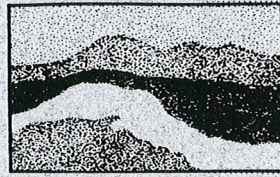
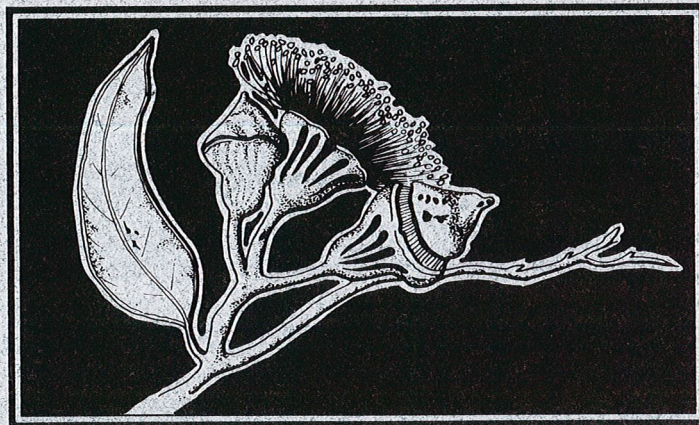


National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1991 - 30 June 1992



National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1991 - 30 June 1992

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National Parks and  
Nature Conservation Authority

HON MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with Section 31 of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the report on the proceedings of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for the year ending 30 June 1992.

Professor A J McComb  
CHAIRMAN

31 August 1992

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## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

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In presenting this review of the activities of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for 1991/92, it is appropriate to acknowledge with gratitude the contributions made by the founding Chairman of the Authority, Norman Halse, who left us at the end of the previous year on taking up membership of the Environmental Protection Authority. Norman has wide interests in and experience of land management and conservation in Western Australia, and through his excellent chairmanship placed his stamp on conservation in this State, and on the nature and direction of this Authority.

Another founding member who retired during the year is *ex officio* member Dr Barry Wilson. Our appreciation is extended to Dr Wilson for his valuable contributions to Authority business as Director of Nature Conservation. Mr Keiran McNamara has filled the vacancy left by Dr Wilson, and his expertise is welcomed by the Authority.

Amendments to the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 proclaimed during August 1991 provide, for the first time, a representative of Aboriginal interests to sit on the Authority. Michael Hill has been appointed to this position. Other new members appointed during the year included Malcolm Trudgen, Steve Wilke and Councillor Michael Greenup, who bring a wide range of experience to the Authority.

It has been a very busy year, in which the development of management plans has been a key activity. Plans for the Marmion Marine Park and the Walpole Nornalup National Park were approved after public comment; so too was the comprehensive South Coast Regional Management Plan. Draft plans approved for public release were for the Matilda Bay Reserve, on the foreshore of the Swan River; the West Cape Howe National Park, the John Forrest National Park, and the Goldfields Regional Management Plan. All of these brought their individual problems, and Authority members were appreciative of close interaction with CALM staff at all stages of their preparation. In each case this began with an initial briefing about major issues, interaction during plan preparation (including on occasion attendance by NPNCA members at workshops or field days), discussions of drafts as they neared completion, and the formal release of a final draft for public comment. Then followed the review of comments, development of the final plan, and its recommendation for adoption by our Minister. A particularly impressive feature of this process has been the detachment with which public submissions have been analysed and dealt with by CALM staff. Among major issues which have been discussed is that of horse riding, and the unusual step has been taken in two of the drafts (John Forrest and West Cape Howe) of placing alternatives before the public - to eliminate horse riding because of risks to the environment, or to allow riding to take place on designated bridle trails.

An important undertaking has been the development of techniques for monitoring the implementation of management plans. A committee of the Authority has worked with CALM staff to develop a "checklist" approach for systematically reviewing progress in achieving management objectives expressed in the plans. Targeting as case studies a small reserve, Benger Swamp, and a national park, the Leeuwin-Naturaliste, they reported to the Authority that most of the objectives had been achieved and that the exercise was constructive and valuable for all involved. Another park is about to be reviewed in this way, and with the methodology established this promises to become a routine NPNCA activity.

