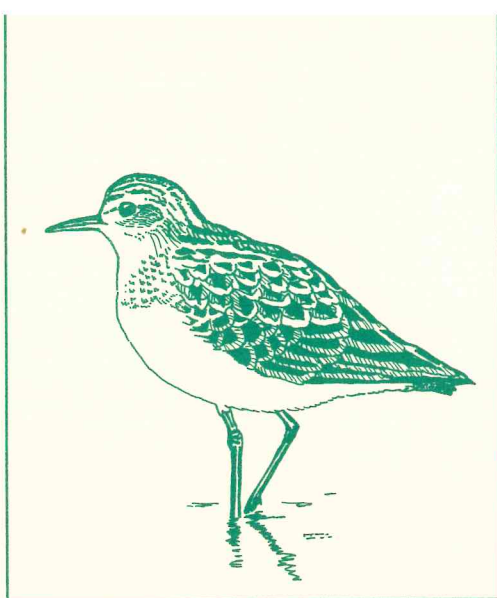


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P R O P O S E D

# Swan Estuary

MARINE PARK

Alfred Cove

Milyu

Pelican Point



Department of Conservation and Land Management



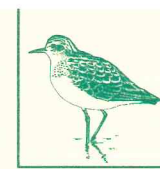
This booklet has been prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to provide information on the proposed Swan Estuary Marine Park including:

- ◆ what marine parks are and how they are managed,
- ◆ where the proposed Swan Estuary Marine Park is and why reserving this area is important,
- ◆ how you can contribute to its creation and later on its management.

The proposed Park is located on the lower Swan River estuary in the heart of the metropolitan area and encompasses three separate areas. They are:

- ◆ **Alfred Cove**, located adjacent to the Attadale, Alfred Cove and Applecross foreshores.
- ◆ **Milyu**, located adjacent to the Como foreshore.
- ◆ **Pelican Point**, located adjacent to Pelican Point at Crawley.

See maps over the page for their location.



