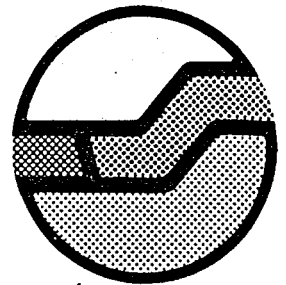


Annual Report

**National Parks
and
Nature Conservation
Authority**

1988/89

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 1989.

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

HACKETT DRIVE CRAWLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA TELEPHONE (09) 386 8811.

DH/dh

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P.O. BOX 104, COMO 6152.

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 1988/89

Chairman's Review

This review introduces the Annual Report of the Authority for 1988/89. I apologise that it has become available concurrently with the Report for 1987/88. However, this is not only a matter for apology but raises an important issue which engaged the concern of the Authority during the year. In the second half of 1988 the secretariat resources available to the Authority were reduced by other priorities in the Department of Conservation and Land Management and a number of our activities suffered in consequence. This was discussed in the Authority and was the subject of comment from the Conservation Council of W.A. to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management. The situation has improved, and the Authority is now looking forward to being able to provide a better flow of information about its activities to the public.

During the last year the consideration of management plans for the conservation estate of National Parks and Nature Reserves has again been a major activity for the Authority. During 1988/89 the Leeuwin Naturaliste Management Plan was finalised after the public participation process. Special meetings were held in Busselton prior to finalisation. A particular aspect of this management plan which involved the Authority was the issue of coastal access, especially for professional salmon fishermen. It is believed that the discussions led to a satisfactory outcome for the fishermen and for conservation. The Authority also considered and approved for release for public comment the Management Plans for five extremely important national parks. These included Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park, Fitzgerald River National Park, Ningaloo Marine Park, Hamersley National Park and the much smaller but intensively-used Yanchep National Park.

During the year a number of major policy issues were discussed, including burning regimes for all forest and conservation areas. A policy for wilderness was considered as an important topic in its own right and the relationship between this and zoning for national parks was discussed extensively. A proposed Wilderness Policy was prepared by the Authority and has been referred to the Department of Conservation and Land Management for possible joint adoption. Two of the national parks for which management plans have been prepared for release, Hamersley and Fitzgerald River, both include wilderness areas as proposals for future management.

Although preoccupation with Management Plans and policy development has marked the early years of the Authority's activities there have been signs of a change in the balance of this activity in the last year. In the future it is expected that issues which arise from ongoing monitoring of the conservation estate and responsibilities for nature conservation will become more important activities of the Authority.

The Authority has again remained stable in membership, however at the end of the year we suffered a very great loss with the resignation of the Deputy Chairman, Dr John Bailey. Dr Bailey made an enormous contribution to the work of the Authority and he will be very much missed in our future activities.

I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues in the Authority for their dedicated interest throughout the year and to our two Ministers, the Hon Barry Hodge and the Hon Ian Taylor, and the Government of which they are a part, for a number of initiatives which have greatly advanced nature conservation and natural land management in Western Australia.

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 (deputy Mr R J Underwood).
- (1)(a)(ii) Dr B R Wilson, Director of Nature Conservation (deputies Mr J Blyth and Mr K McNamara).
- (1)(a)(iii) Mr C D Haynes, Director of National Parks (deputy Mr J Sharp).
- (1)(a)(iv) Mr P N Hewett, Director of Forests (deputy Mr P Jones).

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 G Leyland
- (1)(b)(vii) Mr R Neal

* Dr Bailey tendered his resignation on 24 April 1989 to take place after 30 June 1989.

* Mr Towie resigned on 13 June 1989.

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

During the year the net area of reserves vested in the Authority increased by some 604,947 hectares. The area of nature reserves increased by 424,067 hectares and national

parks increased by 182,412 hectares. Conservation/recreation reserves decreased by 1,532 hectares as area was transferred to national parks. The area of marine parks remained unchanged.

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

As part of the Government's policy on mining, 286 B and C Class nature reserves were upgraded to A class reserves in the year ended 30 June 1989.

The Authority advised the Department on options to hasten the declaration of the Shannon Park. A letter of appreciation was forwarded to the then Minister, the Hon Barry Hodge for his personal commitment in effecting the declaration of the Shannon National Park.

(b) Proposed Changes for Vested Lands

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

- . A proposed land exchange involving part of the Yalgorup National Park and the Shire of Mandurah camping and recreation reserve, reserve no. 24198, was approved in principle.
- . Limestone for road making purposes was sought by the Shire and the Main Roads Department.
- . Construction of a navigation beacon by West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) outside the Company's lease area on the Thevenard Island Nature Reserve was approved.
- . Required easements for an in-situ SEC gas pipeline over the Minyulo Nature Reserve, Badgingarra National Park, Hill River Nature Reserve and the Twyata Nature Reserve, were approved.
- . Approval was given for water ski-ing to occur on Bennett's Lake within the Dunn Rock Nature Reserve, subject to a review being carried out by the Department of the recreational use and purposes of CALM lands in the eastern wheatbelt.
- . The Authority approved the draw down of the water level of Jandabup Lake Nature Reserve to its historic summer level as part of a Murdoch University research project.
- . The Authority agreed that a proposed SEC electricity distribution line to Windy Harbour across part of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park was environmentally unacceptable.
- . The Authority agreed to a request by the Department of Land Administration to excise an area of 28,000 hectares from the recently created Nerren Nerren East Nature Reserve. The area should not have been included in the

original gazettal dur to mineral prospectivity considerations. The Authority's approval was subject to the excised area being reserved for conservation and vested in the Authority and for the remainder of the nature reserve to be upgraded to A Class status.

- The Authority was addressed by members of the Badjaling Wanderers group regarding the Badjaling Nature Reserve near Quairading.

The Authority listened to the views put by the representatives of the Badjaling Wanderers, who sought to have part or all of the Badjaling Nature Reserve cancelled and created as a reserve for the group's use. The Authority paid particular attention to the need to protect the population of the declared rare Banksia cuneata on the higher ground of the nature reserve. The prospect of the Aboriginal group participating in the management of the nature reserve was also raised.

Advice was provided to the Minister on this issue.

- The EPA was advised that the Authority strongly objected to the exploratory oil well proposed in the Ningaloo Marine Park and any decision should await the (Bailey) review of petroleum exploration/drilling in national parks. The Minister for the Environment later announced the proposed well would not be considered until the Bailey review was completed.

- A briefing was given by the Department on a dispute over occupancy and management of the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, vested in the Authority. The Authority expressed its support for the action being pursued by the Department to resolve the situation and offered to assist by arranging a meeting of the parties involved.

- The Authority advised the State Planning Commission that if the Mitchell Freeway cuts across the south western corner of the Neerabup National Park, the Authority would not oppose excision of that park area in exchange for identified areas of high conservation value on the south east corner of the park. The Authority also sought to retain a substantial area of the proposed excision area as open space.

- Proposed groynes to protect a sheet pile jetty on the Thevenard Island Nature Reserve from sand accretion problems were approved. The approval was subject to the sheet pile jetty and the groynes being removed after July 1989 when construction was expected to have ceased.

- Requested permanent vehicular access through a narrow neck of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park to Hay location 665 was declined.

- The Shire of Denmark was allowed access to existing bore no. 3/83 in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park to provide water to Peaceful Bay. The approval was subject to the Department negotiating conditions.

- . The Authority approved a proposed bore in the Nambung National Park to service Cervantes. The Department and the Water Authority were asked to consider excising the bore area from the park.
- . Excision of 5 ha of the Harris Nature Reserve was approved subject to conditions including the requirement for progressive rehabilitation of the excised area.
- . A proposed land exchange was approved in principle to resolve boundary problems for the Beedelup National Park. The problems arose as a result of the construction and further raising of the dam wall associated with a resort project.
- . A member of the State Planning Commission (SPC) briefed the Authority on the role of its Development Coordination Unit to speed up the release of residential land. Priority areas sought which may affect conservation land vested in the Authority and proposed land exchanges were also outlined.

Further information on the exact areas involved in any exchanges was sought from the SPC. The Authority also agreed to seek further information on the funding of the land assessments required and the mechanics of any exchanges or disposal of conservation land.

(c) Other land issues

- . The Authority provided advice on problems experienced with the EPA Systems (Red Books) Taskforce to expedite the Systems recommendations and the review of B and C Class nature reserves as part of the Government's policy on mining. An Authority sub-committee assisted the Department in its ongoing review of B and C Class nature reserves which may be recommended to be cancelled.
- . The Authority advised the EPA regarding a request to open up the D'Entreeasteaux National Park to mining, emphasising that the areas proposed to be added to the park should be treated as if they were already part of the national park.
- . The Authority considered the use of grazing leases in the Tuart Forest National Park to control the fire risk to the mature Tuarts represented by introduced grasses.

The effectiveness of grazing cattle as a method of fire control was questioned. The Authority asked the Department to prepare a draft programme of management for the fire risk in the park and to include possible alternative control measures such as grass-specific sprays.

- . The Authority was briefed by the Department on seismic survey techniques. It was agreed that input should be made to the Bailey Committee on petroleum exploration with regard to seismic survey aspects.

The Authority also endorsed the Department's conditions for the seismic survey affecting the Sandy Point area in the Cape Range National Park.

- The Authority endorsed the Department's opposition to a proposal to renegotiate the lease of the Hamelin Bay Caravan Park within the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, at the time of a proposed sale.
- The Department was asked to take all possible steps to protect the Ellen Brook Nature Reserve and the extremely rare and threatened Western Swamp Tortoise, and to give consideration to the examination of potential relocation sites for the tortoises.

Policy Development

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

(a) Kangaroo Management

- The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1989 management programs for the Red Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro.

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1989 quotas for Western Australia of 230,000 for the Red Kangaroo, with 50,000 held in reserve for special rangeland areas; 45,000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo and 10,000 for the Euro.

The Authority later advised that it would not object to an increase in the Red Kangaroo quota to 290,000 for 1989 as recommended by the Kangaroo Management Advisory Committee. A proviso was added that 100,000 tags be set aside for use in special rangeland areas.

- On the issue of kangaroo meat for human consumption, the Authority agreed to seek the findings of the State Government inter-departmental working party. The likelihood of higher returns to shooters as a result of any decision to allow kangaroo meat for human consumption was considered with respect to the efficiency of the kangaroo management program.

The Authority was subsequently disappointed to have not been consulted prior to the release of a Government media statement advising that kangaroo meat will be available for human consumption, subject to conditions.

- The Authority considered the issue of regarding kangaroos as a renewable resource to be utilised, being a topic for the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM).

The Authority agreed to advise the Minister that it regards maintenance of kangaroos over their natural range as the paramount management goal. Damage by kangaroos may need to be contained and that it is therefore

sensible to ensure the best and most valuable use is made of the harvested carcasses. Any commercial use of kangaroos poses a slight danger to nature conservation values.

- . A proposal was put to the Authority seeking to control kangaroo numbers on land managed by the Department and adjacent to private property. It was agreed the Department should not embark on any broad scale management of kangaroo numbers on its reserves. Appropriate damage licences for the adjacent private property were deemed to be the most practical method of control.
- . The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed control of kangaroos affecting the regeneration areas around the Lake Toolibin Nature Reserve.
- . Cancellation of the open season arrangements for the Agile Wallaby was agreed to and advice offered.

(b) Wilderness Policy

A policy paper on wilderness prepared by an Authority sub-committee was approved. It was agreed to forward the Authority's wilderness policy to the Department for consideration as a suitable departmental policy.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ian Maley for his particular efforts in preparing the policy.

Initial consideration was given to the related issue of zones of management for national parks and conservation reserves. Agreement was reached on the type of zones to be recommended in a paper to be prepared for public comment.

The Authority's development of a wilderness policy greatly assisted its consideration of wilderness issues in the draft management plans for the Hamersley Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks.

(c) Other Policy Areas

- . The need for a higher public profile and increased resources for the Authority was agreed to and raised with the Minister and Department.
- . The judgement by Sir Laurence Street on the duties and responsibilities of members of statutory boards and authorities was further discussed. It was agreed that the responsibility of members was to the work of the Authority and they should not represent the views of the organisation or interest group from which they were drawn, but rather use this background in enhancing their contributions to the Authority's work.
- . Preliminary consideration was given to the issue of horse riding in national parks.

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:

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

The Minister approved the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park final plan during the year.

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

- . Dampier Archipelago nature reserves
- . Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park
- . Fitzgerald River National Park
- . South Coast Region
- . Hamersley Range National Park

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

- . Shoalwater Bay nature reserves
- . Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

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.

Other areas and issues related to plans and planning were as follows -

- . The relationship between the Authority, the Aboriginal body known as the Purnululu Park Council and the Department was also discussed as part of the consideration of the Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park draft management plan.
- . The issue of road access to the Shire of Ravensthorpe Hamersley Inlet camping reserve through the Fitzgerald River National Park was discussed. It was agreed any decision to allow the road to proceed was a decision to be taken by the Department, under section 150 of the Act regarding commitments given by a previous authority.

The Authority expressed concern regarding an aspect of the management plan prepared by the Shire of Ravensthorpe for the Hamersley Inlet camping reserve, in which a road is proposed to the coast over an environmentally sensitive area.

- . The Authority was briefed on the social impact study being carried out as part of the draft management plan for the Rudall River National Park.
- . WAPET was advised of the consideration being given to preparing a management plan for the Barrow Island Nature Reserve. An environmental management plan is also required to be prepared by the Company for its operations on the island.
- . The Authority sub-committee which visited Barrow Island, reported that its highly important nature conservation values were being well maintained despite the intense oil drilling and extraction activity on the Island.
- . The Authority considered a view from the Australian National Parks Council that insufficient notice had been taken of its comments on draft management plans for national parks. An invitation was offered through the Minister for the Council to discuss its concerns at an Authority meeting.

Advice to the Minister, Department and Others

Under Section 22 (l) (f), (g) and (h) of the Act, the Authority may provide advice to the Minister or any body (often the Department) or person.

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

- . The Authority received a detailed briefing from the Department and other relevant Departments on the recommended conservation reserve for the Mt Lesueur area and the proposed coal mine and power station for the same area.

An Authority sub-committee visited the Mt Lesueur area several times.

The Minister and the EPA were advised of the Authority's view that the Mt Lesueur area is of the highest conservation value. The Authority requested the Mt Lesueur area be given protection by reserving it as a national park or nature reserve.

The Authority approved the draft EPA guidelines for the ERMP required for the proposed Mt Lesueur coal mine and power station, subject to the name of the project being cited as Mt Lesueur and not Hill River. The Authority also sought to be able to view the draft ERMP.

In addition the Authority sub-committee considered the proposed alignment of seismic survey lines by Barrack Energy Ltd in the Mt Lesueur area. The sub-committee's report stating necessary requirements for the seismic survey were forwarded to the EPA.

The sub-committee members were also able to follow up on the implementation of the seismic lines and made its views known to the Company representative on site.

- . A submission was made to the Inquiry into Petroleum Exploration and Development in National Parks and Nature Reserves.

- . The Chairman of the EPA addressed the Authority on the EPA's report and recommendations on the Port Geographe proposal and on the environmental conditions of the Vasse Wonnerup wetlands. The Port Geographe proposal for residential and marina developments does not involve any Authority reserves.

The Authority recognises that the Vasse Wonnerup wetland is a nature conservation area of very high value. The Authority forwarded to the EPA recommended conditions for any approval of the project.

- . The Authority expressed its support for the nine wetlands proposed for nomination to the Ramsar Listing of wetlands of International Importance, including the Vasse Wonnerup system. Nomination of Lake Gregory was also supported once negotiations are concluded with the Aboriginal lessees of the Lake Gregory pastoral station.

- . The Authority expressed its concerns for the rare and threatened native orchids on the land proposed for development around the intersection of Ranford and Nicholson Roads, Canning Vale. The Authority recommended an interdepartmental group involving CALM, the EPA and the State Planning Commission be set up to consider environmental issues in planning.

- . A response was provided to the EPA on the report 'Draft Environmental Guidelines for Tourism Development'. Concern was expressed that the Authority was not formally consulted during preparation of the report, given the importance of its vested lands for tourism. Information provided by individual members also did not appear to have been sufficiently incorporated in the report.

- . Concerns raised by the Coalition for Denmark's Environment were addressed regarding the environmental impact of road work on Boronia Road, east of Mt Frankland. The State forest area involved is proposed to become a new national park and is being managed as if it were already national park. The Department reported very fully on the conditions under which the work had been carried out and offered to consult with the Coalition in future when work of this type was under way. The Authority advised the Coalition that it was satisfied with the management which had been carried out.

- . Concerns held by the Conservation Council of WA (Inc) on the Department's experimental and research burning of conservation reserves were addressed. The Council was invited to be present when an experimental burn was carried out on the Tutanning Nature Reserve.

- . The Authority recommended that any release of multiple use Commonwealth land give due and early consideration to the land's environmental values. The proposed release of Commonwealth land at Bushmead prompted this advice.
- . The Authority asked that it be advised in writing by the EPA of developments which may impinge on its vested lands.
- . The Authority expressed its pleasure to the Minister for the increased funding of \$6.5 million for parks and reserves managed by the Department.
- . The Department was advised on management proposed for Forrest's Mouse (Legadina forrestii) on Thevenard Island Nature Reserve with a view to establishing a captive breeding colony in Perth for a possible future relocation of individuals to Delambre Island.
- . The Department was requested to contact the Agriculture Protection Board to consider an inter-agency agreement to locate and combat Starling incursions and to involve the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union in search operations.
- . An Authority sub-committee endorsed amendments proposed by the Department to the schedule of declared rare flora.
- . The Authority raised its concern about pumping from a water reserve adjacent to Cape Leeuwin lighthouse at Augusta which is reducing water level in an important wetland. As a result discussions were held by the Department with the Water Authority and it is believed that the problems will now be overcome.
- . A proposed land exchange of flora rich Homeswest land in Kenwick for a portion of State forest pine land was approved in principle. The Authority later expressed concern for the apparent breakdown in the proposed exchange.

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

- . Fire management and the implementation of prescribed burning on lands managed by the Department. The policy was prepared specifically for the Authority.
- . Conservation and management of Saltwater Crocodiles.

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 -

- . Busselton and Margaret River to discuss the proposed final management plan for the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park with Shires and special interest groups.

- . Fitzgerald River National Park and Jerramungup prior to consideration of the draft management plan for the park. The visit was very successful, with participation by a number of local people involved in the management planning group for the park, the Fitzgerald Biosphere Project and land conservation activities in the area.
- . Barrow Island and Thevenard Island Nature Reserves to view the operations of WAPET.
- . Mt Lesueur to view the recommended conservation reserve, the proposed coal mine and power station and seismic survey lines.

The following visitors addressed the Authority.

- . Godfrey Lowe, Executive Officer of the WA Water Resources Council on the Council's role.
- . Mike Allen, State Planning Commission on the release of residential land and proposed land exchanges.
- . Penny Hussey, Roadside Conservation Committee; Rachel Siewert and Trevor Stoneman, Conservation Council of WA; Bob Shaw, MRD; on corridor and remnant vegetation conservation.
- . Mr John Morrissey, Department of Agriculture on the 1989 Red Kangaroo quota.
- . Guy Le Blanc-Smith, Mines Department; John Quilty, Department of Resources Development; and Rob McKenzie, CRA on the Mt Lesueur issue.
- . Denise Peggs, EPA on the Mt Lesueur seismic survey.
- . Richard Wilkes, Ralph Winmar, Norm Yarran and Theo Michael from the Badjaling Wanderers and Colin Thackerah, Aboriginal Lands Trust, on the request for excision of part of the Badjaling Nature Reserve for Aboriginal purposes.
- . Mr Tom Atterby, Chairman of the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee, on the park's draft management plan.
- . Cr Bob Burkett, President of the Shire of Exmouth and Mr Kerry Graham, Exmouth Shire Clerk, on the final management plan for the Ningaloo Marine Park.

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 the following projects to be undertaken.

- . Captive breeding of the Western Swamp (Short Necked) Tortoise.
- . Waterfowl abundance survey.
- . The effect of Argentine Ants on water bird nests at Herdsman Lake.
- . A new study of waterbird usage of the Swan Coastal Plain wetland.

The Authority also expressed concern for the level of future resources of the Fund.

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 Authority experienced difficulty with the amount of secretarial support which could be allocated by the Department in the latter half of 1988. However, the situation has now improved and the need for any further substantial changes can be reviewed at the end of the 1988/89 year.

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