

# 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 It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

# The Department of Environment and Conservation (Western Australia)



Department of  
Environment and Conservation



The Department of Environment and Conservation (Western Australia) was established on 1 July 2006, bringing together the Department of Environment (DoE) and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

## Message from the Director General

The Department of Environment and Conservation heralds a new era for protecting and conserving our environment and the nature of Western Australia.

By combining the strengths of the former DoE and CALM, the new department will bring many benefits, including:

- improved policy coordination and advice to Government;
- a stronger and more robust agency that will be better equipped to address existing and emerging issues;
- a more streamlined regulatory and approvals process through providing a 'single entry point' for the community and industry;
- elimination of duplication, particularly in delivering natural resource management programs;
- improved efficiencies in areas such as scientific research, community information and education, mapping systems and databases; and
- greater career opportunities for staff in a larger and broader agency.

Western Australia faces many challenges to protect our environment and conserve our native plants and animals and the ecosystems that sustain them.

The south-west of the State is one of only 34 internationally-recognised terrestrial biodiversity hotspots while eight of Australia's 15 national biodiversity hotspots are within WA. The new agency will be better placed to protect and conserve these natural 'treasures' for present and future generations.

In particular, it will provide a clearer focus on environmental priorities such as sustainable use of our natural resources; climate change and Greenhouse; introduced pest plants, animals and diseases; salinity and other land, air and water quality issues.

The new department has a staff of more than 1800 dedicated people located throughout the State from Kununurra to Esperance who are committed to the environment.

This staff network, especially in regional Western Australia, is a key strength of the new department. It provides the basis through which the department can work closely with the community and industry in addressing today's environmental issues and those that will emerge.

The new department will not just be an amalgam of the old. It will be a dynamic agency that will maintain its commitment to environmental protection and management and will be responsive to change.

Moreover, it will be a department that will engage with the community so that together we can create partnerships to enhance the health of Western Australia's environment.



**Keiran McNamara**

*Director General*

1 July 2006



## The department's role

The mission of the new Department of Environment and Conservation is:

**Working with the community, we will ensure that Western Australia's environment is valued, protected and conserved, for its intrinsic value, and for the benefit of present and future generations.**

The department has responsibility for protecting and conserving the State's environment on behalf of the people of Western Australia. This includes managing the State's national parks, marine parks, conservation parks, State forests and timber reserves, nature reserves, marine nature reserves and marine management areas.

Its key responsibilities include broad roles in managing, regulating and assessing many aspects of the use of the State's natural resources. The department contributes to the development of environmental protection policies, managing the environmental impact assessment process and carrying out regulatory functions to achieve improved environmental outcomes. It is also responsible for management of contaminated sites and coordination of pollution incident responses.

The department is also responsible for fire preparedness and pest animal and weed control on 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

The department provides support or assists the following statutory authorities and boards to carry out their functions:

- Environmental Protection Authority;
- Conservation Commission of WA;
- Keep Australia Beautiful Council;
- Marine Parks and Reserves Authority;
- Swan River Trust; and
- Waste Management Board.

It employs people with world-class scientific, regulatory, policy, land and marine management, visitor services and educational skills.

The department's six key objectives are:

- *Protecting the environment* – Protect the environment and people's amenity.
- *Conserving biodiversity* – Protect, conserve and, where necessary and possible, restore WA's natural biodiversity.
- *Creating sustainable community benefits* – Generate social, cultural and economic benefits through the development of a "World Class Parks System" and provision of a range of services that are valued by the community and are consistent with the principles of ecological sustainability.

- *Maintaining community involvement and support* – Develop community awareness and appreciation of the State’s rich diversity of native plants, animals and natural ecosystems, and its unique landscapes, and promote community involvement in and support for their protection, conservation and restoration.
- *Promoting sustainable industry* – Ensure waste management practices meet performance targets, and emissions and discharges meet environmental criteria.
- *Improving the way we do business* – Foster a positive work culture of trust, continuous improvement and anticipation of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation issues and customer needs, and deliver core business activities in the most effective and efficient manner.