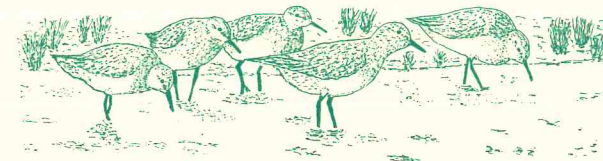
## WHY THESE AREAS ARE IMPORTANT

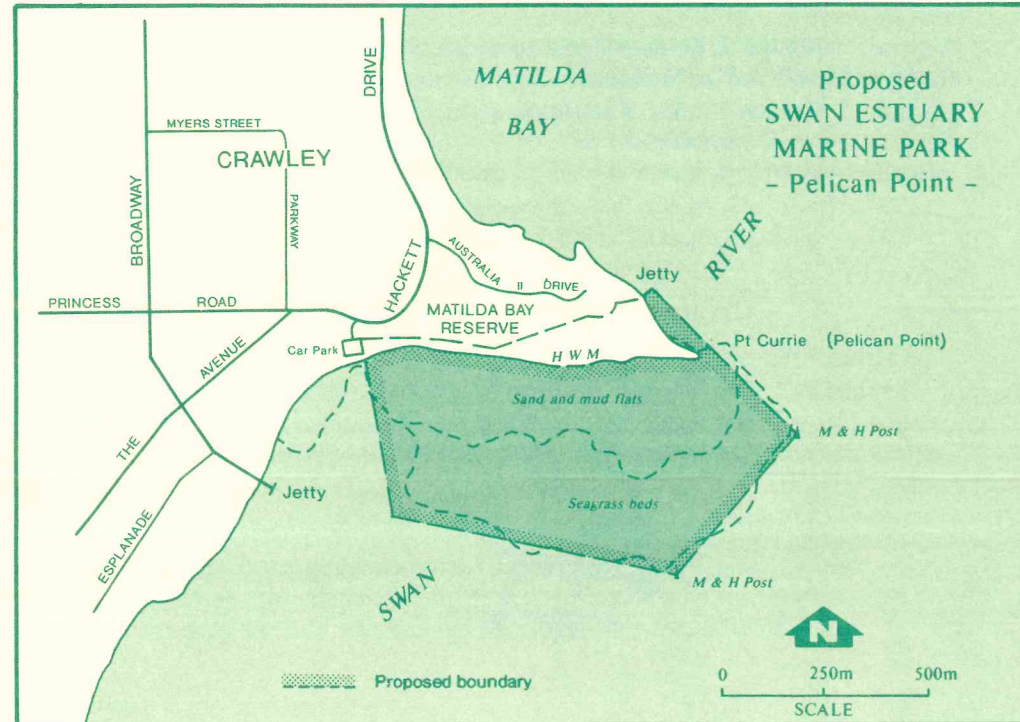
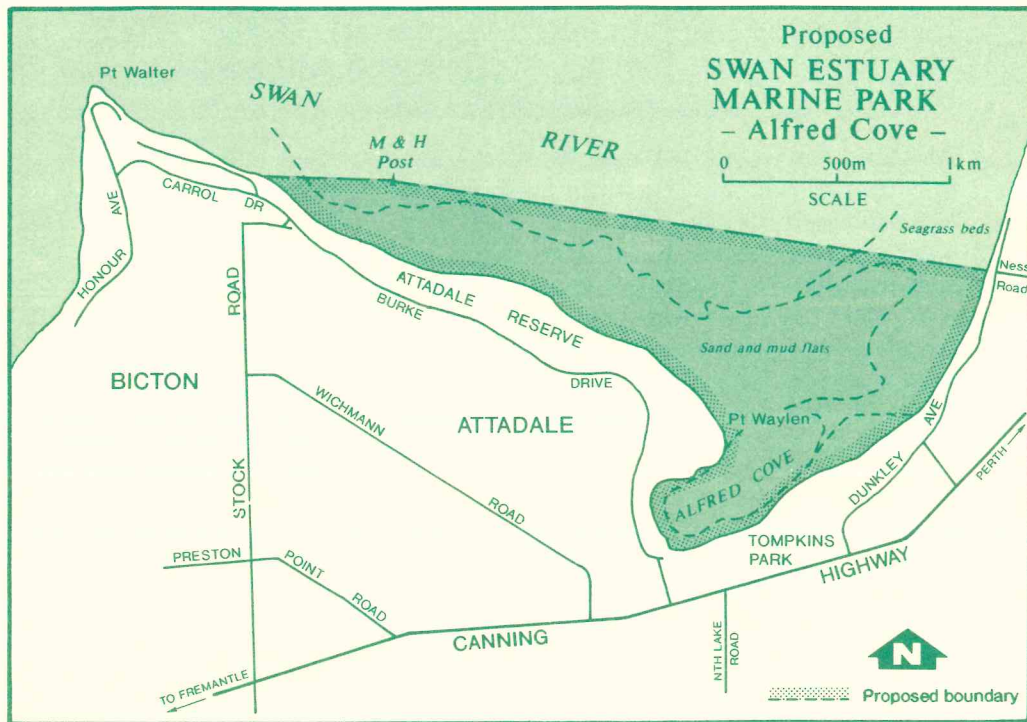
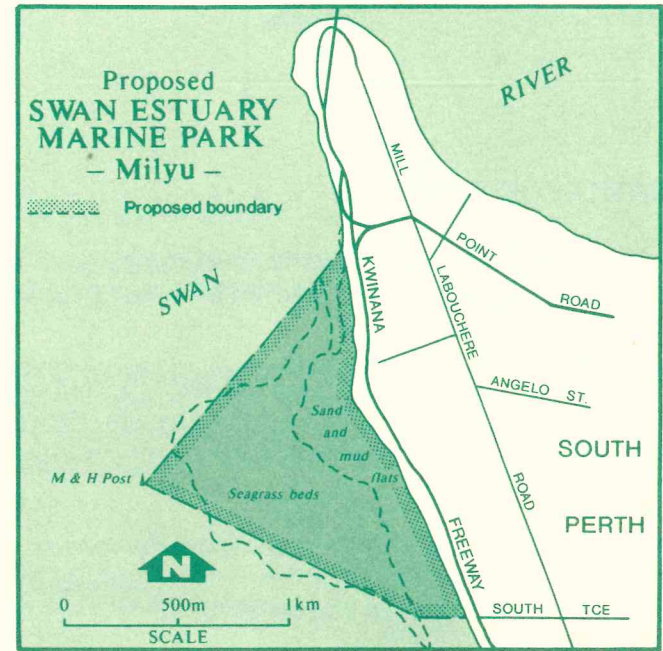
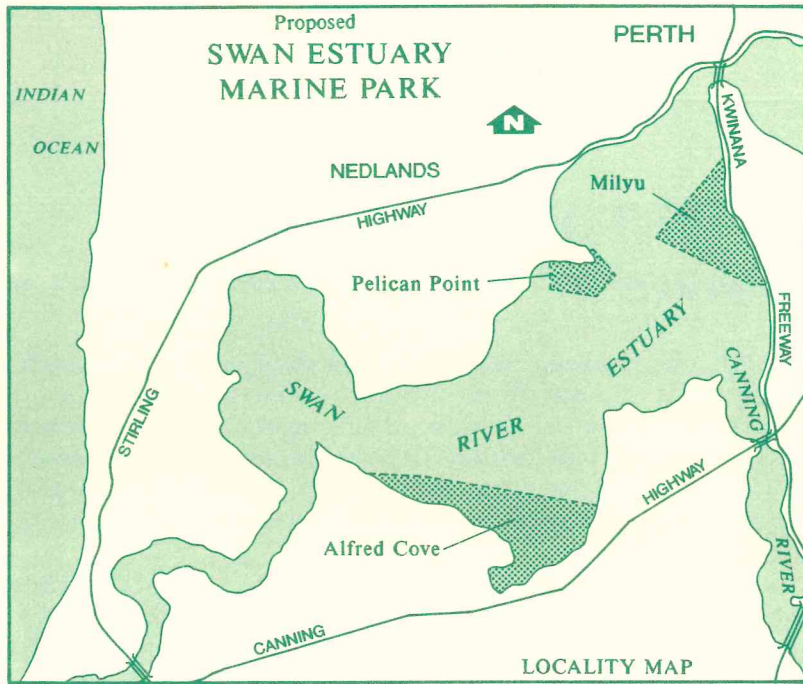
### CONSERVATION