Mining and exploration continue to be major preoccupations for the Authority. Following the announcement by Government of its policy on exploration and mining in land vested in the Authority, there was a refinement of procedures for dealing with applications to explore or mine in A, B and C Class reserves. Where exploration or mining is allowed by Government policy, the Authority recommends on management procedures. Authority members have taken an active interest in rehabilitation techniques; several visited the areas being rehabilitated after sand mining at Eneabba, and one accepted an invitation to visit rehabilitation sites in New South Wales.

The Authority has expanded its contacts with other organisations and individuals, and its meetings have crowded agendas which involve briefings not only from CALM staff, but from a diversity of other agencies and groups. Between meetings it has convened workshops (usually in association with the Lands and Forest Commission and CALM), and members have contributed to submissions on a diversity of documents concerned with environmental impacts. Some have also travelled widely to review the status of small reserves in the wheatbelt. There is no doubt that the workload of the Authority has increased, and will continue to increase in the future.

I conclude by recording my appreciation to CALM staff, not only those who occupy *ex officio* positions on the Authority, but also to the individuals who brief us on particular issues. We are especially appreciative of our interaction about mining issues, and in the preparation of management plans. I am very grateful to all Authority members for their unstinting work and the consideration which they give to the many issues which come before us; I am especially grateful to the Deputy Chair for her enthusiasm and hard work on a variety of issues, and to Tracy Shea and Jeanette Gilmour for excellent secretarial support.

## 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 refer to the Minister for the Environment, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.)

### AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

As a consequence of amendments to the Act proclaimed in August 1991, the Authority's membership has been increased to include a representative of Aboriginal interests.

The Authority is now made up of 15 members who are appointed under the provisions of Sections 23(1) and 23(2) of the Act, comprising:

- (1) (a) Four *ex officio* members from the Department being -
  - (i) the Executive Director;
  - (ii) the Director of Nature Conservation;
  - (iii) the Director of National Parks;
  - (iv) the Director of Forests;
- (b) Eleven 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;
  - (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; and
  - (viii) one shall be representative of Aboriginal interests.
- (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**

- (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 until his retirement in December 1991. Mr K McNamara was appointed Director in June 1992 (deputies Mr J Blyth 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 R Sneeuwjagt and Mr A Briggs until December 1991, then Mr D Haswell and Mr P Jones).

### **Appointed Members**

- (1) (b) (i) Mr N J Halse, AM, Chairman until 31 July 1991  
Mr M E Trudgen, from 1 August 1991  
Ms C D M Keating
- (1) (b) (ii) Mrs M I Blackwell  
Mr S J Wilke, from 1 August 1992
- (1) (b) (iii) Professor A J McComb, Chairman from 1 August 1991  
(formerly Deputy Chairman)
- (1) (b) (iv) Dr E M Mattiske, Deputy Chairman from 1 August 1991
- (1) (b) (v) Mr D G Bathgate  
Mr M Greenup, from 1 May 1992
- (1) (b) (vi) Mr A Horwood
- (1) (b) (vii) Mr R Neal
- (1) (b) (viii) Mr M Hill, from 9 June 1992

## **FUNCTIONS UNDER THE LEGISLATION**

The functions of the Authority are prescribed in Section 22(1) of the Act as amended in August 1991 and are:

- (a) to have vested in it national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, marine nature reserves, marine parks and relevant land referred to 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 referred to in section 56(1) (c), (d), (da) 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**

18 and 19 July 1991  
 9 August 1991  
 13 September 1991  
 11 October 1991  
 8 November 1991  
 13 December 1991

14 February 1992  
 13 March 1992  
 10 April 1992  
 8 May 1992  
 12 June 1992

# 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 the year the area of reserves vested in the Authority increased by 391 870 hectares.

