

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 It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

This Department's role in managing land and water

This Department is responsible for managing all lands and waters vested in either of the controlling bodies, the Conservation Commission or the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. The Department also manages some other reserves, freehold land, leasehold land in the name of the Executive Director, and unallocated Crown land.

Management is undertaken according to government policies and the *CALM Act*, and as specified in any approved management plans for the particular area. These management plans must be approved by the relevant controlling body.

The Department manages the lands and waters shown in the following table

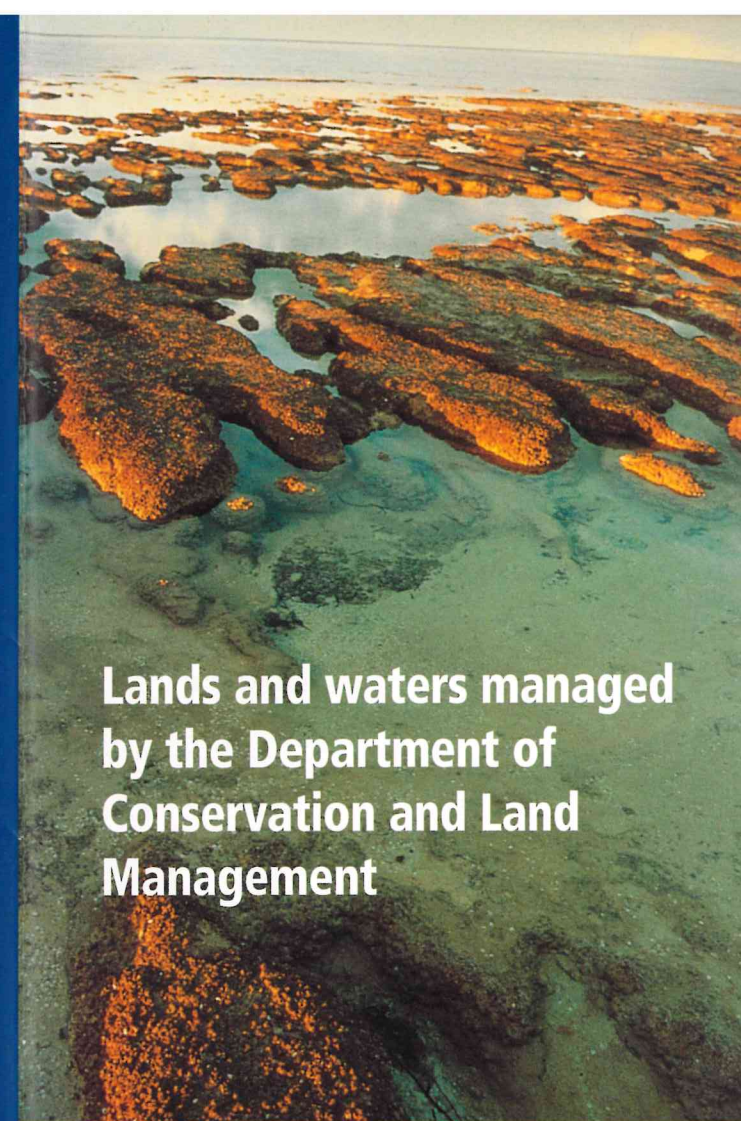
Category	Controlling Body
National park	Conservation Commission
Conservation park	Conservation Commission
Nature reserve	Conservation Commission
Reserves under section 5(1)(g) or 5(1)(h) of the <i>CALM Act</i>	Conservation Commission
State forest	Conservation Commission
Timber reserves, <i>CALM Act</i>	Conservation Commission
Marine nature reserves	Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
Marine parks	Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
Marine management areas	Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
Miscellaneous reserves	Executive Director
Leasehold and former leasehold	Executive Director
Freehold land	Executive Director
Land subject to management agreements under sections 16 and 16A of the <i>CALM Act</i>	Executive Director
Land subject to management arrangements under section 33(2) of the <i>CALM Act</i>	Executive Director

Areas of land or water managed by this Department, as at 30 June 2003

	(hectares)
National parks	5,095,378
Conservation parks	704,216
Nature reserves	10,827,256
State forest	1,729,974
Timber reserves	141,434
Reserves under section 5(1)(g) or 5(1)(h) of the <i>CALM Act</i>	230,613
Marine parks	1,013,940
Marine nature reserves	132,000
Marine management areas	0
Miscellaneous reserves	12,833
Freehold	26,603
Land subject to agreements under section 16 or 16A of the <i>CALM Act</i>	16,010
Leasehold; formerly leasehold; and land managed under section 33(2) of the <i>CALM Act</i> .	4,777,164
Total	24,707,421

If you have any further enquiries please contact the Conservation Estate Officers on (08) 9334 0258 or (08) 9334 0220. Department of Conservation and Land Management
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington Western Australia 6151
Telephone (08) 9334 0333

Photo Front Cover: Stromatolites, Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.



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

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

This brochure provides a brief overview of the categories of land or water managed by this Department, the role of this Department and how most of the areas are classified and reserved.

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. 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 this Department.

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 (future) marine management areas are automatically vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. The Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority are the controlling 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 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.

