

National Parks and Nature
Conservation Authority



ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1994 – 30 June 1995



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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 1995.

Tom Day
CHAIRMAN

17 November 1995

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CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

I welcome the opportunity of introducing this report of the activities of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority for the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995. Having been appointed as Chairman during this year I have become even more aware of the vast array of issues being considered by the Authority in the course of its business.

This year again saw some changes to our membership. Founding member, Marion Blackwell, was appointed as Deputy Chair. I sincerely appreciate Marion's support and continuing hard work on Authority matters. Steve Wilke's term of appointment expired during the year and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Steve for his keen participation and contribution to our activities during the term of his appointment. Steve visited many of the conservation areas vested in the Authority and brought a sound knowledge of these areas back to our meetings. Pat Barblett is the new appointee to this position. Pat has worked in the area of recreation, environmental interpretation and ecotourism for the past twenty five years.

Two further vacancies on the Authority have also been filled during the year. Dr Sue Colyer, Chairperson of the Department of Leisure Sciences, School of Community Studies, Faculty of Health and Human Sciences at Edith Cowan University was appointed to the position representative of tertiary institutions. Vaughan Harman, formerly of the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation, was appointed representative of Aboriginal interests. A warm welcome is extended to our new members.

The Authority has been kept busier than usual in considering draft and final management plans for vested reserves. Those coming before us during the year have included the draft management plans for Shark Bay Marine Reserves; Wanagarren, Nilgen and Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserves; Wanjarrri Nature Reserve; and the final management plans for Purnululu National Park, Yalgorup National Park, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Lesueur National Park and Coomallo Nature Reserve.

As formal policies now exist for most commonly shared topics between the Department and the Authority, the Authority has been looking towards strategic issues this year. One such example arose out of the NPNCA's consideration of a Water Authority of WA water reservoir proposal on an

enclave within the Neerabup National Park. The NPNCA considers that the planning focus for this linear park should be from a strategic point of view within the context of northwest corridor structure planning by the WA Planning Commission and the Ministry for Planning. The Authority would like to see Government agency co-operation to plan cross-park powerlines, pipelines and roads so they are confined to only one or a couple of strategic corridors. A similar stance has been expressed with respect to the Karijini National Park where we would like to see any future cross-park infrastructure such as powerlines confined, as far as possible, to the Marandoo-Juna Downs infrastructure corridor.

Early in the reporting period we spent some time looking at our resourcing by the Government through the Department of Conservation and Land Management. The Authority appreciates the scarcity of resources available but also acknowledges the shortcomings of this position when trying to meet its responsibilities as set out in the CALM Act. A formal submission has been made to the Hon Minister for independent resourcing and funding. Consideration of this by Government is awaited.

In last year's review I mentioned that the Authority had advised the Hon Minister that it would be prepared to take on the role of vestee for regional parks. The Government's Urban Bushland Strategy, released in June 1995, foreshadows an expansion of the NPNCA's role to encompass regional parks. In anticipation of this role the Authority was consulted by CALM and the Canning City Council in the draft management plan for the Canning River Regional Park.

Another significant change to our role which was announced during the reporting period was the Government's decision to establish a new Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as the vesting body for marine parks and marine nature reserves. The NPNCA will relinquish its responsibilities in this area once the required amendments to the CALM Act are effected.

I am indeed pleased to report that a number of the recommendations stemming from a joint NPNCA and Soil and Land Conservation Council report to Government on the management of remnant vegetation have been included in new State Government policy on this matter. The Authority has welcomed the opportunity to now be included

on the steering group formed to deal with procedural issues arising from the new policy.

In conclusion I wish to thank the CALM *ex officio* members on the Authority for their background briefings to meetings of the NPNCA. I also extend our sincere appreciation to the other CALM staff for their professional and dedicated approach to the

management of the conservation areas vested in the NPNCA. Finally I thank fellow members of the Authority for their dedication to tasks that frequently take up extra time and personal resources, and to the Authority's Secretary for her continuing hard work and assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

The National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) was created as a Controlling Body under Part III, Section 21 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. The Authority is responsible to the Hon Minister for the Environment.

Western Australia's national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, marine nature reserves*, marine parks* and some miscellaneous conservation reserves are vested in the NPNCA. With the exception of some nature reserves which are vested jointly in the NPNCA and another body, the Authority is the sole vestee for these reserves. Day to day management of these vested lands and waters is carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

In addition to being the vested authority for these conservation reserves, Section 22(1) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* prescribes the functions of the Authority. These are:

1. Development of Policies
 - (a) for the preservation of the natural environment of the State, and the provision of facilities for the enjoyment of that environment by the community;
 - (b) for promoting the appreciation of flora and fauna, and the natural environment;
 - (c) to achieve and promote the management objectives of the various types of conservation reserve vested in it, as outlined at Section 56 of the Act.
2. With the approval of the Minister, cause study or research to be undertaken to assist in policy development.
3. To consider and advise (in accordance with Section 17) any proposed cancellation, change of purpose or boundary alteration in respect of land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Authority.

4. To submit proposed management plans, for the conservation reserves vested in it, to the Minister for consideration and approval (Part V of the Act).
5. Monitor the carrying out of the management plans, by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, relating to those conservation reserves that are vested in the Authority.
6. Advise the Minister on the development of policies for the conservation and management of the flora and fauna of the State, whether on public or private land.
7. Inquire into and advise the Minister on any matter the Minister has sought the Authority's advice. However, if the matter involves a specific piece of land, the Authority is required under Section 22(4), to first contact the relevant local government council to provide an opportunity for it to comment.
8. In response to requests, provide advice to any person or body on matters relating to conservation reserves vested in the Authority - if it is practical for the Authority to do so and if also in the public interest.

(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 Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism;
 - (iv) the Director of Forests

* Legislation is under preparation for the transfer of vesting of marine conservation areas to a new authority - the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

(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.

Membership and the category appointed under for the period July 1994 to June 1995 are recorded below.

Ex officio Members

- (1)(a)(i) Dr S R Shea, Executive Director (deputy Mr C D Haynes)
- (1)(a)(ii) Mr K J McNamara, Director of Nature Conservation (deputies Mr J Blyth, Mr F Batini and Mr H Chevis)
- (1)(a)(iii) Mr C D Haynes, Director of Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism (deputies Mr J Sharp, Mr W Schmidt and Mr J Williamson)
- (1)(a)(iv) Mr D Keene, Director of Forests (deputy Mr G Heberle)

Appointed Members

- (1)(b)(i) Mrs M Blackwell (Deputy Chair from 14 February 1995)
Mr G Rundle
- (1)(b)(ii) Professor B Collins
Mr S Wilke (to 13 February 1995)
Mrs P Barblett (from 14 February 1995)
- (1)(b)(iii) Dr S Colyer from 14 February 1995 (vacant 1 July 1994 to 13 February 1995)
- (1)(b)(iv) Mr K McMenemy
- (1)(b)(v) Cr T Day (Deputy Chairman to 13 February 1995. Chairman from 14 February 1995.)
Cr D Paterson
- (1)(b)(vi) Mr T Adams
- (1)(b)(vii) Mr K Gillen
- (1)(b)(viii) Mr V Harman from 14 February 1995 (vacant 1 July 1994 to 13 February 1995)

AUTHORITY MEETINGS

Meetings of the full Authority were held on twelve occasions during the period. These were:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 8 July 1994 | 13 January 1995 |
| 12 August 1994 | 10 February 1995 |
| 9 September 1994 | 10 March 1995 |
| 14 October 1994 | 7 April 1995 |
| 11 November 1994 | 12 May 1995 |
| 9 December 1994 | 9 June 1995 |

A special meeting of the full Authority was also held on 8 September 1994 to give members a chance to discuss organisational matters. In addition to the above meetings, the Authority has a number of smaller committees formed to deal with specific issue and policy matters. These committees met on an "as needs basis" during the period.

