

National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

---

1 July 1989 - 30 June 1990

ADDRESS: Hackett Drive, Crawley, Western Australia 6009  
Telephone (09) 386 8811

Address for correspondence:  
C/- Department of Conservation and Land Management  
PO Box 104  
COMO WA 6152

**NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**1 JULY 1989 - 30 JUNE 1990**

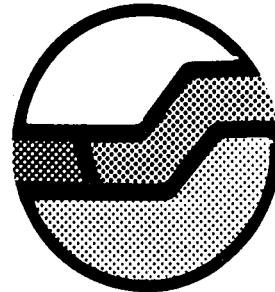
**Address:**

Hackett Drive, Crawley,  
Western Australia 6009  
Telephone (09) 3868811

**Address for correspondence:**

C/- Department of Conservation and Land  
Management  
P O Box 104  
COMO WA 6152

NATIONAL PARKS AND  
NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



HON MINISTER  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with Section 62 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for the year ending 30 June 1990.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Halse'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the first name.

Norman Halse  
CHAIRMAN

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

All correspondence to be addressed to Department of Conservation and Land Management  
P.O. BOX 104, COMO 6152.

# CONTENTS

---

Chairman's Review.....	1
General Information.....	4
Statutory basis.....	4
Authority membership.....	4
Functions under the legislation.....	5
Authority meetings.....	6
The Land Estate.....	8
Land vested in the Authority.....	8
Proposed changes for vested lands.....	8
Other land issues.....	10
Policy Development.....	14
Kangaroo management.....	14
Duck shooting.....	14
CALM policy statements.....	14
Other policy areas.....	14
Submission of Management Plans.....	16
Advice to the Minister, Departments and Others.....	18
Visits and Visitors.....	20
Endorsement of Grants made from the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account.....	21
Resources Provided by the Department.....	22

## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

---

Over the last 12 months the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority has successfully consolidated the approaches which have been developed in previous years. The preparation of management plans continues to be a major activity for the Authority, but as predicted last year, there is an increasing emphasis on monitoring of management of the Conservation Estate.

During the last year there has been a major change in the membership of the Authority. Four new members have been appointed, there has been a change in ex-officio membership, and one previous member has been reappointed to the Authority. The new appointed members who have joined are Mr Doug Bathgate and Mr Chris Willcox, representing local authorities from Exmouth and Margaret River respectively, Mr Angus Horwood, representing fishing interests, and Ms Colma Keating, representing conservation interests. Professor Arthur McComb has rejoined the Authority as Deputy Chairman and Mr Don Keene has joined as Director of Forests in an ex-officio capacity.

The members who retired from the Authority will be missed because they made a very great contribution to the Authority, in its development years. Mr Ray Aitken, Mr Alan Fewster, Mr Ian Maley, Mr Peter Hewett and Mr Guy Leyland, are these five members and the Authority wishes them well in the future. One legacy which Mr Maley has left with the Authority is his very substantial contribution to the Wilderness Policy, which will be one of the most important policies for the Authority and the Department of Conservation and Land Management in the future.

Although the hard work of the Planning Branch of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, together with the cooperation of Advisory Committees and the work of the Authority itself, has enabled substantial progress with the major management plans, there is still a good deal to do in this respect. Some of the management plans which are still outstanding are now close to completion. The Lane-Poole Reserve, the Hamersley Range National Park, the Purnululu National Park, containing the Bungle Bungle massif, and the Fitzgerald River National Park are all important reserves with management plans close to finality.

During the consideration of management plans in the last year, it has been quite apparent that the work of the Authority is going to involve increasing communication and cooperation with the Aboriginal community of Western Australia. There are two particular items of common interest. The first of these is the issue of occupation by Aboriginal groups of areas within National Parks. Such occupation is normally related to a desire by Aboriginal people to maintain their association with areas of Western Australia which have been significant to them in the past. The second area of common interest is the question of hunting rights. This is of particular importance where it involves hunting in nature reserves, national parks or where it involves rare and endangered species. It is hoped that over the next 12 months discussions between the Authority

and representatives of Aboriginal people will enable progress to be made in both of these areas.

