

# Annual Report

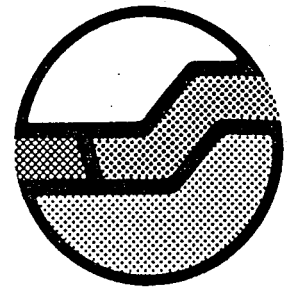
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National Parks  
and  
Nature Conservation  
Authority

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**1987/88**

NATIONAL PARKS AND  
NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



HON MINISTER FOR  
CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Section 62 of the Financial Administration & Audit Act 1985, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for year ending 30 June 1988.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norm Halse'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Norm Halse  
CHAIRMAN

5 October 1989

DH/dh

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# THE NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 1987/88

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## Chairman's Report

This report covers the third full year of activity by the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. I am pleased to introduce the report with my Chairman's review of our 1987/88 year of activity.

I believe that the Authority has had a successful year, I know that it has had a diligent one in which it conscientiously addressed itself to its important responsibilities. As well as having the vested responsibility for the nature conservation estate of Western Australia the Authority has been very much involved in its duties to develop policies with respect to nature conservation and the recreational use of the conservation estate. The other major activity arises from its responsibility for management plans for this conservation estate.

Some of the very difficult policy issues addressed during the year included appropriate fire management regimes for the various categories of land vested in the Authority, the issues of Aboriginal people's hunting rights in national parks and nature reserves, and the role of captive breeding as a possible management tool for endangered species. Other difficult topics debated by the Authority included road works and other management activities in vested land prior to the completion of a management plan, management plans for species subject to such plans such as kangaroos, and categories of reserves.

There are now very many people in Western Australia with a strong and sincere interest in nature conservation. I know that these people have a right to look to the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for support in pursuing their objectives. I also know that many of them feel a little disappointed because they do not hear a lot about our activities.

I am afraid that this is unavoidable. Although the Authority represents the principal mechanism for community input into government decision-making for national parks and nature conservation, its responsibility is to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management. When the Authority gives its advice to the Minister it cannot immediately tell the world what that advice is. There is a privilege in being able to directly advise government; but there has to be an associated responsibility.

Nevertheless the Authority recognises the need for its role to be better known to the community. If it is better known it will receive increased input and thus carry out its role more effectively. All of the members of the Authority recognise this and we hope to bring about improvements in our interaction with the public.

Finally I wish, in this review, to thank my fellow members who worked hard and long hours on each meeting day, to carry our duties and meet our responsibilities. Like any community input group we come from a range of interest groups but I believe we have worked together harmoniously and constructively through the past year.

### Statutory Basis

The Authority was established as a Controlling Body under Section 21 of the Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984.

The Authority is responsible to the Hon Minister for Conservation and Land Management.

Note - Except where otherwise indicated the terms 'the Minister', 'the Department' and 'the Act' used in this report will refer to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

### Authority Membership

The Authority is made up of 14 members who are appointed under the provisions of Sections 23(1) and 23(2) of Act, comprising:

- (1) a) Four ex officio members being -
  - (i) the Executive Director;
  - (ii) the Director of Nature Conservation;
  - (iii) the Director of National Parks;
  - (iv) the Director of Forests;
- b) Ten persons appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister, of whom -
  - (i) two shall be representative of voluntary organisations having a special interest in conservation, being organisations that are affiliated with the Conservation Council of Western Australia Inc.;
  - (ii) two shall be representative of voluntary organisations having a special interest in the use of land, flora and fauna for recreation purposes;
  - (iii) one shall be representative of tertiary education institutions in the State and shall be a person with special knowledge of, and experience in, a discipline relevant to nature conservation;
  - (iv) one shall be representative of bodies or persons the members of which, by reason of their profession, are concerned with nature conservation;

- (v) two shall be representative of local government and shall be at the time of nomination elected members of a local authority;
- (vi) one shall be representative of fishing interests; and
- (vii) one shall be a person employed in the Department, not being an ex officio member, whose duties relate principally to the management of land vested in the Authority.

(2) One of the members appointed under subsection (1)(b) shall, on the nomination of the Minister, be appointed by the Governor as chairman and another as deputy chairman.

#### Ex Officio Members of the Department

- (1)(a)(i) Dr S R Shea, Executive Director.
- (1)(a)(ii) Dr B R Wilson, Director of Nature Conservation.
- (1)(a)(iii) Mr C D Haynes, Director of National Parks.
- (1)(a)(iv) Mr P N Hewett, Director of Forests.

#### Appointed Members

- (1)(b)(i) Mr N J Halse, Chairman  
Dr E M Mattiske
- (1)(b)(ii) Mrs M I Blackwell  
Mr I J Maley
- (1)(b)(iii) Dr J M Bailey, Deputy Chairman
- (1)(b)(iv) Mr R Aitken, OAM
- (1)(b)(v) Mr J H Towie  
Mr A J Fewster
- (1)(b)(vi) Mr W R Bailey (resigned during the year)  
Mr G Leyland (replaced Mr Bailey, appointed 30 April, 1988)
- (1)(b)(vii) Mr R Neal

#### The Functions and Objectives of the Authority

The functions of the Authority are prescribed in Section 22(1) of the Act and are:

- (a) to have vested in it national parks, nature reserves, marine nature reserves, marine parks and relevant land referred to it in section 5(g) and to have the joint function provided for by section 7(4);
- (b) to develop policies -
  - (i) for the preservation of the natural environment of the State and the provision of facilities for enjoyment of that environment by the community;
  - (ii) for promoting the appreciation of flora and fauna and the natural environment; and

- (iii) to achieve or promote the objectives described in section 56(1)(c), (d) and (e);
- (c) to consider, in accordance with section 17, any cancellation, change of purpose or boundary alteration in respect of land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Authority;
- (d) to submit proposed management plans to the Minister as provided in Part V in respect of land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Authority;
- (e) to monitor the carrying out of management plans by the Department in respect of land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Authority;
- (f) to advise the Minister on the development of policies for the conservation and management of the flora and fauna of the State, whether on public land or private land;
- (g) to inquire into and, subject to subsection (4), to advise the Minister on any matter on which the advice of the Authority is sought by the Minister;
- (h) to provide advice, upon request, on matters relating to land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Authority to any body or person, if the provision of advice is in the public interest and it is practicable for the Authority to provide it; and
- (i) with the approval of the Minister, to cause study or research to be undertaken for the purposes of paragraph (b).

The objectives of the Authority are to maintain close liaison with the Minister, the Department and the public in matters pertaining to those areas which are vested in it.

#### Land Vested in the Authority

Under Section 22 (1) (a) and (c) of the Act, the Authority is the vesting body for conservation reserves and is to consider any cancellation and change of purpose or boundary proposed for its vested lands.

##### (a) Area vested

The Authority wrote to the Minister and congratulated the Government on the action taken to create the Tuart Forest National Park and to move towards creating the Shannon National Park.

During the year the net area of national parks vested in the Authority increased by some 2374 hectares. During the same time, the area of nature reserves, marine parks, and conservation/recreation reserves increased by 9867 hectares.

Further details of these areas are embodied in the Annual Report of the Department.

(b) Proposed Changes for Vested Lands

As the vesting body, the Authority took action on proposals put to it, as follows -

- . Kalbarri National Park - Approved issue of a licence for a Telecom radio station.
- . Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserve (A36915) - Approved the excision of 362 square metres for an existing helipad site on Rosemary Island to be used by the Federal Department of Transport.
- . Tutanning Nature Reserve - Approved proposed land exchange which will increase the reserve's area by 3.4 ha and improve boundary management.
- . Carnac Island Nature Reserve - Approved placement of a navigation beacon subject to measures to protect wildlife.
- . South Eneabba Nature Reserve - Consent given to the granting of an easement over an in-situ SEC gas pipeline.
- . Banksia Road Nature Reserve - Opposed a road proposed by the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale. Factors considered were the reserve's already small area, clearing pressures on nearby private land and the reserve's vegetation type which is not well represented on other near-urban conservation reserves.
- . Executive Director freehold land adjacent to the Mogumber Nature Reserve (A38649) - Approved the future reinstatement of an easement to allow the freehold to be created as a nature reserve. The grantee of the easement has agreed to temporarily withdraw the easement to allow the land to be reserved.
- . Bedout Island Nature Reserve - Approved permission for the Federal Department of Administrative Services to undertake a survey to facilitate a proposed land exchange to amend the boundary of a small lighthouse reserve within the A Class nature reserve.
- . Boodalan Island Nature Reserve - Approval given to dispose of dredging spoil which will increase the useable bird habitat and will not destroy existing vegetation. Boodalan Island within the Peel Inlet was created by dredging spoil.
- . John Forrest National Park - Approval given to allow excision of an area to allow roadwork to provide safer access from Great Eastern Highway.
- . Yalgorup National Park - Approval given for an amendment to the road reserve within the national park to recognise the existing alignment, subject to a survey of that alignment.

(c) Leases for petroleum operations

- . Subject to changes recommended, the Authority approved the lease between the Department and West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) for tank farm operations on the Thevenard Island Nature Reserve.
- . The Authority requested the Department to collaborate with WAPET in producing an environmental management programme for the Company's oil activities on the Barrow Island Nature Reserve. The Department was also asked to explore the possibility of preparing a management plan under the Act for non-petroleum activities on Barrow Island.

Information was also sought on any disturbance caused by apparently unnecessary tracks.

- . Conditions additional to those proposed by the Authority were considered for the lease required between the Department and Western Mining for oil operations on Airlie Island, a proposed nature reserve. It was later accepted that a shielded flare for the Airlie Island oil operations was not feasible.

(d) Other Land Issues

- . Approval was given for the Sugar Loaf Rock Nature Reserve to be declared a prohibited area under section 62(1)(a) of the Act, to give extra protection to the breeding sites of the Red-tailed Tropic Bird.
- . The Minister was informed of the Authority's concern regarding a proposed subdivision of a private property lot within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
- . The Authority was briefed on lease fees for yacht clubs on the Authority's land, recognising that the Department imposes and amends lease fees.

**Policy Development**

Under Section 22(1)(b) of the Act the Authority is required to develop relevant policies, as follows.

(a) Kangaroo Management

The report of the Authority Fauna Committee for kangaroo management was considered and the Authority -

- i) Agreed in principle to the submission of 1988 management programs for Red and Western Grey Kangaroos to the Minister for forwarding to the Commonwealth Minister. It also delegated to the Fauna Committee the task of considering the draft management programs and making recommendations on their contents -
- ii) Agreed in principle to the submission of appropriate quotas for Red and Western Grey Kangaroos for 1988 and delegated to the Fauna Committee the task of making recommendations on the actual quota levels.



iii) Agreed to refer to the Minister two options for Euros.

The Authority also noted the proposed Government Gazette notice of the open season for the Red and Western Grey Kangaroo and the Euro, which will represent a change to shooting practices.

(b) Duck Shooting

The report of the Authority Fauna Committee on duck shooting was considered and the Authority recommended to the Minister that -

- i) A closed season be adopted State-wide for the 1988 season, with the exception being the retention of the open season for the Mountain Duck (Australian Shelduck) on private property. No advice could be given on the longer term status of duck shooting.
- ii) A reserve category of 'game reserve' be provided. Following a review, those nature reserves zoned for duck shooting be amended to be game reserves.

(c) Wilderness Policy

A sub-committee of the Authority was formed to begin to draft a policy for wilderness areas.

(d) Membership of the Authority's Fauna Committee

Advice was provided to the Conservation Council on the membership of the above Committee. It was also agreed that the sub-committee for duck shooting matters be disbanded after having given its report to the Authority.

(e) Policy General

The Authority considered preliminary issues relating to World Heritage Listing and the compatibility of Aboriginal occupancy of national parks and nature reserves with nature conservation values. Advice was also sought on the Authority's role with regard to planning appeals and mining warden matters.

The Minister was advised of the Authority's desire for an additional member to be added to Authority, being a person representative of Aboriginal interests.

The production of the Authority's own policies relating to national parks and nature reserves was proposed.

Submission of Management Plans

Under Section 22(1)(d) of the Act the Authority is required to submit management plans for lands vested in it to the Minister. This task has been a significant portion of the Authority's workload.

During the year the Authority forwarded to the Minister for approval, the following final management plans:

- . Benger Swamp Nature Reserve
- . Cape Range National Park
- . Shannon Park and D' Entrecasteaux National Park
- . Northern Forest Region
- . Central Forest Region
- . Southern Forest Region

The Minister approved the above final plans during the year.

The Authority approved the following draft plans for release for public comment.

- . Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park
- . Yanchep National Park
- . Ningaloo Marine Park

The Authority has considered the preliminary planning objectives for the following draft plans.

- . Dampier Archipelago nature reserves
- . Bungle Bungle National Park

Changes proposed to the fire management component of the Lane Poole Reserve final plan were also discussed with the Authority.

Interim fire management programs for national parks were made available by the Department for the Authority's consideration.

The greater part of the preparation of management plans was carried out by the Department, and in particular, the planning staff. The Authority appreciates the work done on its behalf and thanks the staff involved for their assistance and cooperation.

In related planning issues, the Authority made a formal submission to the Shark Bay Region Plan, jointly produced by the State Planning Commission and the Department.

The Authority also corresponded with the Shire of Ravensthorpe on road access to the Shire's Hamersley Inlet reserve and the relationship with the Fitzgerald River National Park draft management plan being prepared.