RESOURCES

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 NPNCA has no financial functions. Costs relating to honoraria, travel costs and day to day running costs are met from the Consolidated Fund appropriation of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Approximate expenditure for the 1994/95 year (excluding CALM officers salaries) was \$65,000.

During the period the Authority submitted to the Hon Minister for the Environment a request for an independent funding allocation from the Consolidated Fund. The Minister has publicly foreshadowed some changes to the resourcing of the Authority which will provide it with greater independence from the Department. Any changes in this regard will require endorsement by Cabinet and then subsequent changes to the CALM Act 1984.

THE CONSERVATION ESTATE

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Under Section 22(1)(a) of the CALM Act, the NPNCA is the vested authority for conservation reserves to which the Act applies. The Authority considers any cancellation and change of purpose or boundary for its B and C Class reserves under Section 22(1)(c) and associated Section 17.

CATEGORIES OF RESERVE AND FUNCTIONS

National parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, marine nature reserves and marine parks are the five main conservation reserve categories vested in the NPNCA under Section 7 of the CALM Act. Other reserves may be vested in the Authority under the Land Act. These categories are defined as:

National parks. These are usually Class A (some are Class C) and are for the purposes of wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study and preservation of features of archaeological, historic or scientific interest, together with recreational enjoyment by the public. The classification of national park applies to areas which have national or international significance for scenic, cultural or biological values.

Conservation parks. These can be Class A, B or C. Conservation parks have the same purposes as national parks, but they do not have the same national or international significance. They also may be relatively small in size or their landscape or biota affected by past land use. The first conservation parks were gazetted in June 1992.

Nature reserves. These can be Class A, B or C. Nature reserves are for the purposes of wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study and preservation of features of archaeological, historic or scientific interest. These are areas in which nature conservation values may not be commercially exploited, and no recreation which damages natural ecosystems is allowed.

Marine parks. These can be Class A. (To date all marine parks are Class A reserves under the CALM Act.) Marine parks are West Australian waters reserved and managed for marine conservation and recreation. Areas may be zoned for commercial fishing on an ecologically sustainable basis.

Marine nature reserves. These can be Class A. (To date there is only one marine nature reserve established. It has been classified Class A under the CALM Act.) Marine nature reserves are West Australian waters managed for the conservation of marine and terrestrial flora and fauna and their habitats. Fishing and collecting are not permitted.

Section 5(g) reserves. These can be Class A, B or C. Reserves with purposes other than those established under the CALM Act may be reserved and vested in the Authority under the Land Act. Most of these reserves have a conservation purpose, for example land abutting the Ningaloo Marine Park between the High Water Mark and the Ningaloo, Cardabia and Warroora pastoral leases has been reserved for the purpose of marine park and vested in the Authority.

The management of all vested conservation reserves (both terrestrial and marine) is carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND SECURITY OF TENURE

All Land Act reserves are classified as either Class A, Class B or Class C. Marine reserves established under the CALM Act may be classified as Class A. The level of classification reflects the level of approval required to alter their boundaries or purpose:

Class A Approval of both Houses of Parliament (Western Australia)

Class B Approval of the Governor, provided the Minister for Lands presents a report to Parliament

Class C Approval of the Governor

Class A reserves are therefore more "secure" than Class B or C reserves.

AREA VESTED

National park. As at 30 June 1995, 63 national parks totalling 4,870,828 hectares were vested in the Authority. Some notable changes to the national park estate during the year consisted of an increase of 6,146 hectares to Frank Hann National Park, an addition of 31,000 hectares to Purnululu

National Park from an adjoining conservation reserve. Three thousand and forty six hectares were excised from Kalbarri National Park.

Conservation parks. The area of conservation park vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1995 was 117,253 hectares. Notable additions were the Wandoo Conservation Park of 29,765 hectares and Lake Leschenaultia Conservation Park, 432 hectares.

Nature reserves. The area of nature reserves vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1995 was 10,781,954 hectares. Notable additions were Leda (489 hectares), Scott Reef (11,542 hectares - a correction of the original gazetted area), and an unnamed reserve in Kimberley Region (3,547 hectares).

Marine parks and marine nature reserves. There were no changes to the area of marine park and marine nature reserve vested in the Authority during the period. Total vested areas as at 30 June 1995 were:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Marine park | 1,013,940 hectares (approximately) |
| Marine nature reserve | 132,000 hectares (approximately) |

Further details of these areas are contained in the annual report of the Department.

CONSIDERATIONS OF PROPOSED CHANGES FOR VESTED LANDS AND WATERS

As the vested controlling body, the Authority considered a number of proposals presented to it throughout the year relating to boundary changes, classification changes and vesting. These are summarised below.

- A proposal by Main Roads WA and the Shires of Dandaragan, Coorow and Gingin to construct a coastal road link between the towns of Lancelin, Cervantes, Jurien and Greenhead was considered. Resumption of a portion of South Beekeeper Nature Reserve C36053 to allow for the creation of a section of this coastal road reserve was agreed to, along with approval in principle to the rationalisation of boundaries of the reserve involving land exchanges with adjacent landowners.
- The Authority has previously agreed to the de-vesting of sections of the Beekeepers Nature Reserve (C24496) to allow for

temporary vesting in the Shires of Carnamah and Irwin for leasing and ultimate removal of squatter shacks under the State Government Squatter Policy. During this year the Authority considered a proposal to allow for the removal of squatter shacks in the Shire of Dandaragan. The excision of an area from the Wanagarren Nature Reserve for the inclusion into a reserve to permit CALM to implement the policy on removal of squatters at Wedge Island was agreed to. The Authority also considered and agreed to an area of Beekeepers Nature Reserve (C24496) being de-vested and temporarily vested in the Shire of Dandaragan for the purpose of squatter removal, subject to the return of the area to the NPNCA on completion of squatter removal. A Memorandum of Understanding detailing appropriate conditions would be established between CALM and the Shire of Dandaragan.

- Approval was given for a land exchange involving a 20 metre wide strip (approximately 1.4 hectares) inside the northern boundary of Ellenbrook Nature Reserve (A27620) to be excised from the reserve and added to Lot 5 Lexia Avenue, Upper Swan (private property adjoining the nature reserve) in return for an approximate equal area being excised from the south-eastern corner of Lot 5 and added to Ellenbrook Nature Reserve. The Authority considered that the exchange of the strip of disturbed land for an area of potential habitat for the Western Swamp Tortoise would result in a nett increase in the conservation value of the reserve.
- The enlargement of the boundaries of Class C reserve 971 and its subsequent cancellation and inclusion into adjoining nature reserve 39744 located within the Shire of Carnamah for the purpose of "Conservation of Flora and Fauna" was approved.
- An excision of 980 square metres from Reserve 19741 located on the Brookton Highway for inclusion in the Brookton Highway road reserve (Main Roads WA) was agreed to.
- The Authority discussed proposals for the creation of nature reserves adjacent to the Lake Cronin Nature Reserve A36526 as follows:
 - a western Class C nature reserve vested in the NPNCA

- a water catchment Class C nature reserve vested in the NPNCA
- two eastern Class C nature reserves vested in the NPNCA
- a small Class A nature reserve over North Ironcap vested in the NPNCA
- the remainder of the area a section 5(g) reserve vested in the NPNCA or Executive Director

These recommendations were made following negotiations between CALM, Normandy Poseidon and Outokumpu. The proposal stemmed from EPA Red Book recommendation 11.10 which proposed an extension to the reserve; however, as the area is highly mineralised a compromise solution was required. The Authority supported the multiple use approach and the proposed reserve vestings.

- The Authority agreed to a proposal from Main Roads WA for the resumption of approximately 154.5 hectares from the Collier Range National Park for widening of the Great Northern Highway.
- The NPNCA approved in principle the extraction of water (if the need arises due to drought conditions) from the Gairdner Nature Reserve A14309 under conditions.
- The Authority agreed to a proposal for a test/production bore, subject to conditions, in Shark Lake Nature Reserve A31197.
- The NPNCA supported a proposal for local farmers to have access to water from a well located within Reserve A12397, Shire of Brookton, after the area is gazetted as nature reserve.
- The Authority was briefed by departmental officers on the impact of the invasive weed, Noogoora Burr in both the Parrys Lagoon and Ord River Nature Reserves. Affected areas are in a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Authority recommended prior to any extensive aerial spraying program by the Agriculture Protection Board (APB) that a trial aerial spraying program be carried out, preferably outside of the nature reserves, with the APB to liaise with CALM regarding exact location for the trial and monitoring requirements.
- A proposal for the pumping of saline water into Lake Dumbleyung (Lake Dumbleyung Nature Reserve) from adjacent private property was addressed. It was considered that pumping would allow some reclamation of upstream cleared blocks, which in turn should have some long-term positive effect on the nature reserve. The proposal had previously been considered by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation and rejected. The NPNCA recommended he remove his objections to the pumping proposal, subject to specified conditions which included commitment to preparation of a sub-catchment management plan and continued monitoring of the vegetation in the reserve.
- Approval was given for the clearing of the vegetation along the northern boundary of the Dundas Nature Reserve (subject to conditions) to enable reconstruction of a 45 km section of the Eyre Highway.
- The proposed vesting in the NPNCA of a "conservation and foreshore reserve" at Port Mandurah was noted.
- The Authority was briefed by the Operations Manager for the Yakabindie Project, Dominion Resources on a proposal to place a waste dump over approximately 150 hectares of the Wanjarri Nature Reserve in exchange for the offering of an addition of 560 hectares to the reserve. The proposal was supported by the Authority due to its benefit to conservation and Aboriginal interests.

MINING ISSUES

BACKGROUND

Mineral development within Western Australia is permitted under a variety of tenements (licences, leases, permits) which are regulated under the *Mining Act 1978*. The *Mining Act 1978*; *Petroleum Act 1967*; *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969*; *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982* prevail over the Conservation and Land Management Act. Environmental conditions imposed on tenements and projects vary according to the nature of the project and the tenure of the land affected. Details on these environmental conditions are available from the Department of Minerals and Energy.¹

STATE GOVERNMENT POLICY

Current Government policy allows exploration and mining in terrestrial and marine conservation areas in accordance with the Mining Act, Petroleum Act, Petroleum Pipelines Act and Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act. Table 1 shows the procedural and statutory requirements for terrestrial exploration and mining.

NPNCA POLICY

The NPNCA is opposed in principle to mining in nature reserves and national parks, because mining is not compatible with the purposes for which such lands are vested in the Authority. The Authority, however, acknowledges Government's prerogative to determine policy in this area and

- (a) is involved in the process of reviewing applications for exploration, prospecting and mining;
- (b) identifies the most important biological values and natural landscape features of the conservation estate, and seeks to protect them from any detrimental impact; and
- (c) recommends appropriate conditions and restrictions so as to minimise detrimental environmental impacts.

The Authority scrutinises applications to mine or explore in conservation reserves vested in it and provides advice to the Minister for the Environment on such proposals.

With respect to NPNCA involvement concerning petroleum exploration and production in national parks, nature reserves, marine parks and marine nature reserves, current legislation does not contain a formal requirement for comment by the NPNCA or Minister for the Environment, until such time as an area has been declared "Crown land" within the meaning of the Petroleum Act, and then only in relation to flora and fauna conservation. Current involvement of the NPNCA relies on the Environmental Protection Act and on administrative arrangements.

Further information in relation to NPNCA position on mining and hydrocarbon extraction and exploration is available from our position statements.

REFERRAL PROCEDURES FOR MINING ACT TENEMENTS

Referral procedures for Mining Act tenements affecting NPNCA vested lands are displayed in Table 1.¹

1994/95 MINING ISSUES CONSIDERED

Matters relating to mining and exploration in NPNCA vested lands and waters continued to occupy a large percentage of the Authority's time. The staff of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Environmental Protection Branch provide valuable advice to the Authority on these matters and for this we extended our appreciation.

Details on the numbers of tenements processed during the year and in comparison to the previous year are shown at Figure 1.

• Geological Survey Authorities

The Authority considered and gave advice to the Minister on applications for Geological Survey Authorities over parts of the Karroun Hill Nature Reserve A36936, Rudall River

¹ Department of Minerals and Energy, WA. Information Series No. 11 - Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Conditions for Onshore Mineral Exploration and Development on Conservation Reserves and other Environmentally Sensitive Land in Western Australia.

National Park A34607 and Karijini National Park A30082.

- **Exploration Licences**

The Authority considered and gave advice to the Minister on a number of exploration and prospecting licences over the year. These included:

- (i) Applications for exploration licences affecting parts of CRA Exploration Pty Ltd's 1995 exploration program affecting Rudall River National Park were endorsed with conditions.
- (ii) Consideration to the granting of exploration licences within the Beekeeper Nature Reserve, Dundas Nature Reserve, Plumridge Nature Reserve and Pumululu Conservation Reserve.
- (iii) Recommended refusal of exploration licence 80/1627 affecting Pelican Island Nature Reserve C29541 and applications affecting the Ord River Nature Reserve.
- (iv) Consideration of an application for approval for environmentally significant activity in EL 63/396 affecting Dundas Nature Reserve by BHP. The Authority recommended that the company carry out the exploration program on that part of the exploration licence outside of the nature reserve.
- (v) Recommended refusal of an application to mark out a mining lease on Pinjarrega Nature Reserve.
- (vi) Recommended refusal of an application for exploration licences at Drysdale River National Park due to the high nature conservation values and wilderness values of the area which would be compromised by further intended exploration activity.
- (vii) Recommend a "no mining" (exploration) condition for the portion of EL80/1978 affecting Parrys Lagoons Nature Reserve and the Wetland of International Importance.

- **Seismic Surveys - Petroleum**

Applications were referred to the Authority for seismic surveys affecting Airlie Island, Beekeeper Nature Reserves 971, 24496,

39744 and 25495. Approval was recommended in each case subject to conditions, one of which would involve an experienced botanist walking the lines prior to any clearing.

- **Petroleum - Drilling**

- Thevenard Island Weathering Static Program. Representatives of the Authority attended a briefing by WAPET on the proposal. The proposal was agreed to subject to the company clarifying, to CALM's satisfaction, how it would deal with cavernous limestone if this was encountered during the drilling program.
- Considered and approved subject to conditions, the drilling of the Crest No. 4 well (TP3) by WAPET on Thevenard Island.

- **Petroleum - Other**

Other issues discussed relating to petroleum operations on offshore islands included the East Spar Gas Field proposal affecting Varanus Island and the Crest/Saladin Mardie Development on Thevenard Island. With respect to the former proposal a representative of the NPNCA participated in an on-site inspection of the proposed pipeline route via Varanus Island. The Authority was also briefed by representatives from WAPET on the Crest/Saladin Mardie Development on Thevenard Island.

Other petroleum related matters referred to, or received direct, by the NPNCA included the Thevenard Island Environmental Management Plan Upgrade (draft); Thevenard Island Annual Report and the Varanus Island Environmental Report.

The Authority continued to interact on a positive note with the oil companies having leases on NPNCA lands - WAPET, Apache Ltd and Western Mining Corporation.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT MINING ISSUES

- Under agreed procedures for active mining proposals affecting C Class nature reserves any Notice of Intent (NOI) to mine is referred to CALM and the NPNCA for advice.