Significant developments to the conservation estate during the year include the Government's establishment of new marine parks and a marine nature reserve and attempts to progress the implementation of the Red Book Recommendations for Conservation Reserves in Western Australia. There was also some progress made in upgrading the security of purpose of a large number of nature reserves during the year.

The protection of the Conservation Estate in Western Australia is the joint responsibility of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Authority. In this regard the Authority has made submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority in respect to mining proposals for a number of significant conservation areas. Two particularly important submissions prepared during the year concern peat mining on the Lake Muir nature reserves and the proposal to mine coal and establish a power station in the Hill River area adjacent to and partly overlapping the very important Mt Lesueur reserves.

It has become clear during the year from work carried out by the Research Branch of the Department, that the threat of further extinction of mammalian fauna is very much associated with predation and this can be reduced by effective fox control measures. The Authority looks forward to greater security for some threatened species from the outcome of this research work. Of course, secure control of foxes and feral cats can only be achieved in areas with natural barriers. This makes islands extremely important as secure nature reserves.

In respect to the flora the Authority is pleased at the progress that has been made in respect to rare and endangered species, but is very much aware that the greatest current threat for the flora, is the spread of *Phytophthora* diseases. The most significant one of these is probably *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, but certainly other species of *Phytophthora* also pose a threat to the native flora.

A major protection concern during the year arose from the large fire in the Fitzgerald River National Park which burnt out nearly half of the park in December 1989. Although the Authority recognises that bush fires are a natural phenomenon, and we do not expect to maintain natural areas free of wildfire, the proportion of the park that was burnt out on this occasion is regarded as undesirable. A particular concern in the Fitzgerald River National Park is that there are a number of rare fauna species and the loss of all of their habitat on any one occasion, would represent a real threat to the species concerned because adjacent areas outside the park are cleared for agriculture and would not provide alternative habitats. Fortunately the fires did not burn much of the major habitat area for the rare fauna and hopefully there will be no danger to their continued existence in the park.

In previous years the Authority has been concerned over lack of knowledge in the general population of the activities of

the Authority. If the community is not aware that the Authority exists, then its usefulness in providing a bridge between the Department of Conservation and Land Management and that community is reduced or nullified. For this reason the Authority was concerned about the resources available to it, which would assist it to make its presence known more effectively.

During the year discussions with the Department have led to the development of an information plan which is hoped will improve the problems which have been seen in the past. Other issues have been discussed with the Hon Minister for Conservation and Land Management and the Executive Director of CALM, with a view to increasing the public profile of the NPNCA and thus increasing its effectiveness.

The policy statement by the Conservation Council of Western Australia concerning a possible restructuring of the Department of Conservation and Land Management with consequences for the continued existence of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority has lent weight to the Authority's concern about its profile in the community. Following the statement by the Conservation Council, the Authority has moved to arrange discussions with the Council. It is believed that only through an increase in understanding, can the Authority overcome any lack of empathy with the Conservation Council of Western Australia and its various constituent bodies. The Authority looks forward to better cooperation with the Council by ensuring good communication and a regular arrangement for direct face to face meetings and discussions of topical issues.

I would like to thank all members of the Authority during the year for their dedicated support in our work. Authority members frequently spend large amounts of their valuable personal time in carrying out special tasks for the Authority. I should also thank the staff of CALM for their help throughout 1989/90 and most importantly thank our Ministers, the Honourable Ian Taylor and the Honourable Bob Pearce, for the several important initiatives taken in respect of the conservation estate during the year by the Government.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

---

## 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 the 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 until 16 November 1989.  
Mr D Keene, Director of Forests from 18 May 1990 (deputies Mr A Briggs and Mr R Sneeuwjagt).

