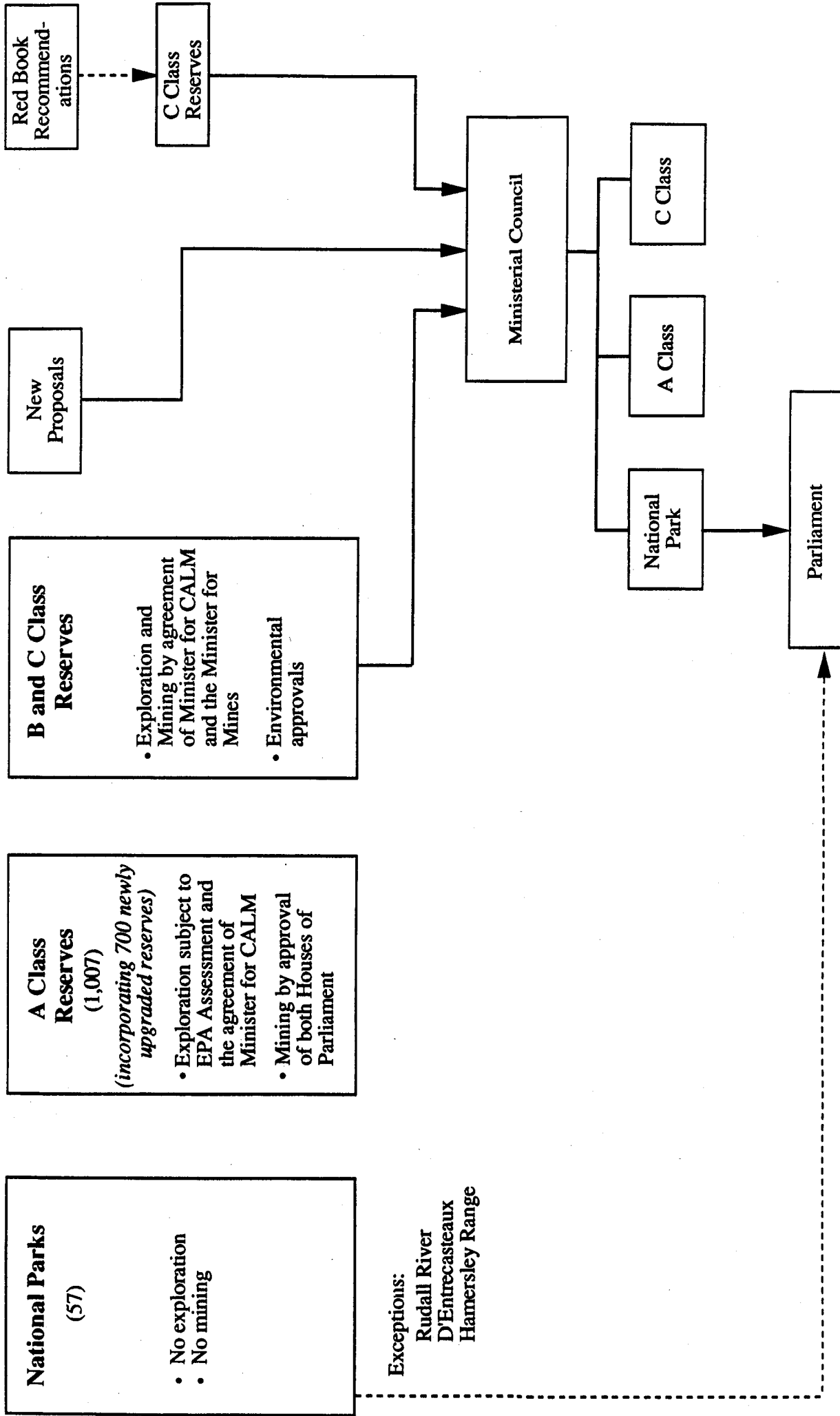




Resolution of Conflict

A Clear Policy for National Parks

How the New Policy Will Work



RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT -- A CLEAR POLICY FOR NATIONAL PARKS

INTRODUCTION

The State Government will adopt a policy of no mining in National Parks.

This is in accordance with community expectation that WA's most special areas will be protected.

Equally, the Government recognises that great economic importance of the mining industry to W.A. and the difficulties that have been caused by uncertainty about environmental guidelines concerning access to many parts of the State. Therefore the Government will adopt clear guidelines concerning environmental controls on exploration and mining in reserves.

The Government will also give effect to all outstanding Red Book recommendations to ensure that W.A. has a comprehensive system of nature reserves.

In the past conflicting land use claims have arisen in five National Parks. These historical anomalies date from the time when exploration and mining were allowed in National Parks.

The Government has decided how each of these land use conflicts should be resolved. The details of these resolutions are contained in the policy.

