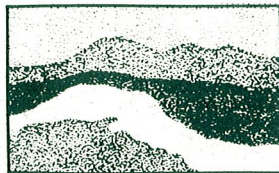


National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1992 - 30 June 1993



National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1992 - 30 June 1993

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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 1993.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J McComb'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Professor A J McComb  
CHAIRMAN

7 October 1993

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## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

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The Authority has accomplished a great deal during a very busy year. The accompanying report details these activities, but here I draw attention to some features of particular significance or interest.

One striking feature has been the great variety of issues which have come to our attention. These range over water skiing in nature reserves, squatters' shacks on vested land, fire management, removal of gravel, horse riding in national parks, excisions for telecommunications towers or road construction, catchment/lake interactions, fishing issues in marine parks, leases for boat tour operators, kangaroo management, and the listing of threatened flora and fauna. Decisions have had to be made about all these issues, some of which have been difficult to resolve, and some of which directly affect what may have been regarded as traditional activities in certain areas. We have tried to make every decision with wisdom and understanding; it is my firm belief that the Authority has been exemplary in discharging its duties about such difficult matters, and in finding a consensus of views from a diverse membership.

A primary activity continues to be the preparation and implementation of management plans by CALM on behalf of the Authority. The Authority is briefed about and discusses issues likely to be of major concern during the preparation of each plan, and ways in which difficulties might be resolved. A draft is then put together by CALM after considerable study and public consultation, and when satisfied the Authority recommends to the Minister that it be released for public comment. A thorough analysis of submissions is carried out by CALM staff and discussed with the Authority, and eventually a final management plan is recommended for release by the Minister. This year two draft management plans were released, two final plans were approved by the Minister, and another has been recommended for approval.

Another important phase in the management planning process has been the development of a "check-list" approach for analysing progress on the implementation of management plans. The monitoring method (detailed in last year's report) has been further refined, and has been applied to another reserve and national park during visits by NPNCA members and CALM staff to those areas.

Mining and petroleum issues have continued to be a major preoccupation, and have occupied a considerable proportion of our meeting time. Clarification of the pathways of communication between agencies has led to greater efficiencies in dealing with applications. The Authority has been particularly anxious to emphasise the conservation value of the small remnant reserves in the wheatbelt area, and has consistently recommended against ground disturbance in them.

The future vesting and management of marine parks and reserves became a matter of some public discussion during the year. The Authority advised the Hon Minister of its strong view that responsibility for these areas should remain within the Environment portfolio, as they are part of the conservation estate. The Authority also drew attention to the interdependence between water and land, and to the consequent need to manage the land and water conservation estates in an integrated manner. The Authority also stated its preference to remain the vesting body for the

marine conservation estate, but noted that an alternative would be to set up a new vesting body, associated with CALM in much the same way as the NPNCA, to provide more specifically for marine interests; if a new vesting body were established, the Authority recommended some cross membership with the NPNCA.

A number of policy statements have been developed during the year following suggestions by the NPNCA or CALM. It is a matter of convenience for these to be presented numerically as CALM policies, as they are implemented by CALM, and as there would be no point for the NPNCA and CALM to have different policies on the same issue. In a few instances (Aboriginal involvement, wilderness, mosquito control) it has been useful for the NPNCA to enunciate what are in effect interim policies pending full policy development by CALM at a later stage. On other occasions policy statements are of a purely administrative nature, and are provided by CALM to the Authority for information. Policy statements are provided to the Minister, and are available for public information on request; comments about them are welcome.

The Authority is also from time to time developing "position papers" (these have so far concerned its attitudes to mineral and petroleum exploration); these have been defined as a result of discussion, and are available for distribution to others. The position papers are informal and can be readily revised as new information becomes available.

The Authority is often briefed by CALM staff and members of other organisations, and the Authority has increasingly become involved in discussions at a more formal level with other agencies. Members of the Authority are considering State weed strategies, basic raw materials, Exmouth tourism and remnant bushland. Not surprisingly, the Authority has a voluminous correspondence.

Visits have also been possible by some members to a range of national parks and reserves, and a highlight has been the biennial visit to Barrow Island. This A Class nature reserve, of great significance because of its isolated, protected fauna and vegetation, presents many management challenges because of the presence of a major petroleum lease in the area.