The area of national parks increased by 42 243 hectares during the year. Major changes in the national park estate during 1991/92 were the creation of Mt Lesueur National Park (26 987 hectares) and the addition of 12 358 hectares to the Drysdale River National Park. Additions were also made to Karijini, Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Yalgorup and Yanchep National Parks. Excisions were made from Karijini, Neerabup and Watheroo National Parks.

A number of amendments were made to the published areas of several national parks following an audit of boundaries and recalculation of their areas.

Conservation parks are a new category of reserve created by an amendment to the Act in August 1991. Conservation parks have the same purposes as national parks but they do not have the same national or international significance. They have significant local or regional value for conservation and recreation. The first conservation parks were created in June 1992, and their total area is 25 685 hectares.

The area of nature reserves increased by 323 220 hectares during the year.

The area of marine parks increased by 138 hectares, while the area of marine nature reserves remained unchanged at 132 000 hectares.

The area of conservation/recreation reserves increased by 584 hectares during the year.

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 made recommendations on the future of a number of reserves as part of the ongoing review of B and C Class reserves.
- The State Energy Commission of Western Australia (SECWA) was advised that its proposal to install a powerline in Nature Reserve No. 38296 to connect the Cooperative Bulk Handling Koonadgin wheatbin to mains power was acceptable.
- A proposal from Men of the Trees to collect seed from a section of Nature Reserve No. 17710 in the Shire of Dowerin for the purpose of regenerating the understorey under the remnant wandoo on their trial plot was approved. The proposal included restoration of the understorey on the section of the reserve

vested in the Authority and access to the dam for irrigation on the trial plot. Use of water from the Amery Nature Reserve by the Men of the Trees was also approved.

- The vesting of the Old Mill at South Perth was transferred from the Authority to the National Trust.
- Cancellation of Forest Lease No. 1468/40 and its excision from the Tuart Forest National Park was approved for incorporation into Reserve No. 38845 for the purpose of "Preservation of Historical Buildings" vested in the National Trust.
- The Authority agreed to the renewal of the lease for the Royal Perth Yacht Club for a further 21 years.
- Agreement in principle, subject to availability of finance, was given to replacement of the existing telephone tower at the Milyering Information Centre with a new tower.
- Lease proposals for the Coalmine Beach Caravan Park at Walpole-Nornalup National Park were considered.
- The creation of the Mt Lesueur National Park was noted with pleasure.
- The acquisition of Mt Hart pastoral station for addition to the conservation estate was also noted with pleasure.
- An excision from the Karijini National Park made by Parliament for the purpose of the Marandoo construction camp was noted with regret by the Authority.
- The Department's recommendations for additions to the Greenmount National Park were endorsed.
- Approval was given for the extension of the North Newdegate Road through the Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve in the Shire of Lake Grace. The Authority requested that a joint management plan be prepared by the Department and the Shire of Lake Grace for Hollands Track within the Reserve.
- The Authority agreed to an excision from Reserve No. 16245 to form a consolidated reserve for "Sewerage Works" vested in the Shire of Koorda.
- A realignment of Selkirk Road affecting Serpentine National Park was approved.
- Commercial rabbit shooting operations in the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve were approved on a trial basis, subject to conditions.
- An excision for road realignment from Pallarup Nature Reserve No. 29860 in the Shire of Lake Grace was approved.
- The Authority approved the dedication of the existing extension of the Mount Adams Road through Yardanogo Nature Reserve No. 36203, and also agreed to an easement for the road subject to conditions. The approval was in response to a request from Sagasco Resources Limited for access to its Beharra Springs gas development, and followed an evaluation by Sagasco of alternative routes.

