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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Introducing the Conservation Commission of Western Australia



For the first time, all of the State's national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves are vested in one body: the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.

The creation of the Commission introduces a new era for the management of conservation lands.

The State Government's decision to establish the Conservation Commission and a Forest Products Commission ensures that the competing needs of land conservation and commercial forestry are separated.

Responsibilities for both activities were previously held by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The Department has been restructured and the implementation of reserve management plans by the new Department of Conservation and Land Management will be audited by the Conservation Commission. Similarly, that audit role will apply to the activities of the Forest Products Commission under the forest management plan.

The legislation under which these changes have been made sets an innovative, creative and progressive vision for the State's conservation areas, particularly its forests.

Cheryl Edwardes MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT





Western Australians take enormous interest and pride in their natural environment. The members of the new Conservation Commission, most of whom are community based, take up their positions with this very much in mind.

The Commission will develop policies to protect the natural environment for this and future generations.

With this as our goal, the Commission will advise the Minister for the Environment on the management of native flora and fauna. This will include the management of State forests and timber reserves under the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management.

One of our key tasks will be to promote and facilitate community involvement in the management of the conservation estate—including the development of new opportunities for visitors to this estate—and the protection and enhancement of nature conservation values across the State.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Ansell".

Campbell Ansell
CHAIR, CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Introducing the Commissioners

The inaugural members of the Conservation Commission are:

- Campbell Ansell (Chair), Company Director
- Tom Day (Deputy Chair), Chair of the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA)
- Pat Barblett, Founder and Chair of Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism and member of the former NPNCA
- Dr Jennifer Davis, Head of School of Environmental Science at Murdoch University
- Glen Kelly, Project Officer with the Aboriginal Lands Trust
- Barbara Morrell, Farmer in the Shire of Kent and member of the State Salinity Council
- Graeme Rundle, Secretary of the WA National Parks and Reserves Association, member of the Conservation Council of WA and member of the former NPNCA
- Rodney Safstrom, Environmental Consultant and Chair of Greening Australia
- Dr Joanna Young, Consultant on forest pathology and forest management





The Conservation Commission's key functions include:

- to be a Ministerial advisory and policy development body;
- to be a vesting body for all terrestrial conservation areas, including national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves;
- to submit management plans for vested lands to the Minister for the Environment;
- to develop policies to protect the State's natural environment and for the appreciation and enjoyment of that environment by the community;
- to promote and facilitate community involvement;
- to advise the Minister on management of native flora and fauna;
- to recommend guidelines for ecotourism;
- to set performance criteria for assessing and auditing the performance of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Forest Products Commission in carrying out and complying with management plans;
- to advise the Minister on the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management in the management of State forests and timber reserves and forest produce throughout the State; and
- to commission research for the purposes of its policy development function, with Ministerial approval.





The Conservation Commission of Western Australia has nine members appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment. Members are appointed on the basis of a particular function or vocational interest relevant to the Conservation Commission's functions, or for their knowledge and experience in:

- biodiversity conservation;
- environmental management (including managing the natural environment for recreational purposes);
- the sustainable use of natural resources.

One member is to have knowledge of and experience in Aboriginal culture and heritage relevant to the functions of the Conservation Commission.

Department of Conservation and Land Management staff and Forest Products Commission members and staff are ineligible for appointment as members of the Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission will employ its own staff, including a management audit unit that will oversee the Department of Conservation and Land Management's implementation of management plans, and the Forest Products Commission's harvesting activities under the forest management plan. The Conservation Commission will be able to contract for professional, technical and other assistance as required.

The Commission will receive funding from the Consolidated Fund and will be subject to the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. The Commission will report annually to the Parliament regarding its activities.

Contact the Conservation Commission at:

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