or Thompsons Lake. I would expect that progress to the stage envisaged in the draft plan would be somewhat slow and would require a lot of ground work. The Bush Fires Board is in a position to assist in this regard.

One point which requires clarification is on page 44 paragraph 3.3.2.2 regarding the use of heavy equipment. As the plan reads a Fire Control Officer may mobilise heavy equipment, if available, and move it to the fire scene. The cost of such movement will be met by your Department.

.../3.

The actual use of the equipment in fire fighting however will depend on prior approval by an officer of your Department. No mention is made of who bears the cost of the equipment when in use.

I foresee some problems with this arrangement as it stands. Firstly it is most unlikely that anyone would move equipment to the fire scene and then not use it, regardless of what prior arrangements may be made through the plan. Alternatively the equipment would not be moved until such a time as clearance for its use had been given by one of your staff. I anticipate that if equipment is moved to and used on the Reserve with your sanction that the local fire organisation would expect your Department to meet the cost.

The procedure adopted by the Bush Fires Board is to insist that any equipment for which subsequent payment may be expected for either movement or use has prior approval from a Board officer. If this is clearly understood at the outset then local and political wrangles can, to a measure, be avoided.

If the Board's offers of assistance are accepted by your Department I believe there would be advantage in your considering granting observer status to our local officer on your Management Advisory Committee so that good liaison is maintained and we avoid being at cross purposes at any stage.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Plan, if there are any further avenues where we may be of assistance I would be happy to discuss them with you.



SUPERINTENDENT

6th May 1981
JAWR:FC

SHIRE OF KENT

P.O. BOX 15, NYABING, W.A. 6341

Phone Nyabing 291051 or 291053 — STD 098

24th June, 1981

If phoning or calling ask for

.....
Please Quote
Ref. No. THB:DJC

Your Ref: 75/55

Director,
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH WA 6000

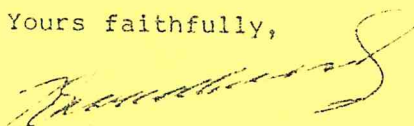
Dear Sir,

LAKE MAGENTA NATURE RESERVE NO. A 25113

The management plan for the above reserve has been considered by Council and they have approved the plan in principle.

Would you please note an error in page 3, in that Cr. K.L. Smith Deputy President is shown as Cr. K. Lewis. An amendment to this would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,


T.H. BROADHURST
SHIRE CLERK

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE
ADDRESSED TO SHIRE CLERK

Shire of Lake Grace

Telephone: 098 65 1105

Your Ref. 75/55

Our Fl. No. 15-1-1

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9-4

P.O. Box 50 and 145
Lake Grace 6353

BCW:KR
30th June 1981

Director,
Department Fisheries & Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
Perth, W.A. 6000

Dear Sir,

LAKE MAGENTA NATURE RESERVE (NO. 25113)


Council has studied the Draft W.A. Nature Reserve Management Plan No. 4 for the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and is in full accord with the proposals stated by the writers.

In particular, Council was pleased with the management plan for fire prevention and weed controls to protect the reserve flora and fauna.

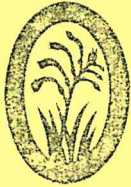
For future development adjacent to the area, Council would like to see an allocation of farm land, one block deep on the western side of Road No. 92. This allocation would assist with providing the necessary numbers of settlers to qualify and complement existing farmers for such services as S.E.C., Telephone and School Bus.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the report and trust the Plan will be implemented without change.

Yours faithfully,



B.G. WILLOUGHBY
Acting Shire Clerk



Western Australian Naturalists' Club (Inc.)

