



Facilitating more effective integration of management planning for marine and terrestrial reserves

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Reasons for integrated planning

- ❖ The public expect it
- ❖ Separate public consultation periods is an unnecessary imposition on the time/resources of Departmental staff and the public
- ❖ Overlap of issues between marine and terrestrial reserves (wasting Departmental time) or assumption that issue will be covered in 'other' plan
- ❖ Poor integration can cause conflict (e.g developing camping facilities next to marine sanctuary zones)



Issue 1: Prioritising planning

- ❖ Priorities for indicative management plans and plans for existing marine reserves set by Government (with input from Marine Parks and Reserves Authority). Some flexibility in the latter
- ❖ Terrestrial reserve planning priorities determined by Corporate Executive and endorsed by Conservation Commission. Some exceptions (e.g. implementation of Government priorities such as Protecting Our Old Growth Forests)



Prioritising planning (cont...)

- ❖ Difficulty in predicting time delays, particularly in the case of marine reserves – high level of commercial interests, ministerial sign-offs etc (e.g. Jurien Marine Park). Could be a five year process.
- ❖ Terrestrial reserves typically a three year process



Issue 1: Recommendations

- ❖ Corporate Executive should consider deferral/advancement of planning projects to allow for integrated planning consistent with Govt priorities
- ❖ Acknowledge statutory differences and planning processes in setting priorities
- ❖ Align key processes wherever possible including public consultation, issues/perspectives papers, release of draft plans. Stagger commencement of marine and terrestrial planning processes accordingly (e.g. delay terrestrial process by up to 18 months)



Issue 1: Recommendations (cont...)

- ❖ Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) and Management Planning Unit (MPU) brief Corporate Executive in Feb/March each year regarding three year planning horizons. Integrated planning priorities reflected in SPA/budget process



Issue 2: Integrated planning teams

- ❖ Integrated planning should be undertaken by planning team with both marine and terrestrial expertise led by single team leader responsible for co-ordination
- ❖ High degree of ownership of plans by regional staff



Issue 2: Recommendations

- ❖ Integrated planning teams be established wherever appropriate (e.g. Ningaloo/Cape Range), and that a senior Regional Services officer be appointed to co-ordinate
- ❖ The delivery of the marine and terrestrial reserve plans continue to be the responsibility of MCB and MPU respectively, but integrated at local level by regularly scheduled meetings



Issue 3: Structure and format

- ❖ Responsibility for structure of marine reserve plans is the MPRA
- ❖ Conservation Commission responsible for structure of terrestrial reserve plans
- ❖ Both structures based on recognition and protection of key values, and assessment against performance indicators
- ❖ Cosmetic appearance of plans is less significant than whether (a) management intent is communicated and (b) performance can be effectively assessed



Structure and format (cont...)

- ❖ Opportunity for ‘seamless’ management planning products to help overcome differences in plan structure (e.g. common ‘Management Issues’ document for both marine and terrestrial reserves, summary document when draft management plans released)
- ❖ This would demonstrate a co-ordinated approach, allow the public to see the management links between reserves facilitate public understanding and hence greater input



Issue 3: Recommendations

- ❖ MPRA and Conservation Commission further consider structure, format and performance reporting to encourage co-ordinated approach
- ❖ Irrespective of (1) above, adopt ‘seamless’ communication products



Current projects

- ❖ Ningaloo/Cape Range integrated as per recommendations
- ❖ Planning processes of Parks of the Leeuwin Ridge etc and proposed Geopraphe – Capes Marine Park too divergent. Integration would require a further delay of approximately three years to terrestrial reserve plan
- ❖ Walpole Wilderness Area and proposed Walpole – Nornalup marine conservation reserve. Latter ‘simple’ plan and could be integrated into one plan managed by MPU with input from MCB