#### **Appointed Members**

- (1) (b) (i) Mr N J Halse, AM, Chairman  
Dr E M Mattiske until 31 December 1989  
Ms C D M Keating from 1 January 1990
- (1) (b) (ii) Mrs M I Blackwell  
Mr I J Maley until 31 December 1989  
Mr J A Wood from 1 January 1990
- (1) (b) (iii) Professor A J McComb, Deputy Chairman, from 1 January 1990.
- (1) (b) (iv) Mr R Aitken, OAM, until 31 December 1989  
Dr E M Mattiske, from 1 January 1990
- (1) (b) (v) Mr A J Fewster until 31 December 1989  
Mr D G Bathgate, from 1 January 1990  
Mr C Willcox, from 1 January 1990
- (1) (b) (vi) Mr G Leyland until 31 December 1989  
Mr A Horwood, from 1 January 1990
- (1) (b) (vii) Mr R Neal

#### **FUNCTIONS UNDER THE LEGISLATION**

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.

#### **AUTHORITY MEETINGS**

The Authority met on eleven occasions during the year, on the following dates;

14 July 1989  
11 August 1989

9 February 1990  
28 February 1990

8 September 1989  
20 October 1989  
17 November 1989  
8 December 1989

11 April 1990  
11 May 1990  
15 June 1990

# THE LAND ESTATE

---

## 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.

### Area Vested

During this year the net area of reserves vested in the Authority increased by some 189 080 hectares. The area of nature reserves increased by 6 844 hectares and national parks increased by 20 053 hectares. Conservation/recreation reserves increased by 48 hectares. The area of marine parks increased by 30 135 ha and the first marine nature reserve was gazetted with an area of 132 000 hectares.

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

## PROPOSED CHANGES FOR VESTED LANDS

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

- . The Authority approved the excision of approximately 18 hectares from the Frank Hann National Park along the cleared alignment, with the exception of some minor re-adjustment at the junction of the Lake King-Norseman Road.
- . The Authority was briefed on a proposal by SECWA to run a transmission line across a small section of a corner of the Warren National Park. SECWA proposed to traverse the corner of the park because terrain and site conditions made following the boundary of the park difficult in this case.

The Authority decided that unless the proposed transmission route was made mandatory by the overall environmental conditions, the proposal should be opposed.

- . A proposal to formalise, under Sections 99 and 101 of the CALM Act, existing and supplementary radio positioning base stations on Dampier Archipelago Islands for the Woodside Offshore Petroleum Project was approved.
- . Installation of a powerline across a small section of the Lane Poole Reserve, to service private property, was approved.
- . The Authority approved the vesting of Reserve 18447 in the Shire of Bridgetown and endorsed the required amendment of the Department's Central Forest Region Management Plan.

- . Endorsement was given to the proposal by the Water Authority of Western Australia to construct a reservoir and pipeline affecting Neerabup National Park. It was noted that extensive negotiations between CALM and WAWA had taken place and the area of the park affected would be confined to an existing firebreak. The Department would be involved to ensure that landscape values would be rehabilitated. As part of the negotiations it was agreed that some additional land adjacent to the park would be managed as part of the park.
- . A proposal by SECWA to establish a transmission line through the Scott River National Park to private property was approved. Although there would be some visual impact (4 power poles), the Authority considered that no real alternative was available.
- . Approval was given for the issue of a lease to the Yanchep Golf Club for the clubhouse and immediate grassed surrounds within the Yanchep National Park.
- . Approval was given for the lease of CALM House No. 2565 in Yanchep National Park to the City of Wanneroo for use as a community centre.
- . Boundary and access problems relating to Yalgorup National Park were considered.
- . Approval was given under Section 99(1)(a) of the CALM Act for a licence for commercial canoe hire on Yardie Creek, Cape Range National Park.
- . A proposal to excise an area of the Yarra Yarra Lakes Nature Reserve for rubbish disposal purposes was rejected by the Authority. The Shire of Three Springs was asked to pursue alternative options, particularly the purchase of private land.
- . A proposed land exchange involving portion of nature reserve No. 1931 and Stockyard Road Reserve was approved.
- . The Muiron Islands were declared Crown land under The Petroleum Act, for the duration of a seismic survey.
- . The South Eneabba Nature Reserve was also declared Crown land under the Petroleum Act to allow for the carrying out of a seismic survey. The Authority noted that the seismic survey would utilise existing tracks, thus minimising damage to the flora.
- . The Authority was briefed on the closure of the camping ground in Geikie Gorge National Park. The action taken by the Department to re-landscape the campsite and convert it to a day use area was endorsed. The action had been taken because of damage being caused as a result of the increasing demands of campers. The Department was asked to give high priority to the preparation of a management plan for the park.

- . The Authority approved of a land exchange involving portion of nature reserve No. 27886 and the road reserve for the Eneabba West sands project access road past Rocky Springs.
- . The Authority was advised of Cabinet's approval of a rationalisation of the Neerabup National Park's boundaries to facilitate the future freeway alignment. The decision involved the addition of land to the park by way of a land exchange.
- . The creation of the Mt Augustus National Park was noted with pleasure.
- . Approval was given for excision of a road reserve from the Lane Poole Reserve. It was noted that a CALM road already existed where the Shire of Waroona sought the excision for a public road.
- . Approval was given for the cancellation of Reserve No. 32928 for "Housing", being Badgingarra townsite lots 47 and 48.
- . Approval was given for a land exchange involving areas of Yalgorup National Park, subject to the exchange resulting in inclusion of a small population of Eucalyptus foecunda in the park.
- . The addition of dredging spoil to Boodalan Island Nature Reserve was approved. The work will result in the island being increased to four times its current size.
- . The Minister's decision to allow flower picking to continue for one year on the newly created nature reserve No. 39744 north of Eneabba was endorsed by the Authority.

#### **OTHER LAND ISSUES**

- . The use of grazing leases in the Tuart Forest National Park to control the fire risk to the mature Tuarts represented by introduced grasses:

In 1988/89 the Authority had requested the Department to prepare a draft program of management for the fire risk in the park and to include possible alternative control measures such as grass-specific sprays.

In July 1989 the Authority was briefed by the Department on the proposed draft program. The Authority endorsed the program, which involved grazing only 26% of the National Park in the immediate future. If the application of grass-specific sprays such as Fusilade proved to be successful, the proportion of the Park grazed will be reduced to 11% in the longer term. The Department will monitor the program and review the results annually. The Authority looked forward to the successful use of the grass-specific sprays and to the continued reduction of grazing in the Tuart Forest National Park.

The Authority gave lengthy consideration to development of its submission to the EPA on the Hill River (Mt Lesueur) Project.

It was noted that the controversy that had ensued over the removal of Chapter 13 of the Department's draft biological report on Mt Lesueur had been unfortunate and quite damaging, and that its removal had been a completely proper and correct action. Its inclusion in a report that was meant to be a biological assessment would have been quite inappropriate. The Authority had asked for the report by the Department on the biological factors. The Minister chose not to publish it at the time that it was completed but undertook to make it available to the public when the ERMP was released. The Department had also given an undertaking to include Chapter 13 in its submission on the ERMP, which would be a public document.

The Authority formed a sub-group to examine the ERMP in detail and prepare a draft response on behalf of the Authority.

Alleged damage by four wheel drive vehicles in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park was brought to the Authority's attention by the South West Forest Defence Foundation.

It was noted by the Authority that examples of public misuse may be inevitable in recreation areas, and that isolated cases of abuse and illegal activities will occur on the extensive conservation estate.

The Authority received with pleasure, news of the confirmation of listing by the Ramsar Convention of the nine wetlands in Western Australia nominated by the Commonwealth Government.

The revised Schedule of Declared Rare Flora, endorsed by the Authority, was gazetted on 14 July.