FOUNDED 1924

All correspondence to be addressed to
PO Box 156, Nedlands WA 6009

Naturalists' Hall
65 Merriwa Street
Nedlands WA 6009

7 May 1981

Mr B. K. Bowen
Director
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
108 Adelaide Terrace
PERTH, 6000

Dear Mr Bowen,

Lake Magenta Nature Reserve - Draft Management
Plan

Replying to your letter of 24 April 1981 (ref. 75/55) - we commend you on the Plan, which is an excellent one, and we are in agreement with the comments offered by the Conservation Council of W.A., of which we have seen a copy.

Yours faithfully

(Otto Mueller)
President



CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

537 Wellington St. Perth W.A. 6000
Telephone: 3214507

18th May, 1981.

Mr. B. K. Bowen,
Director,
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH, W.A. 6000

Dear Mr. Bowen,

The Conservation Council of W.A. wishes to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Management plan for the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve (A 25113). We would like to commend the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife on the presentation of the plan. The synthesis of the history and the biological attributes of the reserve included in the report are valuable additions to the description of our natural environment as well as necessary for assessing the management plan. We hope that all Nature Reserves in Western Australia will receive similar treatments.

The Conservation Council believes that hazard reduction burning (or control burning) at frequent and regular intervals as practised by the Forests Department and some Local Government Bush Fire Brigades is undesirable and can have severe effects on flora and fauna. We therefore believe that the approach to fire management proposed for the Lake Magenta reserve is most appropriate.

Because the reserve is (or in the future will be) the main representation of the natural environment of the region, it is important that the reserve always contains significant amounts of climax vegetation. This is necessary to maintain maximum diversity vegetation units and faunal habitats. Very little of the vegetation in the reserve would be climax because of the frequent fires which have occurred since the commencement of agriculture in the area. Active fire protection and suppression is necessary to allow the regeneration of the reserve and to establish a "more natural" fire regime.

Most fires in the recent past have originated from the actions of agricultural pursuits. Although the active use of fire in agriculture will be much reduced, fires starting on farming land will still pose the greatest single threat to the reserve. Because of the rate of spread of the head fire in grassland under strong winds, the six metre perimeter breaks might be inadequate to prevent the intrusion of fire.

The internal subdivision of the reserve, particularly if complimented by internal buffers will be valuable in limiting the size of single fire events.

The maintenance of firebreaks is obviously a major recurring expenditure and the minimising of these costs will be necessary. We assume that this is the reason for choosing ploughing as the maintenance method. Ploughing we believe has several disadvantages including:

.../2

- a. encouraging erosion (both wind and water) of light soils,
- b. providing a good seed bed for weed invasion, and
- c. makes travel on the firebreaks (which is important for rapid suppression of fires) difficult.

Graded firebreaks, although less effective in preventing regrowth than ploughing, we believe should be seriously considered. We have serious reservations on the use of herbicides in a nature reserve, even though the ones considered are likely to be quite selective.

Yours sincerely,



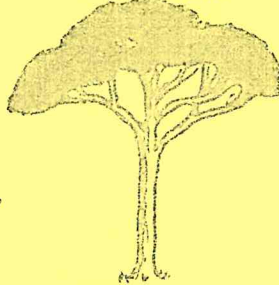
Neil Bartholomaeus,
PRESIDENT.

PLANTING

CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

Mr. B.K. Bowen,
The Director,
Department of Fisheries &
Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH, 6000.



THE TREE SOCIETY

STATION HOUSE
CLAREMONT 6010
TEL. 384 8520

14th April, 1981

Your ref: 75/55

Dear Sir,

Lake Magenta Nature Reserve No. A 25113 -
Draft Management Plan No. 4

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the above Plan to the Tree Society.

The Tree Society commends the Department for an excellent report and has no comments or submissions to make upon it.

Yours faithfully,
for The Tree Society

Caroline Hooper

Mrs. C. Hooper
General Secretary

Excerpts from private correspondence of Dr. D.L. Serventy
to Dr A.A. burbidge relating to Lake Magenta Management Plan

27 Everett Street,
Nedlands, 6009.
March 24, 1981

Re Lake Magenta Nature Reserve

I have seen your copy of the Nature Reserve Plan No. 4
(Draft) and commend your team on its preparation.