A request for approval of a Notice of Intent for diatomite mining by Australian Industrial

Minerals Company on Yeal Swamp Nature Reserve C42450 and also the lifting of a "no mining" condition on a granted tenement were considered by the Authority. The Yeal Swamp Nature Reserve is vested in the NPNCA for the conservation of flora and fauna and water. The nature reserve contains two EPA designated wetlands, and is part of the Gngangara Water Reserve. After considering the NOI, the high nature conservation values of the reserve and the likely available supplies of the resource from outside of the nature reserve, the Authority advised the EPA of the proposal and suggested formal assessment.

- A Notice of Intent by Westlime (WA) Ltd for establishing a limesand extraction and calcination processing operation on the coastal plain south of Dongara, affecting the Beekeeper Nature Reserve C24496 vested for the protection of flora was considered. Stage 1 of the project involved removal of an extensive mobile unvegetated dune lying in the northern part of Mining Lease 70/642 and adjoining the eastern extension of Mining Lease 70/711. The NPNCA recommended that if the proposal was not formally assessed and productive mining proceeds then it should be limited to the bare mobile dune only, subject to standard conditions and appropriate compensation to CALM.
- Gravel requirements, Shire of Gingin. In last year's report it was recorded that the Authority finalised its policy statement relating to the extraction of basic raw materials from conservation reserves. An opportunity to put the policy into place arose during this year in the Shire of Gingin. The Gingin Shire Council sought consent to extract gravel from areas of the Boonanarring Nature Reserve. Using information available through the State Gravel Supply Group and developed by the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Conservation and Land Management was able to prove the existence of a satisfactory supply of gravel for road building purposes within a much smaller area of the reserve than originally sought by the Council. As a consequence the NPNCA has offered to the Gingin Shire Council conditional access to areas of the reserve. The Authority has also received the Council's support for the inclusion of adjacent reserves 22602 and 24559 in the nature reserve.
- Proposals to mine gypsum from nature reserves in Wheatbelt areas continued to generate much debate during the year. As

well as a proposal to mine agricultural gypsum from Lake Chinocup A Class Nature Reserve 28395, there are other proposals for mining in nature reserves such as Lake Campion and Truslove. The Minister for the Environment has now received reports from DOME with respect to Lake Campion and the Department of Agriculture on Lake Chinocup.

The NPNCA has a position generally opposing mining in Wheatbelt reserves because of the effects on biodiversity, the scarcity of reserves, the availability of gypsum on non-reserved land and the low value of the product. The lunettes which contain gypsum are a major focus of biodiversity in this region.

The NPNCA has written during this year to the Minister proposing a working group similar to that set up for the State Gravel Strategy be established and report to the Hon Ministers for Environment, Primary Industry and Mines. The Authority suggested that a "whole of Government" approach would be best and that an overview of gypsum mining and resources is required before individual decisions are made which may set precedents.

- State Gravel Supply Strategy. Last year it was reported that the Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment had established a State Gravel Supply Strategy Group to report and make recommendations to the Government for the future supply of road building materials within the State. The NPNCA continued to be represented on this working group.

The Strategy Group, via Main Roads WA, engaged consultants during the period and a comprehensive draft report was produced which attempts to quantify the strategic needs of local government and Main Roads WA for gravel and similar material for road construction and maintenance over the next 15 years. It also attempted to assess the probable availability of resources, particularly in the more densely roaded agriculture region of the State.

The NPNCA was given the opportunity to comment on a first draft of the report along with other stakeholders. It is proposed that the amended draft report will then be submitted to the Hon Ministers for Transport and the Environment for their consideration and concurrence to release as a draft for general public comment.

The NPNCA has taken a similar stance for gravel extraction from Wheatbelt reserves as it has for gypsum - ie, that the conservation estate is too small and too valuable to be compromised by extractive industries. It is generally considered that all remnants of natural vegetation in the Wheatbelt, including those on farmland, are now vital for nature conservation in the region.

- Guidelines for Flora and Fauna Surveys on NPNCA Vested Lands. These guidelines were finalised during the period. Copies of these guidelines have been issued to organisations and groups who may be associated with development proposals affecting NPNCA vested lands.

Table 1

CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES FOR MINING ACT TENEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY (NPNCA VESTED LANDS)

| TENEMENT | LAND TENURE | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | NATIONAL PARK | "A" NATURE RESERVE, CONSERVATION PARK | "B" & "C" NATURE RESERVES, CONSERVATION PARK |
| Geoscientific Survey - (no environmental significant disturbance) Note (d) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM (& NPNCA) Min. for Env. concurrence GSA Conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM (& NPNCA) Min. for Env. concurrence GSA Conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM (& NPNCA) Min. for Env. recommendation GSA Conditions |
| Grant of Prospecting & Exploration Licences (no environmentally significant disturbance) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DOME Refer to CALM/NPNCA DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (e) Min. for Env. concurrence A1 Conditions Note (c) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DOME Refer to CALM/NPNCA DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (e) Min. for Env. concurrence A1 Conditions Note (c) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM & NPNCA Min. for Env. recommendation A1 Conditions Note (c) |
| Prospecting & Exploration activity (environmentally significant disturbance) Note (a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM/NPNCA. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM. Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM/NPNCA. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM. Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to EPA if required by CALM A1 conditions |
| Grant of Mining Lease (no environmentally significant disturbance) Mining activity (environmentally significant disturbance) Note (a) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DOME Refer to CALM/NPNCA NOI, required by DOME/CALM EPA assessment Parliamentary concurrence Title granted and conditions set | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DOME Refer to CALM/NPNCA NOI, required by DOME/CALM EPA assessment Parliamentary concurrence Title granted and conditions set | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DOME Refer to CALM/NPNCA NOI required by DOME/CALM Refer to EPA if significant impact (MOU) Min. for Env. recommendation Title granted and conditions set - based on F Conditions |
| Miscellaneous Licences, General Purpose Leases | Case by case basis - DOME refers to EPA only if potential significant environmental impact | | |

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act any proposals can be referred at any time to EPA

Note(a) Environmentally significant disturbance based on agreed list developed between CALM, EPA and DOME.

Note(b) Other Environmentally Sensitive areas as agreed between DOME, EPA and CALM and marked on public plans.

Note(c) Apply "No Mining" conditions for minor overlaps if not important to applicant. Notify CALM after grant.

Note(d) Geoscientific Survey permits issued pursuant to S24 of the Mining Act.

Note(e) If referred by member of the public EPA will obtain further advice from NPNCA and DOME before deciding on assessment.

MOU Memorandum of Understanding negotiated between EPA and DOME.

NPNCA National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority

DOME Department of Minerals and Energy EPA Environmental Protection Authority

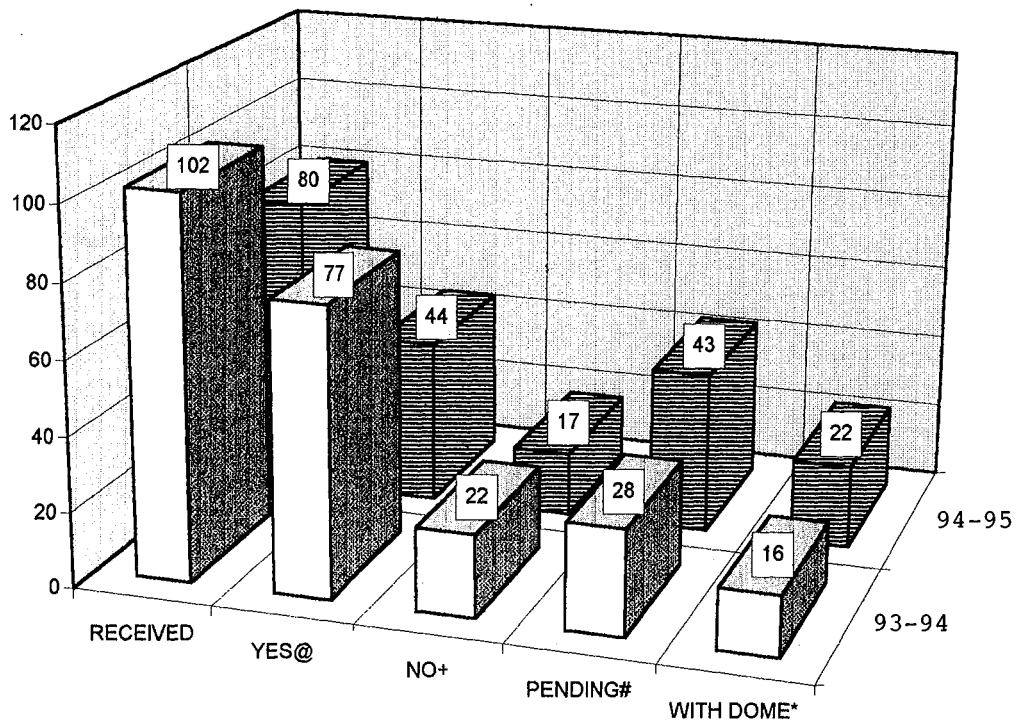
DEP Department of Environmental Protection NOI Notice of Intent

Re DEP/EPA involvement: "Refer" means formal referral under the Environmental Protection Act; "Notified" means DEP advised of issue but it is not a formal referral; and "Forwarded" means exploration program details are sent to DEP for information.

All productive mining proposals in sensitive environments will be referred to the EPA.

Figure 1

TENEMENTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED AND RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE FOR NPNCA LAND (VESTED AND PROPOSED)
1993-94 AND 1994-95



@ Recommended by Min Env for approval

+ Not recommended by Min Env for approval

Pending at close of each period (this total includes those with DOME)

* With DOME for assessment at close of each period (25 May 1994, 26 May 1995)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

A statutory function of the Authority (refer Section 22 1(b) of the CALM Act) is to develop policies: for the preservation of the natural environment of the State, and the provision of facilities for the enjoyment of that environment by the community; for promoting the appreciation of flora and fauna, and the natural environment; and to achieve and promote the management objectives of the various types of vested conservation reserves as outlined at Section 56 of the Act.

CALM POLICY STATEMENTS

The Department produces policy statements on relevant matters. They serve to provide practical guidelines for CALM staff in the performance of their duties and also to provide to the public, if called upon, a statement about these management guidelines. Where directly relevant to the Authority they are presented to us for comment and formal endorsement. Once endorsed they are accepted as NPNCA policy. Where the policy is one of an administrative nature and does not relate to the Authority's function these are simply noted. Table 2 lists the CALM Policy Statements now endorsed and adopted by the Authority. Table 3 lists those noted by us.

During the year the following CALM Policy Statements were discussed in detail and endorsed by the Authority:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| No. 18 | (Section 2.8 - Revised) Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services - Equestrian Activities |
| No. 29 | Translocation of Threatened Flora and Fauna (Revised) |

In addition to the above the Authority was provided with a copy of a draft CALM policy statement on "Bushland Weeds" for comment. The policy covered not only declared weeds under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* but also a range of weeds which pose a threat to native ecosystems.

NPNCA POLICY AND POSITION STATEMENTS

A number of policy and position statements have also been formulated by the Authority. These are listed at Table 4. Copies are available on request.

The NPNCA's position statement on "Guidelines for flora and fauna surveys on land vested in the NPNCA" was finalised and circulated during the period.

The Authority decided to formulate these guidelines in an effort to assist proponents of activities which may impinge on the natural resources of land vested in the NPNCA. In the past the Authority has received submissions where the level of information provided had been considered inadequate to assess the potential impacts. The guidelines are directed at terrestrial systems, not aquatic systems in marine parks or marine nature reserves.

OTHER POLICY AREAS

- The Authority was briefed by departmental staff and officers from the Department of Environmental Protection on the draft Environmental Protection Policy for the Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat.
- During the period the Authority was advised by the Minister for the Environment of the Government's decision to establish a new Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as the vesting body for marine parks and marine nature reserves. The NPNCA will, however, continue to exercise its statutory responsibilities in this area until amendments to the CALM Act are effected.
- A representative of the Authority attended a two day seminar convened by the Fisheries Department, WA Fishing Industry Council and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council on fish translocation. Following this the Authority raised through correspondence with the Fisheries Department policy concerning the translocation of exotic fish into water bodies of Western Australia.

-
- The Authority accepted an invitation to be represented on a working group convened by the Department of Environmental Protection to form a Partnership Agreement for the South West Wetlands Environmental Protection Policy.
 - The Authority considered and endorsed the 1995 to 1997 Management Programs for the Red Kangaroo, Euro and Western Grey Kangaroo and the proposed 1995 commercial harvest quotas for these species, ie 220 000 for the Red Kangaroo, 60 000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo and 10 000 for the Euro.
 - The Authority continued to consider recommendations made by the Endangered Flora Consultative Committee in relation to the species listed on the Schedule of Rare Flora. The Schedule of Declared Rare Flora is reviewed annually in accordance with criteria detailed in CALM Policy Statement No. 9 - Conservation of Threatened Flora in the Wild.
 - During 1993 the NPNCA in conjunction with the Soil and Land Conservation Council (SLCC) prepared a joint report on the "Management of Remnant Vegetation in WA." The report was submitted to the Ministers for the Environment and Primary Industry as input to Government consideration of policy on this issue.

The NPNCA was pleased to record that in May 1995 the State Government announced new policy on the "Management and Protection of Remnant Vegetation". The new policy aims to improve the management and protection of remnant vegetation on private land in agricultural regions and takes into account a number of recommendations from the joint NPNCA and SLCC report. Subsequent to the issuing of the State Government policy, a steering group has been set up to deal with procedural issues arising from the new policy. The Authority is pleased to be represented on this steering group.

The NPNCA endorsed this year's changes to the list which included two additions, five deletions and two nomenclature changes.

Table 2

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 | Commercial flora harvesting | November 1993 |
| 14 | Weeds on CALM lands | November 1986 |
| 15 | Community involvement | May 1991 |
| 18 | Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services (Revised) Section 2.8 - Equestrian Activities (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 crocodiles | June 1993 |
| 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 | Translocation of Threatened Flora and Fauna (Revised) | July 1995 |
| 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 | July 1993 |
| 50 | Setting priorities for the conservation of WA's threatened flora and fauna | August 1994 |
| 51 | Access for commercial fishing through CALM lands | November 1993 |
| 52 | Management of north-west islands for conservation | June 1994 |

Table 3

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 |
| 48 | Freedom of Information in CALM | September 1993 |

Table 4

NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

POSITION AND POLICY STATEMENTS

| NO. | POLICY STATEMENTS | DATE |
|------------|--|----------------|
| A1 | Wilderness Policy | August 1989 |
| A2 | Aboriginal involvement in National Parks and Nature Conservation | December 1991 |
| A3 | Mosquito Control | April 1993 |
| A4 | Drainage Policy | April 1994 |
| A5 | Basic Raw Materials Policy | May 1994 |
| NO. | POSITION STATEMENTS | DATE |
| P1 | Mining in National Parks and Nature Reserves (Revised) | September 1993 |
| P2 | Petroleum Exploration and Production in National Parks and Nature Reserves (Revised) | September 1993 |
| P3 | Petroleum Exploration and Production in Marine Parks and Marine Nature Reserves | September 1993 |
| P4 | Guidelines for Flora and Fauna Surveys on NPNCA Vested Lands | October 1994 |

MANAGEMENT PLANS

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND AND MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Authority (under Section 22(1)(d) and Section 54 of the Act) is required to submit proposed management plans for lands vested in it to the Minister.