The Government will establish a Mining and Conservation Advisory Committee drawn from across the spectrum of concerned interest groups so that environmental policies and practices in the mining industry can be monitored. The committee will provide the Government with advice on any improvements which may be desirable.

The new policy will be introduced as legislation in Parliament. Notwithstanding the fate of the legislation the Government commits itself to adherence to the principles contained in the policy.

THE POLICY

NATIONAL PARKS

- o Exploration and mining will be banned in 57 Western Australian National Parks.
- o The boundaries of the Hamersley Range, Rudall River and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks will be rationalised because of conflicting land use claims.
- o Neerabup and Watheroo National Parks will be rationalised through excision and land swaps immediately for inclusion in the ban.
- o Excisions from National Parks will be compensated by the inclusion of comparable areas of land.
- o Proposed parks to be included in the ban are Dirk Hartog Island, Edel, Francois Peron, Zuytdorp extensions and Walcott Inlet.
- o No exploration or production for petroleum in National Parks (or Nature Reserves) will be allowed without declaration under the Petroleum Act. Access for such activity will be subject to Ministerial approval after assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).
- o Drilling and production for petroleum will continue to be banned in Marine Parks. Proposed Marine Parks will come under the ban until such times as their boundaries are determined.
- o All proposals for new or extended National Parks will be subject to detailed biological and mineral/petroleum resource assessment prior to being presented to the Government for approval.
- o Legislation will be introduced so that the creation of new National Parks and extensions to National Parks will require Parliamentary approval.

Legislation covering exploration and mining in National Parks will be introduced into Parliament. The Government, however, will honour the policy no matter what the fate of the legislation.

A CLASS RESERVES

- o Mineral exploration in A Class Reserves will continue to be subject to the agreement of the Minister for Conservation and Land Management and a formal assessment by the EPA.

- o Mining will require consent of both Houses of Parliament.
- o Seven hundred (700) B and C Class Reserves which have been approved for upgrading to A Class Reserves will be added to the existing 307 A Class Reserves.

B & C CLASS RESERVES

- o Exploration and mining will be allowed subject to Ministerial approval from the Minister for CALM and the Minister for Mines.
- o Areas identified by the EPA in its 12 Systems reports -- the Red Books -- will be immediately classified as C Class reserves where such classification has been previously delayed by mineral resource issues.
- o Any upgrading of B and C Class Reserves will be processed through the Ministerial Council (comprising the Ministers for CALM, EPA, Resources Development and Mines and chaired by the Premier or Deputy Premier).

EXPLANATION

Banning mining in National Parks is widely supported in the community. But any policy must recognise that a complete ban on mining and exploration particularly in areas of known significant mineralisation will damage the State's interests.

Already extensive mineralisation has been discovered in the Hamersley Range National Park and the Rudall River National Park, while in parts of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and its proposed extensions rich mineral sands deposits have been identified.

The new policy recognises the extremely high conservation values in these areas while providing a mechanism for parts of these parks to be excised for mining under stringent environmental protection procedures. The Government requires that where such excisions are approved there will be compensation by the addition of an equivalent area of land.

Exploration in these areas will be subject to strict environmental controls. Eventual excisions of mining areas will occur only with Parliamentary approval.

The three National Parks in which exploration activity will be allowed will be treated as follows:

HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK

- o State Agreement Acts already cover iron ore tenements in this Park.
- o There will be a review of iron ore tenements within existing and proposed park boundaries aimed at reducing the number of tenements and reaching agreement on infrastructure corridors.
- o This will result in the excision of the rationalised tenements and infrastructure corridors from the Park.
- o Infrastructure corridors will be declared under the CALM Act for proper conservation management.
- o No new exploration, or mining tenements will be allowed in the Park. Existing tenements will be transferred to Special Mining Leases, under existing Agreement Acts where necessary.
- o The National Park will be expanded following CALM consideration of appropriate areas for inclusion.

The result of the new policy will be an expanded Hamersley Range National Park in which there will be no further exploration or mining beyond that already notified. The separation of mining and nature areas will lead to greater security for leaseholders and of conservation areas.

RUDALL RIVER NATIONAL PARK

- o The Kintyre deposit will be excised.
- o All pending exploration applications will be refused and no new applications will be granted.
- o Exploration will continue on granted titles under existing conditions within time limits imposed by the Mining Act.
- o Except for granted exploration titles, the Park will be declared closed to exploration and mining.
- o Any future mining will be subject to Parliamentary approval and any approved mining leases will be excised from the Park.
- o Any land excised for mining will be compensated by additions to the Park of equivalent area.