You have covered the history of the origin of the reserve remarkably well. Actually it was Ray Aitken when he was headmaster of the Nyabing School who originally put us on to the idea of having a mallee reserve, primarily for Mallee Fowl. We often used to see him in those days. I put up the proposal to the Lands Department, as you narrate, and had a very sympathetic audience in the Under Secretary H.E. Smith. But it was really the late Tom Cleave, Assistant Surveyor-General who suggested the Lake Magenta area. I knew Tom very well and before writing officially I conferred with Tom as to what to do. So I wrote officially to the Under Secretary. Without Tom's guidance we wouldn't have got anywhere.

D.L. Serventy

"Caringal",
Pargrup 6343.
14th April 1981.

Dr J. G. Brook,
W.A. Wildlife Research Centre,
P.O. Box 51,
Burreroo. 6065.

Dear Dr Brook,

I was interested to read the Draft for the Lake Kangerwa Nature Reserve which I was very pleased to receive, being a neighbour of the Reserve. The paper was addressed to my late husband, who died from cancer 2 years ago, leaving my son Jeffrey and me to manage our home farms and Warwick Farms, which borders the Reserve.

I wish Max could have seen the paper. I know that fire was his greatest concern. The fire breaks are most inadequate, although there's nothing to burn on our side after two years of drought.

Jeffrey and many other farmers would like more land and would be happy to see the Reserve made available. I have another two sons who would probably be interested in more development.

It has been heartbreaking to see the mobs of emus + kangaroos on our crops. The fences, which were very sound originally, have been damaged and we don't see anyone from your Department to help repair them.

I have spent many relaxing hours out at Warwick Farms observing the beautiful birds and bushes. I often told my husband we would forget about farming + turn to Tourism, the last thing your Department would want. We look upon the Wild Turkeys as ours and would be upset to see them harmed.

I feel we have cleared such a big area and we should be planting hundreds of trees, but that project seems to be put aside in our efforts to make a living. I hope we can make amends when we get good rains, hopefully very soon.

It has been encouraging to know you realize we exist. I would be glad to help further.

Yours sincerely,
Maureen D'Amorbe.

G.W. & R.J. Cugley,
Box 88,
NEDEGATE. 6355.
12th April, 1981.

Mr. B.K. Bowen,
Director, Dept. Fisheries & wildlife,
FERTH. 6000.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for sending a copy of the draft management plan for the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve.

We were very pleased to read of the research and time spent in studying this area, and to know that the reserve could be fully preserved for all the reasons stated in the plan. We would like to submit the following comments;

1. That a road access through the reserve is unnecessary as this could be made north or south of the reserve. From experience with local councils such suggestions are generally for the benefit of one person and not the community as a whole.
2. That extension of the reserve to include the remainder of Lake Magenta, the southern part of Lake Lockhart and any lands to the west of Lake Magenta and to the south of Lake Lockhart which are not suitable for farm development, be included in this plan. (page 15).
3. Fires which light due to storm activity in the summer months are generally accompanied and extinguished by rain, we have seen this happen both in the reserve and on surrounding farmland. It is obvious that there is a risk of fire and precautions as mentioned in the management plan would be more than adequate.
4. In regard to the flora, three rare species have been found in this area, namely Grevillia involucrata, Grevillia prostrata and Billaderia latifolia, so these and perhaps other species of plants will be able to survive in the reserve, whereas even with 10 chain road reserves it is difficult to preserve such plants as the road grader is continually removing them.
5. we would like to see access to the reserve for people who are interested in the flora and fauna etc, perhaps as day trips so that camping is prohibited.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to read the draft management plan and make comments. We support your views entirely and look forward to the development of the reserve as an area for research and the continuation of the flora and fauna.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary J. Cugley
Rosemary and Geoff Cugley.