It is again a pleasure to thank the CALM staff for their professionalism in managing the conservation estate and in presenting information to the Authority. I also thank Authority members for their loyalty to the Authority, their frankness in discussions and their ability to resolve difficult matters. In particular, I mention Dr Libby Mattiske, the Deputy Chair, for her very valuable and time-consuming help over the year. And finally I express my thanks to the dedicated secretarial staff who service the Authority and cope with an increasing volume of correspondence and logistical organisation.

## 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

The Authority is 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) Mr K J McNamara, Director of Nature Conservation (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 D Haswell and Mr P Jones).

**Appointed Members**

- (1) (b) (i) Mr M E Trudgen  
Ms C D M Keating until 14 August 1992  
Mrs J Reading from 10 December 1992
- (1) (b) (ii) Mrs M I Blackwell  
Mr S J Wilke
- (1) (b) (iii) Professor A J McComb, Chairman
- (1) (b) (iv) Dr E M Mattiske, Deputy Chairman
- (1) (b) (v) Mr D G Bathgate  
Mr M Greenup
- (1) (b) (vi) Mr A Horwood
- (1) (b) (vii) Mr R Neal
- (1) (b) (viii) Mr M Hill

**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**

10 July 1992	15 January 1993
14 August 1992	12 February 1993
11 September 1992	12 March 1993
9 October 1992	16 April 1993
13 November 1992	14 May 1993
11 December 1992	11 June 1993
18 December 1992	

# THE CONSERVATION ESTATE

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## LANDS AND WATERS 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 and waters.

### Area Vested

During the year the area of reserves vested in the Authority increased by 209,435 hectares. Major changes in the national park estate during 1992/93 were the creation of the Kennedy Range (141,660 hectares), Francois Peron (52,529 hectares) National Parks and the creation of an 875 hectare park around the Gloucester Tree at Pemberton. Additions were also made to the Beedelup, D'Entrecasteaux, Goongarrie, John Forrest and Leeuwin Naturaliste National Parks. Excisions were made from Cape Arid, Collier Range, Moore River and William Bay National Parks.

The area of conservation parks vested in the Authority increased by 21,933 hectares over the year. This brings the total area vested to 47,618 hectares. Notable additions were the Montebello Islands, Leschenault Peninsula, Shell Beach-Shark Bay, Lane Poole Reserve, Dale, Boyagarring and Badgingarra Conservation Parks.

The area of nature reserves increased by 108,088 hectares. Notable additions to existing nature reserves were made for Parrys Lagoon, Ord River (False Mouths of the Ord) and South Eneabba. New nature reserves created included the Yeal Nature Reserve.

There was a small increase (3 hectares) in the area of marine parks, this being an addition to the Ningaloo Marine Park (Fraser Island). The area of marine nature reserves remained unchanged at 132,000 hectares.

The area of conservation/recreation reserves increased by 353 hectares during the year.

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

## PROPOSED CHANGES FOR VESTED LANDS AND WATERS

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

- Approval was given for the excision of 2 hectares from the Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve No. 1432, to be vested in the Shire of Westonia for the purpose of gravel extraction, and subject to Section 34A of the Land Act.
- A realignment of Chester Pass Road within the Stirling Range National Park was agreed to.

- The Authority opposed the excision of 2750 hectares from the Kalbarri National Park to allow for the future growth of Kalbarri. Government decision to allow the excision was noted.
- The Authority agreed to the temporary (6 years) revesting of a section of Beekeepers Reserve 42477 in the Shire of Carnamah. This temporary revesting would enable the Shire of Carnamah to manage the removal of coastal squatter shacks from parts of the reserve under the Government policy on the "Illegal Occupation of Coastal Crown Land (squatters)".
- The Authority recommended to the Minister for the Environment that the area within 500 metres of the wreck of the *Gudrun* within the Shark Bay Marine Park should be declared a sanctuary zone. This was approved by the Minister.
- Approval was given for an excision from Beekeepers Reserve 24496 and for the area excised to be added to Shell Reserve 40534 vested in the Shire of Dandaragan.
- Approval was given to SECWA for the replacing of poles for the Kojonup-Albany (No. 2) 132 KV transmission line through Reserve 20948. Approval was given on the condition that clearing of native vegetation be kept to a minimum.
- The Authority recommended against a proposal involving the removal of rock below the high water mark within the Marmion Marine Park.
- Extension of approval for a further twelve months was given for water skiing on Bennett's Lake, Dunn Rock Nature Reserve. Approval was granted subject to conditions.
- The creation of the Kennedy Range, Francois Peron National Parks and a new park around the Gloucester Tree at Pemberton were welcomed.
- The Authority accepted an amended proposal from Telecom for the replacement of the existing telephone tower at the Milyering Information Centre.
- The extension was welcomed of the Ord River Nature Reserve by some 55,900 hectares along the lower Ord to include extensive tidal waterways and the mangrove swamps and mudflats known as the False Mouths of the Ord.
- The Authority agreed to *one* experimental drain being placed from private property into the Lake Toolibin Nature Reserve. The Authority also endorsed the Recovery Plan for Lake Toolibin and Surrounding Nature Reserves and its implementation under the guidance of CALM's Director of Nature Conservation.
- Approval was given for the construction of a pull-over bay for tourist coaches on the Brand Highway, Moore River National Park. Approval was given on safety grounds and would entail a small excision from the national park.
- Extension of the jetty at Bundegi by approximately 40 metres to deeper water within the Ningaloo Marine Park was agreed to.

- The Authority welcomed the signing of a special "Land Use and Compensation Agreement" between the Executive Director of CALM and the State Energy Commission of WA (SECWA).
- Approval was given for an excision from Reserve 19962 for the purpose of widening an area of the Brookton Highway.
- A request was received seeking an alteration to the southern boundary of the Dugong Sanctuary Zone within the Ningaloo Marine Park to allow recreational fishing. The Authority resolved that until such time as research is undertaken and analysed on marine habitat types, fish stocks and fishing activity in the area, the NPNCA is not in a position to recommend alteration to the sanctuary zones in the marine park. The Authority awaits the outcome of this research which will take some seasons to complete.
- The Authority was briefed on the changes to vested lands as a result of the Reserves Act 1992 assented to in December 1992.
- Approval was given for the excision of 730 square metres from the John Forrest National Park to be re-vested in the Shire of Mundaring as road reserve for the purpose of road realignment and bridge construction.
- An exclusive licence for the operation of a public ferry service from Mersey Point to Penguin Island was approved.
- A small excision from the Yalgorup National Park for the Dawesville Highway deviation was agreed to in principle and subject to rare flora evaluation.
- A proposal for Tim's Thicket Reserve 24198 to be incorporated into the Yalgorup National Park in exchange with the Shire of Mandurah for a section of the park to the north of Tim's Thicket Road was considered and endorsed. The exchange would require approval by Parliament.
- The issuing of an exclusive licence to conduct horse drawn carriage tours within Yanchep National Park was approved subject to conditions.
- A proposal for the construction of an overflow drain in the vicinity of Bartram Road, Thomson's Lake Nature Reserve was noted. The drain construction would help remove nutrients which otherwise would enter Thomson's Lake.
- Approval was given to Telecom for the construction of three towers within the Rudall River National Park (under agreed environmental conditions) to improve the telecommunications system to remote Aboriginal communities.

## OTHER LAND USE ISSUES

- The conservation values of South-West reserves, particularly around the Boulder Hill area were noted.
- The Authority welcomed the purchase of Mt Hart and Charnley River Stations by the Government for inclusion in a proposed Kimberley National Park.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on land and marine issues of the Shark Bay region, including matters relating to the World Heritage Property area.
- The Authority inquired into the status of the proposed management plan for Herdsman Lake and progress with land transfers to the Authority and the Executive Director.
- The Authority provided comment to the Department on the Interim Fire Protection Guidelines for the Beekeepers Reserve.
- The Department briefed the Authority on a number of occasions on the work of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park Task Force.
- Tour boat operations on Yardie Creek within the Cape Range National Park were reconsidered. It was agreed that one dedicated tour boat and two safari boats should continue to be licensed in the short term. Consideration to the calling of tenders for these operations would be given in the longer term.
- Interim protection measures for the Hush Hush Beach Track within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park were noted.
- The Authority was briefed by departmental staff on a number of fire management issues.
- The Authority was briefed on the Desert Dreaming Project involving the translocation of animals to the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve.
- The Authority provided advice as appropriate on matters related to leases on vested lands.
- Proposed amendments to the Threatened and Specially Protected Fauna list and the Declared Rare Flora list were endorsed for submission to the Minister.

## MINING ISSUES

Matters relating to mining and exploration in NPNCA vested lands and waters occupied a significant amount of the Authority's time during the year. Details on the numbers of tenements processed during the period and in comparison to the two preceding years are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively. Mining proposals and proposals for significant ground disturbing exploration dealt with by the NPNCA are displayed at Figure 3. Figure 4 is indicative of the petroleum applications considered by the Authority for the twelve months 26 May 1992 to 25 May 1993.

The Authority continued to provide advice to the Minister and the Department on tenement applications during the year.

The Authority, whilst recognising Government policy, formalised its position with respect to mining and petroleum exploration and production in the conservation estate by the drawing up of position statements on: (i) mining in national parks and nature reserves; and (ii) petroleum exploration and production in national parks and nature reserves. A third statement on petroleum exploration and production in marine parks and marine nature reserves is also being formulated.

Consideration was given to the definition of "significant ground disturbing activity" during the period. The Authority considered it desirable that a common understanding of what constitutes significant ground disturbance should be shared between DOME, CALM, NPNCA, EPA and the environmental movement.

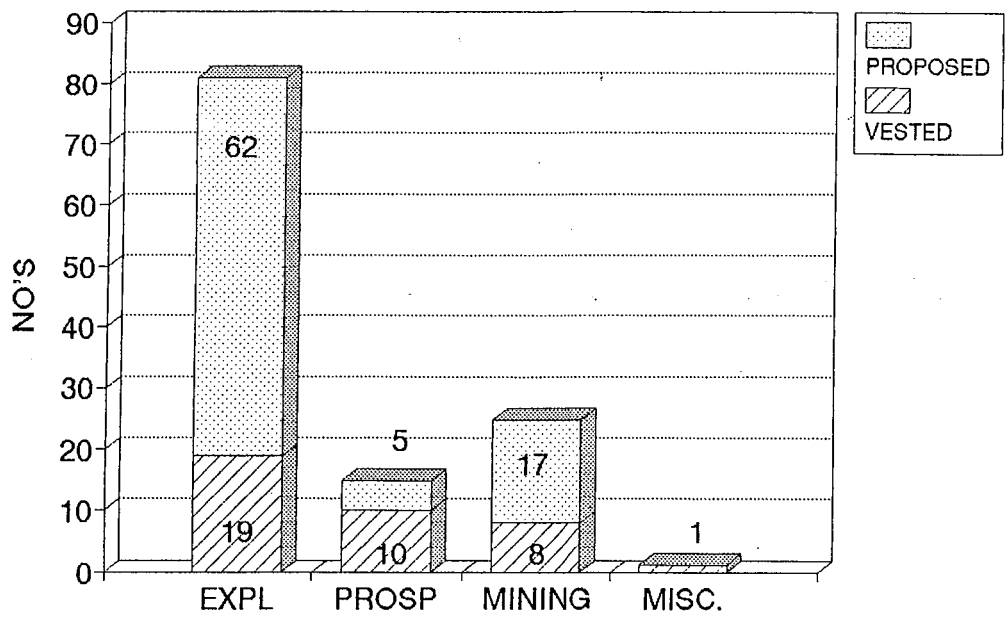
During the year a committee of the Authority was set up to consider the extraction of basic raw materials from conservation reserves for road building purposes. The Authority recognises that the processes for the provision of road building materials are complex and difficult to administer and many of the issues relating to basic raw material extraction overlap with the needs of Local Government Authorities.

Among other mining issues brought to the Authority's attention during the year were:

- A proposal by Lasmo Oil to drill Loggerhead No. 1 well, Ningaloo Marine Park. The well was to be drilled outside the Ningaloo Marine Park to a depth of approximately 1000 metres and then deviate to its target location just inside the park boundary. The area for drilling was proclaimed as Crown land under Section 15(2) of the Petroleum Act 1967.
- A proposal by Quantum Holdings to extract a trial bulk sample of gypsum from tenement E70/655. The Authority was briefed by the Company's Director on the proposal.
- SAGASCO's 1993 seismic proposals - Lovegrove and Beagle seismic surveys.
- An application by WAPET to conduct a geophysical survey for the Barrow Island 17 Project 481. The Authority was also briefed by representatives from WAPET on the Company's proposed 3D seismic program for 1993 for Barrow Island.
- Cheritons Gold Deposit Mining Lease 77/390, Jilbadji Nature Reserve. The Authority provided advice to the Minister on the nature conservation values of the area affected by the proposed mining.
- Lowendal Islands - seismic survey Hadson Energy. The Authority supported the EPA recommendation to assess informally due to the minimal environmental disturbance from the project.
- Petroleum guidelines and referrals. Authority representatives attended a meeting with CALM, EPA and Department of Minerals and Energy (DOME) representatives to help clarify a number of points with respect to petroleum guidelines and the referral process.