The effect of these decisions will be to provide security for existing exploration activity and possible future mining. This is important in terms of the potential of the mineral province and the needs of future generations.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARK

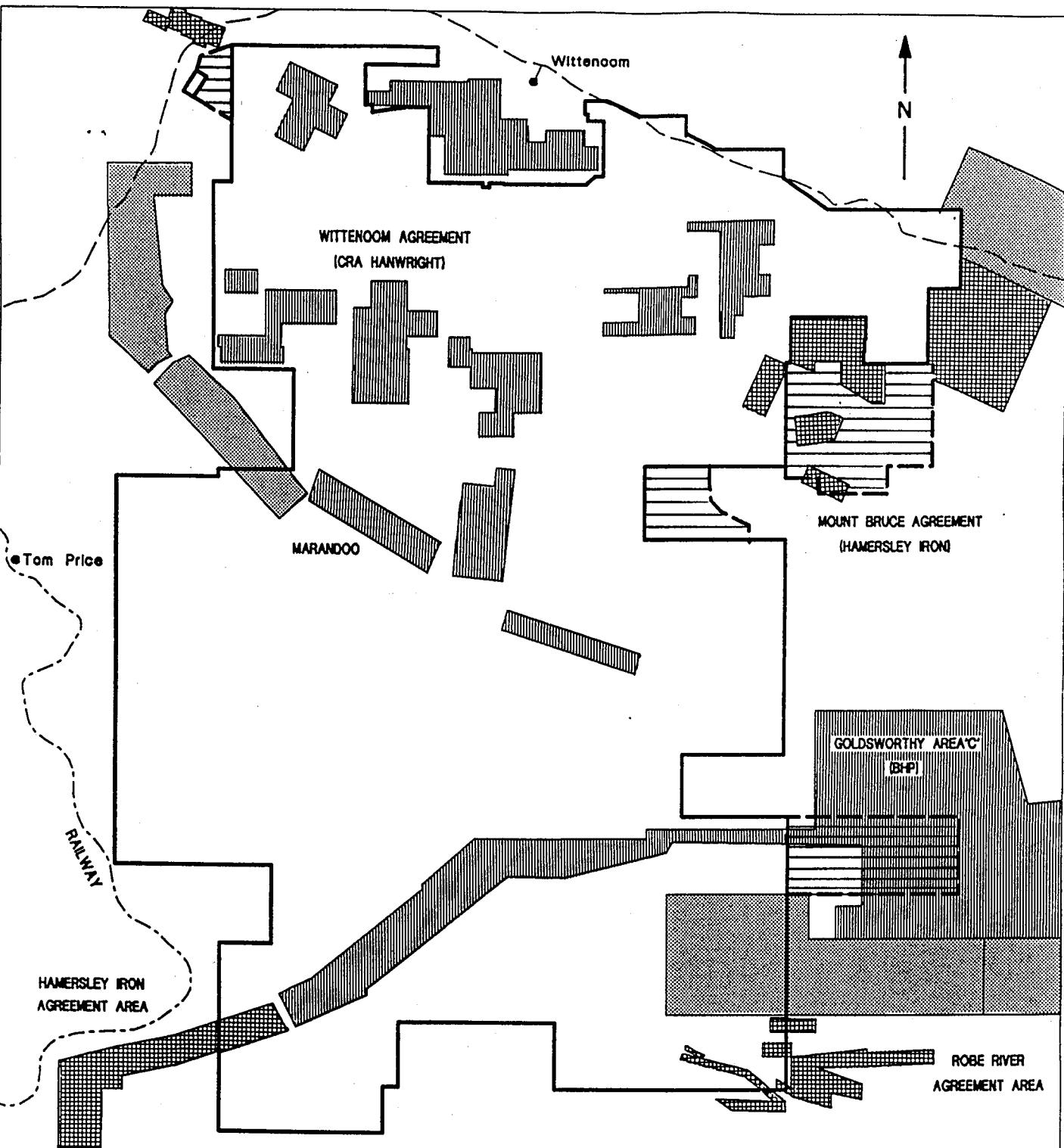
- o Exploration will be allowed to continue for three years (36 months).
- o After this period no more than one per cent (1%) of the total land area will be excised from the Park.
- o Additional land will be incorporated into the Park.
- o Any approval to mine in D'Entrecasteaux will require a commitment to secondary processing investment within Western Australia so that the full benefits of the resource can be returned to Western Australians through jobs and technology transfer.

Planned extensions to this Park would double its size to an area of 115,000 hectares. When boundaries are completed and excisions made some 99 per cent of the total park area will be safeguarded from exploration and mining. This means that economically strategic resources will be available without jeopardising the park's conservation values.






ACTIVITY IN OTHER NATIONAL PARKS

In the case of the Watheroo National Park the Government will excise immediately a 40 hectare lake bed and access area from the park and incorporate compensating land into the park's boundaries. The rest of the mining tenement in the National Park will be refused and no further exploration or mining will occur. As is demanded everywhere else in this policy mining approval will be subject to EPA assessment and when mining is complete the area will be assessed for reincorporation into the National Park.