Approval was given for SECWA's proposed transmission line corridor - Northern Terminal Substation to Pinjar Gas Turbine Power Station.

The Authority was satisfied that the Department had negotiated satisfactorily with SECWA on the route, which had implications for Melaleuca Park, proposed for vesting in the Authority.

The Authority was kept informed by the Department about the proposed housing development on flora-rich Homeswest land in Brixton Street, Kenwick. It was advised that a hydrological study had indicated that the proposed development could probably proceed without destroying the two wetland species of declared rare flora.

The Authority was briefed on the Task Force established by the Government to investigate arrangements for management of regional parks and the wider question of

region open space in the Metropolitan Region. Advice was provided to the Minister on funding arrangements for Regional Parks.

. The status of the declared rare flora species Diuris purdiei at Canning Vale was considered.

The Authority was advised that the Winthrop land had been rezoned and that the Department will pursue a research program with funds from the developers.

The research program included growing the orchids from seed or by tissue culture and planting these specimens on a suitable and secure alternative site. The Department's efforts to understand the plant's biology and to find alternative sites will ensure D. purdiei does not become extinct.

It was noted that a new population of probably more than 1,000 plants had been found on an A Class nature reserve near the Harvey Inlet. The species was now known on seven sites.

. The Minister's approval for the removal and relocation of a population of Asterolasia nivea plants growing in the maintenance area of the Great Northern Highway was endorsed by the Authority. The very rare plants were to be relocated to the nearby Hay Flats Nature Reserve.

. The Authority was briefed on the Department's approval of a biological control program for the problem weed Patterson's Curse.

. After considering the question of the Yardie Creek Tour Boat operations in Cape Range National Park, the Authority requested the Department to report on the following matters:

- assessment of boat engine noise levels;
- the effect of engine noise on bird populations;
- the feasibility of battery operated engines;
- the effects of use of the southern track and the possibility of discouraging its use.

. Review of B and C Class reserves: the Authority was advised that 586 B and C Class nature reserves were approved by Cabinet to be upgraded to A Class and were referred to the Department of Land Administration. Of that total, 338 were reclassified to A Class by the end of the financial year.

. The Authority considered and accepted the draft conditions set by the Minister for approval of the Port Geographe development.

. The Department was requested by the Authority to investigate alleged tree felling in Kalamunda National Park. The Department reported that there was evidence of



tree felling and rubbish disposal, but it was unable to attribute the actions to any individuals and therefore could not prosecute. The Authority asked the Department to interview local residents with a view to determining if there were any witnesses.

The Authority was briefed by the Department on the informal Notice of Intent for a seismic survey involving the Muiron Islands. The islands' conservation values were discussed and particular attention was paid to the importance of the islands as nesting sites for the Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* and marine turtles. The Authority appreciated the care taken by the company, Lasmo Oil Company Australia Ltd, in the design of the proposed seismic lines.

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

---

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

### **KANGAROO MANAGEMENT**

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1990 management programs for the Red Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro.

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1990 quotas for Western Australia of 290,000 for the Red Kangaroo, 45,000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo and 10,000 for the Euro.

### **DUCK SHOOTING**

The Authority advised the Minister that it endorsed the biological data provided by the Department relevant to duck shooting.

Other issues which the Minister may wish to consider in addition to the biological information in reaching his decision on whether or not to allow a duck shooting season, are not areas on which it is appropriate for the Authority to comment as they are not nature conservation issues.

### **CALM POLICY STATEMENTS**

The Authority endorsed the following policy statements prepared by the Department:

- . Policy Statement No. 29 - "Captive Breeding and Cultivation of Threatened Species and Their Re-establishment or Translocation in the Wild".
- . Policy Statement No. 31 - "Management of Reserves for the Conservation of Nature".
- . Policy Statement No. 32 - "Volunteers".
- . Policy Statement No. 33 - "Conservation of Endangered and Specially Protected Fauna in the Wild".
- . Policy Statement No. 23 - "Conservation and Management of Emus" was noted and some amendments were suggested.