## **OTHER LAND USE ISSUES**

- Access through Rudall River National Park to remote Aboriginal communities was considered and advice was provided to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).
- The Authority was briefed on the condition and repair program for the road leading to the Pinnacles, Nambung National Park.
- A program for translocation of Quendas to Wheatbelt reserves was endorsed.
- An application to conduct horse riding tours on the old Wanneroo stock route along the western boundary of Yanchep National Park was approved on a twelve-month trial basis, subject to conditions to protect the Park's environment.
- A proposal by the Department to translocate Noisy Scrub Birds to Bald Island off the South Coast was supported.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on a proposed "ecotour" of Dorre Island. The proposal was supported by the Authority, which noted that the tour would generate much needed data on Dorre Island and was a model to be supported.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on the eradication of rats on Barrow Island and the occurrence in general of feral animals on off-shore islands.
- The Authority was briefed on the Department's fire fighting procedures and the issue of fire as it relates to management.
- The Authority provided advice as appropriate on matters related to leases on vested land.
- Proposed amendments to the Declared Rare Flora schedule were endorsed.

## **MINING ISSUES**

Procedures for dealing with mining referrals for exploration in A, B and C Class reserves were refined. 1991/92 saw a marked increase in the number of referrals dealt with by the Authority, as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. The figures show the number of Exploration Leases (ELS), Prospecting Licences (PLS), Mining Leases (MLS) and other applications processed by the Authority and pending consideration, for lands vested, and proposed for vesting, in the Authority.

The Authority provided advice to the Minister and the Department in relation to the tenement applications and the setting of conditions.

Among other mining issues considered during the year were:

- Tanami No. 1 Well, Varanus Island. The minimal environmental impact of this project and the successful rehabilitation of disturbed land were noted. The Authority commended Hadson Energy on the approach taken.
- Approval was given for the proposal by the Department of Mines for the installation of piezometers by Cable Sands in D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

During the year, the Authority commenced the practice of providing to the Conservation Council for its information a monthly list of tenement applications referred to the Department and the Authority.

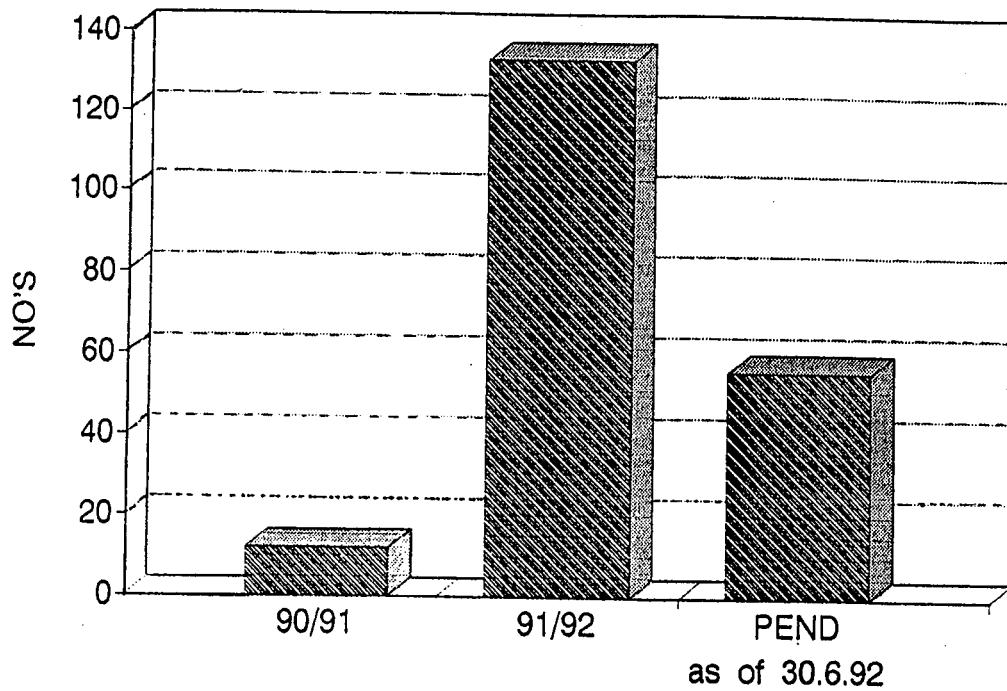


Figure 1. The number of mining tenements processed and pending consideration on land vested, or proposed for vesting, in the Authority.

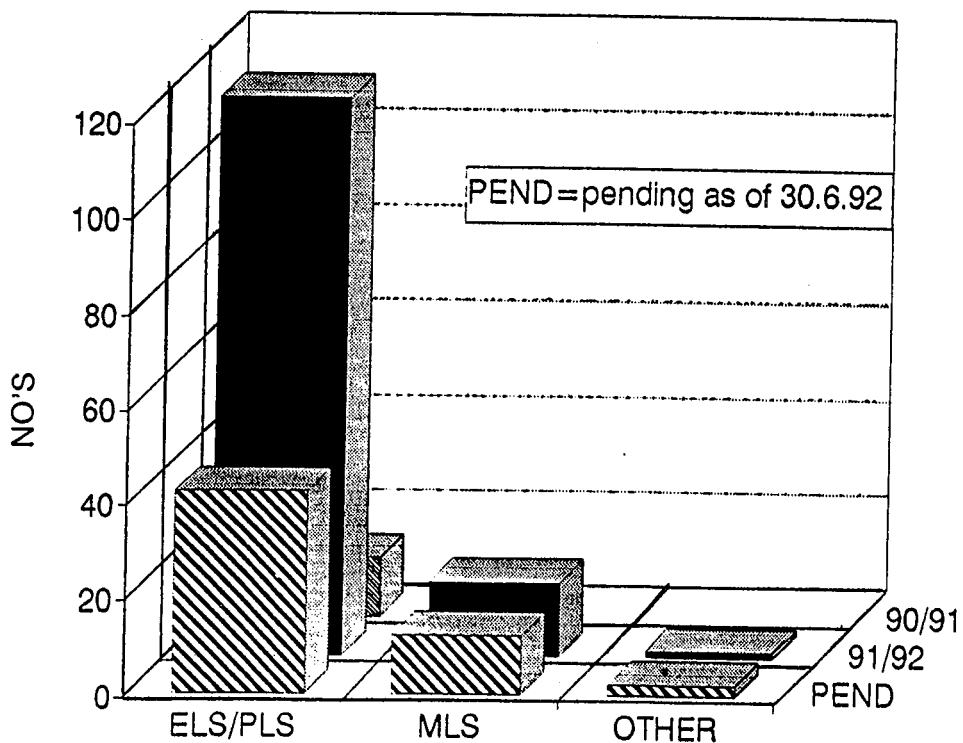


Figure 2. Exploration Leases (ELS)/Prospecting Licences (PLS), Mining Leases (MLS) and other tenements processed and pending consideration on land vested, or proposed for vesting, in the Authority.

