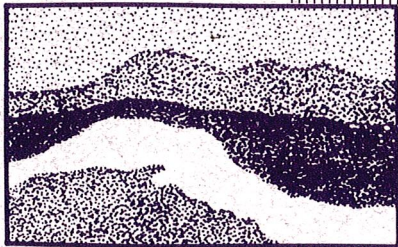


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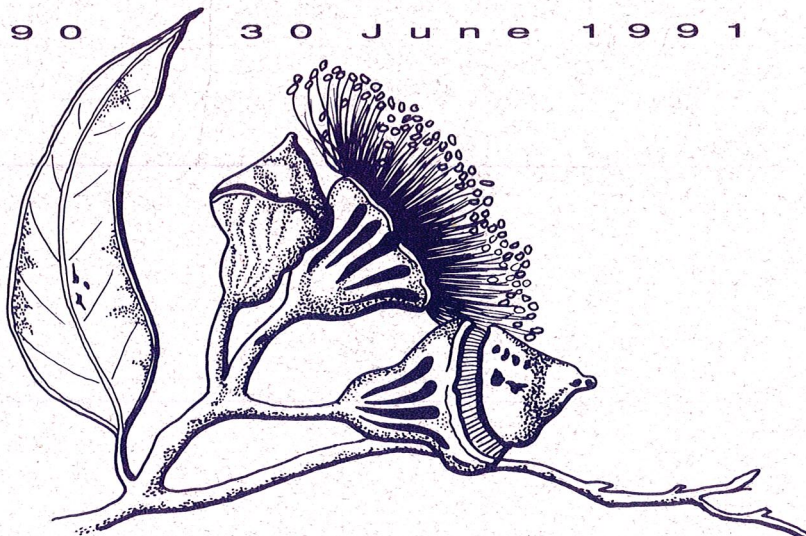
# ANNUAL REPORT



NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

1 July 1990

30 June 1991



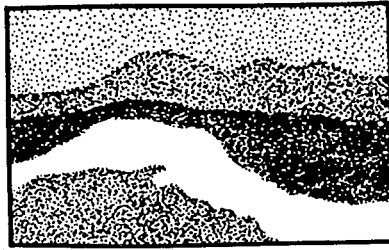
1990-1991

# ANNUAL REPORT



**NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

1 J U L Y 1 9 9 0 t o 3 0 J U N E 1 9 9 1



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 1991.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Halse".

Norman Halse  
CHAIRMAN

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## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

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It is with pleasure tinged with regret that I introduce the Annual Report of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for 1990/91. Pleasure because it has been such an active year for the Authority, regret because it is my last year as Chairman. The additional activities for the Authority arose from its endeavours to improve the dialogue between government conservation agencies and the community, from more involvement in monitoring of the management of conservation land, from its participation in discussions on the role for Aboriginal people in conservation and from a fuller acceptance of the Authority's responsibilities for land vested in it in relation to mining.

As usual the preparation of management plans remained a major activity for the Authority. Management plans which were considered at some stage in their processing included those for Fitzgerald River National Park, Walpole-Nornalup National Park, Marmion Marine Park, Thompsons Lake Nature Reserve, Ningaloo Marine Park, John Forrest National Park, Shoalwater Islands, Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamersley Range, now Karijini National Park. The Karijini National Park draft management plan which was put out for public submission in May 1989 is now in the process of being reconsidered and a new draft will go out again for public input. We were disappointed that a proposal to put an Authority member on the new joint planning team was not acceptable to all concerned.

In last year's Annual Report attention was drawn to the expected increase in the monitoring role of the Authority. This role is specified in the Act with respect to the implementation of management plans. It is not specified but may be regarded as implicit for land for which management plans are not yet prepared. From recent experience it appears that monitoring of burning is an issue of particular interest to the voluntary conservation movement. The Authority does have the capacity to call for comprehensive briefings from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (the Department) both in respect of proposed management operations and also in a review of completed operations. This capacity to intensively review management practices in a cooperative atmosphere, but from a different viewpoint, provides guarantee to the community of independent oversight of management of the conservation estate. The Authority works closely with the Department and is constantly grateful for the willing and competent assistance of all of its members. At the same time we respect the different roles that we each have to play.

