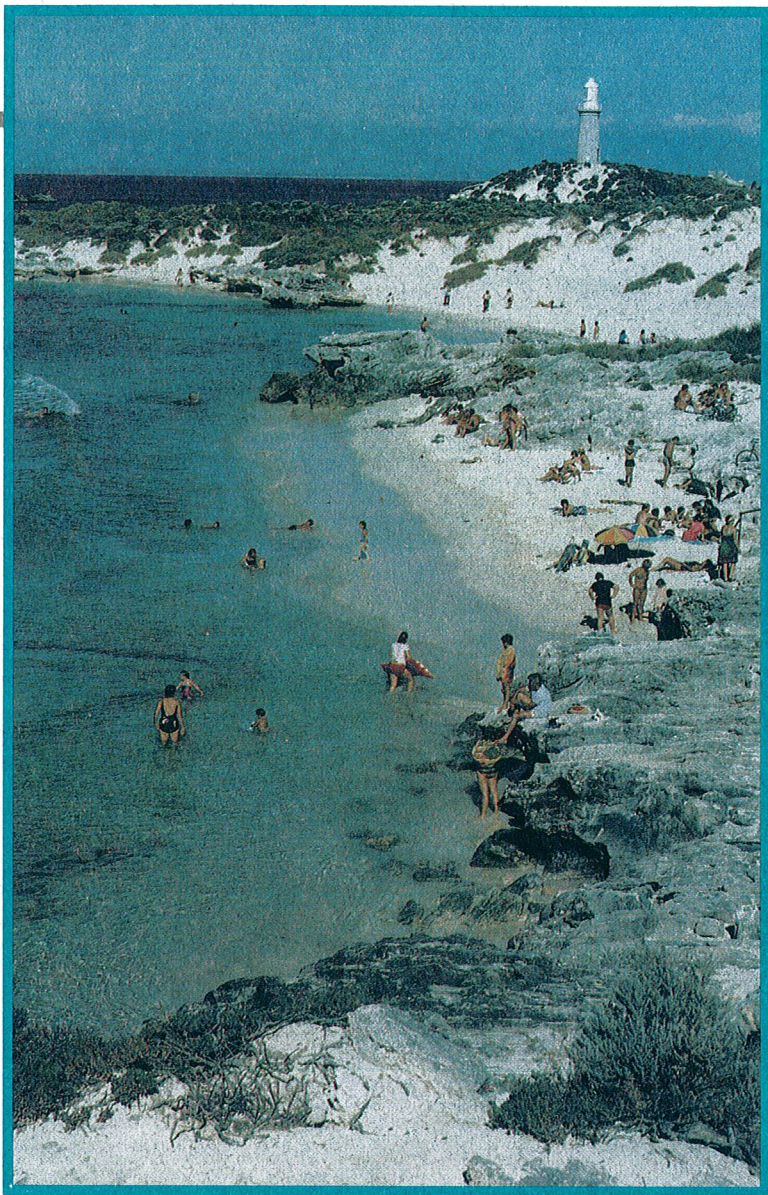


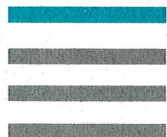
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The Environmental Charter for Western Australia



Introduction

We should learn to think of the environment in personal terms.

We are all custodians of the land, air and water that sustain us.

The care and intelligence and sensitivity that we bring to their management will determine how well we live and what sort of future we offer our children. Each of us has a personal stake in this.

The Environmental Charter for Western Australia is a unique document that seeks the commitment of all of us as a community to a set of principles for environmental management.

Its fundamental aims are to conserve our living resources and to allow only those developments that can be sustained by our environment.

It provides a wide range of measures for monitoring the health of our environment, enforcing standards and reporting regularly and fully to the community.

The principles of the Charter will guide us as individuals and as a community in our dual obligations as custodians and developers of Western Australia's resources.

They bind the Western Australian Government to the highest standards of environmental care demanded by an enlightened community.

I commend the Charter to you.



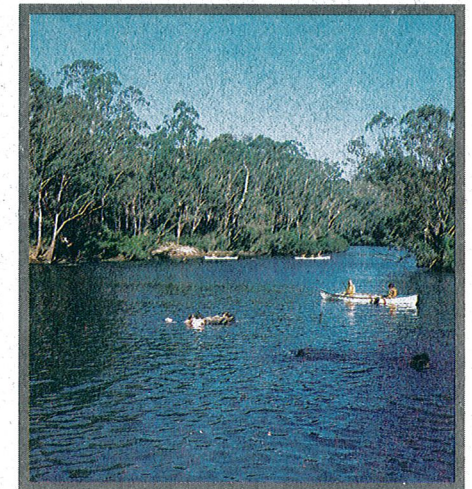
**Bob Pearce MLA,
Minister for Environment**



Goals

From the State Conservation Strategy, the key environmental protection goals for the State are:-

- maintaining life processes - which involves:
 - maintaining life support systems by protecting things which sustain life (air, water and soil);
 - maintaining essential ecological processes; and
 - preserving genetic diversity.
- and optimising the quality of life - which involves:
 - allowing sustainable development which adds to our quality of life; and
 - providing for our economic, social, cultural and aesthetic values in areas like lifestyle, education, recreation and cultural interests.



The Environmental Charter for Western Australia

Ten guiding principles to help us maintain life processes and optimise our quality of life

First principle – Development in Western Australia should be sustainable. It should not exceed the environment's capacity to assimilate its impacts. It should never jeopardise the well-being of future generations.

Second principle – Western Australians have the right to know about and take part in major decisions affecting the environment.

Third principle – Western Australians have a right to clean air.

Fourth principle – Western Australians have a right to clean water.

Fifth principle – Western Australians should live in areas safe from industrial risks.

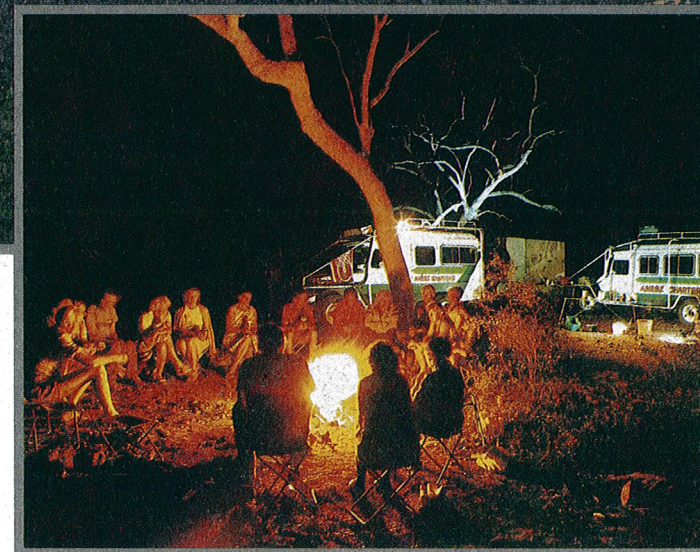
Sixth principle – Topsoil should be protected from erosion, contamination and salination.

Seventh principle – Wetlands, groundwater, lakes, rivers, estuaries and nearshore ocean environments should be kept clean and healthy.

Eighth principle – The special values of the coastal zone should be protected.

Ninth principle – Designated areas adequate to meet Western Australians' requirements for conservation and recreation should be protected.

Tenth principle – The polluter pays for environmental harm.





Action

The Government has sought assistance from the Environmental Protection Authority to implement the Environmental Charter. The Environmental Protection Authority has proposed four levels of action for achieving the goals:-

- Preparing Environmental Protection Policies and Regulations. (EPPs already under way cover CFC emissions, sulphur dioxide emissions and groundwater protection. EPPs involve public consultation and final Government approval).
- Preparing Guidelines and Environmental Codes of Practice for areas not covered by EPPs or Regulations (Codes of Practice are currently being developed for extractive industries, concrete batching plants, cement product works, asphalt plants, rendering works and cattle feedlots).



- Assessing development proposals to ensure they comply with the Goals and Principles of the Charter; and
- Controlling pollution by licensing, monitoring and policing.

Environmental Indicators

Agencies across the Government will work to identify and use a set of environmental indicators to measure the effectiveness with which goals are met.

Already many Government Departments regularly measure important indicators such as air quality, water quality, stream flow and salinity. The range of indicators being measured includes:-

- air quality - dust and lead in metropolitan Perth, sulphur dioxide in Kalgoorlie and in suburbs near Kwinana, carbon monoxide at Kwinana and Perth, and fluoride at Midland;
- water quality - quality of domestic water supplies, quality of effluents from treatment plants, nutrient content and salinity of major flows into the Swan river, Peel/Harvey Estuary, Leschenault Inlet, the Albany Harbours, and inlets to the west of Albany;
- rate of loss of productive land (erosion, salinity, contamination);

- area of clearing/tree-planting;
- loss/protection of rare or endangered plants and animals;
- changes in the area of land in parks and reserves, and State forest;
- health indicators of wetlands and estuaries;
- percentage of rubbish recycled - paper, aluminium, glass;
- energy consumption;
- water consumption;

More measures will be developed to cover all the key indicators.

The annual results of these measurements will be published in a report of the state of the environment. Each report will also contain details of any significant environmental events during the year (such as the Government's plan to use recycled paper or details of the clean-up of an oil spill).



Community Feelings

Scientific measurements provide an important knowledge base on the state of our environment. But they do not provide the whole picture. Our relationship with our environment is also formed by instinct and emotion.

Community views will be sought to complement the base of scientific information. Observations of people with special feelings for or views on our environment will be included in assessments for our annual report. After all, much of our appreciation of our natural surroundings is aesthetic and emotional and these feelings warrant expression and consideration.

How can you help?

This Charter affirms that the environment is everybody's business. Your contribution to caring for the environment is important.

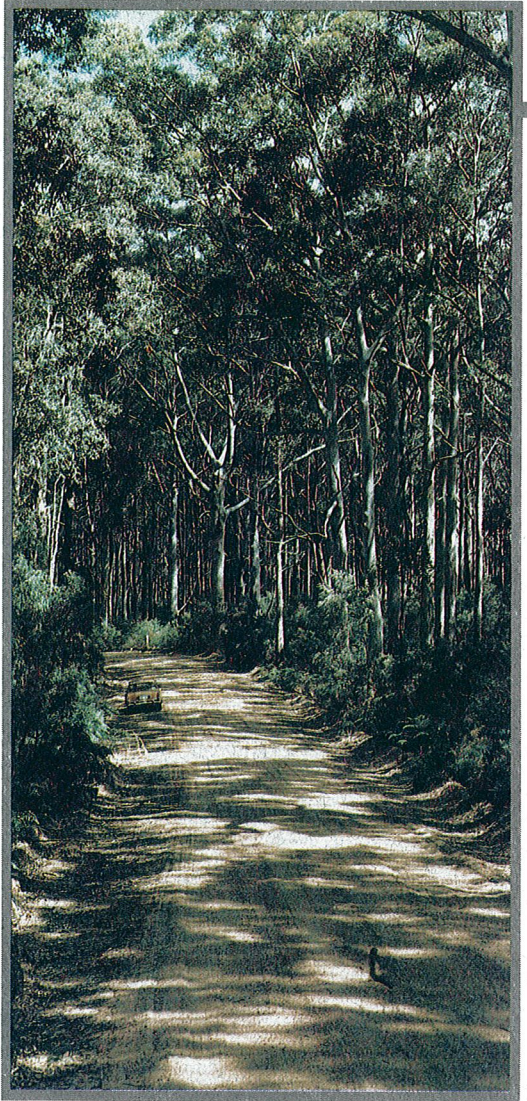
If you have suggestions on how to help in protecting our environment:-

Contact :-

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77 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000



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