In line with these objectives, the department’s key goals in its first year of operation are:

### *Environmental services*

- to coordinate a whole-of-government response to climate change;
- to coordinate a whole-of-government response to implement the Western Australian Greenhouse Strategy;
- to implement the Perth Air Quality Management Plan, with major initiatives aimed at reducing smoke emissions, as part of monitoring air quality and developing air quality management plans for priority air sheds;
- to continue to improve regulation of emissions and discharges to the environment, transport of hazardous wastes, and clearing of native vegetation;
- to implement the Contaminated Sites Act 2003;
- to develop Zero Waste initiatives schemes;
- to introduce the Waste Avoidance and Recovery Bill to Parliament;
- to complete important assessments, including the South West Yarragadee Water Source Development Project, and the duplication of the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline; and
- to develop and coordinate behaviourable change programs for sustainable living and practices in the community, industry and government.

### *Parks and Conservation services*

- to progress the Biodiversity Conservation Act and finalise a State biodiversity conservation strategy;
- to further develop a “World Class Parks System”, ensuring high quality services and facilities that will enhance visitor risk management, visitor experiences and appreciation of the parks system;
- to continue establishment of the marine and terrestrial conservation reserve system, towards the goals of comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness;

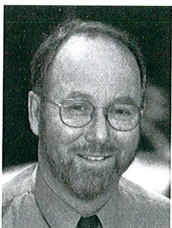
- to enhance the management of newly created marine parks and reserves and to conduct further research in marine ecosystems;
- to increase emphasis on core management of parks and reserves, including control of threatening processes such as pest animals, weeds, dieback, altered fire regimes and salinity; and
- to implement the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013.

### *Across the department*

- to lead the development of strategic policies for the protection and conservation of the State's environment;
- to be responsive to the community through ongoing public participation and implementation of the Good Neighbour Policy;
- to build capacity in the department through supporting staff with sound training, safety and career development programs and achieving greater workforce diversity;
- to participate in community-based natural resource management processes, including provision of technical data and advice, input into regional strategies and investment plans, on-ground project delivery and monitoring and evaluation systems;
- to effectively engage Indigenous people in natural resource management, including the development of joint management arrangements and better employment and training opportunities; and
- to continue to maintain and develop a strong scientific research program based on both in-house capacity and enhanced partnerships with other research institutions.

## Structure of the department

The Department of Environment and Conservation is headed by a Director General, with two Deputy Directors General responsible for environmental services and parks and conservation services.



### **Director General**

*Keiran McNamara*

Keiran McNamara has worked in Commonwealth and State government nature conservation agencies since 1978. He was head of the Department of Conservation and Land Management for five years before it became part of the new Department of Environment and Conservation.

Mr McNamara has an Honours degree in Natural Resources from the University of New England.



He has served on a wide range of State, national and international committees and boards concerned with biodiversity conservation, including the national Biological Diversity Advisory Committee and membership of the World Conservation Union's Commission on Protected Areas and Species Survival Commission.



**Acting Deputy Director General of Environment**

*Kim Taylor*

Kim Taylor has more than 30 years' experience in environmental protection and water resources management issues in WA and was the Acting Director General of the Department of Environment before it became part of the new Department of Environment and Conservation.

He has worked in water resources management at the then Water and Rivers Commission and the Water Corporation. Mr Taylor joined the then Department of Environmental Protection as Director of the Environmental Impact Assessment Division in 1996. He has extensive experience in environmental protection matters including being involved in assessment of many major State developments such as mining, industrial processing, infrastructure and tourism. He also has substantial experience in environmental matters associated with land planning and development.



**Acting Deputy Director General of Parks and Conservation**

*Jim Sharp*

Jim Sharp has a strong interest in the establishment, promotion and sustainable use of protected areas.

He was born and educated in WA and has worked in State recreation and conservation agencies since graduating from the University of Western Australia in 1971.

He worked in social research at the Ministry of Sport and Recreation before joining the Department of Conservation and Land Management in 1985 as a scientific advisor to the Director of National Parks. From 1989 to 1994, he managed the development of park policy, Aboriginal policy, volunteers, external funding, leases and licences, and research in visitation.

He was appointed Director of National Parks in August 1996 after acting in the position for two years.

He is a member of the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track board and spends much of his spare time walking the Bibbulmun Track, which stretches almost 1000 km from Perth to Albany.

## Reporting to the Director General

The two Acting Deputy Directors General and the Directors of the following divisions report directly to Mr McNamara: Regional Services, Corporate Services, Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs, Strategic Policy, and Science.

### Regional Services Division

*Director, Alan Walker*

The staff of the Regional Services Division are the primary “face” of the department in rural and regional Western Australia. Regional Services Division implements the regional works programs for each of the department’s outputs or programs, including Nature Conservation, Parks and Visitor Services, Sustainable Forest Management, Environmental Protection and Management, and Industry Regulation.

The works programs for staff in regions are integrated to take account of available resources, competing demands and changing priorities.

Regionally-based staff also coordinate the department’s response to emergency incidents such as wildfires, marine mammal strandings and toxic chemical spills.

### Corporate Services Division

*Director, John Byrne*

The Corporate Services Division delivers a range of corporate services including human resources, finance, and information services and technology.

The division:

- provides strategic planning, policy development and formulation, advice and coordination in the management of the department’s people. Services are provided in the functional areas of personnel, payroll, labour relations, training and development and risk management;
- provides advice to operational managers on purchasing and fleet management, manages accounts receivable and accounts payable processes, and asset records, coordinates remote area housing, consolidates department budgets, maintains core financial software that is shared by all parts of the department, and produces management, tax and statutory reports;
- plans, coordinates and implements the department’s information systems support, and is responsible for corporate document and records management; and
- maintains corporate spatial databases, provides a land-related information service for parks, conservation and native forests, publishes maps, and provides support for regional and desktop GIS (geographic information system) activities.

## **Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division**

*Director, Ron Kawalilak*

The Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division is responsible for internal and external communications, marketing, advertising and for a variety of corporate programs. It also coordinates corporate planning and organisational development. The division's business is to assist management in the effective use of communications as a business tool; to develop, administer and deliver organisational development and communication services and products that support the department's immediate business needs and long-term corporate objectives; and also to assist stakeholders develop an understanding of, involvement in, and support for the activities, services and policies of the department.

The division:

- initiates, develops and implements communication strategies, including media liaison and community relations, to address environment and conservation issues;
- produces publications, displays and multimedia productions;
- designs and stages special events;
- coordinates the department's media and promotional activities;
- provides the community with an information service; and
- coordinates internal communications.

## **Strategic Policy Division**

*Director, Rob Sippe*

The Strategic Policy Division provides policy advice and services (including whole of government leadership responsibilities for climate change). It also provides advice and services to the Environmental Protection Authority.

The division:

- initiates and coordinates development, analysis and implementation of environmental policy;
- manages for the EPA the formulation of Environmental Protection Policies, State Environmental Policies;
- coordinates State of the Environment reporting;
- provides a whole of government leadership and coordination role on greenhouse and climate change policy, coordinates implementation of the WA Greenhouse Strategy and supports Greenhouse task forces, committees and working groups; and
- provides advice and administrative services to the Chair and members of EPA.



## Science Division

*Director, Neil Burrows*

The Science Division is responsible for providing up-to-date, scientifically sound information to uphold effective environmental protection, the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management. Its research programs provide a scientifically objective and independent source of reliable knowledge and understanding about conserving species and ecological communities. The division's expertise ensures that science is brought to bear on the State's most pressing conservation and land management problems.

The division:

- provides a scientifically objective source of reliable knowledge and understanding about conserving species and ecological communities in WA, managing the public lands and waters entrusted to the department, and carrying out the department's other legislative responsibilities;
- provides advice on sustainable resource development opportunities and to promote the conservation of biological resources through their sustainable utilisation;
- publishes scientific research in national and international scientific journals, and electronically;
- manages the Perth Observatory, which carries out astronomical research; and
- manages the WA Herbarium, which houses more than 600,000 flora specimens.

## Environmental Services

Legal Services, the Environmental Enforcement Unit and the Directors of the following areas in environmental services report directly to the Deputy Director General of Environment: Sustainability, Environmental Impact Assessments, Environmental Management, and Natural Resource Management.

### Sustainability Division

*Acting Director, Rob Sippe*

The Sustainability Division's role focuses on the new responsibilities for sustainability transferred from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and existing sustainability programs from the merging departments.

The division:

- undertakes, on a whole of government basis, coordination of and reporting on sustainability policy, implementation of the State Sustainability Strategy and supports the Sustainability Roundtable;

- optimises DEC's role in sustainability, concentrating on climate change, waste management, air quality and biodiversity;
- manages, coordinates and monitors for effectiveness DEC's behavioural change programs for sustainability and provides a centre of excellence in government for such programs, including integration, common badging and performance evaluation; and
- progresses the growth of an industry sustainability program.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment Division**

*Acting Director, Warren Tacey*

The Environmental Impact Assessment Division provides environmental impact assessment support to the EPA for proposals involving major projects, industrial, mining, petroleum and infrastructure developments and for planning assessments.

The division:

- is responsible for coordinating the environmental impact assessment process, on behalf of the EPA, for major mining and industrial projects; and
- provides environmental impact assessment advice to the EPA on all major infrastructure proposals, major subdivisions, town planning schemes and amendments, and regional schemes.

## **Environmental Management Division**

*Director, Robert Atkins*

The Environmental Management Division covers works approvals, licensing industry emissions and discharges, incident responses, contaminated sites regulation, auditing compliance of Ministerial conditions and waste management.

The division:

- is responsible for works approvals, licensing and registration of prescribed premises, licensing of controlled waste transporters and permitting and tracking the movement of controlled waste intrastate and interstate;
- oversees the administration of a range of environmental regulation areas, develops and implements regulation policy, provides support, process quality control, training and business development services to regional licensing activities;
- provides advice on the management of land and water contamination issues and is responsible for the development of policy and guidelines for the investigation and management of contaminated and acid sulphate soil sites;

- is responsible for the development of noise policy (including the revision of noise regulations), auditing Ministerial conditions and responding to pollution incidents; and
- supports the Waste Management Board, which was established to advise the Minister and to lead an integrated approach to waste avoidance and resource recovery strategies.

## Natural Resource Management Division

*Director, Fred Tromp*

This Natural Resources Management Division delivers a range of natural resource management services, including air and water measurement and monitoring, data management, policy development and coordination for air quality and waterways, and the administration of native vegetation clearing controls.

The division:

- is responsible for developing the strategic policy framework for clearing of native vegetation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, administering, monitoring, compliance, coordinating appeals and strategic projects relating to the clearing provisions of the Act;
- provides key research to the department, its regional operations and the broader community on estuarine and water catchment remediation projects;
- is responsible for the development of air quality policy and studies, ambient air monitoring, provision of technical and scientific air quality advice to the EPA, and other government agencies, industry and the community; and
- undertakes strategic research and field investigations, and development of air quality management strategies for regional centres.

## Parks and Conservation Services

The Directors of the following divisions in parks and conservation services report directly to the Deputy Director General of Parks and Conservation: Nature Conservation, Parks and Visitor Services, and Sustainable Forest Management.

### Nature Conservation Division

*Director, Gordon Wyre*

The Nature Conservation Division is responsible for the development and implementation of programs for flora and fauna conservation, for threatened species and ecological communities and for commercially exploited species according to the principles of ecological sustainability; the acquisition, conservation



and protection of representative ecosystems; and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation services and policies.

The division:

- is responsible for the development and coordination of the biodiversity conservation aspects of natural resource management policies with a major focus on integration with regional resource management groups;
- coordinates the implementation of the State Salinity Strategy programs for biodiversity conservation funded through the department;
- is responsible for the overall marine parks and reserves program in the department, including establishment of new marine parks and reserves, policy advice, and strategic coordination of marine activities;
- provides policy, strategic planning and advice for the protection of nature from unlawful activities, wildlife conflict and emergencies, dieback, weeds and feral animals;
- evaluates mining and development proposals affecting department-managed lands and waters and advises on rehabilitation of department-managed lands and waters; and
- administers wildlife licenses and permits and enforces the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and Regulations.

## **Parks and Visitor Services Division**

*Acting Director, Peter Sharp*

The Parks and Visitor Services Division is responsible for policies and programs dealing with public involvement, visitation and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department; providing, managing and maintaining appropriate access, recreation opportunities and visitor facilities; involving Aboriginal people in park management and the provision of visitor facilities and services; and developing community awareness and support for parks, natural areas, nature-based tourism and recreation services and policies.

The division:

- is responsible for the preparation of management plans for lands managed by the department;
- develops policy and strategies for recreation and tourism and other commercial activities, including permits, leases and licences;
- coordinates land administration and acquisition programs, and external funding opportunities;
- coordinates visitor research and surveys;

- coordinates management of Perth's regional parks, including the implementation of landscape and design programs and completion on on-ground operational works;
- is responsible for recreational planning and design, landscape management and visitor interpretation services; and
- coordinates community involvement and indigenous heritage programs.