The new Government policy to close most national parks to mining, open a few for mining or exploration, and set specific conditions under which mining or exploration can be carried out in the rest of the conservation estate is sure to bring a lot of extra work for the Authority. Some of this work has already started in respect to advising the Environmental Protection Authority on conditions for exploration in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. A major continuing role is expected in giving advice to the Minister on conservation parks and A Class nature reserves and to the Environmental Protection Authority on B and C Class nature reserves.

The Authority does not want to be restricted to a reactive role and it hopes to be able to recommend new measures and policies to the Government. One area in which it has agreed to be more active is in respect to proposals for new conservation areas such as nature reserves, national parks, conservation reserves, marine nature reserves or marine parks. It is expected that particular attention will be paid to the Kimberley region in view of the recognised limitations of the CTRC treatment of this area. Consideration of new reserves for the Kimberleys will certainly be carried out in cooperation with Aboriginal interests as well as the voluntary conservation movement and indeed new cooperative vesting and management arrangements may be one possibility. The recent release of the Kimberley Region Plan Study marks an opportunity for consideration of such initiatives.

In order to participate in new initiatives and to meet its increasing responsibilities the Authority will have to work harder than ever in the coming year. This will probably have to be achieved without any increase in our already inadequate support staffing, judging from the predicted further cuts in government departments. The Authority has already decided to establish two standing committees, one on monitoring of management and the other on needs for new conservation reserves. It is anticipated that some outside members will be recruited to these committees thus increasing our human resources capacity.

Last year in our Annual Report we indicated our desire to increase our interaction with the public. This has been assisted by a series of seminars in which the Authority took a leading role with the Department and the Lands and Forest Commission. The Authority has also instituted a practice of regularly meeting with representatives of the Conservation Council of WA, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Wilderness Society.

Despite the efforts made the Authority has not yet become well enough known. Recent examples showed that relevant officers in government departments, the media and the public still know little or nothing of the Authority. It is unfortunate that shortage of resources has prevented us from implementing some of our ideas such as a newsletter of current activity for interested readers.

Although there have been some disappointments in respect to public profile the Authority can be pleased that a number of important issues have been decided through the year in favour of conservation. Probably the most momentous decision was to preserve the Mt Lesueur area from mining and give proper protection to this extraordinarily rich botanical area. Another controversy decided in favour of conservation resulted in the declaration of the Shark Bay Marine Park. A further important decision, which attracted less public attention, was to protect Tordit Gurrup Lagoon in the Lake Muir wetland from peat extraction. The Authority has expressed its considerable gratitude to our Minister, the Hon Bob Pearce, for his part in these valuable decisions.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the members of the Authority. During the year Mr John Wood and Mr Chris Willcox found it necessary to resign and we accepted both these resignations with considerable regret. The Authority will be welcoming some new members in the near future. In the Authority we have tried hard to work as a group of individuals with different skills and backgrounds to arrive through careful consideration and discussion at proper decisions. If we were each to lobby for our various special interest groups instead of concentrating on the issues themselves we could not be as effective. If we were to depend on the Department which services us instead of exercising an independent opinion on behalf of the community we could not be as effective. I think that the present Authority does work as a group of individuals each making his own personal judgement of the issues before us. I sincerely hope that the Authority will continue to work in this way. I would like to thank all my fellow members on the Authority for their dedication to our work over the last year.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### 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 the Environment.

(Note: Except where otherwise indicated the terms 'the Minister', 'the Department' and 'the Act' used in this report will refer to the Minister for the Environment, 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, Mr K McNamara and Mr F Batini).
- (1) (a) (iii) Mr C D Haynes, Director of National Parks (deputies Mr J Sharp, Mr W Schmidt and Mr J Williamson).
- (1) (a) (iv) Mr D Keene, Director of Forests (deputies Mr A Briggs and Mr R Sneeuwjagt).

### **Appointed Members**

- (1) (b) (i) Mr N J Halse, AM, Chairman
- (1) (b) (ii) Ms C D M Keating  
Mrs M I Blackwell  
Mr J A Wood (resigned 28 September 1990)
- (1) (b) (iii) Professor A J McComb, Deputy Chairman
- (1) (b) (iv) Dr E M Mattiske
- (1) (b) (v) Mr D G Bathgate  
Mr C Willcox (resigned 7 March 1991)
- (1) (b) (vi) Mr A Horwood
- (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**

13 July 1990  
10 August 1990  
14 September 1990  
19 October 1990  
16 November 1990  
14 December 1990

11 January 1991  
8 February 1991  
12 April 1991  
10 May 1991  
14 June 1991

# THE LAND ESTATE

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## 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 751 040 hectares. The area of nature reserves increased by 7671 hectares and national parks decreased by 5366 hectares. This decrease was due to the excision from the Karijini (Hamersley Range) National Park for the iron ore mining lease at Marandoo. Conservation/recreation reserves remained the same (ie, 188 928 hectares). The area of marine parks increased by 748 735 hectares. This increase was due to the declaration of the Shark Bay Marine Park on 31 November 1990. The area of marine nature reserves remained unchanged at 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.

- A proposal by Telecom to replace the overhead wire running along Yanchep Beach Road through Yanchep National Park with underground cable was approved by the Authority. The proposal would result in improvement from both the visual and safety point of view for park users.
- Approval was granted for the excision of two hectares from reserve no. 16245 (located 30 kilometres east of Moora, within the Koorda townsite) to extend an existing sanitary site.
- The Authority gave approval to Forest Lease No. 1162/40, approximately 10 kilometres north east of the Waroona townsite within the Lane Poole Reserve being cancelled. The term of the lease had expired and the lease was no longer in State forest. It was recommended that a new lease be prepared pursuant to Section 100 of the CALM Act for a further five year term.
- The Shire of Lake Grace sought approval for a road realignment to rationalise access through Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve No. A36128. The Authority approved the proposal in principle subject to an investigation of the impact on rare and endangered species by the alternative routes.
- The creation and vesting in the Authority of the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve was noted.
- A request was received from the Narrogin Sporting Shooters Club for a lease over the safety zone area of the A class nature reserve, reserve no. 20985. No such lease could, however, be provided as it contravened Section 99(1)(c) of the CALM Act 1984. The Authority resolved that it would, however, approve the required safety zone on the nature reserve.

- The Authority approved the excision of approximately one hectare from the Thompsons Lake Nature Reserve to be added to the Harry Waring Nature Reserve for a road realignment. Final approval rests with both Houses of Parliament.
- The Authority agreed to the excision of approximately 251.5 hectares from Lake Shaster Nature Reserve (reserve 32339) in order to expand the recreation reserve at Munghlinup Inlet (reserve 32337).
- The Authority was advised of a proposed pipeline to carry water from Dunsborough to Yallingup. The pipeline would cut through a section of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. The path of the pipeline was in accordance with part 14.1.6 of the management plan.
- The Authority reluctantly agreed to the excision of an area from the Karijini (Hamersley Range) National Park to enable work to commence on the Marandoo minesite and transport corridor. The decision was made in light of the historical nature of the tenements.
- Proposed purpose amendments for reserves 28760 and 30949 in the Kalbarri townsite were agreed to.
- Departmental officers briefed the Authority on legal problems over the realignment of the Yardie Creek Road through Cape Range National Park.
- A proposal for a land exchange involving an excision from Stockyard Gully Nature Reserve was endorsed.
- The creation and gazettal of the Shark Bay Marine Park was noted with pleasure.
- Approval was given for a portion of Goongarrie National Park to be excised and re-included into Gindalbie Station. The area was included in the park in error when it was extended in 1984.
- Preliminary consideration was given to the excision of a small area from the Kalbarri National Park for the purpose of a rubbish disposal site. A proposal for an airstrip was rejected until a full feasibility study is undertaken.
- Approval was given for the divesting and vesting in the Shire of Lake Grace an area from nature reserve no. A39422 for a rubbish disposal site subject to the rehabilitation of the existing site. The divesting procedure would involve EPA assessment.
- The Authority endorsed the establishment of the pump station and drains within the Thompsons Lake Nature Reserve and accepted the Environmental Management Program for the South Jandakot Drainage Scheme.
- A proposed burn for the East Yorkrakine Nature Reserve as part of a CSIRO research program was approved.
- Approval was given for a prescribed burn within the Stirling Range National Park.
- The Authority advised against negotiations for land exchange between Rocklea Station and the Karijini (Hamersley Range) National Park.
- An excision from reserve no. 24869 (Bernier and Dorre Islands Nature Reserve) for addition to the lighthouse reserves 37383 and 37338 was agreed to on the condition that a lease agreement could not be obtained.

- A donation of land to expand the Boyagin Nature Reserve was gratefully accepted.
- The Authority endorsed the construction of a second ocean outfall in Marmion Marine Park.
- The renewal of the lease of the Harry Waring Marsupial Reserve (reserve no. 29241) to the University of Western Australia for marsupial research purposes was endorsed for a further 21 years.
- The re-organisation of the camping area near Fortescue Falls within the Hamersley Range National Park was noted.
- The sealing of Conspicuous Beach Road, Walpole-Nornalup National Park was noted.
- The Authority requested the Minister take action to relinquish mining leases at Lake Campion for failure to comply with conditions.
- The issue of tour boat operations on Yardie Creek within the Cape Range National Park was re-opened. The Authority resolved to allow existing safari boat tours to continue to operate under restricted conditions.

#### OTHER LAND USE ISSUES

- The decision of the EPA to reject a proposal to mine peat within the Lake Muir Nature Reserve was welcomed. The Authority advised the Minister of their support for Lake Muir becoming an A Class reserve.
- Compliance monitoring was carried out by CALM staff and a Lasmo Oil consultant in relation to a seismic survey being carried out by Lasmo Oil on the Muiron Islands. The report indicated that the survey had been carried out conscientiously and environmental degradation was well within the standards set in the impact study and conditions for approval. The Authority received this report with pleasure.
- The Authority finalised and submitted its report to the EPA on the "Hill River Coal Mine and Power Station Project". The submission recommended the Mt Lesueur area be classified as a national park and be given a high priority for preparation of a management plan. A press release was issued on the Authority's view and copies of the report distributed to interested groups.

The recommendations of the EPA within their report - "Coal mining and power generation, near Mt Lesueur" (EPA Bulletin 460) were noted with pleasure.

- The Authority was briefed on a project involving the captive breeding and translocation of species from Bernier and Dorre Islands Nature Reserves to the Peron Peninsula (Shark Bay). Conditions set for the program were noted - these being that the Department must be satisfied that foxes are removed from the Peron prior to translocation and that the land has security of tenure (Peron Peninsula has since been purchased by the Government for the purpose of a national park.)
- The Authority was briefed on the finding of a Black rat (*Rattus rattus*) on Barrow Island and the subsequent eradication program.
- Regeneration of tuart in the Tuart National Park. At the request of the Authority the Department had prepared a fire management program for this park (see Annual Report 1989/90 page 10). The Authority endorsed the program which reduced the

percentage of the park to be grazed and proposed the use of grass specific spraying. In October 1990 the Authority was briefed by the Department on its three year program for regeneration of the park's tuarts. The Authority endorsed the regeneration program and requested additional research be undertaken to look at the management of the understorey and overstorey and weed control.

- The Department's recommendation to allow for the spraying of locusts up to the boundary of nature reserve no. 26809 near Kellerberrin was endorsed.
- The Authority agreed to the issuing of a licence to destroy ravens threatening the eggs and chicks of the endangered species - Red Tailed Tropic Bird, at Sugarloaf Rock, Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
- Noted that mining in the newly created land category of conservation park would require the approval of both Houses of Parliament, ie the same as for A Class nature reserves.
- Draft standard conditions for mining leases on B and C Class nature reserves were considered.
- Recommended to the Minister the granting of a geoscientific permit (subject to conditions) to Outokumpu Exploration P/L for common area 16119 in the Kundip area.
- A proposal to construct an SEC line to Location 3699 through a section of the proposed Perup Nature Reserve was endorsed.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on nature conservation reserves in the Kimberley and a submission to the Kimberley Region Plan Study is under consideration.
- The Authority was advised of a proposal to translocate declared endangered animals from Bernier and Dorre Island Nature Reserves to Heirrisson Prong. The Authority agreed to seek commitment from the pastoral leaseholders for the transfer of the lease to the Department for the tenure of the project.
- The Authority was briefed on the effects of the Sanko Harvest oil spill at Esperance. The fine efforts of the Department's staff and volunteer workers were noted.
- Review of B and C Class reserves: the Authority was advised that of the 969 B and C Class nature reserves identified as requiring a review of status the review process has been completed on 586 of the reserves. 438 had been gazetted as Class A by the end of the financial year. The other 148 are awaiting completion of gazettal action by the Department of Land Administration. The remaining 383 reserves are at varying stages of the review.

## **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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Under Section 22(1)(b) of the Act the Authority is required to develop relevant policies. The following were dealt with:

### **KANGAROO MANAGEMENT**

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1991 management programs for the Red Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro.

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1991 quotas for Western Australia of 290 000 for the Red Kangaroo, 45 000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo and 10 000 for the Euro.

### **CALM POLICY STATEMENTS**

The Authority collectively endorsed all applicable departmental policy statements. In addition to this the following statements were discussed in detail -

- Draft policy on apiary management
- Policy Statement No. 3 (revised) - Phytophthora Dieback
- Policy Statement No. 18 (revised) - Recreation

The Authority decided to undertake an annual review of all policy statements to ensure regular updating. The Authority will suggest to the Department, on an annual basis, statements they believe require review.

### **OTHER POLICY AREAS**

- Departmental officers briefed the Authority on proposed changes to the CALM Act and Wildlife Conservation Act. Advice and recommendations regarding the amendments were made.
- The Authority endorsed the principles contained in a departmental policy paper on spring/autumn burning.
- An Authority policy statement on "Aboriginal involvement in national parks and nature conservation" was prepared and adopted.
- The Government's new mining policy "Resolution of Conflict" was discussed with the Minister. The policy allows for mining in three parks - Hamersley Range, Rudall River and D'Entrecasteaux. These three parks have long had existing mineral claims which required resolution. In resolving the land use conflict for these parks, the Government would rationalise the boundaries to exclude mineralised areas from the parks.
- The Authority requested that the excised areas for the Marandoo minesite and mining transport corridors be created as section 5(g) reserves vested in the Authority. The Authority further believes that no further mining should be permitted in the park until the Marandoo project is completed.

- The Authority suggested to the Minister that no exploration and mining should be allowed in marine nature reserves. The departmental position that conservation parks be treated in an equivalent policy manner to A Class nature reserves, ie for mining to require the approval of both Houses of Parliament was endorsed.
- Arrangements have been put in place for the Mines Department to refer all applications to explore or mine in B and C Class reserves vested in the NPNCA to be referred for Authority advice. An executive committee was formed to deal with these requests.
- A standing committee to deal with recommendations for additions to the conservation estate was created during the latter half of the year.
- A second standing committee was formed to undertake an ongoing role in monitoring of management plans and prepare a format for this activity.
- The Authority endorsed the amendments to the Schedule of Rare Flora with the inclusion of presumed extinct taxa as rare flora in a separate section.