### **OTHER POLICY AREAS**

- . The Government's policy on mining in conservation reserves was considered and advice provided to the Minister.
- . A communications plan was developed in association with the Department, to help raise the public profile of the Authority.

- . The report of the Caravan Industry Development Strategy Working Group was considered and advice provided to the Minister.
- . Policy guidelines for commercial tour operators were considered.
- . Horseriding as a traditional use in Kalamunda National Park was considered. It was resolved that CALM would restrict riding to along the powerlines. Riding along the steep Hill Street route would be discontinued.

As a general issue the Authority resolved to consider traditional horseriding as an acceptable activity in some national parks, dependent on no damage being done to the park's physical values, particularly with regard to spread of disease and erosion. Similarly, horseriding should not significantly damage the equity of use of the parks by various groups of users.

- . Members made input to the discussion paper "Zoning in National Parks".
- . The Authority was briefed by the Department on proposed amendments to the CALM Act and the Wildlife Conservation Act. Advice and recommendations regarding the amendments were made.
- . The Authority was advised on the establishment of the Mining and Conservation Consultative Committee. The Authority would be represented by the Chairman.

## 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 final management plan for the Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves.

The Authority considered the preliminary planning objectives, or major issues for the following draft plans:

- . Walpole-Nornalup National Park
- . Boyagin and Tutanning Nature Reserves
- . Dryandra State Forest
- . West Cape Howe National Park
- . Shoalwater Bay Islands

During the year the following draft management plans were approved for public release:

- . Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves
- . Walpole-Nornalup National Park

The following final management plans were approved by the Minister during the year, as follows:

<u>FINAL MANAGEMENT PLAN</u>	<u>DATE APPROVED BY MINISTER</u>
Yanchep National Park	3 July 1989
Ningaloo Marine Park	12 October 1989
Dampier Archipelago	6 June 1990

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 considered by the Authority were:

- . Applications for licences for commercial tourism operations in the Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park.
- . The Authority was briefed several times by the Department on the Kalbarri Planning Study. Issues of particular interest to the Authority were the siting of the airstrip and rubbish disposal area.
- . The Authority was briefed on the public meetings held to discuss the Fitzgerald River National Park Draft Management Plan.

The impact of the Christmas 1989 fires in the park was also discussed several times. It was agreed that the management plan will need to reconsider the retention of long unburnt areas.

- . The Authority was also briefed on the Fitzgerald Biosphere Project.
- . The Authority was briefed several times by the Department on issues relating to the Purnululu (Bungle Bungle), Rudall River and Hamersley Range National Park Draft Management Plans. These briefings included discussion of Aboriginal interests in the parks.
- . The Authority made input during the year to the preparation of the Vasse Wonnerup wetlands conservation plan.
- . The Authority supported, with some suggested slight amendments, a draft wetlands conservation program prepared by the Department for the Integrated Catchment Management Planning Group (ICMPG). The Authority regarded this as a particularly high priority activity in the face of the loss of wetlands and the Greenhouse Effect. It recommended the ICMPG seek wide community consultation to obtain support for the document.
- . The Authority received reports by the Department on assessment by conservation values of north west islands, and management of islands for mammal conservation.
- . The EPA was advised of the Authority's support for its report on the Water Authority of Western Australia's waste water proposal affecting the Marmion Marine Park.
- . The Authority was briefed on the issue of feeding of wild dolphins at Monkey Mia, Shark Bay. The Authority's opinion and advice was that it agreed with the view of the Monkey Mia Management Committee, as put by the Department, that the dolphins should not be fed to a level of dependency.

## ADVICE TO THE MINISTER, DEPARTMENTS AND OTHERS

---

Under Section 22(1) (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.

