

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY DIRECTORATE

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 44

PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED FAUNA IN
DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

This instruction provides procedures that are to be used by Regions and Districts so as to minimise accidental destruction of endangered and specially protected fauna on CALM lands. A separate instruction will apply to conservation of endangered and specially protected fauna on other land.

2. POLICY

These guidelines must be read in conjunction with the Departmental policy on the Conservation of Endangered and Specially Protected Fauna in the Wild (No. 33).

3. DEFINITION

Endangered and specially protected fauna are those species that are declared under Section 14(2) (ba) of the Wildlife Conservation Act. The list will be revised at least every three years.

4. RECORDS

4.1 Each Region, District or Ranger Station with a direct land management function will keep up to date records of the location of endangered and specially protected fauna for all CALM lands in its Region/District/Park/Nature Reserve.

This will be as an "Endangered Animals (EA) Register" (Attachment 1) containing lists of reserves/forest blocks that contain populations of endangered and specially protected fauna, and relevant information on their biology. In the case of very large reserves information should be added as to more precise locations of populations of endangered or specially protected fauna if possible.

- 4.2 Regions, Districts and Ranger Stations will record the location of populations of endangered and specially protected fauna on their Fire Management and Operations Master Plans using red adhesive stickers, cross referenced to the H.O. File Number and EA Register.

In the forested Regions and Districts the locations will be recorded on the Hardwood Operations Control System (HOCS) print 2, titled Access, with appropriate reference to the EA register. The office coordination map is to be flagged with a red adhesive sticker to refer operations staff to the Access print. The coordination map is to be updated annually for all sensitive sites as identified on the Access print. The prints include Aboriginal sites, research plots, heritage sites etc, some of which must remain confidential to the casual map user.

- 4.3 All known localities of endangered fauna will be recorded in CALM's environmental data base system which will be developed as resources permit.

5. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Operations on CALM land have potential to destroy individuals or populations of endangered or specially protected fauna. These activities may be carried out by CALM staff or by other agencies, eg. SEC, Telecom, mining companies. The following procedures apply irrespective of the proponent. See also the decision model (Attachment 2).

- 5.1 Establish whether endangered or specially protected fauna is likely to occur in the area of the proposed activity. Examine the EA Register. If necessary consult regional ecologists or relevant personnel at Wildlife Branch, the Wildlife Research Centre and other Research Centres. If necessary arrange an inspection.

- 5.2 If individuals or a population of endangered or specially protected fauna are likely to be killed or displaced, or their habitat is likely to be damaged or destroyed by the operation:

5.2.1 Consult listed contact officer(s) (see list below) for a decision on whether the activity will pose a threat to the status of the species or may lead to a reduction in the numbers of the population.

5.2.2 Where the operation may lead to a reduction in numbers in a population of endangered or specially protected fauna, the habitat must not be damaged or destroyed. If this is not possible, approval to "take" must be sought.

Depending on the operation the following options should first be considered:

temporary demarcation of the location of the endangered fauna;

specific instructions on job sheets to ensure that the damage does not occur;

a realignment of the proposed road, firebreak, etc;

localised protection measures to ensure that an area of habitat is not burnt;

exclusion of an area from clearing, logging or mining.

If none of the above are possible, approval to "take" the fauna must be sought from the Minister.

- 5.2.3 Where the operation will NOT lead to a reduction in numbers of a population the project may proceed with the approval of the Regional Manager.

5.3 The results of the above procedure plus supporting documentation must be placed on the species file at SOHQ.

6. CONTACTS

- 6.1 For advice on the status of endangered fauna, training, identification and the effects of operations, contact:

Dr Bob Prince, Woodvale (mammals)
 Dr Tony Friend, Woodvale (mammals, especially numbat and bandicoots)
 Dr Allan Burbidge, Woodvale (birds)
 Dr Phil Fuller, Woodvale (birds)
 Dr Per Christensen, Manjimup (mammals, forest regions)
 Mr Grant Wardell-Johnson, Manjimup (vertebrates, Southern Forest Region, frogs)
 Mr Jim Rolfe, Woodvale (reptiles)
 Dr Ian Abbott, Como (invertebrates)
 Mr John Blyth, Crawley (invertebrates)
 Dr Stuart Halse, Woodvale (invertebrates)
 Dr Andrew Burbidge, Woodvale (vertebrates, State-wide).

- 6.2 To apply for a permit to take endangered fauna contact Senior Clerk, Fauna, Wildlife Branch, Como.

7. FIRE SUPPRESSION

In the suppression of uncontrolled fires, the Department will follow priorities laid down in Policy Statement No. 19, Fire Management Policy (May 1987). The Policy provides that the Department will assess its response to a fire in the light of potential damage to the following values in order of priority:

- (i) Human life;
- (ii) Community assets, property of special values (including environmental values);
- (iii) cost of suppression in relation to values threatened.

Damage to endangered fauna habitat should be minimised by proper planning, use of the environmental checklist for suppression (CLM No. 32, Attachment 3), use of the EA Register, adequately marked master burning plans and adequate supervision. In the Large Fire Organisation, these should be kept under review by the Environmental Officer, with assistance where feasible, from fauna conservation research staff at Woodvale or Manjimup.