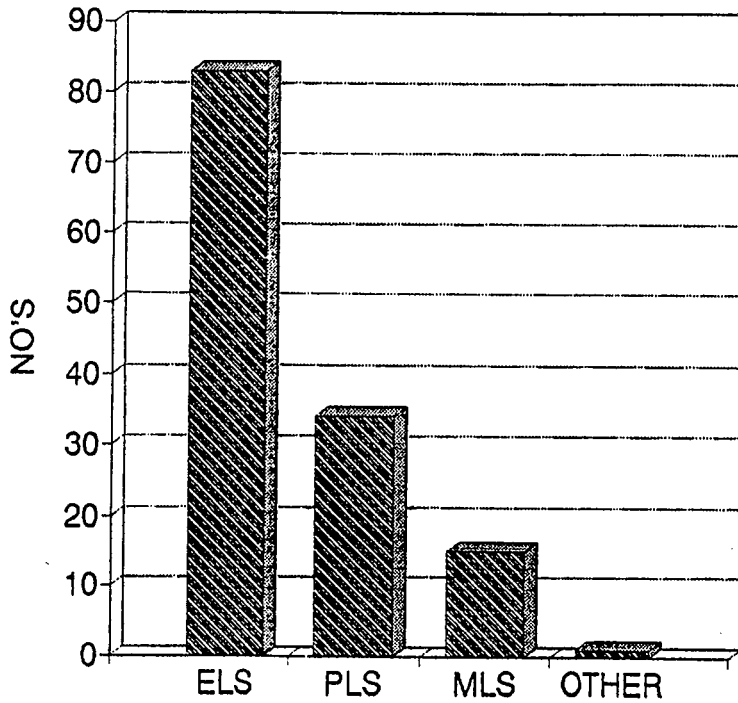


Figure 3. The number of Exploration Leases (ELS), Prospecting Licences (PLS), Mining Leases (MLS) and other tenements processed on land vested, or proposed for vesting, in the Authority (1991/92).

## **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 1992-94 management programs for the Red Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro.

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1992 quotas for Western Australia of 350 000 for the Red Kangaroo, 65 000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo and 10 000 for the Euro.

### **CALM POLICY STATEMENTS**

The following CALM policy statements were discussed in detail and endorsed by the Authority:

- No. 9 Conservation of Endangered Flora in the Wild (revised);
- No. 15 Community Involvement
- No. 24 Conservation and Management of Saltwater Crocodiles
- No. 33 Conservation of Endangered and Specially Protected Fauna in the Wild (revised)
- No. 40 Road Management
- No. 41 Beekeeping on Public Lands
- No. 44 Wildlife Management Programs

This brought the number of policies endorsed by the Authority to those listed in Table 1. A number of other policies, relevant to administrative issues within the Department, were noted by the Authority (Table 2).

### **OTHER POLICY AREAS**

- Department officers briefed the Authority on the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy and the Draft Review of Forest Management Strategies for the South West Forests. The Authority commended the Department on the standard of these documents and welcomed their release. The Authority also welcomed the landmark agreement with the Australian Heritage Commission to protect heritage values in the southern forests.
- The Authority's policy statement on Aboriginal Involvement in National Parks and Nature Conservation was revised.
- The Authority was briefed on the amendments to the Act, and the proposed integrated land management regulations under the CALM Act. Advice was provided to the Department on the proposals.



- Authority representatives participated in the Department's Biogeography Research Program review.
- The Authority was briefed on the Merredin District Rare Flora Management Program. The Authority expressed its appreciation of the effort put into the development of the program.

**TABLE 1****DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT****POLICY STATEMENTS ENDORSED AND ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL  
PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>
1	Planning	January 1986
2	Basic Raw Materials (Revised)	October 1989
3	Phytophthora Dieback (Revised)	February 1991
9	Conservation of Endangered Flora in the Wild (Revised)	December 1991
10	Rehabilitation of Disturbed Land	November 1986
11	Protection of Aboriginal Sites	Yet to be issued
13	Taking of Protected Flora in the Kimberley Region	December 1986
14	Weeds on CALM Lands	November 1986
15	Community Involvement	May 1991
18	Recreation (Revised)	May 1991
19	Fire Management	May 1987
20	A Marine and Estuarine Reserves System in Western Australia (Revised)	November 1990
22	Taking, Keeping and Display of Live Reptiles	January 1989
23	Conservation and Management of Emus	May 1990
24	Conservation and Management of Saltwater Crocodiles	Yet to be issued
25	Community Education and Interpretation	January 1988
27	CALM's Role in Management of Native Vegetation in Rural Areas	August 1990
28	Reporting, Monitoring and Re-evaluation of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Management	September 1988
29	Captive Breeding and Cultivation of Endangered Species and their Re-establishment or Translocation in the Wild (Revised)	December 1991
31	Management of Reserves for the Conservation of Nature	March 1990
32	Cancelled - see 15	
33	Conservation of Endangered and Specially Protected Fauna in the Wild (Revised)	December 1991
34	Visual Resource Management of Lands and Waters Managed by CALM	November 1989
39	Fees and Charges	January 1991
40	Road Management	November 1991
41	Beekeeping on Public Lands	April 1992
44	Wildlife Management Programs	May 1992