Dr. J. G. Crook
WA. Wildlife Research Centre
10 Anneroo
WA. 6065

Pingrup East
6343
28th April 1981

Dear Sir

Thank you for your interesting and informative brochure on the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve.

Originally the wildlife; Kangaroos, Emus & birds in this area, watered at Lake Bryde and on numerous natural watering holes and soaks, which have been fenced out, now, by land development.

Therefore, I consider it necessary to establish a reliable water supply in the reserve, which would be available to wild life.

I am concerned about the Bush Turkeys. Over the years, I have noticed several pairs watering at my nearest dam to the Reserve. Lately, I have seen them walking along the new road unaware of the development, increased volume of heavy, fast traffic and of so-called sportsmen with guns. The dry years have contributed to the lack of water.

Thank you, again.

Yours faithfully
Neil Grant Williams

JF MORGAN
Box 45
Newdegate.

DR IAN CROOK.

Dear Sir,

I have in my possession a copy of the draft plan for the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve.

I own KANT Loc. 655, 995 & 1024 plus Roe Loc. 1046 & 1051 which are directly adjacent to the North East corner of the reserve. I have been here since 1960 and would like the opportunity to take an active interest in the development and maintenance of the reserve, possibly join the board of management and or an honorary warden ship.

Due to the position of my property I almost control the eastern access to the reserve.

I would also like to suggest that

an extension of the reserve along my southern boundary to the Magenta road and south to the bottom of Lake Magenta there is mallee fowl and Brush in this area and the southern eastern edge of Lake Magenta is beautiful country for parkland a lot of this country would be salt affected if cleared anyway.

Yours faithfully
J.F. Morgan.

(1)

KEN NEWBY
ONGERUP 6336
MARCH 27, 1981

WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTRE
MULLAGO DRIVE
WANNEROO.

YOUR DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE
MAGENTA NR 16 GOOD FROM BOTH CONSERVATION AND
SURROUNDING FARMLAND VIEW POINT. A FEW MINOR COMMENTS
BELOW.

- 1.1.5. FROM MY EXPERIENCE, WEED INVASION OF THE
PERIMETER WILL RARELY EXCEED 30 m ~~in~~ IN
NATURAL VEGETATION. THE OUTER 5-10 m WILL
BE WORSE AFFECTED. SANDY SOILS WIND-BLOWN
FROM ADJOINING FARMLAND MAY SMOTHER LOW
VEGETATION.
- 1.2.2. KANGAROO NUMBERS NEED TO BE CONTROLLED.
2. MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - AN EXCELLENT
MOVE AS IT ALLOWS INPUT BY LOCAL PEOPLE,
AND KEEPS LOCAL PEOPLE INFORMED OF THE
NATURE RESERVE'S PURPOSE AND MANAGEMENT PLANS.
3. IN MALLEE I BELIEVE THAT 100-m WIDE INTERNAL
BUFFERS ARE SUFFICIENT. AFTER BURNING, IT WILL
TAKE ABOUT 15 YEARS BEFORE THERE IS SUFFICIENT
FUEL TO CARRY A FIRE (ASSUMING THE INITIAL

(2)

BURN IS CLEAN). WHERE PRACTICAL, THE NATURAL FIREBREAKS PROVIDED BY SALT LAKES AND SAMPHIRE FLATS SHOULD BE UTILIZED IN DESIGNING INTERNAL FIREBREAKS.

UNLESS IN LARGE NUMBERS, RABBITS WILL BE OF VERY LIMITED VALUE IN CONTROLLING WEED GROWTH ON UNPLOUGHED SECTIONS OF FIREBREAKS. WEED CONTROL BY USING SELECTED CHEMICALS SEEMS THE MOST PRACTICAL ~~FOR~~ METHOD OF KEEPING FIREBREAKS FUEL-FREE.

KIND REGARDS,
Ken.