## SUBMISSION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

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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 continues to be a significant portion of the Authority's workload.

During the year the Authority forwarded to the Minister for approval, the final managements plans for the Lane Poole Reserve, the Fitzgerald River National Park and the Marmion Marine Park.

The submission of the Fitzgerald River National Park plan followed the most exhaustive process of consultation yet undertaken by the Authority and departmental officers. A major initiative taken in this plan was the establishment of a wilderness zone in the centre of the park. Important issues which interact with each other are dieback disease, fire management and recreational access. Access for all purposes has been considerably reduced in the area of the ranges along the central coast because of the threat of dieback disease spread in that part of the park. The Authority believes that this plan represents a proper balance between caring for this important piece of land and access by visitors.

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

- Marmion Marine Park
- Shoalwater Islands

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

- John Forrest National Park
- Shark Bay Marine Park. Discussions were held with the Shires of Shark Bay and Carnarvon in conjunction with this.
- Matilda Bay Reserve

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

| <b>Final Management Plan</b>   | <b>Date Approved by Minister</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lane Poole Reserve             | 30 October 1990                  |
| Fitzgerald River National Park | 20 May 1991                      |

The greater part of the preparation of managements 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 during the year were:

- The Authority considered a late submission by Aboriginal interests on the Hamersley Range National Park Management Plan and agreed to restart the management planning process to reflect the proposed role of the Karijini Aboriginal Corporation in the park. This new management plan process and mining activity seem likely to substantially delay the management plan. The decision of the Government to re-name the park Karijini National Park was noted.



The Authority reluctantly accepted the Karijini Aboriginal Corporation's request that a member of the NPNCA not be a permanent representative for the planning team for the park.

- The Thompsons Lake Nature Reserve Management Plan was opened for amendment.
- Final details of Ningaloo Marine Park zoning were approved.
- Preliminary discussions were held on the Herdsman Lake Management Plan and the conservation values of the area.
- The Authority was briefed on several occasions on progress with the Purnululu National Park final management plan.
- Departmental officers briefed the Authority on a computer-based system used to monitor the implementation of the Yanchep National Park Management Plan. It suggested that this method of reporting be adopted for other park plans.
- Discussions were held with departmental officers on the distinction between Interim Guidelines for Necessary Operations in parks and reserves and management plans. These discussions helped to clarify the overall position and emphasised the need for interim guidelines where there is no management plan.

## ADVICE TO THE MINISTER, DEPARTMENTS AND OTHERS

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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.

- Suggested to the Minister that consideration be given to joint acquisition of Mt Hart Station for Aboriginal purposes and establishment of a Leopold Range National Park.
- Provided comments to the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee on their discussion paper "Recreational Fishing - Issues for Community Discussion".
- A response was provided to the Land Conservation Select Committee on "Discussion Paper No. 1 - South West Region of WA", and Discussion Paper on the Pastoral Region.
- Provided comments to West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) on the "Barrow Island Oilfield Environmental Review 1963 to 1988". It was suggested that the Department and WAPET cooperate in the development of a strategy for the future environmental management of Barrow Island.
- Supported the Department's suggestion that an overview concept plan for all north-west islands is required for conservation, recreation and development purposes.
- Commented on the "Development Concept Plan for Cable Beach/Riddell Point, Broome" to the Department of Planning and Urban Development.
- The Authority advised the Minister of their support for the early closure of the 1990 abalone season particularly as abalone fishing had a direct impact on the Marmion Marine Park. This support was conveyed to the Minister for Fisheries. A representative of the Authority was subsequently invited to participate in the Metropolitan Abalone Season meetings.

