

 MARINE & COASTAL COMMUNITY NETWORK
CITY WEST LOTTERIES HOUSE
100 BERTH WA 6005
TEL: (08) 9486 8718 FAX: (08) 9486 8718
mccnwa@ozemail.com.au

070082
RECEIVED
22 JAN 2004
BY _____

Proposed Walpole-Nornalup Inlets Marine Conservation Reserve

Focus Group Workshop 1

Tree Top Walk Motel

Walpole

17 December 2003

Summary of Focus Group Outputs

Members of the proposed Walpole-Nornalup Inlets marine conservation reserve Focus Group are:

Robin Adair*, David Anning* (Timber Communities Australia), Vaughn Bellanger*, Murray Brown, Wayne Brown, Rick Chaucer*, Wayne Crombie-Wilson*, Wayne Dumbrell, Geoffrey Findlay (Department of Planning and Infrastructure) (represented by Tony Fitzpatrick*), Derren Foster (Walpole Tourist Bureau), Nigel Fry*, Terry Fuller (Australian Anglers Association), Mark Halse*, Merv Hull, Steve Hunter, Eddie Liddelow*, Ernest Love, Paul Minchin, Ross Muir*, Barry Nockolds, Kate O'Brien*, Ian Payton*, Louise Pickett*, Frank Prokop (Recfishwest) (represented by Mark Pagano*), Mick Sawyer, Phil Shaw* (Department of Fisheries), John Stockley, David Tapley*, Gary Tiszavolgyi, Malcolm Vigus, Mark Virgo* (District Senior Ranger, CALM), Percy Vlietman*, Brett Ward* (Department of Environment), David Warnock* (Walpole Nornalup and Districts Community Development Group), Wayne Webb.

Representative for the Walpole Yacht Club (to be advised).

Representative for the Great Southern Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (to be advised).

(* denotes those who attended Workshop 1)

Alan Kendrick (Planning Officer for the proposed Walpole-Nornalup Inlets marine conservation reserve, CALM).

Also in attendance were:

- Angus Horwood (Marine Parks and Reserves Authority).
- Peter Keppel (Warren Region Manager, CALM).
- Peter Bidwell (Frankland District Manager, CALM).
- Andrew Hill (Senior Marine Planning Officer, CALM).
- Christine Shervington (Executive Consultant, CALM).
- Tammie Reid (Facilitator, CALM).

Agenda for the workshop:

- Why are we here?
- How do we work together?
- What is important to you about the Walpole-Nornalup Inlets?
- What are your key issues and concerns?
- How will the planning process work?
- What would a good outcome for the estuaries look like?
- Where can the Focus Group influence these outcomes?
- What are the next steps for the Focus Group?
- How did today go?
- What were our meeting outcomes?

The role of the Focus Group is to:

- Provide community input on the proposal for a marine conservation reserve.
- Consider how a reserve may affect the livelihoods and lifestyles of the local and broader community.
- Consider management options and how best to configure management for the benefit of the community.

The Focus Group workshops will be a forum to:

- **listen** to the aspirations, knowledge and experience of people who are interested and passionate about the future of the Inlets.
- **gather** information that will guide the Minister, the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, the Focus Group and the CALM planning team in the planning process.
- **communicate** the outcomes of the planning process to the community, and to generate feedback on these outcomes.
- **use** the results and recommendations in the planning process.

Workshop Outcomes:

The results we are seeking from the workshop:

- **Documented**
the issues and concerns surrounding the management of the Inlets, both now and in the future.
- **Listed**
individual aspirations/visions for what the Inlets should look like in the next decade.
- **Listened**
to the range of opinion on what is best for the Inlets.
- **Decided**
on the role of this Focus Group.
- **Agreed**
on recommendations for the next steps.

A Community Vision for the Inlets

Individual members were asked to prepare a vision for the Inlets. The following comprise the common points made by members, among which there was a high degree of concurrence. They are not listed in any order of significance.

In answer to the question:

Ten years have passed – all that you hoped for, wished for, dreamt of has happened. What would this look like, be like?