M. G. RYAN
PINGRUP
W.A. 6343

23-4-1981

Dear Mr. Bosan.

I would like to commend you on sending a copy of the Lake Magenta Reserve Program to adjoining landholders, as I see this is a long overdue step in improving communications between both parties, and I would like to see public relations included in your management programme as I feel it has been sadly lacking.

A fairly generally held view of the reserve varies from hostility toward reserve management, as the reserve harbours dingoes, & therefore should be burnt out regularly, as the dingoes follow the wild game. To a weekend shooting place for unscrupulous people.

While many deplore this, little can be done until there is better communication between interested parties on the reserve management.

I would suggest the control of wild dogs in the reserve would greatly help both parties, and also go a long way towards fire prevention.

It must be remembered that farmers also have responsibilities, and commitments to meet, and any threat to live stock is a threat to their income and their ability to service debts.

Having been one of a small group who went into the reserve to try and control a major fire some years ago, I am well aware of how useless a 6 metre firebreak is, when driven by a strong ~~SE~~ Strong S.E. sea breeze blow most summer afternoons. I would strongly suggest that buffer strips should be at least 300 metres - then major outbreaks could be controlled.

If the buffer strips were burned regularly and not cultivated the weed problem would be minimal.

Some thought should be given to providing fresh water in the reserve, as most fresh water lakes are bored by

fences, and even the kangaroo likes a
drink.

Thanking you for asking for
our thoughts

Yours Sincerely,

M. G. Ryan

Lot 6 Russell Hwy
Glenup WA 6032
28.4.71

The Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife
Perth

Dear Sir

We wish to register our total approval of the proposed nature reserve at Lake Margaret, especially in the form of a reserve for wildlife not for public access; and hope that it will be a biosphere reserve under the guidelines of the International Union of for the Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources

We desperately need "primitive area" systems preferably without access by the general public or how are we to properly protect nature as it is?

Yours faithfully
M. L. Thompson
P. M. Thompson

R. H. A. P. TOWNSEND

TAMARRI

PINGRUP 6313

23-4-81

B. K. BOWEN

DR. CROOK

Dept Fisheries & Wildlife
Warraroo

Dear Sir,

Re submissions for Lake Magenta reserve. For some years now I have maintained access road, or firebreaks in and around this reserve & am convinced this area is far to large to be controlled efficiently. If the reserve is to be kept this size more finance is required to make adequate fire breaks as well as access roads.

I would like to see some 8 blocks of land about 3000 Hect in size

opened for farming on western boundary of this reserve. Roads & telephone services are established to the boundary & the land is most suitable for agriculture.

During the run of dry years vermin are coming in for water & feed on farming land. I would like to see something done about permanent water supplies being established somewhere in the middle of this reserve. Rabbits are also increasing rapidly & if something is not done about this problem they will reach plague proportions.

Re mallard fowl in all the years I have been doing breaks I have not seen a mallard fowl.

but out of interest have observed mallard fowl on the road adjacent to uncleared land on the Newdegate Rd corner of Townsend Rd.

I would be interested in being a member of the management advisory committee

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
R. H. A. P. Townsend

"Fivendell"

Lot. No. 2549

P.O. Box 18

Newdegate

March. 1981.

Dear Sir.

I have just received your
draft copy of Lake Magenta Nature
Reserve & wish to express my thanks
& interest.

Certainly your information
re: flora fauna will be of great value
in pressing for the retention of 12 chain
food reserves which would be excluded in
new land releases close to the Reserve.

The State of Kent amended their
decision to abolish the road reserve,
but drastically reduced it:

In this area
where wind etc. salt are real problems
every available tract of bush needs
to be considered & left where possible:

It is with much enthusiasm that
your work on the Magenta Reserve
was received & it offers real
encouragement to us all.

again many thanks
Christina Walsh.

P.S.

If ever any members
of your staff are
in the area again
we would welcome
a visit anytime.