#### Advice to the Minister, Department and others

Under section 22(1)(f), (g) and (h) of the Act, the Authority may provide advice to the Minister or any body or person which largely involves advice to the Department.

The Authority considered the following management and policy issues and provided advice to the Minister, the Department and other bodies, where appropriate.

- . Concern for the survival of the Chudich (Dasyurus geoffroii).

- . Spring burning by the Department of the Monadnocks conservation reserve, which was agreed to be appropriate with the Department's fire policy endorsed by the Authority.
- . Concern for the taking of Dugong in the Shark Bay area by Aborigines.
- . Midge control.
- . Options to rebuild the west side of Lake Dumbleyung, which were agreed should be considered in the management plan for the nature reserve.
- . Australian Sealion research.
- . Management of a threatened roadside population of the declared rare flora species Banksia goodii.
- . Roadwork and dieback disease management in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
- . Approval was given for a commercial glass-bottom boat to operate in the Ningaloo Marine Park.
- . Management options for an Australian Sealion which was resisting attempts to return it to the wild.
- . Protection from fire of private property near vested lands.
- . Accelerated tourism pressures on the Prince Regent Nature Reserve, with recommended closer management for the area.
- . The need for an inter-Departmental working group to advance the Conservation Through Reserves Committee (Red Book) recommendations.

A submission was made by the Authority to the discussion paper 'A Strategy for Water Allocation in the Perth-Bunbury Region', produced by the WA Water Resources Council.

Comment was provided to the State Planning Commission on the November 1987 report 'Planning for the Future of the Perth Metropolitan Region'.

The following Departmental policies were endorsed, with recommendations made where applicable:-

- . Marine and estuarine reserves system;
- . Prescribed burning in forest areas;
- . Captive breeding/cultivation of endangered species and their re-establishment or relocation in the wild. This policy was requested by the Authority;
- . Conservation and management of Emus. Concern was expressed as to the effects of Emu poisoning on non-target species;

- . Annual revision of the schedule of declared rare flora;
- . Protection of geological sites, with a recommendation that the Department consider the need to amend the CALM Act to provide protection for such sites.

The following draft Departmental policies were considered and comments made:-

- . Apiary sites and beekeeping on CALM lands. Existing policies to continue to be applied until a new policy is in place;
- . Management strategy for north west islands;
- . A paper 'Implementation of Policy: Fire Management and Prescribed Burning on CALM Lands' was received for further discussion;
- . The relationship between Aboriginal interests and the Department, with particular emphasis on consultation required in the planning process, Aboriginal residence and hunting on conservation reserves;
- . Conservation of native vegetation on rural lands;
- . Revision of the Act, with particular reference to marine reserves.

It was agreed the ex officio members would advise the Authority of appropriate matters regarding necessary operations carried out by the Department under section 33(3) of the Act.

#### Visits and Visitors

To facilitate carrying out the functions of the Authority, visits were made and visitors were received by the Authority.

Visits were made by members of the Authority to Barrow Island Nature Reserve and to Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

The following visitors addressed the Authority -

- . The Minister, including discussion on the role of the Authority.
- . Mr Barry Carbon, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority, regarding Conservation Through Reserves Committee recommendations. At a separate meeting Mr Carbon spoke on the relationship between the CTCRC recommendations for the Shark Bay area and the Shark Bay Region Plan.
- . A delegation from the Shire of Manjimup regarding proposals contained in the Southern Forest Region draft management plan.
- . Mr John De Jose, Director of the Perth Zoo, on captive breeding programmes for endangered fauna.

- . Mr Chris Pratini, WAPET, regarding Barrow Island issues.
- . Ms Ann Verschuer, Office of the Minister on the Government's policy for exploration and mining on national parks and nature reserves. The Authority expressed its thanks to the Minister for providing protection to nature reserves additional to that proposed in the Bailey Report.

In addition the Authority was addressed by many officers from the Department.

#### Endorsement of Grants Made from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Trust Account

The Act provides the Department with sole responsibility to disburse funds from this Account but the Executive Director has agreed to consult with the Authority on proposed disbursement. The Authority agreed with the Department's proposal to allocate finance for a project to be undertaken on seal research.

#### Resources Provided from the Department

The Department provides the necessary secretarial staff to the Authority, being part of one officer's duties plus typing services. The Department's ex officio members on the Authority provide substantial input to the Authority, from their own resources and drawing upon various Departmental officers as required.

The Department meets the Authority's costs related to honoraria, travel costs and modest day to day running costs.