8. STAFF TRAINING

8.1 Each Region, District and Ranger Station will develop and maintain, in conjunction with the Endangered Animal Register, a file of information on endangered and specially protected fauna likely to occur in the area. The file needs to include information on identification (eg. for mammals a copy of the relevant entry in the Complete Book of Australian Mammals), habitat requirements, operations that might affect populations (eg. feral animal control, burning), sightings or other records.

8.2 Appropriate staff (especially Rangers and the District Endangered Fauna Officer) will be trained in the recognition of endangered and specially protected fauna, their habitat requirements and inspection procedures. Initial training will be arranged by the Divisional Manager, Operations. Thereafter training will be arranged by Regional Managers using the contacts in 6 above.

9. CONTROL

9.1 Each Region/District/Park will appoint an officer whose duties will include protection of endangered and specially protected fauna. The Wildlife Management Branch, Como will be advised of these nominations, which are to be updated when the officer changes.

9.2 Duties of the officer are:

- 9.2.1 To check that prescriptions for operations are in accordance with the Policy and this Administrative Instruction and advise the O.I.C. where problems may occur.
- 9.2.2 To update and maintain the Endangered Animal Register and file of information, master burning plans, etc.
- 9.2.3 To be the first point of contact for CALM staff and the public for endangered and specially protected fauna within that Region/District/Park.
- 9.2.4 To conduct training sessions for staff as required.
- 9.2.5 To advise the Senior Clerk Fauna of the locations of new or additional populations of endangered fauna, or changes in abundance in known populations.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

To prevent unauthorised collecting or trading of endangered or specially protected fauna, precise locations will be regarded as confidential to the extent that they will not be disclosed to persons outside the Department where this would be detrimental to conservation. This does not apply to locations that are already well known to the public, such as the numbat in Dryandra, but rather to locations such as the nests of rare birds.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

27 July 1990

Distribution: Lists A,B,D,E t F.

ATTACHMENT 1

ORGANISATION AND USE OF THE ENDANGERED ANIMAL REGISTER1. ORGANISATION

Information sheets are arranged in six separate sections:

mammals
birds
reptiles
frogs
fish
invertebrates

Within these sections, sheets are arranged in the same order as in the list published in the Government Gazette, the latest copy of which should be added to the register. For vertebrates, this corresponds closely to the order used in most field guides. Each sheet should clearly identify whether the taxon is endangered or specially protected.

Information should be included on what is known about the biology of each species, especially as it relates to operations carried out by CALM, eg prescribed burning, feral animal control, logging, regeneration after logging, roading, etc.

2. OPERATIONS PLANNING

The steps listed below should be followed:

2.1 Check for presence of Endangered or Specially Protected Fauna.

Reference to the relevant map sheets (eg. the HOCS file or POCS file) for the subject area will alert the officer to the presence of any population(s) of endangered or specially protected fauna, for which H.O. file references are given.

2.2 Check for Endangered or Specially Protected Fauna constraints.

Consultation with the listed contact officers may be desirable to obtain information on the possible effect of the proposed operation on the endangered or specially protected fauna or its habitat. This will allow a decision to be made on whether protection will be required or permission to "take" should be applied for.

2.3 Check location(s) of Endangered or Specially Protected Fauna and/or habitat.

Reference to the Endangered Animal Register will provide further map and verbal descriptions of the locality of occurrence of each population and its extent and habitat.

2.4 Check species identification.

Reference to the endangered and specially protected fauna files of the Region/District/Ranger Station will make the officer aware of the appearance of the species and its habitat. If there is still doubt, consult with a listed contact officer.

2.5 Check in the field.

It will usually be desirable to inspect each site and it may be necessary in some cases (eg. where there is a nest of a specially protected species) to flag the perimeter temporarily, including a buffer zone if applicable. Such marking will be removed after completion of the operation. Any copy made of a register sheet, for use by the supervising officer only, will be destroyed as soon as field familiarisation has been achieved.

3. INFORMATION UPDATING

3.1 Known populations.

Register sheets can be copied in the District Office to produce field sheets for periodic recording (as convenient). Data so obtained should be transferred neatly to original register sheets and the field copy then sent to the Senior Clerk, Fauna.

3.2 New discoveries.

3.2.1 Reporting

For any newly discovered population of an endangered or specially protected animal a record should be made as soon as possible on a blank Register sheet (supply included in Register). This must include a description of the location(s) and a six digit reference numeral of the Australian Map Grid (or latitude and longitude). A copy of the record should be sent immediately to the Senior Clerk, Fauna (Como) who will incorporate it into relevant data bases.

3.2.2 Record updating

Verification of identity and location will be arranged if necessary by the Nature Conservation Division (where available Regional Ecologists will be responsible for this task) and additional or revised

sheets installed in the District Register. Out-dated sheets will then be destroyed. The new locations will be marked on the relevant District maps by the Endangered Fauna Officer, who will also send verified sheets to the Senior Clerk, Fauna.

DECISION MODEL

'ENDANGERED FAUNA - EFFECT OF CALM OPERATIONS