## **Sustainable Forest Management Division**

*Director, Paul Jones*

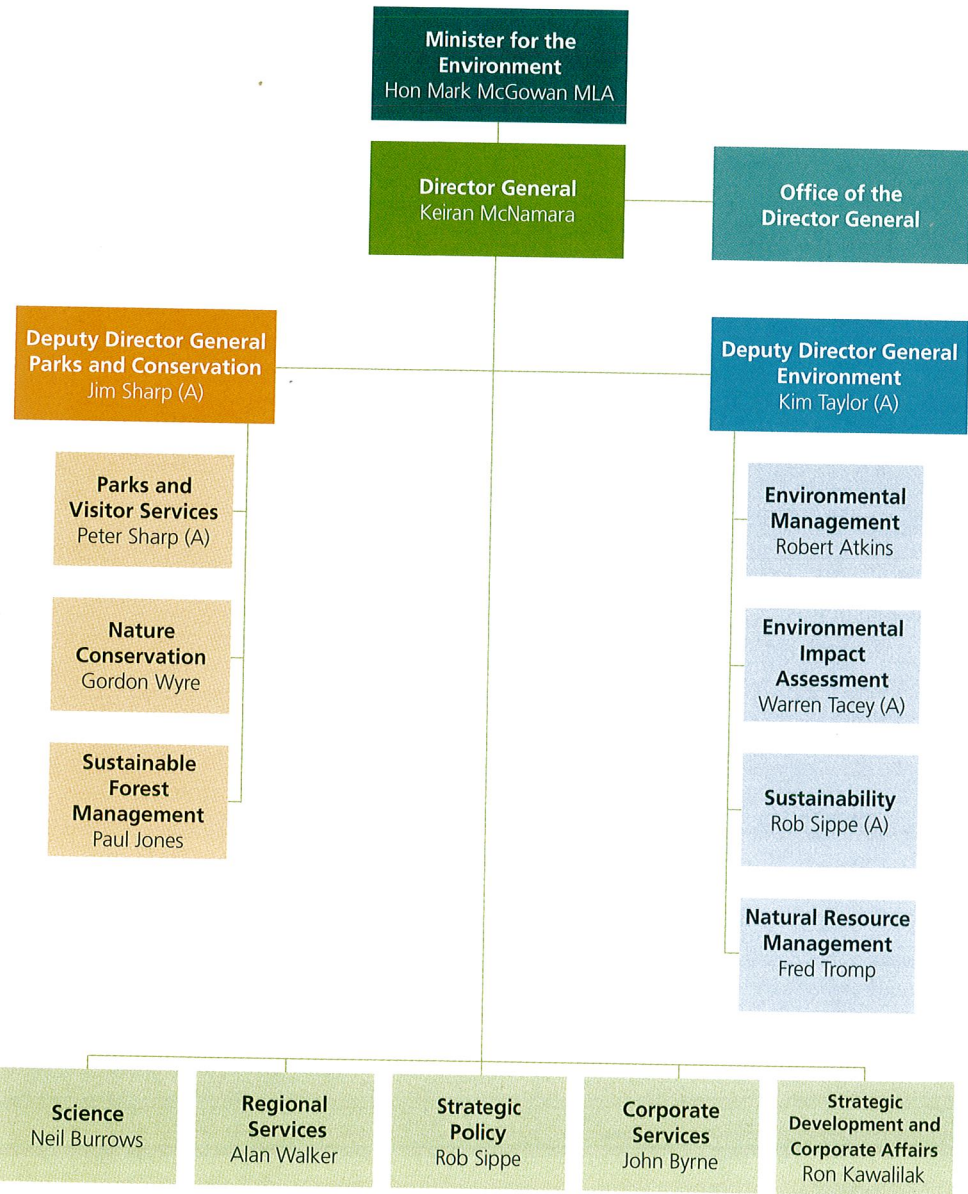
The Sustainable Forest Management Division is responsible for the sustainable management of State forests and timber reserves while maintaining or enhancing nature conservation, water, recreation, landscape and other values in the long term, and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for sustainable forest management, services and policies.

The division:

- implements the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013, including protection of old-growth forests;
- carries out resource inventories, disease mapping and database management related to sustainable forest management;
- maintains corporate resource information and geographic information system databases related to forest areas in the south-west, and prepares strategic resource plans; and
- facilitates the harvesting of State forest and timber reserves by the Forest Products Commission.

# Department of Environment and Conservation

## Divisional Structure 1 July 2006





Department of Environment and Conservation

Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre  
Western Australia 6983

Visit us on the Internet at [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)



Department of  
Environment and Conservation