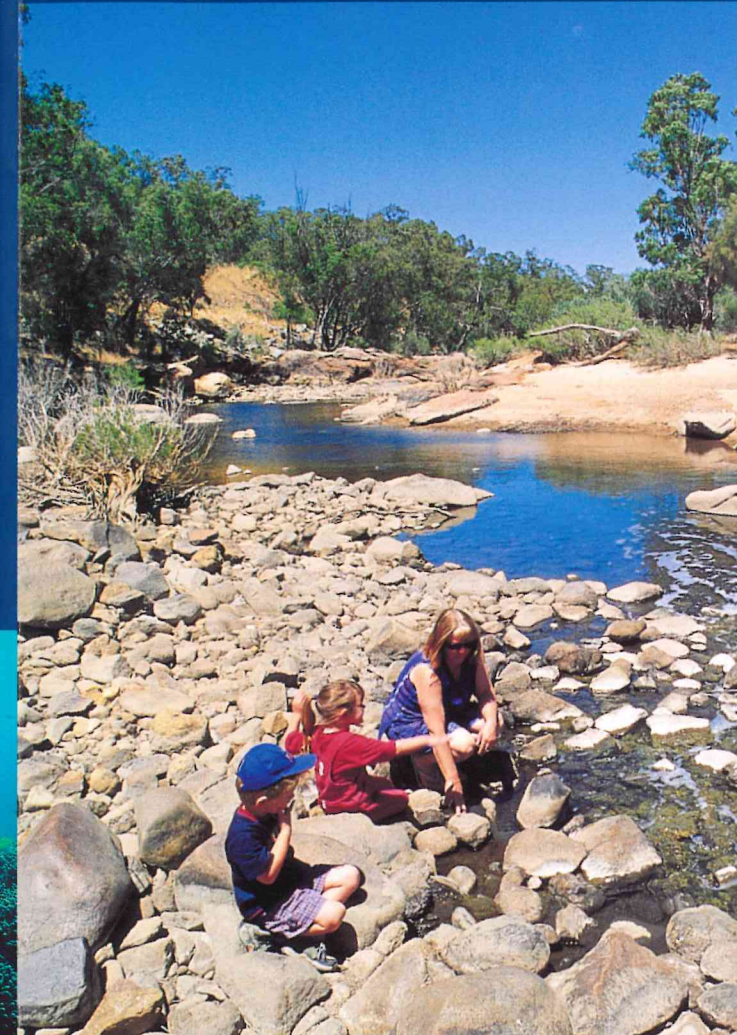
Minor amendments to class A reserves, however, do not need to be referred to Parliament, and can be authorised by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. The same applies to additions to and amalgamations of class A reserves.

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.



Above: Ningaloo Marine Park.



Above: People enjoying the outdoors in the Avon River.

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 are managed identically to national parks but mostly have 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. The sale of cut timber is allowed only in the limited circumstances specified under the *CALM Act*; for example, if the trees are exotic. The picking of wildflowers is excluded.



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 the 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, often 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

As yet there have been no marine management areas created in Western Australia. Any created will be managed to protect the marine environment, so that it may be used for conservation, recreation, scientific study and commercial purposes, including aquaculture, fishing, pearling, mining and petroleum extraction.

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

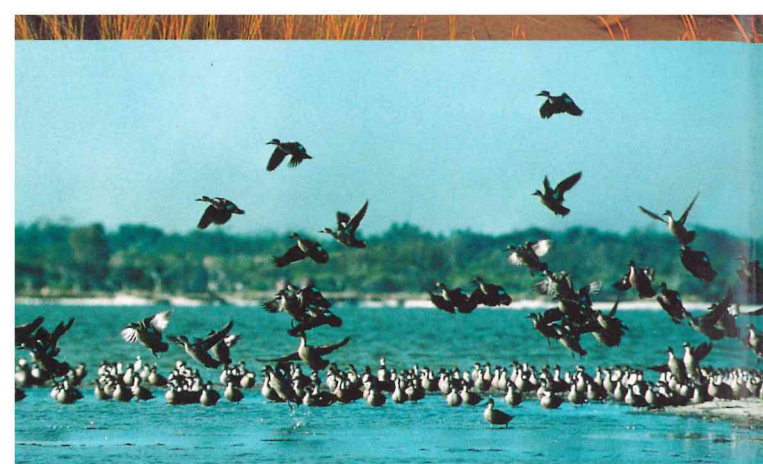
CALM Act timber reserves are managed identically to State forest. Some timber reserves outside the main forest areas are progressively being evaluated for possible change into State forest or conservation reserves.

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 1997*.

The cutting of timber is restricted to circumstances specified under the *CALM Act* but the picking of wildflowers is allowed (under licence).





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, either because they represent natural ecosystems or because they contain or provide habitat for particular species of plant or animal.

Nature reserves are terrestrial areas set aside for the purpose '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. The picking of wildflowers is excluded. 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.



Top: Diving with stingrays at Ningaloo Marine Park.
Above: State forest near Manjimup.

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 activities such as beekeeping and picking wildflowers. The harvesting of timber is regulated under the *Forest Products Act 2000*.



Top: Woodman Point Regional Park.
Above: Jaurdi Station, 120 kilometres north-west of Coolgardie.

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

Section 33(2) of the *CALM Act* allows unallocated Crown land and unvested reserves to be managed by this Department, 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 this Department. The bulk of land managed under section 16 is for regional parks. Some portions of pastoral leases are managed under section 16A.

Miscellaneous reserve, leasehold land, former leasehold, and freehold land

Miscellaneous reserves (e.g. Departmental office sites), freehold land and land under pastoral lease can be vested or held in the name of the Executive Director. Most of the Department's former pastoral leases are currently managed under interim arrangements prior to their reservation as conservation reserves. Most of the freehold land is used for commercial softwood forestry.