The CALM Act commits CALM to the preparation of management plans for all lands and waters under its control, including those vested in the NPNCA. The Authority appreciates the work done on its behalf and thanks those staff involved for their assistance and cooperation.

Management plans contain statements on the purpose and background of the plan; the resource information on which the plan is based; management problems and discussion of options where appropriate; and a summary of the operations proposed to be undertaken in respect of that land during a period not exceeding 10 years. The Authority considers all draft plans for areas vested in it. The draft plan is then released for public comment for a period not less than two months and written submissions are received from any interested person or group during that time. The Planning Team for each plan analyses and summarises all public submissions and makes changes to the plan where appropriate. A suggested final plan is then presented to the Authority for consideration and forwarding to the Minister (with any amendments) for approval for adoption. Table 5 lists the management plans approved whilst Table 6 shows those currently in preparation.

During the year the Authority approved for forwarding to the Minister for his approval the final management plans for Purnululu National Park, Yalgorup National Park, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Lesueur National Park and Coomallo Nature Reserve.

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

- Shark Bay Marine Reserves
- Leschenault Peninsula
- Shoalwater Islands Nature Reserve
- Nambung National Park and Wanagarren, Nilgen and Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserves
- Wanjarri Nature Reserve

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

- Goldfields Region - approved 5 October 1994
- West Cape Howe National Park - approved 9 December 1994
- Yalgorup National Park - approved 28 December 1994

In addition to consideration of the above draft and final management plans the Authority was consulted for the draft management plan for the Canning River Regional Park and the final management plan for the Dryandra Woodland. Whilst currently none of the land in the Canning River Regional Park is vested in the Authority, it is proposed that areas be vested with us for conservation and managed by CALM. The Authority thanks the City of Canning for their cooperation in preparing the draft plan for this regional park.

The final management plan for the Dryandra Woodland was considered in conjunction with the Lands and Forest Commission (LFC) in whom the area is currently vested. As the plan proposes a section of the LFC vested land become vested in the NPNCA for conservation, the decision was made to jointly consider the final plan.

MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The NPNCA has a responsibility under the Conservation and Land Management Act to monitor the implementation of approved management plans (Section 22 1(e) of the CALM Act). Previous annual reports have indicated that, in consultation with the Department, a monitoring system has been evolving. Refinements to this system will continue to be made as the need arises.

Criteria for assessing each of the commitments in a management plan currently include:

- completion status
- quality of work
- ease of implementation
- relevance to remaining term of the plan
- revised priority
- primary responsibility to fulfil (eg, CALM district/region/specialist branch)

Formal monitoring should be initiated during a management plan's mid-term. This is about four to

six years into a ten year term. The Authority commenced formal monitoring of management plan implementation in 1991. The plans reviewed by the Authority are:

Management Plan and Review Date

Benger Swamp Nature Reserve - November 1991
Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park - November 1991/March 1993
Lane Poole Reserve - November 1992
Shannon D'Entrecasteaux National Park - November 1992
Nature Reserves of the Shires of York and Northam - October 1993
Cape Range National Park - May 1994
Ningaloo Marine Park - May 1994

Whilst no monitoring was actively conducted during the 1994/95 reporting period, on-site assessments are planned for the later half of the 1995 calendar year.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Interim Management

Necessary Operations. In the absence of an approved management plan for NPNCA vested lands and waters certain necessary operations may be undertaken by the Department on nature reserves and marine nature reserves in accordance with Section 33(3)(b)(i) of the Act. Such operations are defined as "those that are necessary for the preservation or protection of persons, property, land, flora or fauna, or for the preparation of a management plan". CALM's Administrative Instruction No. 23 "Interim Guidelines for Operations" applies to the implementation of necessary operations. It is not a requirement that necessary operations be referred to the Authority, however our advice is often sought. Table 7 lists those areas with Interim Management Guidelines produced to date.

Compatible Operations. Section 33(3)(b)(ii) provides that "compatible operations" may be undertaken in national parks, conservation parks and marine parks where there is no approved management plan. Compatible operations include "necessary operations" (see above) but may also include operations approved by the Minister for the Environment as being compatible with the purpose for which the park is managed. Before the Minister can approve such an operation it must be publicly notified and an opportunity for public submissions must be provided as for management plans. Advice from the Authority on compatible operations is sought as required.

Issues Considered

Many issues relating to management plans and interim management matters were considered during the year. These included:

- A proposal for the sitings of water tanks for the Prevelly sub-division (Gnarabup) development in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park was considered. The Authority opposed an excision from the park for water supply in view of the fact that there are viable alternatives outside the park boundary.
- Discussions and briefings on the proposed Tree Top Walk, Valley of the Giants, Walpole Nornalup National Park.
- The annual report of the Yanchep National Park Advisory Committee for the year ending 31 May 1994 was received with interest.
- Briefings by departmental officers on land bases for aquaculture within the Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves.
- Consideration of an east-west road link through the Karijini National Park. The Authority noted that commitment to this project had been given by the Hon Minister for Transport and would likely be assessed formally by the Environmental Protection Authority. Officers from Main Roads WA briefed the Authority on the proposal. Acceptance in principle to the alignment was given subject to further checks for rare flora. The Authority also agreed that all other cross-park infrastructure be confined, as far as possible, to the Marandoo-Juna Downs infrastructure corridor.
- A revised fire management plan for the Lane Poole Reserve was considered and endorsed. The revised fire plan still aims to achieve the objectives for protection as set out in the management plan.
- A recommendation to the Minister that the Shoalwater Bay Islands Nature Reserve A24204 be classified a prohibited area under Section 62(1)(b) of the CALM Act 1984. The Minister subsequently approved this classification.
- The Authority asked CALM to consider re-opening the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan to consider horseriding in the Bremer Bay area of the park. This resulted from a request from the Bremer Bay Horsemen's Club.

- The rediscovery of the Gilbert's potoroo at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve was noted.
- The Authority gave oral evidence, supported by a written submission, to the Parliamentary Select Committee inquiring into matters relating to Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Access to the wilderness area of the Fitzgerald River National Park was granted under conditions for research purposes. Access was also granted to the Fitzgerald River National Park Fire Advisory Group as part of a review of fire strategies for the park.
- The Department briefed the Authority regularly on the management of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.
- Approval was given for the drilling of up to three holes by the Geological Survey of WA on or beside tracks in the Fitzgerald River National Park as part of a study of the geology of the south coast.
- Consideration was given to road realignment in the Shannon National Park to provide for tourist access to old growth forest areas. Two loops were proposed - one north of the South West Highway and one south. The northern route was acceptable within the terms of the management plan. It was agreed that the southern route could not be effected without amendment to the management plan. This would necessitate it being re-opened for public comment.
- The Authority's views were sought by the Minister in accordance with Section 17 of the CALM Act on a proposed excision from the Yalgorup National Park for a land exchange of approximately 242 hectares with the City of Mandurah. The NPNCA subsequently approved the excision of approximately 130 hectares from Reserve 21271, being part of the Yalgorup National Park as the first step in the land exchange with the City of Mandurah.
- The Authority noted the impending realignment, extension and upgrade of the Bibbulmun Track and requested that new sections through the Lane Poole Nature Reserve be monitored to ensure disease management practices had been effective.
- The Authority approved the issuing of an interim lease to the WA Speleological Group (Inc.) for the purpose of "storage of

equipment and overnight shelter" in a section of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park (previously Forest Lease 1437/40). It was further agreed that the Department should proceed with further negotiations with the WA Speleological Group to determine lease conditions for a lease with a term commencing 1 July 1995.

- A lease for tourist facilities on Woody Island Nature Reserve to MacKenzie Marine was approved.
- Approval was given for CALM to negotiate a lease for the Matilda Bay Kiosk, Matilda Bay Reserve.