Advice was also sent to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on the following:

- "Shark Bay Salt Project, Extension of Salt Ponds, Useless Inlet" Public Environmental Review.
- "Lasmo Oil (Australia) Ltd: Exploration Drilling Programme in EP342 and TP/9" Consultative Environmental Review.
- "Yangebup Road Realignment - Hammond Road to Lorrimer" Consultative Environmental Review.
- Draft guidelines for the "Public Environmental Review of Mineral Sands Exploration, D'Entrecasteaux National Park".
- Draft ERMP guidelines for the proposed Marandoo iron ore mine transport corridor, Hamersley Range National Park.

## EXTERNAL LIAISON

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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:

- Lane Poole Reserve. The visit was made along with members of the Lane Poole Advisory Committee and staff from the Department's Northern Forest Region.
- John Forrest National Park with members of the Department's planning team. The visit was made in conjunction with discussing the issues and objectives of the park's management plan.
- Kalbarri to meet with representatives from the Shire of Northampton and the Geraldton Mid West Development Authority to discuss recommendations from the Kalbarri Planning Study which would impinge on the Kalbarri National Park.
- Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe to meet with Shire representatives in relation to the final management plan for the Fitzgerald River National Park.
- Barrow and Thevenard Islands. The biennial inspection of these islands were carried out to ensure nature conservation values are being maintained.
- Millstream-Chichester National Park. Authority representatives attended a substantial conference organised by the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Commission on Aboriginal interests in national parks.

The following visitors met with the Authority during the year:

- Mr Cedric Wyatt, Ms Sue Booth and Mr Ross Johnston from the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority to discuss Aboriginal interest in national parks and conservation reserves in WA.
- Mr Gary Jeffrey and Mr Ray Rampling of Hadson Energy Ltd to discuss a proposal to drill the Tanami No. 1 well using a land rig located on Varanus Island.
- The Hon Bob Pearce, Minister for the Environment to discuss the Government's mining policy - "Resolution of Conflict".
- Members of the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee and Bush Fires Board in relation to the final management plan for the Fitzgerald River National Park.
- Representatives from Cable Sands Pty Ltd and Martinick and Associates in relation to mineral exploration within the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.
- Shire Presidents and Shire Clerks from the Shires of Carnarvon and Shark Bay to discuss management issues and the planning process for the Shark Bay Marine Park.
- A briefing from the Mines Department, mining company and Aboriginal interests regarding the Kintyre excision in Rudall River National Park has been requested.

- A series of regular meetings were held with the executive of the Conservation Council of WA and state coordinators of the Wilderness Society and Australian Conservation Foundation. These meetings were set up with the objective of exchanging information to increase mutual understanding of each body's viewpoint.

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

## **PUBLIC SEMINARS**

This year in association with the Lands and Forest Commission and the Department a series of public seminars were conducted. These meetings were designed to initiate discussion and raise awareness of issues. Topics included:

- Recreation in National Parks and Nature Reserves
- Jarrah Forest Ecology
- Jarrah Forest Timber Management and an associated field trip to the jarrah forest at Dwellingup
- Jarrah Forest Values and Conservation
- Involvement of Aboriginal People in Conservation Management

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

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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.

During the year funds were allocated for the following projects.

- Population studies of sea lions and fur-seals.
- Rare flora database.
- Investigation of status of *Banksia coccinea* and *Banksia baxteri* in relation to wildflower picking and dieback.
- Western swamp tortoise.
- Moora district rare flora survey and management program.
- Duck count (in collaboration with the RAOU).
- Swan coastal plain wetlands study.
- Herbarium database.
- Effect of picking on the conservation status of *Banksia hookeriana*.
- Coobidge Creek wetland ecological study.
- Stick-Nest Rat - reintroduction to Salutation Island.
- Effect of picking on conservation status of *Verticordia brownii*.

These projects were endorsed by the Authority.

**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

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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 relating to honoraria, travel costs and day to day running costs.

Further information on financial statements can be obtained from the Department's 1990/91 Annual Report.