- . A response was provided to the EPA on the Public Environmental Review (PER) for the Eneabba West mineral sands project. The response included advice to the EPA on groundwater impact, dieback hygiene, rehabilitation, vegetation, the visual impact of the project and a possible alternative road route.
- . The Authority advised the EPA that an extended life for WAPET's sausage skin groynes and sheet pile jetty at Thevenard Island was not acceptable.
- . The Authority was briefed by the Department on its response to the Port Geographe proposal. The Authority endorsed the Department's views and advised the EPA of its own concerns.
- . The Authority was briefed by the Department on the Jangardup heavy minerals project ERMP. Advice was provided to the EPA on five points of concern to the Authority.
- . The EPA was advised of the Authority's concerns about the potentially damaging effects of the Port Kennedy proposal, including likely damage to fish nursery stocks and the associated impact on marine animals such as the Australian Sea Lion and the Little Penguin.
- . Advice was also sent to the EPA on:-
  - the status of the unvested Bremer Bay - Gordon Inlet Reserve No. 32666 which was the subject of a mineral sands exploration licence application;
  - the exploration licence sought for the proposed Dampierland National Park;
  - the exploration licence sought for the proposed Cape Londonderry National Park.
- . The Authority considered the PER on the Magnet Industries Pty Ltd peat mining project for the Lake Muir Nature Reserve. It advised the EPA of its concerns about the project, pointing out that the review process had been extremely inadequate for a project of such potential impact, and that a number of technical concerns had been referred by the Authority to the Department for inclusion in its submission to the EPA.

The Authority further advised the EPA that the Lake Muir Nature Reserve was worthy of A Class status.

The Minister was advised of the Authority's concerns about the inadequacy of the review process for this project.

- . A sub-group of the Authority was formed to prepare a submission to the EPA on the Beenup mineral sands ERMP. The submission was forwarded to the EPA drawing attention to the Authority's particular concerns about rare and endangered flora, dieback, rehabilitation and proposed transmission and transport routes.
- . A proposal received by the Authority from Rural Australia concerning a desalination project involving drainage into Lake Martinup Nature Reserve was referred to the EPA for assessment.

## VISITS AND VISITORS

---

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

Visits were made by members of the Authority to:

- . Hamersley Range National Park to meet the Aboriginal community concerned with the park, and to discuss the management plan.

On the same trip, discussions were held with the Shire of Ashburton about a road option across the south of the Hamersley Range National Park from Paraburdoo to Newman.

- . Shark Bay, to meet with the Shark Bay Shire Council and take part in workshops dealing with the fishing industry, tourism, and the role of the Authority, the Department and local government.
- . The Gooralong recreation area near Jarrahdale.

In addition, members of the Authority attended the following:

- . a seminar on new environmental impact assessment procedures;
- . an EPA workshop on groundwater issues of the Swan Coastal Plain;
- . a seminar on a review of CALM's Herbarium.

The following visitors addressed the Authority:

- . Mr Graeme Rundle and Mr Wally Jones from the WA National Parks and Reserves Association on conservation reserve proposals, public participation in policy formulation, management plans, Aboriginal living areas in conservation reserves, and legislation.

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



## ENDORSEMENT OF GRANTS MADE FROM THE NATURE CONSERVATION AND NATIONAL PARKS 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:

- . Herbarium data base
- . Regeneration of *Banksia hookeriana*
- . Coobidge Creek (west of Esperance) catchment study.

Note:

Section 68 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account within the Conservation and Land Management Trust Fund. The account is credited with money derived under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and income from investments, gifts, devises, bequests and donations. The funds may be applied to research or any other purpose relating to the conservation of fauna and flora, or the management of national parks, nature reserves, marine nature reserves or marine parks, subject to compliance with any conditions imposed in connection with any gifts or bequests.

## 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 difficulties experienced with the amount of secretarial support which could be allocated by the Department to the Authority in 1988/89 were largely overcome this year. The development by the Department of a communications strategy for the Authority put in place a framework for improved support and greater access to Departmental resources.

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

Further information on financial statements can be obtained from the Department's 1989/90 Annual Report.