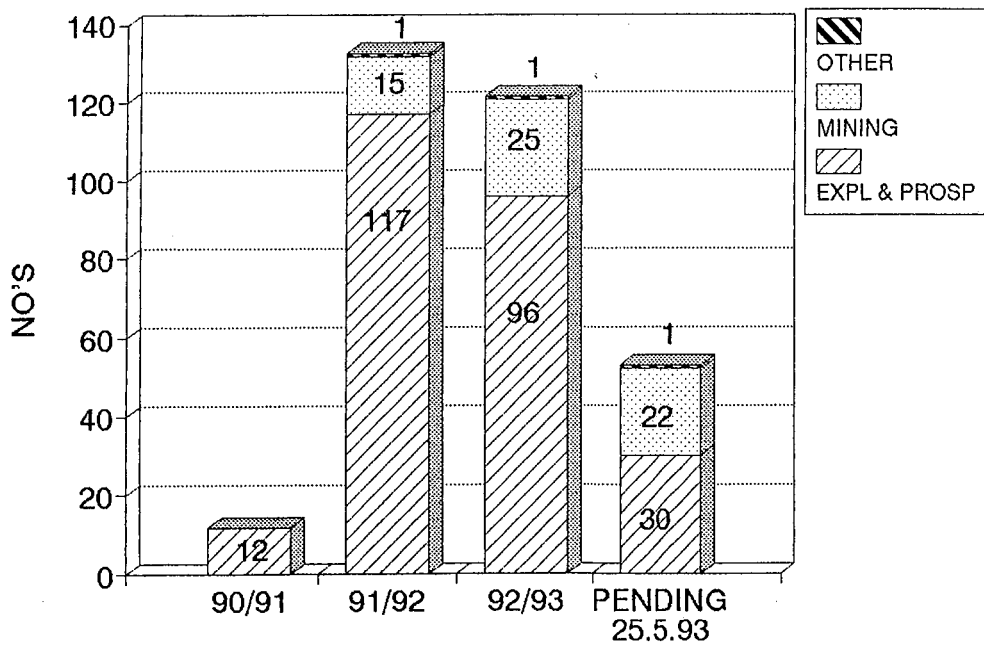
- Advice was provided to the Minister against the granting of three exploration licences applied for by FALX Pty Ltd covering a significant part of the wilderness area of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

During the year members of the Authority were fortunate enough to be able to visit a number of sites affected by mining proposals. The Authority is grateful to CALM and in particular its Environmental Protection Branch for organising these visits. Inspections worthy of a special mention are the Authority's biennial visit to Barrow Island; a visit to the Rudall River National Park to inspect exploration and rehabilitation procedures used by CRAE and a visit to the Jilbadji Nature Reserve to assess methods used by Aztec Mining Co Ltd. Visits such as these provide opportunities for Authority representatives to talk directly and informally with staff from industry who are involved in minimising environmental impacts.



**Figure 1.**

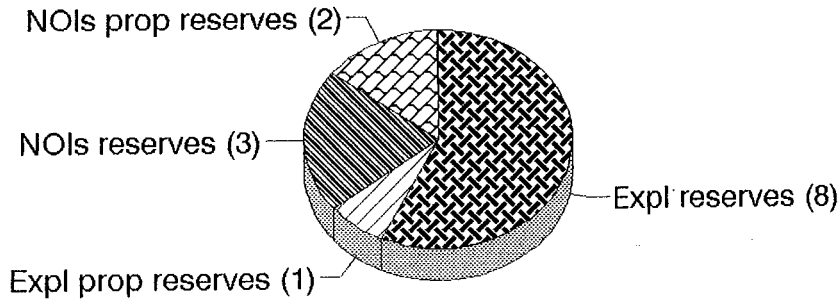
The number of Exploration Leases (EXPL), Prospecting Licences (PROSP), Mining Leases and other tenements processed on land vested, or proposed for vesting in the Authority for 1992/93.



**Figure 2.**

The number of tenements processed and pending consideration on land vested, or proposed for vesting in the Authority for the years 1990/91 to 1992/93.





