

# Land use planning and DEC



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Land Planning Program



Department of  
**Environment and Conservation**

*Our environment, our future* 

# What types of LUP work does DEC do?

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**DEC receives 2000+ referrals from agencies each year:**

- **Subdivision and development applications**
- **Extractive industry, aquaculture, drainage applications etc**
- **Planning scheme amendments**
- **Strategic and structure plans**
- **Utility and infrastructure proposals s**

**DEC also provides advice on:**

- **Land tenure changes**
- **EPA referrals – formal assessments**
- **Biodiversity and natural resource management plans**
- **Technical reports and environmental management plans**
- **Interagency working groups**

**LUP work includes assessment/recommendations, compliance monitoring and condition clearance, general queries, legal appeals, Ministerials, developing strategic/regional approaches to LUP issues, DEC initiatives**

# Factors on which DEC provides LUP advice

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- ❑ **Natural areas and biodiversity conservation** (CAR reserve system, biodiversity protection targets, special natural areas like karst)
- ❑ **Native vegetation and flora**
- ❑ **Native fauna**
- ❑ **Ecological communities**
- ❑ **Ecological linkages**
- ❑ **Wetlands**
- ❑ **DEC managed conservation areas and facilities**
- ❑ **Other DEC managed areas**
  
- ❑ **Acid sulfate soil**
- ❑ **Contaminated sites**
- ❑ **Air quality**
- ❑ **Noise and vibration**
- ❑ **Separation between industry and sensitive uses**
- ❑ **Effluent** (were impacts DEC functions)
  
- ❑ **DEC regulatory processes**

# LUP in DEC - who is involved?

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- ❑ **Regions** – coordinate the delivery most of DEC's advice to referral agencies; region generalists, specialists, admin. involved
- ❑ **Technical sections & regulatory functions for nature conservation and pollution management** - most DEC divisions contribute scientific knowledge, assessment expertise, policy advice, and develop strategic approaches for specific issues
- ❑ **Coordination and executive sections**
- ❑ **Corporate Services** – oversee records keeping/distribute referrals, manage GIS systems, provide tech. support
- ❑ **Land Planning Program** – develops guidelines and systems for a coordinated approach across divisions, supports regions

# DEC's Land Planning Program

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- ❑ **Established** in Regional Services Division, June 2009
- ❑ **Purpose** of the Land Planning Program (LPP):
  - To develop systems, guidelines and tools for the efficient and effective delivery of land use planning advice by DEC
  - To assist regions to deliver DEC's advice on land use planning matters
- ❑ **Two positions initially** – Coordinator LPP and Research Scientist (Analyst/Programmer)
- ❑ **Analyst/Programmer** position has been advertised and is filled by Ashley Felton who manages SRS (referrals database) and provides technological support
- ❑ **Coordinator LPP position** is an acting position filled by Maxine Dawson
- ❑ **Key tools** of the Land Planning Program – Land Use Planning intranet site, SRS, GIS Viewer and other GIS
- ❑ **LUP intranet**  
<http://calmweb.calm.wa.gov.au/drb/rsd/LandUsePlanning/index.htm>

# Land Use Planning Intranet:

## DEC Intranet ("The Source"):

Department of Environment and Conservation Home

Home Applications Divisions Committees/Groups Swan River Trust Noticeboard Site Help Organisational charts

Corporate Services  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Environmental Regulation  
Nature Conservation  
Office for Information Management  
Office of the Director: General  
Parks and Visitor Services  
Regional Services  
SDCA  
Science  
Strategic Policy and Programs  
Sustainable Forest Management

Working towards a healthy, diverse and well-managed Western Australian environment.

From the "Divisions" menu, click on "Regional Services"

Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Services

Home Applications Divisions Committees/Groups Swan River Trust Noticeboard Site Help Organisational charts

Regional Services Division

Staff in the Regional Services Division are directly responsible for implementing DEC's environmental protection responsibilities statewide, and conservation and land management responsibilities in National Parks, Nature Reserves, Marine Parks and State forests throughout the state. The Director of the division is located at DEC Crawley. DEC is committed to regionalisation, and there are nine regions throughout the State.