The small quarry in the Neerabup National Park will continue and the quarry area will be excised. Tenement areas in the park with native vegetation will be revoked and remain in the park.



20 km

-  EXISTING PARK
-  PROPOSED PARK EXTENSION
-  GRANTED EXPLORATION LICENSE UNDER SAA
-  TR UNDER SAA
-  SPECIAL MINING LEASE



HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK





RUDALL RIVER N.P.

EXISTING PARK



GRANTED MINING ACT TENEMENTS

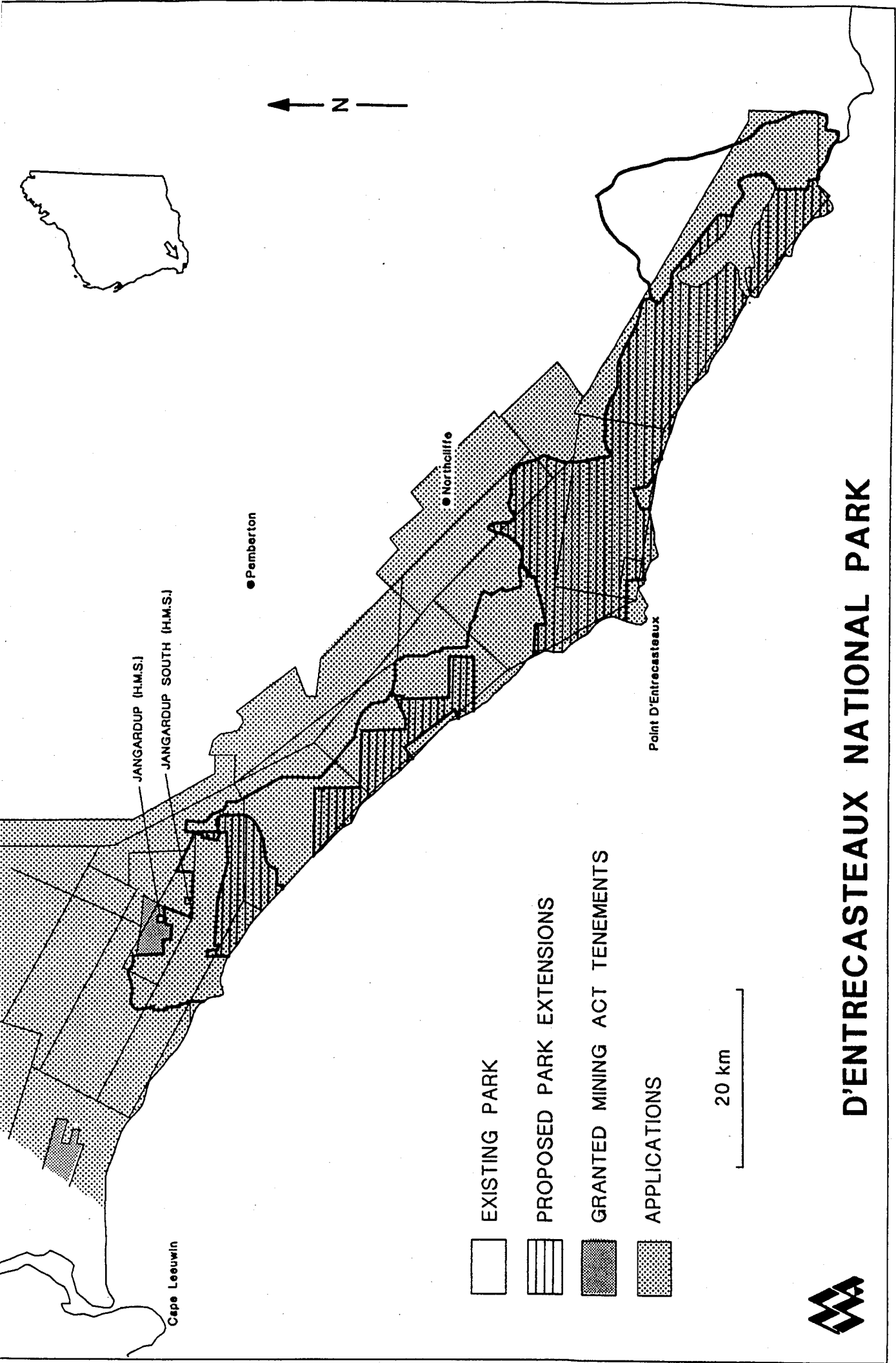






APPLICATIONS



20 km





-  EXISTING PARK
-  PROPOSED PARK EXTENSIONS
-  GRANTED MINING ACT TENEMENTS
-  APPLICATIONS

20 km

D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARK