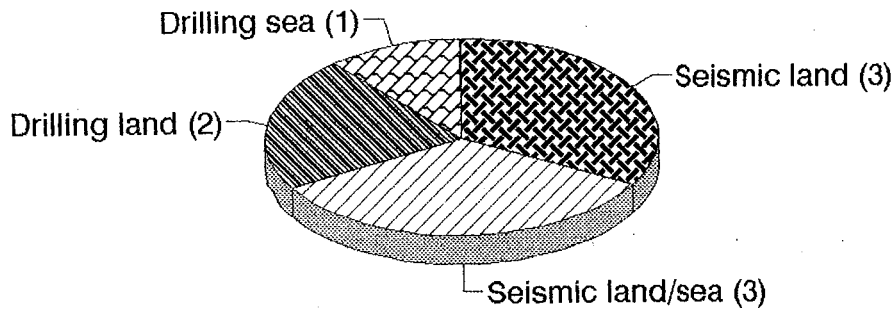
Expl = proposals for significant ground disturbing exploration  
 NOIs = Notices of Intent for productive mining

**SIGNIFICANT GROUND DISTURBING EXPLORATION PIE CHART**

Expl reserves	8	4 Jilbadji, 1 Rudall, 2 Bodallin, 1 Beekeeper
Expl prop reserves	1	1 Proposed Mandora Nature Reserve
NOIs reserves	3	1 Jilbadji, 2 Beekeeper
NOIs prop reserves	2	1 North Ironcap, 1 Ravensthorpe Range

**Figure 3.**

Mining proposals and proposals for significant ground disturbing exploration considered by the Authority.



**PETROLEUM APPLICATIONS PIE CHART**

Seismic land	3	Lovegrove & Beagle (Beekeeper area), Shell (Edgar Range)
Seismic land/sea	3	Barrow, Varanus, Sundance (Ningaloo)
Drilling land	2	Mountain Bridge (Arrowsmith), Woodada (Lake Logue)
Drilling sea	1	Loggerhead No. 1 Well (Wellington)

**Figure 4.**

Petroleum applications for the period 26 May 1992 to 25 May 1993 considered by the Authority.

## **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**

In September 1991 the Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1992-94 management programs for the Red Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Euro. These programs were subsequently approved by the Minister and the Commonwealth Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1994.

The Authority endorsed the Department's proposed 1993 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. 22 Taking, keeping and display of live reptiles (revised)
- No. 45 Environmental monitoring of pesticides
- No. 49 Radio communication facilities

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, have been noted by the Authority (Table 2).

### **NPNCA POLICY AND POSITION STATEMENTS**

Policy and Position Statements formulated by the Authority are listed at Table 3.

### **OTHER POLICY AREAS**

- The Authority agreed to a proposal from the Integrated Catchment Management Coordinating Committee (ICMCG) for the setting up of a Wetland Management Coordinating Committee (WMC) reporting to the NPNCA and the Water Resources Council to coordinate matters pertaining to wetland management in the State.
- Officers from the Department briefed the Authority on progress with the Nature Conservation Strategy.

- The Authority noted Cabinet's recommendation for the broadening of the role of the NPNCA to include regional parks. Legislation to formally establish regional parks is however still awaited, along with consultation with the Authority on this matter.
- The Authority was briefed on the process for the resumption of land for the purposes of roads in national parks and State forest.
- Departmental officers briefed the Authority on Government policy as it related to marine parks, national parks and mining and petroleum exploration.
- The Soil and Land Conservation Council (SLCC) briefed the Authority on a proposal for the development of a Weeds Strategy for WA. The proposal was for the strategy to be jointly developed by the SLCC, the NPNCA and the Agriculture Protection Board (APB). The Authority supported the development of the strategy and is represented on the steering committee.
- A nominee from the Authority was invited to sit on the Wildflower Industry Advisory Committee (subsequently renamed the Flora Industry Advisory Committee).
- The Authority discussed and formulated policy on "mosquito control on NPNCA vested lands".
- Criteria for addressing the issue of horse riding on vested lands was discussed.
- The Chairman was nominated to represent the Authority on the Nature Conservation Trust of WA.

Table 1

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY STATEMENTS ENDORSED AND ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL  
PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NO.	TITLE	DATE OF ISSUE
1	Planning	January 1986
3	Phytophthora Dieback (Revised)	February 1991
4	Cancelled - see 15	
7	Cancelled	
9	Conservation of Threatened Flora in the Wild (Revised)	December 1992
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	November 1992
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
45	Environmental Monitoring of Pesticides used by CALM	July 1992
49	Radio Communications Facilities	Yet to be issued

Table 2

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS FORWARDED TO THE NATIONAL  
PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR INFORMATION

NO.	TITLE	DATE OF ISSUE
2	Local Government Authority Access to Basic Raw Materials from State Forest and Timber Reserves (Revised)	February 1993
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
46	External Funds	August 1992
47	Control of Sirex Woodwasps in Pine Plantations	June 1993

**Table 3**

**NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**POSITION AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>POLICY STATEMENTS</b>
August 1989	Wilderness Policy
December 1991	Aboriginal Involvement in National Parks and Nature Conservation
April 1993	Mosquito control

<b>DATE</b>	<b>POSITION STATEMENTS</b>
February 1993	Mining in National Parks and Nature Reserves
June 1993	Petroleum Exploration and Production in National Parks and Nature Reserves

## 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 plan for the Matilda Bay Reserve.

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

- Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve
- Karijini National Park (release delayed pending Ministerial consideration)

The Authority also considered the goals and objectives for the Yalgorup National Park Management Plan.

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

Final Management Plan	Date Approved by Minister
Matilda Bay Reserve	7 December 1992
Shoalwater Islands	13 July 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:

- Progress with implementation of the management plan for the Yanchep National Park. The Authority was briefed on developments in the park including the lake front picnic area, the administration building, McNess House and siting of the new tearoom facility. On site inspections were made by Authority members.
- Met with the Lands and Forest Commission to discuss the vesting of the Dryandra Forest in light of the preparation of a draft management plan for the area.
- The interim report of the Fitzgerald River National Park Fire Advisory Committee was received. The report is a requirement of the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan.
- Authority representatives attended a workshop on "Zoning for Marine Reserves". A proposal for the addition of a fourth "Special Purpose" zone to be used in the planning of marine parks was subsequently endorsed by the Authority.

- The Authority was briefed on management plan requirements for the Shark Bay World Heritage Property area.
- A proposal seeking devolution of approval to enter into the core of the Fitzgerald River National Park from the NPNCA to the Department was considered and rejected. Authority approval is a requirement of the approved management plan.

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN MONITORING**

The NPNCA has a responsibility under the Conservation and Land Management Act to monitor the implementation of approved management plans. A method of reviewing the progress of implementation of the management plans has been developed by Department officers in consultation with NPNCA representatives. In last year's annual report it was reported that field inspections were made of Benger Swamp Nature Reserve and the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park as part of this monitoring process. This year we are pleased to record that inspections of the Lane Poole Reserve, Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the nature reserves of the Shires of York and Northam were targeted for inspection and subsequent reporting. During these inspections the recording system developed in the Benger Swamp Nature Reserve and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park was refined.

This review process has provided NPNCA members with the opportunity to address key issues relating to the management of the State's national parks and nature reserves with Departmental officers on location. It is considered to be beneficial to all involved and enables a definition of works completed and goals achieved as well as difficulties met in implementing the plans to be recorded and discussed. Results from these reviews will provide a basis for rewriting the plans when their term of currency expires.

A presentation on the principles involved in the review process and the findings to date was given by the NPNCA during the latter part of the year to CALM's Corporate Executive. The review process was favourably accepted and encouraged.



## 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.

- Comments were provided on (i) a report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the "Inquiry into the role of protected areas in the maintenance of diversity" and (ii) to the National Health and Medical Research Council on the report "National framework for health impact assessment in environmental impact assessment, 1992".
- The Authority advised the Minister on its concern for the protection of remnant vegetation in the State.
- The Authority advised the Minister of its view that vesting and management of marine parks and reserves should remain within the Environment portfolio.
- Provided comments to the Resource Assessment Commission draft consultancy report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Interests in Australia's Coastal Zone - "A Voice in all Places".
- Commented to the National Trust on their draft Urban Bushland policy.
- Provided comments to the Minister on the draft Wildlife Conservation Bill.
- Commented on the "Darling Range Regional Park and Landscape Study" document released by the Department of Planning and Urban Development.
- Comments on the draft Wetland Conservation Policy for WA were submitted to the Minister for the Environment.
- Submitted comments to the Department of Planning and Urban Development on the Jandakot Land Use and Water Management Strategy.
- Provided comment to the Office of Catchment Management on a discussion paper by Geoffrey Bott titled "Relationship between the extent of conventional broadscale agriculture and stream phosphorus concentration and phosphorus export in South West WA".
- The Authority provided advice to the Department of Fisheries relating to bag limits and charter boat operations within the Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Provided comments to the Useless Loop Community Biosphere Project Group on a draft management plan for the Heirisson Prong area.

- The Authority recommended to the Minister that the areas to the east and south of the Cape Range National Park be pursued as additions to the park.

