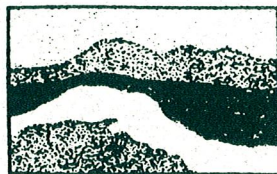


National Parks and Nature
Conservation Authority



ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1995 - 30 June 1996



National Parks and Nature
Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1995 - 30 June 1996

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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 1996.

Tom Day
CHAIRMAN

17 October 1996

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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 1995 to 30 June 1996.

Once again it has been a busy year for the NPNCA. The consideration of management plans has occupied a significant proportion of our time. Plans coming before the Authority during the year included the draft management plan for Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Reserves, and the final management plans for Shark Bay Marine Reserves and Wanjarri Nature Reserve. The monitoring of the implementation of approved management plans has continued with field inspections of the Fitzgerald River National Park and Yanchep National Park taking place.

An issue of note that the Authority has been addressing this year is the use of fire regimes within Red Tingle forest of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Concerns had been expressed to the Authority regarding this subject and as a result we hosted an informal meeting with relevant interested parties and specialists to discuss some of the issues. Members from the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association also briefed the Authority at one of its meetings. Members then conducted a field inspection of recent prescribed burns carried out in the Red Tingle forest within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Resulting from all of this the Authority has decided to form a Red Tingle Consultative Committee made up of representatives from the NPNCA, Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association and CALM. The Committee will further address some of the issues and report its findings to the Hon Minister for the Environment.

The Authority endorsed recommendations made by the Threatened Fauna Scientific Advisory Committee in relation to the species listed on the Schedule of Threatened and Specially Protected Fauna under the Wildlife Conservation Act. These changes included the removal of the woylie from the threatened list because it no longer meets the criteria for listing as endangered or vulnerable. This is the first time on mainland Australia that a species has been delisted as a result of successful management. This is an outstanding achievement by CALM and others.

Another important step towards the recovery of endangered native fauna was the announcement of the Western Shield program by the Hon Minister for the Environment. Western Shield is the

biggest wildlife conservation program ever undertaken in Australia and will see a five-fold increase to almost five million hectares in the area baited to control introduced predators such as the European fox and feral cat. These predators have been largely responsible for the extinction of 10 species of native mammals and have driven many more species to the brink.

During the year the Authority has had a number joint informal meetings with the Conservation Council. These meetings have provided a valuable opportunity for information exchange and discussion of relevant issues. I look forward to further developing a positive working relationship between our two organisations.

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 the Deputy Chair, Marion Blackwell, and other fellow members for their dedication to tasks which frequently take up extra time and personal resources.

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 on which 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 National Parks;
 - (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 1995 to June 1996 are recorded below.

Ex officio Members

- (1)(a)(i) Dr S R Shea, Executive Director (deputies Mr C D Haynes and Mr R Sneeuwjagt)
- (1)(a)(ii) Mr K J McNamara, Director of Nature Conservation (deputies Mr J Blyth and Mr F Batini)
- (1)(a)(iii) Mr J Sharp, Acting Director of National Parks (deputies Mr W Schmidt and Mr J Williamson)
- (1)(a)(iv) Mr D Keene, Director of Forests (deputy Dr P Biggs)

Appointed Members

- (1)(b)(i) Mrs M Blackwell (Deputy Chair)
Mr G Rundle
- (1)(b)(ii) Professor B Collins
Mrs P Barblett
- (1)(b)(iii) Dr S Colyer
- (1)(b)(iv) Mr K McMenemy
- (1)(b)(v) Cr T Day
Cr D Paterson
- (1)(b)(vi) Mr T Adams
- (1)(b)(vii) Mr K Gillen
- (1)(b)(viii) vacant

AUTHORITY MEETINGS

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

14 July 1995	12 January 1996
11 August 1995	9 February 1996
8 September 1995	8 March 1996
13 October 1995	12 April 1996
10 November 1995	10 May 1996
8 December 1995	6 June 1996

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 1995/96 year (excluding CALM officers' salaries) was \$68,000.

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. Special provisions in the Land Act also provide for national parks and conservation parks that are Class B and C to have the same level of security as Class A. The Authority is aware, however, of Government proposals to change some of the security processes relating to Class C reserves, and to also delete provision for Class B reserves. Class A reserves and national parks and conservation parks will still require Parliaments consent for boundary and purpose changes. These proposals are contained in the new Land Administration Bill currently before Parliament.