**TABLE 2****DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT****ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS FORWARDED TO THE NATIONAL PARKS  
AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR INFORMATION**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>
5	Research and Technical Publications (Revised)	August 1988
6	Staff Training and Career Development	January 1986
8	Budget Preparation and Control (Revised)	April 1992
12	Arbor Day	August 1986
16	Computer Purchase and Use	December 1986
17	Housing	February 1987
21	Communications	August 1987
26	Equal Employment Opportunity (Revised)	February 1990
30	Harassment in the Workplace	December 1988
35	Aboriginal Employment and Training	December 1991
36	Post-graduate Studies and Study Grants (Revised)	January 1991
37	Filling Vacancies by Promotion or Transfer	December 1990
38	Business Units	January 1991
42	Staff Counselling	April 1992
43	Occupation Rehabilitation	March 1992

## 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 management plans for the Marmion Marine Park, the Walpole-Nornalup National Park and the Shoalwater Islands. The South Coast Regional Management Plan was forwarded to the Minister for approval in association with the Lands and Forest Commission and the Department.

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

- Matilda Bay Reserve
- West Cape Howe National Park
- John Forrest National Park
- Goldfields Regional Management Plan

The Authority also considered the goals and objectives for the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks.

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

<b>Final Management Plan</b>	<b>Date Approved by Minister</b>
South Coast Regional Management Plan	23 December 1991
Marmion Marine Park	30 January 1992
Walpole-Nornalup National Park	5 February 1992

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 during the year were:

- The Authority agreed to make provision in the Marmion Marine Park Management Plan for small scale blasting to make clearance for pipes associated with the Watermans Marine Research Laboratories.
- It was agreed that the zoning scheme for the Marmion Marine Park would be reviewed early in the plan period in order to increase the total area in sanctuary zones, and include onshore reef (such as the Waterman area) and outer reef, as these habitats are either not represented or poorly represented. All interested people would have the opportunity to comment on the proposed scheme through an amendment early in the life of the plan.
- It was agreed that the terms and conditions under which water skiing at Lake Jasper occurs would be reviewed because of the discovery of Aboriginal artefacts on the lake bed after the management plan was approved.
- Agreed to the Department convening a workshop of interested groups to discuss horse riding in John Forrest National Park.

- Future vesting of Dryandra Forest was considered in the light of the preparation of a draft management plan for the area. Advice on the matter was provided to the Lands and Forest Commission.
- The Authority was briefed on progress with the Purnululu National Park final management plan.
- A request for access within Fitzgerald River National Park for inspection of tracks and assessment of regeneration in the 1989 fire area was approved. The Authority's approval was a requirement of the management plan.

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING**

In association with the Department, the Authority has been monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the management plans for national parks and nature reserves. As part of this wider review, detailed investigations and field inspections were made of Benger Swamp Nature Reserve and the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. This review has proved very successful and forms part of an on-going and potentially increasing task for the Authority.

## 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.

- The Authority provided advice to the Minister and the EPA on the Marandoo Iron Ore project.
- A response was provided to the Commonwealth Government's Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Group on the draft report on fisheries.
- Comments were provided to the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority on its Forward Plan.
- The Authority provided comments to the Fisheries Department on proposed quotas for the taking of fish in Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Advice was provided to the Water Authority of Western Australia on a discussion paper on acceptable levels of change in the Marmion Marine Park associated with the proposed duplication of the Beenyup ocean outfall.
- Comments were forwarded to the Minister on the final report of the Select Committee on Land Conservation.
- A submission on the Kimberley Region Planning Study was forwarded to the Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD).
- The Authority also submitted comments to DPUD on the Albany Region Planning Study.
- The Authority submitted advice to the Minister on the Department's Biogeography Research Program review.

Advice was also provided to the EPA on the following:

- The Public Environmental Review for the Cable Sands exploration program in D'Entrecasteaux National Park.
- "Proposed Airstrip and Fishing Base, Cape Londonderry" Public Environmental Review.
- "Proposed Ord River Hydro-Electric Project" Public Environmental Review.
- Draft Guidelines on the "Public Environmental Review of the Modification of Kalbarri National Park Boundary for Quarry and Landfill Site".
- A proposed tour of Dorre Island.

## EXTERNAL LIAISON

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In carrying out its functions, the Authority visited a number of places during the year, and attended other meetings as required. A number of visitors also met with the Authority.

The following visits were made by members of the Authority:

- An Authority representative travelled to the Eastern States at the invitation of Cable Sands to inspect rehabilitated minesites.
- Several members visited the Tuart Forest National Park to inspect areas sprayed with herbicide to control weeds. This method of control is being used in an effort to phase out grazing in the park.
- At the invitation of the Southern Aboriginal Corporation, representatives of the Authority attended a workshop in Pemberton on involvement of Aboriginal people in conservation management.
- A member of the Authority accompanied a departmental representative at a meeting with the proponent of the airstrip and fishing base at Cape Londonderry.
- The Chairman accepted an invitation to attend the launch of the Wilderness Society's proposal for "A World Class Aboriginal Wilderness National Park for the Kimberley" on behalf of the Authority.
- The Authority continued to provide a representative on the Beekeepers and Rare Flora Consultative Committees.
- Members of the Authority attended the John Forrest National Park horse riding workshop.
- Members visited AMC's Eneabba sand mining operations to inspect rehabilitation and discuss aspects of the mining program with AMC staff.

The following visitors met with the Authority during the year:

- Mr Peter Robertson from the Wilderness Society addressed the Authority on issues related to the Kimberley.
- Dr Denis Saunders from the CSIRO briefed members on his work on fragmentation of ecosystems and conservation of biota in the Wheatbelt area.
- A representative from the Perth Diving Academy presented his views to the Authority on a sanctuary zone proposal for Marmion Marine Park.
- Representatives of the Shire of Lake Grace met with the Authority to discuss matters related to the Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve.
- Representatives of the Wildflower Society met with the Authority to discuss mining and exploration in conservation reserves.
- The Authority was briefed by the Water Authority of Western Australia on levels of acceptable change in the Marmion Marine Park associated with the proposed duplication of the Beenyup Marine Outlet.

- Meetings were held with the Executive of the Conservation Council of WA and representatives of the Wilderness Society and Australian Conservation Foundation to discuss a range of topics.

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

### **PUBLIC SEMINARS**

The series of public seminars conducted in association with the Lands and Forest Commission and the Department continued during 1991/92. The seminars are designed to initiate discussion and raise awareness of issues. Topics covered during the year were:

- Endangered Species Conservation in Western Australia.
- The Draft Nature Conservation Strategy and Draft Review of Management Strategies for the South West Forests.



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

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The Act provides the Department with the 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.

- Declared rare flora database.
- Wildflower industry research.
- Surveys for Moora District threatened and priority flora management program.
- Completion of report on fusillade trial.
- Research into status of selected heavily exploited flora species.
- Data analysis for Katanning District threatened and priority flora management program.
- WA Herbarium database.
- Cape Barren Goose survey.
- Preliminary study of Sandhill Dunnart.
- Eastern Goldfields biological survey - data analysis and report preparation.
- Assessment of the impact of the fox on native mammals in the jarrah forest.
- Conservation of the Western Mouse.
- Development of a vertebrate life history database.
- Spring surveys of breeding waterbirds in south coast wetlands.
- Spring surveys of frogs in south coast wetlands.

**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 only be applied to scientific research relating to flora and fauna, 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.