- The Inlets and their shores are sustainably managed in a condition that is similar or better than today.
- The aesthetic values of the Inlets are maintained.
- People can still experience a range of activities, such as fishing, tours and holidays, on and around the Inlets.
- The biodiversity of the Inlets is monitored and protected.
- Economic benefits flow to the Walpole community.
- There is a substantially raised awareness of the value of the Inlets.
- The local community feels ownership of the Inlets, participates in managing the area, and feels confident of their long-term protection.
- The ambience of the Inlets does not change.

What do we value about the Inlets?

What is important to the community about the Walpole-Nornalup Inlets and the associated rivers?

The Inlets and the associated rivers:
(in no order of significance)

- are important for recreational fishing, boating and sight-seeing.
- are in very good environmental condition.
- are very scenic, as are their shores and adjacent forests.
- are, at most times, uncrowded.
- provide serenity, peace and quite and an escape from everyday life.
- are very accessible to a wide range of people, especially low-income earners.
- enable people to access the ocean and remote areas of the national park.
- attract tourists, which enable businesses, such as houseboats and tours, to operate on the Inlets and which support the Walpole economy.
- are an important educational resource.
- provide a strong sense of social place and attachment for the local community.
- have a unique geomorphology comprising three rivers and two permanently open inlets.
- have significant indigenous and European cultural and historical significance.

What are the management challenges and threats to the Inlets?

(in no order of significance)

- Ensuring that increasing numbers of visitors do not adversely affect the social and ecological values of the inlets and rivers.
- Ensure the inlets remain accessible to a wide range of users.
- Research and monitor the impacts of users and broader human activities on the inlets and rivers.
- Identifying and managing changes in the way people use the inlets and rivers.
- Minimising or preventing user conflict.
- Providing appropriate and adequate education and information to users of the inlets and rivers.
- Ensuring that fishing is sustainably managed.
- Providing education and enforcement to maximise compliance with fisheries and boating regulations.
- Ensuring that current and future development does not adversely affect their social and ecological values of the inlets and rivers.
- Maintaining infrastructure, such as ramps and jetties, parking, jetties, dredged channels and markers, as visitor numbers increase.
- Ensure an appropriate level of regulation of sustainable commercial tourism.
- Pressure to introduce commercial fishing and/or aquaculture.
- Improving our environmental knowledge of this dynamic system.
- Protecting shoreline habitats and vegetation.
- Ensuring that water quality in the inlets and rivers is acceptable.
- Understand and, if appropriate, mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of introduced species.
- Understanding and managing the impacts of catchment-related issues on the inlets and rivers.
- Possible impacts of climate change.
- Ensuring management of the inlets and rivers is adequately resourced.
- Ensuring local participation in management.
- Changes in government policy.
- Recognising and maintaining indigenous and European cultural sites and heritage.

What are the Key Management Issues for the Inlets?

(in no order of significance)

- Increasing our knowledge of the inlets and rivers by research and implementing regular and rigorous sampling to monitor their condition to facilitate the preservation of social and ecological values.
- Developing and implementing guidelines for the sustainable recreational use of the inlets and rivers.
- Developing and implementing guidelines for the sustainable commercial use of the inlets and rivers.
- Sustainable fishery management.
- Community participation in future management of the inlets.

- Determining how catchment issues affect the inlets and rivers, and how best to manage these impacts.
- Recognising and maintaining indigenous and European cultural sites and heritage.

Key questions for the focus group:

(in descending order of significance)

- What changes would occur to boating, fishing and general access if the Inlets are made a marine conservation reserve?
- Where do we get the extra resources for managing a marine conservation reserve?
- What scientific data does CALM have to warrant a marine conservation reserve?
- If we do the right thing by the Inlets, what restrictions could we face now and in the future?
- Is this the thin end of the wedge?
- What good would come out of a marine conservation reserve?
- Will we have to pay to use the Inlets?
- How secure are Government promises?
- Does this mean CALM officers will be retrained with fisheries enforcement powers?
- What happens if there is a change of government?
- Can't we just increase policing by the Department of Fisheries?
- How will catchment issues that impact on Inlets be factored in to the management of the Inlets?