Commercial Licences

The Conservation and Land Management Regulations require that commercial operations on NPNCA vested lands and waters be licensed. The issuing of licences enables the Department to monitor access and use of lands under its control and to ensure, through application of conditions, that the conservation values of these areas are maintained. Licences require the approval of the NPNCA and the Minister for the Environment. During the year the Authority considered a number of commercial licences including:

- Licences for aquaculture shore bases on Dolphin Island and West Lewis Nature Reserves.
- Commercial fly/drive tour operations in Purnululu National Park.
- Licences for coral viewing tours and parasailing at Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Whale shark viewing licences at Coral Bay and Tantabiddi, Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Trial scenic helicopter flights and fixed wing aerial tours over Karijini National Park.
- Licence to conduct tours on Carnac Island Nature Reserve.
- Licence for access to artesian water at Francois Peron National Park for commercial use outside the park.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Reserve and region management plans are complemented by Wildlife Management Programs prepared by CALM. Wildlife Management Programs have strategies for the recovery of threatened species and ecological communities, and the management of harvested species. These programs are approved by the NPNCA before presentation to the Minister.

During 1994/95 the Authority endorsed the recovery plans for the Chuditch and Toolibin Lake (Part 1) and the Wildlife Management Program for Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Albany District.

Table 5
APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLANS
by plan number

| NUMBER | PLAN | DATE APPROVED BY MINISTER |
|--------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Mooradung Nature Reserve | 28 November 1985 |
| 2 | NR of the Shire of Wyalkatchem | 21 January 1986 |
| 3 | Forrestdale Lakes NR | 29 April 1987 |
| 4 | NR of the Shire of York/Northam | 19 May 1987 |
| 5 | Lane Poole Reserve | 30 October 1990 |
| 6 | Shannon Park and D'Entrecasteaux National Park | 2 December 1987 |
| 7 | Benger Swamp NR | 1 December 1987 |
| 8 | Cape Range National Park | 1 December 1987 |
| 9 | Northern Forest Region Regional (NPNCA and LFC) | 14 December 1987 |
| 10 | Central Forest Region Regional (NPNCA and LFC) | 14 December 1987 |
| 11 | Southern Forest Region Regional (NPNCA and LFC) | 14 December 1987 |
| 12 | Ningaloo Marine Park | 12 October 1989 |
| 13 | Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park | 24 February 1989 |
| 14 | Yanchep National Park | 3 July 1989 |
| 15 | Fitzgerald River National Park | 6 June 1991 |
| 16 | not allocated | - |
| 17 | not allocated | - |
| 18 | Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves | 6 June 1990 |
| 19 | Waroona Water Catchment Area (LFC and WAWA) | 18 December 1989 |
| 20 | Logue Brook Water Catchment Area | 18 December 1989 |
| 21 | Shoalwater Islands | 13 June 1992 |
| 22 | Walpole/Normalup National Park | 5 February 1992 |
| 23 | Marmion Marine Park | 30 January 1992 |
| 24 | South Coast Region Regional (NPNCA and LFC) | 23 December 1992 |
| 25 | Matilda Bay | 7 December 1992 |
| 26 | John Forrest National Park | 26 April 1994 |
| 27 | Goldfields Region (NPNCA and LFC) | 5 October 1994 |
| 28 | West Cape Howe National Park | 9 December 1994 |
| 29 | Yalgorup National Park | 28 December 1994 |

Table 6

MANAGEMENT PLANS BEING PREPARED

| 1. DRAFT PLANS RELEASED (and final plans being prepared) | Date of Release |
|---|------------------|
| Purnululu National Park | 15 May 1989 |
| Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve | 3 June 1993 |
| Lesueur National Park and Coomallo Nature Reserve | 30 August 1994 |
| Shark Bay Marine Reserves | 15 December 1994 |
| 2. DRAFT PLANS BEING PREPARED (or about to be released) | |
| <p>Karijini National Park</p> <p>Leschenault Peninsula</p> <p>Nambung National Park</p> <p>Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves</p> <p>Shark Bay Strategic Plan</p> <p>Serpentine National Park</p> <p>Shoalwater Marine Park</p> <p>Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Reserves</p> <p>Stirling Range-Porongurup National Parks</p> <p>Perup and Lake Muir/Unicup Nature Reserves</p> <p>Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves</p> <p>Wanjarri Nature Reserve</p> <p>Wheatbelt Region</p> <p>Kimberley Region</p> | |

Table 7

INTERIM GUIDELINES - LISTING

| REGION | GUIDELINES | YEARS |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Kimberley | Mirima National Park Prince Regent National Park Parry Lagoons Point Spring Nature Reserve Drysdale River National Park | 93-98 94-98 94-98 94-98 94-98 |
| Midwest | Kennedy Range National Park Kalbarri National Park Burma Road Nature Reserve Nambung National Park Beekeepers Nature Reserve Badgingarra National Park Watheroo National Park | 94-99 88 91-95 87 93-97 93-97 93-97 |
| Wheatbelt | Reserves A1931, A2079 + C2096 Lake Chandala Nature Reserve Reserve No. 16904 | 90-95 91 - reviewed 91-95 |
| Swan | Walyunga National Park Yule Brook Reserve Woodvale Nature Reserve Murray Shire Manadnocks Reserves | 92 87 91 86-90 89-91 |
| Central Forest | Minninup Block Harvey District Nature Reserves | 93-97 |
| Southern Forest | Pemberton National Park Lake Barnes Nature Reserve Big Brook Nature Reserve Denbarker Fire Protection Area | 87-91 87 88-91 89-93 |
| South Coast | Waychinicup National Park (including Mt Manypeaks Nature Reserve and Arpenteur Nature Reserve) Torndirrup National Park Porongurup National Park Stirling Range National Park Cape Le Grand National Park Cape Arid National Park Stokes National Park Lake Shaster Nature Reserve Esperance Lakes Nature Reserve | 93-98 89-93 87-91 87-91 92 92 88-93 1995-2000 1995-2005 |

ADVICE TO THE MINISTER AND OTHERS

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

The Authority provides advice to the Minister on:

- the development of policies for the conservation and management of the flora and fauna of the State;
- any matter in which advice is sought by the Minister

and to any other body, including the Department on matters relating to conservation reserves vested in the Authority - if it is practical for the Authority to do so and if also in the public interest. (Refer Section 22(f)(g) and (h) of the CALM Act.)

ACTION DURING 1994/95

- Submitted comments to the Department of Planning and Urban Development on the Central Coast Regional Strategy.
- Commented to the Department of Environmental Protection on the Ord River Hydro Energy project and the proposed alignment of the transmission line through the proposed Carr Boyd National Park to Kununurra.
- Commented to the Department of Environmental Protection on the Consultative Environmental Review for the Shire of Roebourne, Mining Lease M47/306 and M47/331 and Mining Lease Application M47/353, for hard-rock quarrying, Burrup Peninsula.
- Provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority on the Consultative Environmental Review for the Coastal Road Jurien to Greenhead proposed by Main Roads WA.
- Submitted comments to the Chairman, State Gravel Supply Strategy Group on their draft discussion paper.
- Submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Authority on the Public Environmental Review for Coral Coast Development, Mauds Landing (near Exmouth).
- Prepared a submission to the Stage 1 report from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA on "Managing the Basic Raw Materials of Perth and the Outer Metropolitan Region".
- Prepared a submission to the Fisheries Department of WA on the Kimberley Aquaculture Development Plan (draft).
- Provided comments to the Abrolhos Island Tourism Working Party draft report noting in particular that this report did not acknowledge the 1989 Abrolhos Island Planning Strategy proposal that the non-fishing islands (and parts of islands) become national park vested in the NPNCA. Advice on this was also provided to the Minister.
- Provided comments to the Department of Resources Development on the Burrup Peninsula Draft Land Use Management Plan. Advised the Minister on the Authority's view on areas for future reservation for conservation.
- Provided comment to the Department of Planning and Urban Development on the Draft Urban Bushland Strategy.
- Provided comment to CALM on the report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group - A Representative Marine Reserve System for WA.
- Noted the Review of Coastal Management in WA set up by the Hon Minister for Planning. Provided comment on the final report.
- Submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Authority on the draft Environmental Protection Policy (EPP) for Lakes and Swamps of the South West Agricultural Zone; and the draft EPP for the Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat.
- Commented on SECWA's draft Legislation Regulation and Code of Practice for Vegetation Control around Powerlines.
- Provided comment to the EPA on the PER for the Goldfields Gas Pipeline. The Authority's preferred route for the Goldfields section of the pipeline was other than through the Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

In addition to the above the Authority has corresponded over the period with a variety of community groups and individuals on matters pertaining to vested lands and waters.

An information brochure explaining the role and function of the Authority was completed during the period.

LIAISON

In carrying out its functions the Authority visited a number of places during the year, attended meetings with other organisations and was briefed by representatives from Government and private companies. These included:

- Meeting by an Authority representative with the Coastal Management Review Committee.
- A visit by an Authority representative to Varanus Island to carry out an inspection of Hadson Energy's Operations in conjunction with CALM's Environmental Protection Branch.
- A field inspection to the Chinocup A Class Nature Reserve near Pingrup in relation to a proposal to mine gypsum from the reserve.
- Attendance by an Authority representative at a seminar convened by the Fisheries Department of WA, West Australian Fishing Industry Council and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee on fish translocation.
- A field inspection to the Wanjarri Nature Reserve and Mt Keith area in connection with the proposed route for the Pilbara-Goldfields Gas Pipeline.
- Attendance at meetings convened by the Ord River Consortium in relation to the Ord River Hydro Energy project.
- Attendance at public meetings convened by the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group on their report - "A Representative Marine System for WA".
- Briefings by departmental officers on reserve acquisition, Project Eden and various other management issues.
- A briefing by representatives from Optus Communications on the route for the Adelaide to Perth fibre optic cable which would pass through parts of Buller Nature Reserve, Frank Hann National Park and Dundas Nature Reserve.
- A briefing by officers of the Office of Catchment Management and the Waterways Commission on the Swan-Avon Integrated Catchment Management Program and the Swan-Canning Cleanup Program.
- A field visit to Varanus Island to inspect the preferred route for the pipeline for the East Spar Gas Field project.
- The Authority continued to provide input via its representation on the Beekeepers Consultative Committee, Endangered Flora Consultative Committee, Threatened Fauna Scientific Advisory Committee, WA Flora Industry Advisory Committee, Forest Monitoring and Research Committee, State Gravel Supply Strategy Group.

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

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
- Spring surveys of breeding waterbirds in South Coast Wetlands
- *Verticordia eriocephala* research
- Narrogin District Threatened and Priority Flora Management Program
- *Boronia megastigma* research

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.

SPECIAL REPORTS

These reports have been prepared as overviews on some important matters considered during the year and where a number of actions are taking place.

WANJARRI NATURE RESERVE

This 53,000 hectare nature reserve is located in the Shire of Leonora, some 400 km north of Kalgoorlie. It is notable as the only conservation reserve in the northern Goldfields, as well as having the richest vertebrate fauna for an arid zone nature reserve in Western Australia. Wanjarri is also surrounded by pastoral leases and is adjacent to mineralised zones now being planned or developed as major nickel and gold mines. The planned Pilbara to Goldfields gas pipeline is also proposed to pass through the nature reserve.

Located to the north-west of the nature reserve, the recently opened Mt Keith nickel mine project has an estimated life of 20 years. Its eventual output will involve mining over 6 million tonnes of ore annually, plus another 20 million tonnes of overburden and non commercial material. While the mine and general infrastructure is not likely to impact on Wanjarri Nature Reserve, mine staff will no doubt become visitors to the reserve at times.

To the west of Wanjarri Nature Reserve is another nickel mine project planned at Yakabindie, east of the Kalgoorlie to Meekatharra main road. It too is not likely to have significant impacts on the nature reserve and the project has received EPA environmental clearance for mine infrastructure development to proceed. Company evaluation of over burden waste dump sites revealed that initial proposals involved a site that is environmentally sensitive and also conflicts with Aboriginal cultural interest. A site on the nature reserve's margin has been considered and the Authority has agreed to a land exchange that also benefits the reserve.

Routing the gas pipeline through Wanjarri Nature reserve has also received environmental clearance. Major main road upgrading and bridging of nearby Jones Creek will also occur as a consequence of these mining developments, but are not likely to affect the nature reserve.

These developments in this area have resulted in advancing the priority for developing a management plan for the Wanjarri Nature Reserve which is largely being funded by Goldfields Gas Transmission Pty Ltd. This draft management plan

has been considered by the Authority and is expected to be released shortly for public comment.

NORTH WEST ISLANDS

There are approximately 200 islands lying off the north west coast of Western Australia, between Exmouth and Port Hedland. Most are low, fairly flat limestone-based and are waterless with arid zone vegetation. They range in size from small sand cays to Barrow Island which is 20,000 hectares.

Unlike the adjacent mainland, most of these islands have received little or no disturbance from European man, and their flora and fauna assemblages remain intact. Their conservation values include remnant populations of mammals once common on the mainland, providing breeding sites for seabirds and marine turtles, and providing refuges for species with interesting biogeographic distribution - including subterranean (cave) fauna. Because of their isolation, islands also provide the opportunity for speciation to occur, particularly among terrestrial reptile and mammal faunas. Some islands closer to the mainland, such as those of Dampier Archipelago, also have significant Aboriginal heritage and historic values.

About half of the north west islands are nature reserves vested in the NPNCA for the conservation of flora and fauna, and others are recommended for reservation by the EPA in its relevant Red Books (1975). In its "New Horizons" policy on marine management (November 1994), the State Government has also re-affirmed CALM's role for integrating the management of island and mainland conservation reserves with any future marine conservation reserves in the region. Several have been proposed in the 1994 Report of the Marine Reserves and Selection Working Group, which is currently under consideration by the State Government.

With the development of the iron ore industry in the Pilbara in the 1960s, use of some of the islands for recreational purposes has increased significantly, particularly in the Dampier Archipelago off Dampier/Karratha. Here some islands have been set aside for this purpose (and conservation), and most of the remainder comprise the Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserve. Other nearby islands have port and industry uses and/or are earmarked for such purposes in the future.

More recently, islands further off-shore have been used as storage and primary processing bases for the North West Shelf oil and gas industry. At present several companies are involved in the use of four islands - Barrow, Varanus, Airlie and Thevenard - for these purposes.

The State's infant fish farming industry is another competitor for island space, and applications have already been received for island sites for servicing adjacent commercial aquaculture leases. Currently both the Gascoyne and the Pilbara Development Commissions have also commissioned a study to assess the potential of off-shore islands for tourist and recreation promotion.

CALM has therefore prudently commenced the development of strategies to assess specified conservation values of North West Islands, and for the general management of existing and proposed

island nature reserves. This approach is supported by the NPNCA. To date only the Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserve is covered by a formal management plan and this proposes that the majority of the islands become a national park. This is however still under consideration by the State Government, following a mineral resource assessment which has identified significant quantities of potentially useful limesands on the islands and surrounding marine area.

Both the NPNCA and CALM continue to carefully consider specific proposals for applications for industrial use of islands under their care, and regularly visit and monitor the compliance by leaseholders of environmental conditions that apply. One of the major considerations is ensuring that exotic species such as rats and mice are not inadvertently introduced to the islands.

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