Advice was also provided to the EPA on the following:

- Draft environmental conditions for the powerline along Coorow-Greenhead and Cockleshell Gully Road, through Mt Lesueur National Park.
- Consultative Environmental Review - 2 hectare market garden, lot 4 Service Road, Lake Clifton.
- Consultative Environmental Review on "Permit Wide Application for Offshore Drilling, EPS 341 and 364".
- Bulletin 679 - "Protecting the marine environment - a guide for the petroleum industry".

## 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:

- The Chairman and Deputy Chairperson met and briefed members of the Department's Planning Branch on the role of the Authority.
- Discussions were held with EPA members on remnant vegetation.
- Authority representatives met with Department of State Development officers to discuss and clarify aspects of the Hamersley Iron Agreement Amendment Bill.
- The Authority met with representatives of the Conservation Council Executive to discuss fire management practices.
- Authority representatives attended a symposium convened by the WA Museum on the Biogeography of Cape Range.
- Representatives of the Authority along with CALM officers and representatives of the Beekeepers Consultative Committee inspected the Beekeepers Reserve, the purpose of the inspection being to primarily address fire management issues.
- An inspection of Beaumaris Beach, Marmion Marine Park was undertaken with respect to a proposal for the removal of seasonally exposed rocks above the high water mark.
- The Chairman represented the Authority at meetings of the North West Cape Tourism Development Study Steering Committee.
- To Rudall River National Park to inspect mining rehabilitation work.
- To the Jilbadji Nature Reserve to inspect clearing methods used by Aztec Mining Co. Ltd.
- Biennial inspection of Barrow and Thevenard Islands was carried out to ensure nature conservation values are maintained.
- Management plan monitoring inspections of Lane Poole Reserve, Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the nature reserves of the Shires of York and Northam.
- The Authority continued to provide a representative on the Beekeepers and Endangered Flora Consultative Committees.

The following visitors met with the Authority during the year:

- Members of the Lake Towerrinning Catchment Landcare Group and a representative from CALM and the Department of Agriculture met with the Authority on a proposal to divert the waters from Cordering Creek to Lake Towerrinning. The diverted waters would

flow into Lake Towerrinning thus improving its water quality by allowing it to overflow.

- Mr Ian Macrae from the Department of Planning and Urban Development and Mr Greg Keighery from the Department of CALM briefed the Authority on "Planning for Urban Conservation" and "Urban Environmental Audit".
- Mr Tony Ford from WAWA briefed members on the upgrade and maintenance of the Augusta water-wheel, Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
- Dr John Bailey and Mr Rod Sippe of the EPA spoke to the Authority on the review of the EPA Act and the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- Representatives of the Beekeepers Advisory Committee spoke to the Authority on their case for continued access to the Beekeepers Reserve for the purpose of apiculture.
- Departmental officers briefed the Authority on the impact of introduced birds (both introduced exotic and introduced native) to WA.
- Mr Bill Preston and Mr Bill Carr from DOME briefed the Authority on the occurrence of limestone resources in WA.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on prosecutions under the Wildlife Conservation Act.
- Dr Andrew Burbidge, Director CALM's Threatened Species and Communities Unit, spoke to the Authority on the functions of the unit and Species Recovery Plans and their funding.
- Dr Jim Armstrong, Director CALM's Science and Information Division, briefed on the progress of phosphonate trials as a method of control of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.
- Mr Colin Bradbury (WAWA) and Mr Ian McCardle (Halpen Glick and Maunsell Consulting Engineers) advised the Authority on a proposal for a dam development and water catchment at Mt Hampton Rock (Mt Hampton Nature Reserve).
- Mr Jim Rule and Mr Peter Baayens from Telecom outlined to the Authority a proposed telecommunication system involving the construction of three towers within the Rudall River National Park.

In addition to the above the Authority was briefed by many other officers from the Department on a variety of issues.

## 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.

- Australian Sea-lions and New Zealand Fur-seals
- WA Herbarium databases
- Declared rare flora database
- Moora District threatened and priority flora survey and management program
- Conservation of the Western Mouse
- Wildflower industry research
- Research into status of selected heavily exploited flora species
- Data analysis for Katanning District threatened and priority flora management program
- Preliminary study of Sandhill Dunnart
- Assessment of impact of fox on native mammals in the jarrah forest
- Spring surveys of breeding waterbirds in South Coast wetlands
- Spring survey of frogs in South Coast wetlands
- Noisy Scrub Bird
- *Verticordia brownii*
- Eastern Goldfields biological survey - data analysis
- Ord River crocodile nesting survey
- 1993 crocodile survey
- Development of a vertebrate life history database

**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.

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