The three areas in the proposed marine park encompass mudflats, seagrass beds and intertidal vegetation, such as sedges and saltmarsh, and abut fringing foreshore vegetation of paperbarks, flooded gums and casuarinas. This combination of habitats hosts many animals and the most significant of these, due to their international importance, are the transequatorial wading birds.

Up to 10 000 waders visit these areas each summer. The waders migrate over great distances from as far away as Asia, America, Mongolia and Siberia. Approximately thirty species are protected under Japan/Australia and China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreements. The estuarine mudflats provide the high concentration of food which is required to replenish the energy of the exhausted birds after their long flight from the northern hemisphere. At this stage the waders are unable to feed from other metropolitan wetlands because of their high water levels.

At Alfred Cove over 140 species have been recorded and of these 33 species are waders. The birds move between the intertidal flats in the proposed marine park. They feed on molluscs, polychaete worms, crustaceans, insect larvae, fish and aquatic plants. Some resident species also breed there, nesting in reeds, sedges, samphire, shrubs and trees. The beds of seagrass adjacent to the mudflats are a primary link in the food chain for the animals on which waders depend for their food and are also important nursery areas for fish and prawns.







## RECREATION/EDUCATION

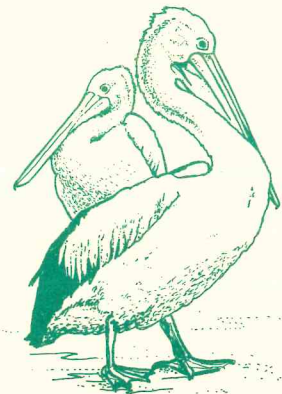
The proposed marine park provides various recreational and educational opportunities and is enjoyed by many people with a range of interests.

The water depth is mostly too shallow for deep-drafted craft, but some areas are used by windsurfers and canoeists. Recreational fishing for fin fish and prawns is popular but not as intensive here as in other parts of the river.

The proposed park is frequently visited by birdwatchers, photographers and artists and is also used extensively by naturalists, schools and tertiary institutions for environmental studies.

## COMMERCIAL

A small number of licensed commercial fishers operate on the Swan River estuary and occasionally fish in some sections of the proposed marine parks. This is a restricted industry managed by the Fisheries Department.



## WHY WE NEED MARINE PARKS

Marine parks are established to protect waters and land of special conservation value and habitats for marine and terrestrial flora and fauna.

They provide the mechanisms for ensuring sustained recreational and commercial uses without impairing natural resources. They are managed to ensure that the values that make the area attractive are retained for you and your children to use and enjoy for all time.

Marine parks exist at Perth (Marmion Marine Park from Trigg Island to Burns Beach) and near Exmouth (Ningaloo Marine Park). Other marine parks are proposed for the Rowley Shoals, Shark Bay, Shoalwater Islands and the Abrolhos Islands.

## WHO MANAGES MARINE PARKS

Marine parks are vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and managed by CALM. The Fisheries Department is responsible for managing commercial and recreational fishing in collaboration with CALM. The Department of Marine and Harbours is responsible for all boating and navigation. Local authorities, community associations, clubs and volunteer groups also have an important input into management.

## HOW MARINE PARKS ARE MANAGED

Marine parks are divided into zones to help separate and manage uses and activities which may either conflict with each other, or result in degradation of the natural values. Different zones provide for varying levels of recreational and commercial use and may also protect special areas from exploitation.

Zoning and other management strategies are considered in the context of a management plan. This is prepared with public consultation and comment before approval and implementation and can only be current for up to 10 years before full review.



## *HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE*

Marine parks are declared under the CALM Act. This involves the following stages:

1. Issuing a Notice of Intent (NOI) proposing reserve boundaries.
2. Consideration of public submissions in response to the NOI after a submission period of at least 2 months.
3. Giving notice for 14 sitting days and receiving approval from both Houses of Parliament.

We are at the first stage of this process and would welcome a submission from you giving us your views. It will, after all, be your Marine Park.

Send your submission to:

**Swan Estuary Project**

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
P.O. Box 104  
COMO W.A. 6152

Phone: 367 0333

We look forward to your participation.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT