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CALM's role in managing lands and waters

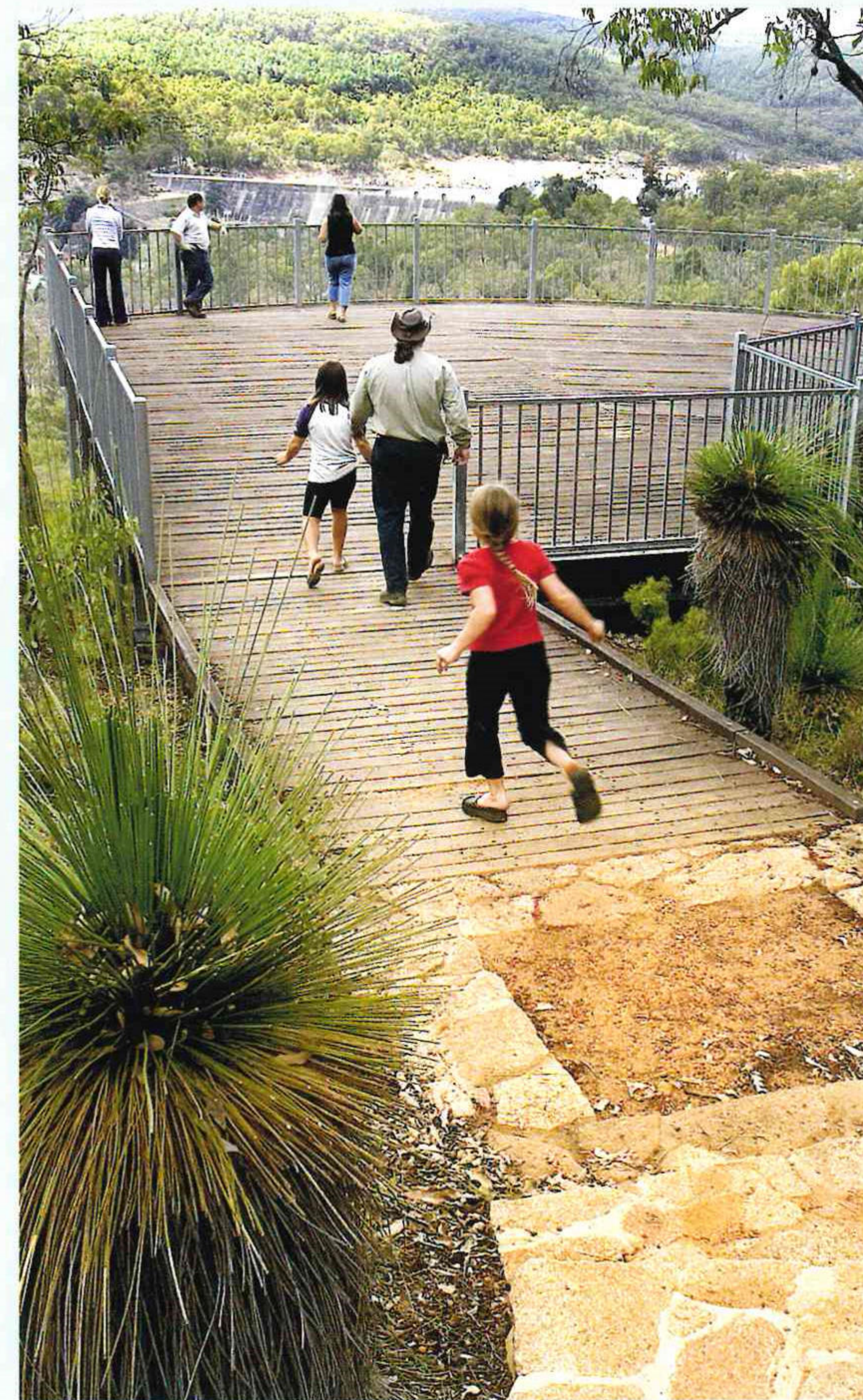
In partnership with the community, CALM conserves Western Australia's biodiversity and manages the lands and waters entrusted to the Department, for their intrinsic values and the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations. The lands and waters managed include those vested in either the Conservation Commission or the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, as well as some other reserves and freehold lands and a number of areas acquired for conservation that were formerly pastoral leases or parts of pastoral leases. CALM is also partially responsible for the management of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the metropolitan area and townsites.

Management is undertaken according to government policies and the CALM Act, and as specified in any approved management plans for the particular area. Public participation and consultation are vital if CALM is to fulfill its role successfully.

Community involvement in the development of management plans is sought through public and stakeholder meetings, advisory committees, newsletters and inviting comments on draft plans. Management plans, which come up for revision after 10 years, contain a statement of the policies or guidelines for the area as well as a summary of proposed operations. They must be approved by the Conservation Commission or the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

CALM also enlists the help of community groups and individuals, volunteers, not-for-profit groups, various government organisations and its neighbours in managing the State's lands and

waters. Awareness of and support for management issues is promoted through CALM's website and publications, community activity programs, ecoeducation programs, the Department's Good Neighbour Policy and initiatives such as Healthy Parks, Healthy People. This initiative aims to foster an appreciation within the community of the health benefits gained from visiting parks and other natural areas, as well as showing people how they can contribute to the health of these areas through a range of environmental and recreational activities.



Golden View Lookout, Mundaring National Park.

Lands and waters managed by CALM, as of 30 June 2005

Category	Area (ha)	Held by
national parks	5,591,090	Conservation Commission
conservation parks	745,195	Conservation Commission
nature reserves	10,856,529	Conservation Commission
reserves under section 5(1)(g) or 5(1)(h) of the CALM Act	233,348	Conservation Commission
State forest	1,304,631	Conservation Commission
timber reserves	123,346	Conservation Commission
marine nature reserves	132,000	Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
marine parks	1,261,033	Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
marine management areas	143,385	Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
miscellaneous reserves	12,606	Executive Director
former leasehold land	4,873,241	Executive Director
freehold land	26,013	Executive Director
land subject to management agreements under sections 16 and 16A of the CALM Act	16,071	Executive Director
land subject to management arrangements under section 33(2) of the CALM Act	118,653	Executive Director

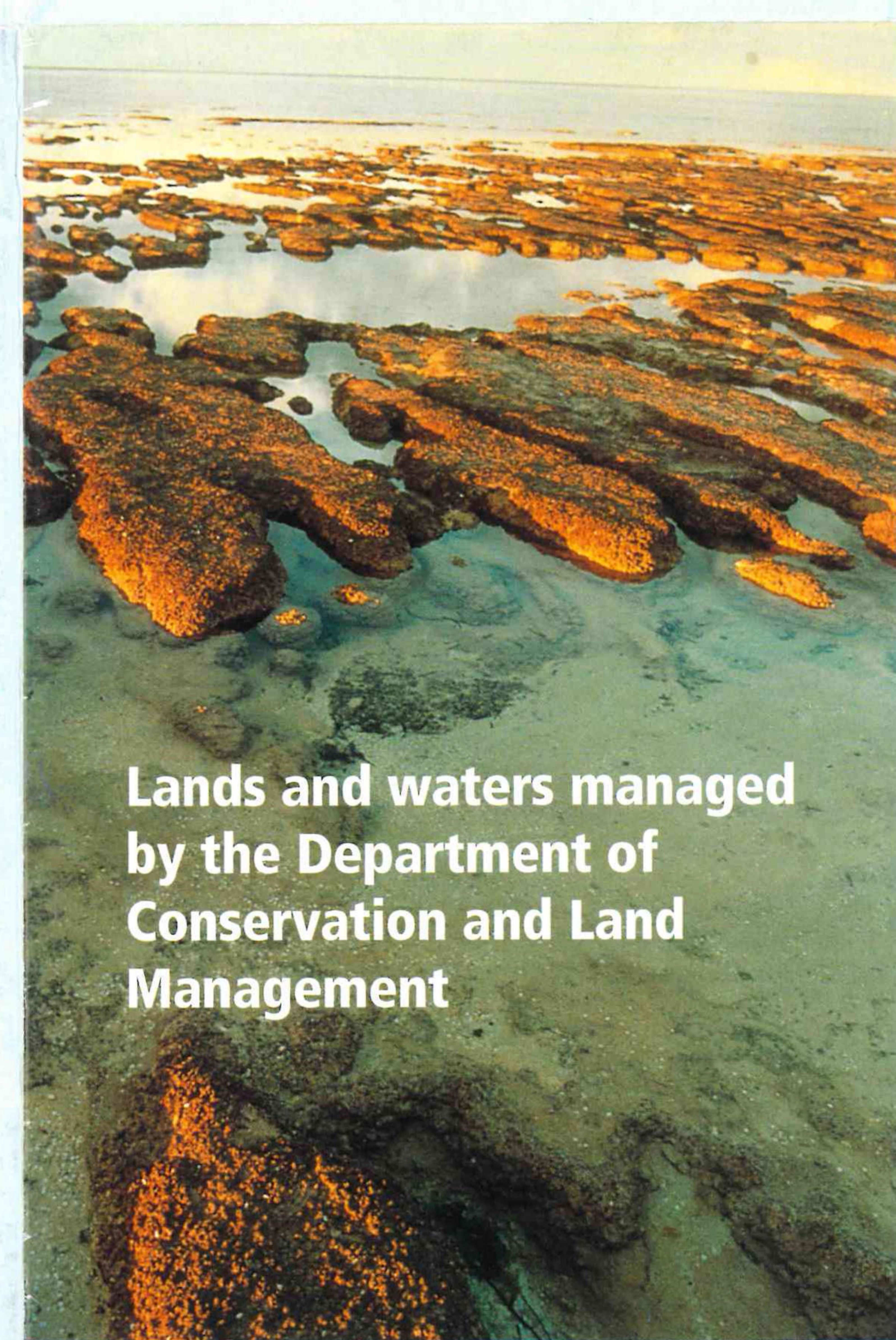
Note: lands managed by CALM in regional parks comprise one or more of the above categories.

CALM also has limited management responsibilities for unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the metropolitan area and townsites, an area totalling 89,151,000 hectares.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact CALM's Land and External Funding Unit, on (08) 9334 0258 or (08) 9334 0220.

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17 Dick Perry Avenue,
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www.naturebase.net

Front: Stomatolites, Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.



Lands and waters managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management

With the responsibility for more than 25 million hectares of lands and waters, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is a major land-management agency in Western Australia.

This brochure provides a brief overview of the categories of lands and waters managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), its role and how most of the areas are classified and reserved.

As an agency with various roles, CALM manages lands and waters to conserve ecosystems and species, including management for the renewable resources they provide, and for the recreation and visitor services they can sustainably support. It does this in partnership with the community, its neighbours and various Government agencies and not-for-profit organisations for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

Administration and management of reserves

Under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LAA), Crown land may be set aside (reserved) for various purposes. A reserve is normally placed under the care, control and management of an appropriate body, such as the local government authority. This process is also referred to as vesting. The administrative work connected with setting aside, classifying or changing reserves dealt with under the LAA is undertaken by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. National parks, conservation parks and nature reserves are created under the LAA.

State forest, timber reserves, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas are created under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), and the necessary administrative work is undertaken by CALM. Under the CALM Act, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest and timber reserves are automatically vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.

Marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas are automatically vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. The Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority are bodies established under the CALM Act.

Some reserves (irrespective of their purpose) are classified under the LAA as class A. This reflects their security of tenure, the level of approval required to alter the reserve's area, purpose or classification. Amendments to reserves that are not class A are authorised by the Minister responsible for the LAA, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

Many amendments to reserves of class A—including changes in purpose and most reductions in area—require the approval or consideration of the State Parliament. National parks and conservation parks, irrespective of whether they are of class A, have the highest level of security of tenure. Nature reserves have the highest level of security of tenure only if they are of class A. Minor amendments to class A reserves, however, do not need to be referred to Parliament, and can be authorised by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. The same applies to additions to and amalgamations of class A reserves.

All existing marine parks and marine nature reserves are class A, as are most national parks and conservation parks. The security of tenure for State forest is equivalent to that of class A reserves, needing Parliament's approval for cancellation or amendment.

Whether or not a reserve is of class A influences also the level of approval needed for mining on the reserve to occur, although all national parks are afforded the highest level of protection regardless of whether or not they are class A.



Ningaloo Marine Park.



Avon Valley National Park.

National parks and conservation parks

National parks are areas that have national significance for scenic, cultural or biological values, and can accommodate recreation that is consistent with maintaining these values. Conservation parks have mostly regional or local, rather than national, significance.

Both are managed to conserve wildlife and the landscape, for scientific study and to preserve features of archaeological, historical or scientific interest and to allow forms of recreation that do not adversely affect their ecosystems or landscapes.



Top: Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park.
Centre: Windjana Gorge National Park.
Bottom: Rowles Lagoon Nature Reserve.

Nature reserves and marine nature reserves

Nature reserves have high conservation value, because they represent natural ecosystems and because they contain or provide habitat for particular species of plants or animals.

Nature reserves are terrestrial areas set aside for the 'Conservation of Flora and Fauna' and they are managed so as to maintain and restore the natural environment, and to protect, care for and promote the study of indigenous flora and fauna. Recreation that does little harm to the environment, such as bushwalking, is allowed.

Marine nature reserves have almost identical management aims. Aquaculture, fishing, pearling and petroleum exploration or production are excluded by the CALM Act. Seismic surveys, however, may be permitted subject to an environmental impact assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority. Recreation and tourism are permitted provided that nothing is collected or taken.

Marine parks

Marine parks are created to protect the area's natural features and maintain its beauty, while enabling compatible recreation and commercial activities.

To manage activities within a marine park, the area may be classified (zoned) into areas for sanctuaries, recreation, special purposes or general use.

Sanctuary zones are 'look but don't take' areas, allowing for recreation and tourism of low impact on the environment. Commercial and recreational fishing, pearling, aquaculture and petroleum production are not permitted.

Recreation zones provide for conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing. Commercial fishing, pearling, aquaculture and petroleum production are not permitted.

Special-purpose zones are managed for a particular priority purpose or use. The purpose may be to protect a particular habitat. The use is usually some established human use, which may be seasonal. Only those uses compatible with the priority use or seasonal event are permitted.

General-use zones are those areas not included in any of the other three zones. Conservation is a priority, but other uses are permitted provided that they do little harm to the environment.

Marine management areas

Marine management areas manage and maintain environments with a high conservation value and multiple uses. The classification of areas under section 62 of the CALM Act in marine management areas facilitates the management of a specific reserve, but this zoning is not mandatory, as it is in marine parks. There are two marine management areas in Western Australia, at the Muiron Islands and Barrow Island.



Above: State forest near Manjimup.
Right: Manta ray at Ningaloo Marine Park.

State forest and CALM Act timber reserves

State forest containing indigenous vegetation is managed for purposes that include recreation and nature conservation, the protection of water catchments, and the production of a sustainable harvest of timber. It also provides for commercial activities such as beekeeping and the harvesting of flora. The harvesting of timber is regulated under the *Forest Products Act 2000*.

State forest containing exotic trees such as pines is managed predominantly for timber production.

Timber reserves created under the CALM Act are managed identically to State forest. Some timber reserves outside the main forest areas are progressively being evaluated for possible change into State forest or conservation reserves.

Reserves under section 5(1)(g) or 5(1)(h) of the CALM Act

These are reserves vested in or placed under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission and managed for a variety of purposes including recreation and conservation (e.g. part of Lane-Poole Reserve). The reserves defined in section 5(1)(g) were created under the *Land Act 1933* and those defined in section 5(1)(h) are created under the *Land Administration Act*.

Regional parks

Regional parks are open spaces identified as having regionally significant value for conservation, landscape and recreation. There are eight regional parks in and around the Perth metropolitan area that protect a range of areas, including foreshores, ocean beaches, wetlands and the Darling Scarp.

Regional parks provide the opportunity for coordinated planning and management by different management agencies and owners of private lands, and CALM works closely with local councils and community groups to manage the areas. Each park has a community advisory committee, which is made up of people from local communities who advocate for the park's management on behalf of the various stakeholders, including conservationists, scientists, friends groups and recreational users.

Regional parks may comprise lands with a variety of tenures. These may include Crown land vested in Commonwealth or State bodies or local government authorities as well as private (freehold) lands where the agreement of the landowner is obtained. They may also include unmanaged reserves or unallocated Crown land.

Management areas under section 33(2) of the CALM Act

Section 33(2) of the CALM Act allows unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves to be managed by CALM, with the agreement of the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

Land subject to agreements under section 16 or 16A of the CALM Act

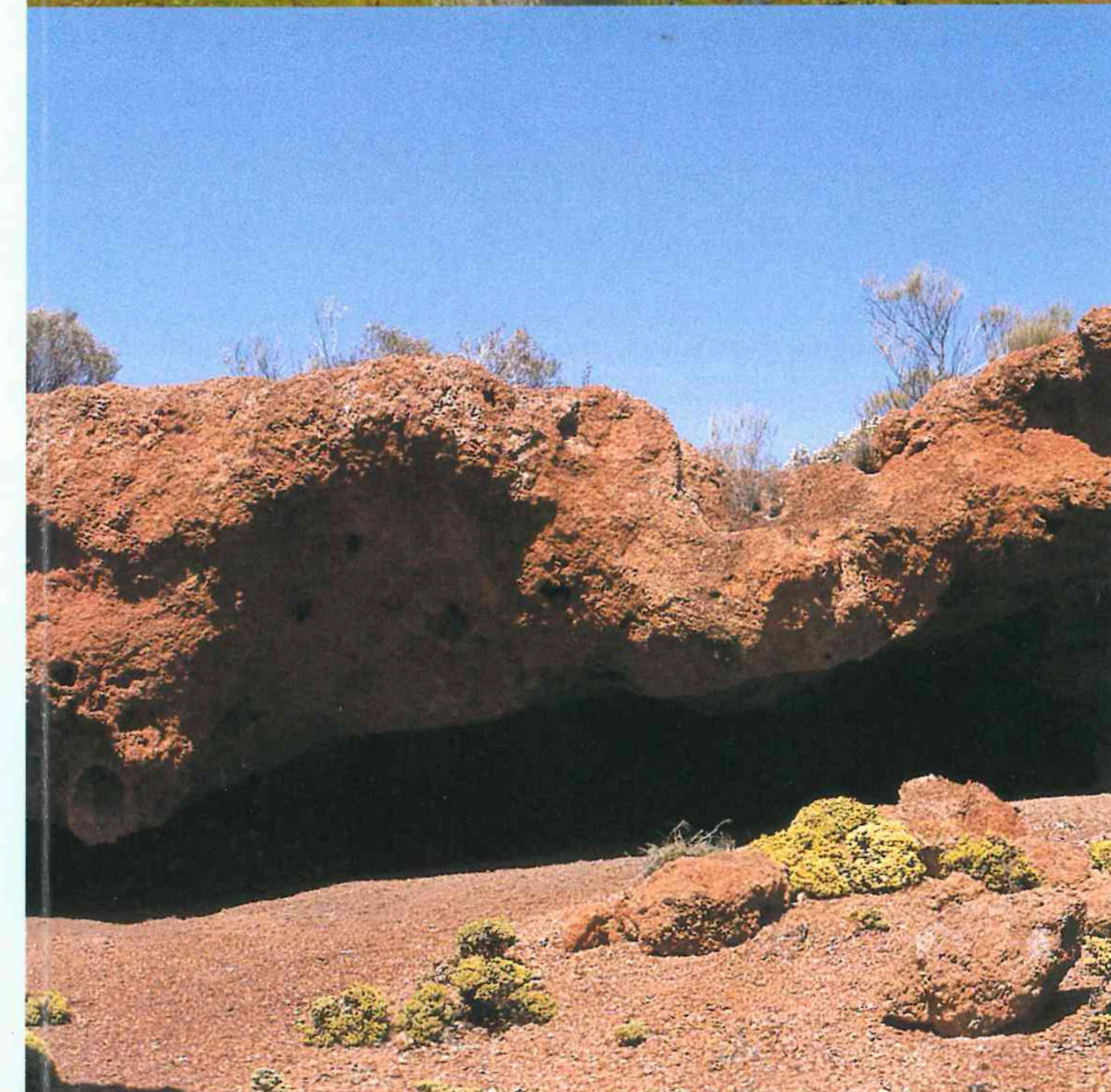
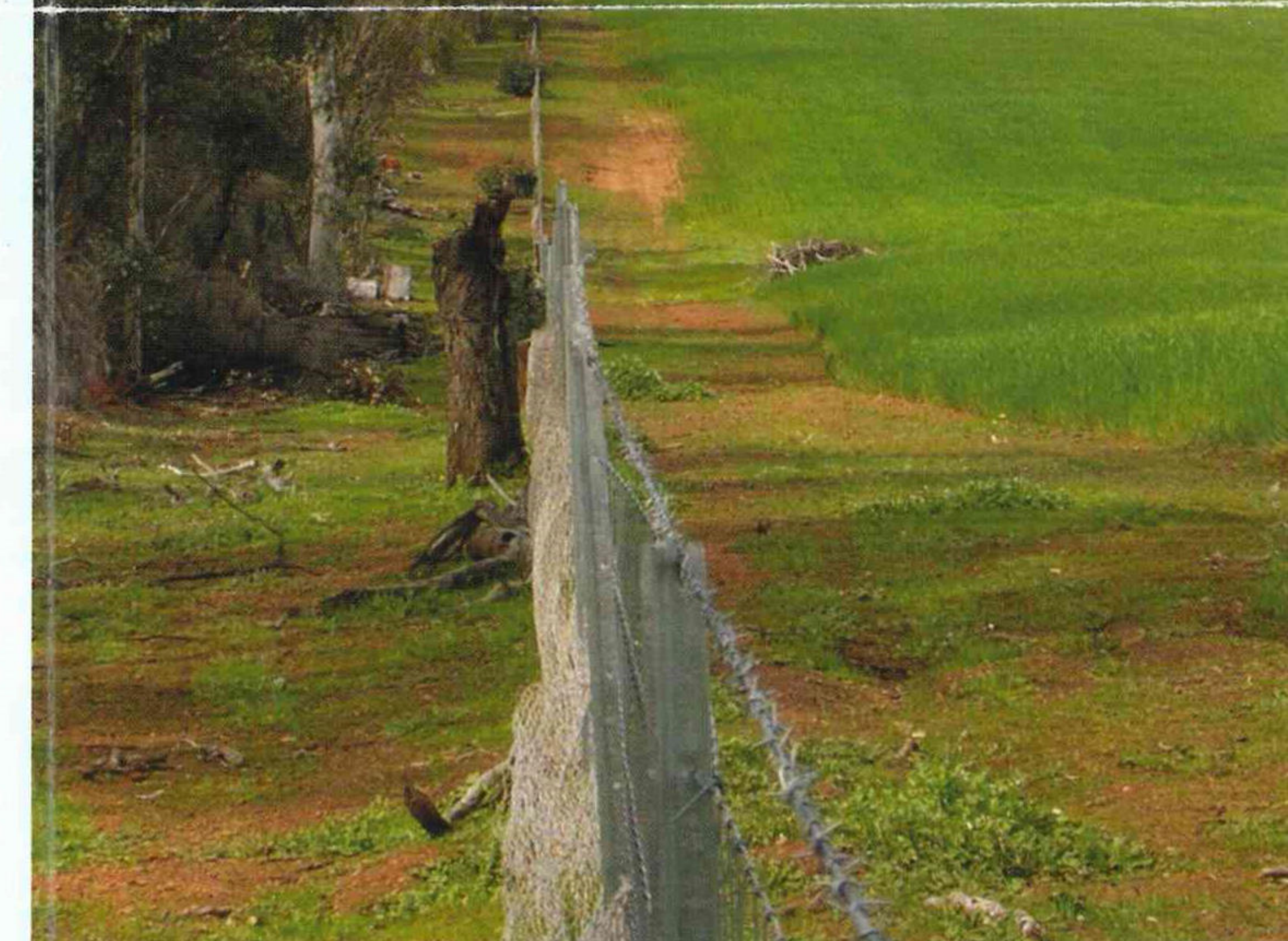
Sections 16 and 16A of the CALM Act allow the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the owner (section 16) or lessee (section 16A) of an area of land for it to be managed by CALM. The bulk of land managed under section 16 is for regional parks. Some portions of pastoral leases are managed under section 16A.

Miscellaneous reserves, freehold land and former leasehold land

Miscellaneous reserves (e.g. departmental office sites) and freehold land can be vested in or held in the name of the Executive Director. Most of the pastoral leases, or parts of pastoral leases, acquired for conservation are managed under interim arrangements prior to their reservation as conservation reserves. Most of the freehold land is used for commercial softwood plantations.

Unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves

Nearly 40 per cent of Western Australia comprises unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves, administered by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CALM and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure relates to these areas outside townsites and the Perth metropolitan region, and provides for CALM to be responsible for preparations to control fire and for the control of weeds and pest animals. The coordination and control of wildfires remains the responsibility of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority and local government authorities.



Top: CALM has an estimated 10,000 neighbours whose properties adjoin CALM-managed land.

Above: Jaurdi Station, one of the former pastoral leases bought as an addition to the conservation reserve system.