Pages  
Documents  
Regions  
Goldfields  
Kimberley  
Midwest  
Pilbara  
South Coast  
South West  
Swan  
Warren  
Wheatbelt

Branches  
Fire Management Services  
Radio Communications Services  
Land Use Planning  
Organisational structure

In the left-hand menu, click on "Land Use Planning"

Department of Environment and Conservation Our environment, our future

## DEC Land Use Planning Intranet

Land Use Planning Intranet

Planning in WA

Planning and DEC

Environmental Issues

Reserves and Land tenure

Statutory Referral System

Resources and Tools

Contacts

Using the Land Use Planning Intranet

The objective of this site is to provide information and tools to assist officers provide advice more efficiently and effectively, and to promote the delivery of consistent advice across DEC. Contributions from DEC staff involved in land use planning processes are welcomed (note the [protocol for changes to site content](#)). Policies and procedures listed on this website are indicative only.

Use the main navigation menu on the left to access the main sections of this site. Please use the search bar at the top of the page to search for specific terms.

Updated: 2-Dec-09  
Problem? Contact [Ashley](#)

For queries about planning and development issues or if information on this site is outdated or incorrect, please contact the site content manager: [Maxine Dawson](#). For technical information or queries about this site, please contact the technical manager: [Ashley Felton](#). This site requires Javascript to be enabled in your web browser to function correctly.

Please note that the Land Use Planning [public website](#) can be accessed on the DEC website at this address: <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/management-and-protection/land-use-planning/index.html>

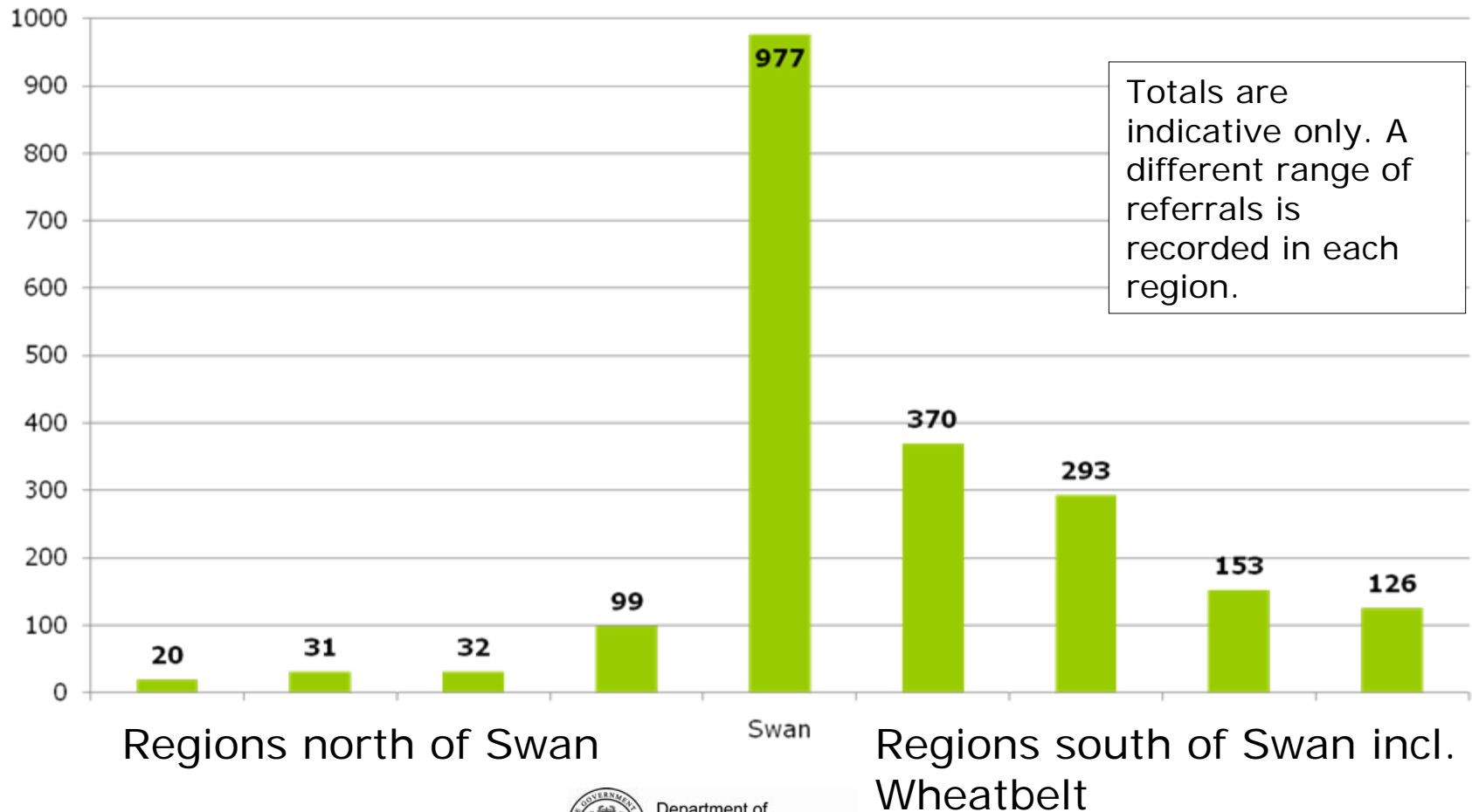
## LUP - DEC makes a difference through:

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- ❑ **Providing scientific information, assessment expertise and datasets** other agencies do not have – DEC may need to make it clear what it does/does not know
- ❑ **Knowing/developing environmental policies, and how to assess environmental significance of issues** – as recognised at international, national, State levels
- ❑ **Understanding other agency processes** - knowing what levels of LUP to target, how to provide advice likely to be adopted
- ❑ **Knowing DEC regulatory processes and conservation and land management functions, and how to best integrate with other gvt decision-making processes**
- ❑ **Using judgement**, initiative, understanding human nature and being consistent and practical

# Land Use Planning Referrals

DEC Land Use Planning Referrals by Region (1 Oct 08 - 30 Sep 09)





# A system for achieving outcomes through LUP

- **Overarching guidance agreed at high level** (LPP with regions, divisions)
  - Priorities for land use planning work in DEC
  - Environmental issues of key significance that DEC may review (LUP)
  - Policies, key criteria and legislation, supporting DEC's position on what is significant, and key research/reasons supporting policies/criteria
  - Practical guidelines for reviewing proposals and targeting work
  - The model for LUP delivery – region based, some special issue coordinators

## **Each Region identifies its key nature conservation and environment regulation issues & resources** (with LPP, specialists as required)

- Where are development pressures? What LUP issues will Region focus on and how?

## **DEC regions discuss key environmental planning issues and potential issues with gvt decision-makers** (with LPP, specialists as req.)

- Region clarifies when it can be involved in other agency decision-making

- **DEC LUP tools** - LPP identifies and pursues tools – guidelines, standard advice & examples, checklists, templates, management measures, DEC databases, training, workshops
- **Interagency agreements-** LPP, regions, specialists work with referral agencies eg DoW, DoP, OEPA
- **Systems for information and skills sharing** – Essential between regions, specialists, LPP – intranet, workshops, emails

# Nature conservation issues and LUP

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- ❑ **CAR conservation reserve system**
- ❑ **Managing land use in & next to DEC managed areas/facilities**
- ❑ **Meeting targets for biodiversity protection**

Protecting and managing:

- ❑ **Native vegetation**
- ❑ **Native fauna**
- ❑ **Threatened species**
- ❑ **Threatened ecological communities**
- ❑ **Ecological linkages**
- ❑ **Wetlands**
- ❑ **Special natural areas like karst**
- ❑ **Other special areas and species**
  
- ❑ **Management measures and tools** - conservation covenants, 70A notices, offsets, EMPs, levels of survey, integration with other advice eg EPA and clearing permits, standard advice and conditions

# When to provide advice

Criteria	
The proposal has environmental impacts above specified threshold levels (see checklist)	
The referral is a strategic or high order plan or policy	
A response from DEC is required by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DEC management</li><li>• a DEC business plan</li><li>• an internal or interdepartmental agreement, or</li><li>• legislation</li></ul>	
DEC is the government custodian of information or advice needed for decision-making and the referral agency cannot readily obtain the information/advice by other means	
There is a high public interest in the proposal and expectation DEC will comment	

# Environmental triggers for providing advice (interim)

	<b>Tier 1 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>	<b>Tier 2 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>
<b>Ecological communities, native vegetation</b>	Contains a remnant of an ecological community where < 30% remains (<10% in towns and cities) NB Some exceptions	Contains key example of an ecological community where > 30% remains (>10% in towns and cities)
	Contains or within buffer of a known threatened ecological community In poorly studied areas, contains potential TEC habitat	Contains priority ecological community In poorly studied areas, contains potential habitat
	Contains native vegetation that comprises a high level of biological diversity In poorly studied areas, contains vegetation with that potential	
	Contains native vegetation that if cleared is likely to cause appreciable land degradation, deterioration of the quality of surface or underground water or flooding	

# Environmental triggers for providing advice

	<b>Tier 1 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>	<b>Tier 2 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>
<b>DEC managed areas, conservation areas</b>	In or next to existing conservation area	
	In proposed conservation area (where agreed at high level following formal consultation processes)	
	Contains or next to DEC managed facility (eg Bibbulman track)	
		Site has attribute of local conservation significance under an approved planning strategy, biodiversity protection strategy, NRM strategy
<b>Unallocated crown reserves and unvested reserves</b>		In or next to unallocated crown land or unvested reserve

# Environmental triggers for providing advice

	<b>Tier 1 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>	<b>Tier 2 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>
<b>Native flora</b>	Contains or within buffer of declared rare flora, restricted or other significant flora. In poorly studied areas, contains potential habitat	Contains priority flora In poorly studied areas, contains potential habitat
<b>Native fauna</b>	Contains key habitat for scheduled fauna, migratory birds, restricted and other significant fauna Contains areas that support meta-populations of fauna. In poorly studied areas, contains potential habitat	Contains key habitat of priority fauna or key habitat for fauna in the local area In poorly studied areas, contains potential habitat
<b>Wetlands</b>	Contains conservation category wetland, Ramsar wetland, nationally significant wetland, EPP wetland or buffers (except buffer not required for multiple use EPP wetland) In poorly studied areas, contains wetland likely to be in good or better condition	Contains resource enhancement wetland or its buffer

# Environmental triggers for providing advice

	<b>Tier 1 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>	<b>Tier 2 priority for DEC land use planning advice</b>
<b>Covenanted sites, offset sites</b>	<p>Site has a conservation covenant managed by DEC, or a covenant is proposed.</p> <p>Site is an offset required by DEC or EPA (eg clearing permit, Ministerial Statement under Pt IV <i>EP Act 1986</i>)</p>	<p>Site has a conservation covenant managed by an agency other than DEC, or proposed</p>
<b>Ecological linkages</b>	<p>Contains ecological linkage of regional or higher significance</p>	<p>Contains an ecological linkage of local significance</p>
<b>Special natural areas and catchments</b>	<p>In a special natural area like karst, or key marine habitat, or catchment</p> <p><i>Determine on region specific basis</i></p>	<p>In special natural area or catchment not considered to be tier 1</p> <p><i>Determine on region specific basis</i></p>