

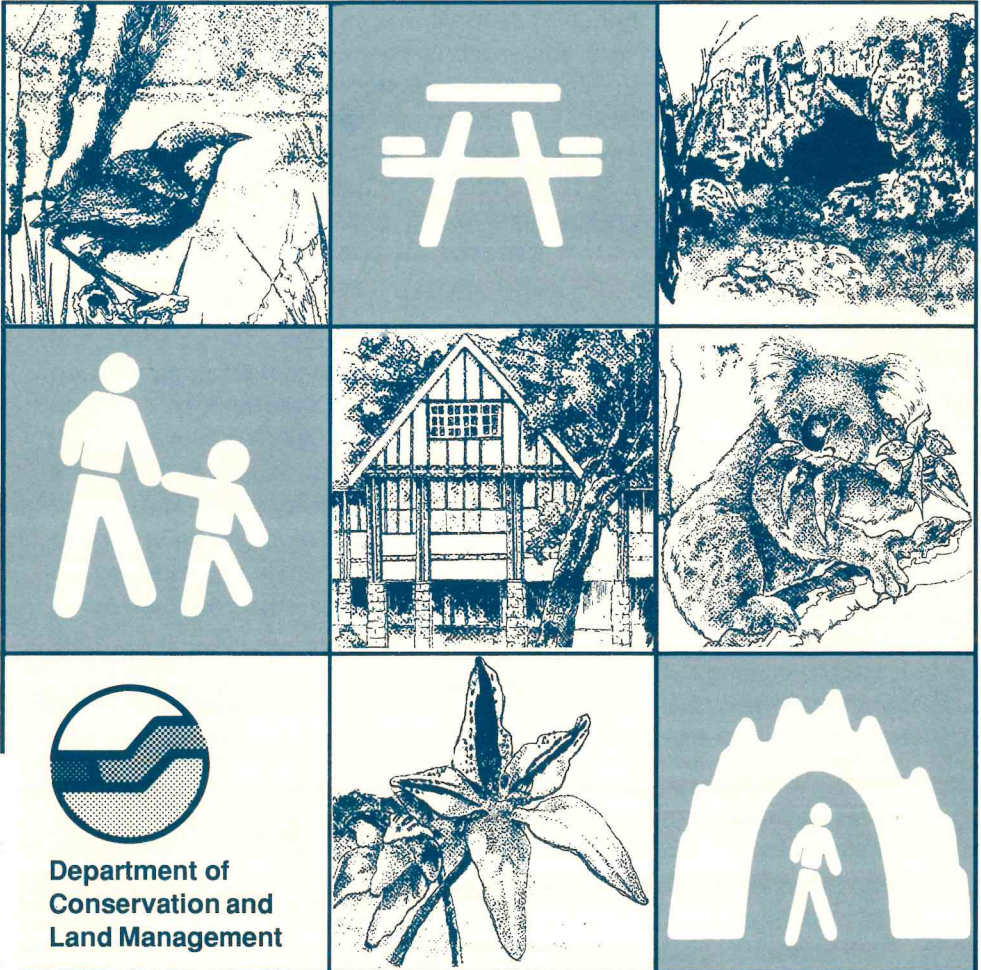
# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

# the key issues



Department of  
Conservation and  
Land Management

## The Park

**Y**ANCHEP National Park, 2799 ha, is situated 48 km north of Perth, on the Waneroo-Lancelin Road. Its gazetted purpose is the 'Protection and Preservation of Caves and Flora and for Health and Pleasure Resorts'.

Much of the Swan Coastal Plain has been cleared for human activities, such as urbanisation and farming, which underlines the importance of Yanchep National Park for conservation and recreation. Many wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain have been filled in, and those left have been modified and subjected to pressures such as pollutants and clearing. All of these activities have severely diminished the range and availability of habitats for fauna, so that many are either no longer present on the Plain, or are very reduced in numbers. The Park contains seven vegetation communities, four wetlands that have had little modification, and over 1 000 caves (some of which are scientifically important and need protection), all of which provide a wide range of habitats for a variety of fauna. It is an important conservation area, and as urbanisation spreads, its value will increase.

It is also a popular and unique recreation destination. Over 250 000 visitors per year go to the recreation area, the highest number of visitors to any single area of a national park in the State. Also high is the number of tourists from interstate and overseas (34% of the total). Within this beautiful and tranquil Park, visitors can: simply have a picnic and go for a walk around the recreation area or on one of the two nature trails provided (Yanjidi and Boomerang Gorge); view koalas, kangaroos and emus in enclosures; participate in a social game on grassed areas and the ovals; visit the Gloucester Lodge Museum which features displays and information on the history and natural features of the Park and the Wanneroo area; row out on Loch McNess; go on a tour of Crystal Cave; enjoy a beer and lunch or dinner at Yanchep Inn, and stay overnight at the Inn if they choose; have a game of golf, if they don't mind on-look-ing kangaroos; cool down in the swimming pool in summer; have a snack or lunch from the kiosk.

This park is very different from other national parks because of the developed nature of the recreation area. It requires high levels of maintenance, so it has the largest ranger force for any national park in the State; therefore, management and maintenance costs are high. The high numbers of visitors, the num-

ber of staff required and the high costs of management, produce a number of management issues, both problems and opportunities.

## Management Plans - Why have them?

A management plan sets out clear directions on how a park will be managed for a period of up to ten years. It is a requirement of the CALM act that management plans be prepared for all CALM land; this huge task is approached on a priority basis.

For the Yanchep National Park management plan existing information was collected from libraries, government departments, scientists and other experts. Public participation was invited from visitors and the public generally, conservation groups, tourism groups, and other individuals. The plan deals with the issues highlighted by all these groups.

## Overall management of the Park

The management objectives for national parks are generally to:

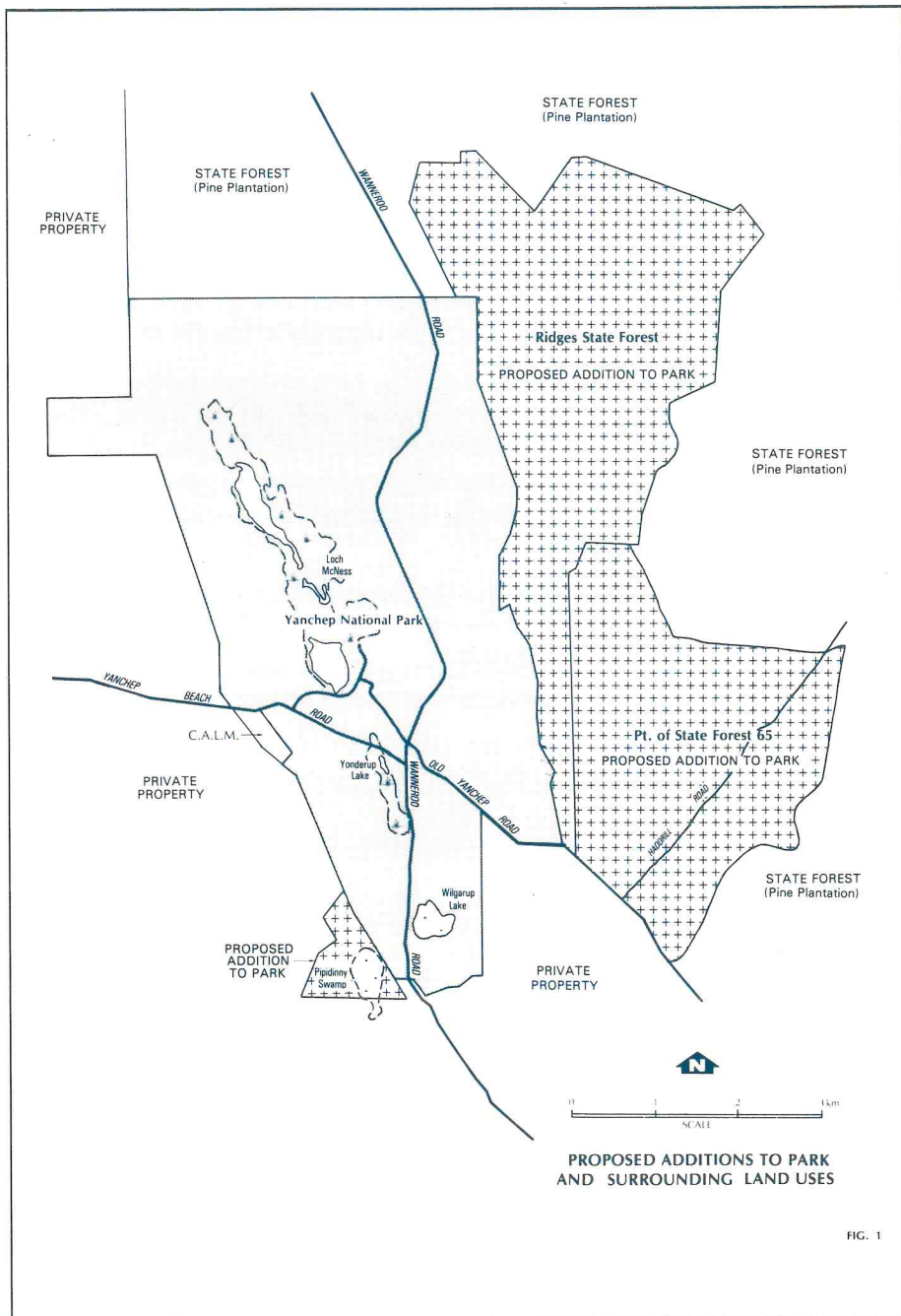
- Conserve, protect and restore areas of scenic beauty, natural landforms, ecosystems and all areas of scientific or cultural importance.
- Provide opportunities and facilities for appropriate public recreation, consistent with the protection of the natural environment, and to minimise conflict between uses.
- Promote awareness and appreciation of natural processes and the natural and cultural attributes of the Park.
- Protect the lives and properties of neighbours and visitors to the Park.
- Develop and maintain knowledge regarding the biological, physical and social environments of the Park to aid future management.

As well as these, there are also objectives for the management of specific aspects of the Yanchep National Park:

## Natural Resources

Some aspects are:

- The addition of Ridges State forest, a part of State Forest No. 65, and, if possible, Pipidinnny Swamp to the Park, increasing its size by 3 100 ha (See Figure 1).
- the rehabilitation of eroded and degraded areas.
- the encouragement of a study of the inter-relationships between the ground water and the Park's caves and wetlands (in view of proposed extraction of ground water from the Gnangara Mound by the Water Authority).
- the continued monitoring and surveying of rare and restricted flora and fauna in the Park, and where possible other flora and fauna.
- development of opportunities for learning about and appreciation of the fauna of the Park, for example, establishment of viewing hides and guided interpretive walks.
- instigation or encouragement of the research and monitoring of the wetlands, including the ecological role of *Typha orientalis* and the breeding habits of birds on Loch McNess.
- The drawing up of guidelines for the use and management of Loch McNess including:
  - no further clearing of the lake's catchment
  - dieback hygiene practices to be carried out in the lake's catchment
  - South Loch McNess - no dredging the lake and any future activities must be demonstrated not to have a detrimental effect on the lake.
  - North Loch McNess - will be a recreation-free zone. East Loch McNess - there will be no further filling of Loch McNess
- The use of dieback hygiene practices for all operations involving the movement of soil.
- The continued control of a variety of feral animals and weeds.
- The protection and enhancement of cultivated and natural landscape values of the Park.
- The changing of the purpose of the Park from 'Protection and Preservation of Caves and Flora and for Health and Pleasure Resorts' to 'National Park' to more accurately reflect its conservation values.



## People and the Park.

### Natural Areas

There is a growing demand for use of the natural areas of the Park for a variety of activities, such as bushwalking, and, as the population of Perth increases, this demand will increase. Most visitors have not experienced the Park outside the recreation area, and so, in future, visitors will be encouraged to discover other delights of the Park (consistent with protecting the environment).

The following activities will be encouraged: bushwalking, responsible caving, photography, bird watching and other activities which have a minimal impact on the environment.

The following activities will not be allowed in the natural areas: horse-riding, private vehicle use (including motorcycles) and camping.

### Recreation Area

The overall aim is to rationalise existing services and facilities and enhance those which are compatible with national parks.

The specific objectives are:

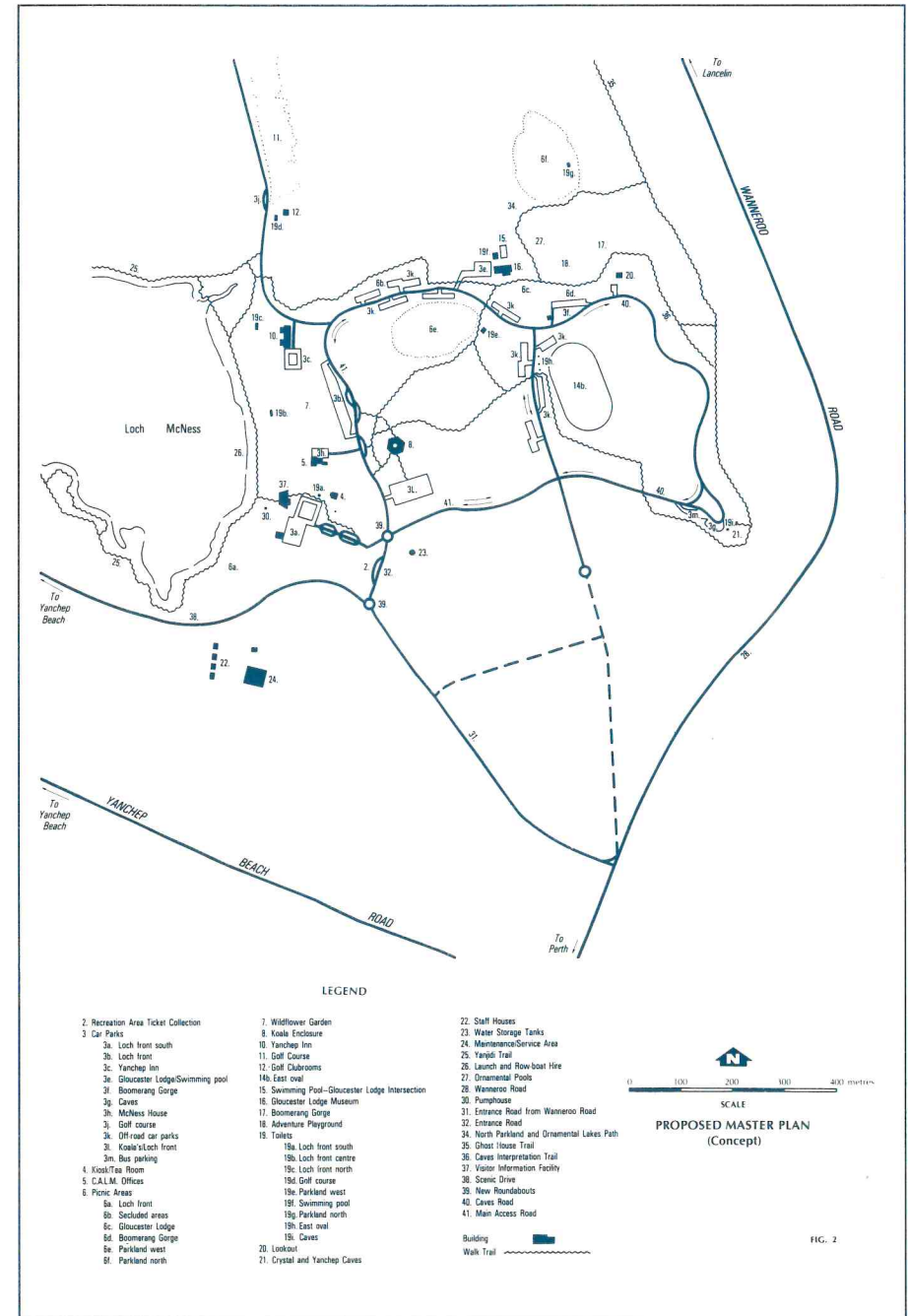
- To ensure uses of the recreation area are compatible with:
  - maintaining the Park's character (its peacefulness, atmosphere, landscape);
  - enjoyment of and interaction with the Park environment; and
  - a dependence on the Park's natural and cultural values.
- To maintain the current level of diversity of recreational opportunities provided they are compatible with objective one.
- To maintain a high quality of amenity, service and facility.
- To restrict intensive activities to within the boundaries of the existing recreation area.
- To retain and restore natural bushland within the recreation area.

## Overall Strategies

The main strategy to resolve the conflicts and issues of the recreation area has been the development of a master plan for the recreation area. This takes into account past, present and future use, the views of Park visitors, and management requirements. It is a guide for the development of the Park for the next twenty years (See Figure 2).

The proposed master plan involves:

- allocation of a specific name for the recreation area (McNess Recreation Area) to distinguish it from the remainder of the Park;
- The redesign of the vehicle circulation system, including re-location of some stretches of road and upgrading of others, producing a two-way road loop;
- re-location, upgrading, formalisation and screening of carparks;
- provision of a scenic drive;
- improvement of the entrance to the recreation area;
- provision of pedestrian corridors to separate pedestrians from vehicles;
- provision of more nature trails;
- a change in the function of some buildings, e.g. the Administration building to become the kiosk; McNess House to house the administration.
- the removal of some buildings, e.g. the hall, ranger houses, the bungalow, the Park Staff's office building. Trams to be moved to Whiteman Park for conversion to an original tram.
- a rationalisation of recreation facilities, e.g. upgrading of most gardens into wildflower displays; upgrading of picnic facilities; a continuation of the koala colony (providing animals are available from the Eastern States, so the colony can again be viable); relocation of the koala enclosure (to make room for more suitably located carparks, and to provide an experience un-interrupted by vehicles); removal of the kangaroo/emu enclosure and provision of opportunities to view the animals in more natural conditions; the provision of one sports oval and the development of parkland areas from the other two existing ovals; the development of an adventure playground for children; the provision of a small-scale, backpack camping area.



- The leasing out of a number of facilities in the Park, e.g. rowboats, swimming pool, golf course, cave tours, souvenirs (providing lessees can be found)
- rationalisation of the management and maintenance services e.g.
  - replacement of the water supply system, installation of an automatic ticket machine at the entrance, development of an effective sign system; the setting of a limit beyond which vehicle entry will be restricted.
- the retention of Cabaret Cave for use by CALM as part of special interpretive cave tours of the Park, once it is declared safe; the re-opening of Yonderup cave for special tours;
- the enhancement of the Park's role as an important tourist destination;
- the development of the Park as a major gateway to the natural environment through the provision of a visitor information facility and interpretive programs.

## What do you think of these proposals?

You are invited to comment on the draft management plan. If you are particularly interested in any aspect of the plan, or would like to know why some proposals are made or would like to know more about any issue, please have a look at a copy of the plan. It is available for viewing in the office in the Park, at CALM's offices at Wanneroo, Kelmscott and Como, and at main libraries. It is also available for purchase at the above offices. It is your chance to have a say on the future of Yanchep National Park.



### CALM Offices

50 Hayman Road,  
COMO 6152

3044 Albany Highway,  
KELMSCOTT 6111

980 Wanneroo Road,  
WANNEROO 6065