AREA VESTED

National park. As at 30 June 1996, 63 national parks totalling 4 872 070 hectares were vested in the Authority. The major change to the national park estate during the year consisted of an increase of 1 221 hectares to D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

Conservation parks. The area of conservation park vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1996 was 117 316 hectares. The notable addition was 63 hectares at Peel Inlet to the area unofficially named Erskine Conservation Park.

Nature reserves. The area of nature reserves vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1996 was 10 784 751 hectares. Notable additions were two unnamed reserves in the Midwest Region totalling 1 888 hectares and an unnamed reserve in the South Coast Region.

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 1996 were:

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

Further details of conservation estate are contained in the annual report of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

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, vesting and other matters. These are summarised below.

- Approved the arranging of an auction for the purpose of issuing grazing leases within the Tuart National Park on the condition that the trials continue on an alternative fire hazard reduction strategy aimed at the phasing out of grazing by 1998.
- Approval was given for the clearing of the vegetation ten metres beyond the existing Albany Highway within Monadnocks Conservation Park A39826 (subject to conditions) to allow for a passing lane to be constructed by Main Roads WA.

- The NPNCA noted the release of the document 'Proposals for the Darling Range Regional Park' by the Ministry for Planning and that the report proposes an interim management body from a number of agencies plus two community based advisory committees. The Authority expressed an interest to the WA Planning Commission in being represented on the interim management group.
- The NPNCA approved the excision of 75 square metres from Harris Smith Nature Reserve C13258 to enable the upgrading of the telecommunications service in the area.
- The Authority noted the establishment of the Yenyening Lakes Management Group, forming as a result of a variety of local uses in the area and increased pressure on the surrounding ecosystem. The Group employed a consultant to prepare a Management Strategy for the Yenyening Lakes which include nature reserves vested in the Authority. Representatives from the NPNCA provided comment to the draft Strategy during preparation.
- The Authority gave its consent (subject to conditions) for Landcorp to construct a stormwater drainage basin in Lot 10025 within a conservation park adjacent to Yellagonga Regional Park.
- Supported a proposal from the Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc) for a Yule Brook Nature Reserve.
- Considered a proposal for waterskiing on Lake Coyrecup Nature Reserve A28552. Requested further information and negotiations with the Shire of Katanning before addressing the issue.
- The NPNCA met with representatives from the Shire of Ravensthorpe regarding the future vesting and management of the Ravensthorpe Range. The Authority proposed that the Shire, CALM and the NPNCA work together to prepare management guidelines for the Ravensthorpe Range. The Shire agreed to provide comments to the document 'Draft Management Concepts for the Ravensthorpe Range Area', prepared by CALM, as a starting point. The Shire had promoted a joint vesting arrangement but this cannot be accommodated within the CALM Act (see Policy Development page 13).

-
- Approved the granting of a pre-existing dam site lease on Reserve A43031 (just west of Bridgetown). The original lease had previously been under the control of the Lands and Forest Commission.
 - The NPNCA approved the cancellation of the existing tenure for the Mooranoppin Nature Reserve 21153 and that alternative title be sought to allow for a Special Purpose Lease for Aboriginal Heritage and Conservation to be held by the Djuring Aboriginal Corporation.
 - Approved the excision of 25 hectares from Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve C42155 as a 5(g) reserve for the purpose of conservation and resource use to allow the extraction of gravel by the Shire of Wyndam-East Kimberley. On completion of extraction and satisfactory rehabilitation, the area would again be reserved as part of Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.
 - Considered the implications of the Draft Perry's Paddock Development and Management Plan. The proposed development included an artificial lined lake at Walluburnup Swamp, an area proposed to be vested in the Authority as a conservation park. The NPNCA was given presentations by the proponents and a number of expert scientists. The Authority recommended the artificial lake be resited outside of Walluburnup Swamp and that if it was developed in Walluburnup Swamp it be subject to formal assessment.
 - The NPNCA approved the draft report An Environmental Assessment for the Carnamah Coastal Plan prepared by the Shire of Carnamah. This report was part of the Memorandum of Understanding between CALM and the Shire regarding implementation of the State Government's Squatter Policy along the Carnamah Coast. The report proposes areas of the coastal fringe of the Beekeepers Nature Reserve (see Special Reports page 29) which should be vested in the Shire and the NPNCA after implementation of the Squatter Policy.
 - Noted the proposed modifications to the South Coast/Southern Forest CALM Region boundary.
 - Supported the vesting of Reserve 29269 (Parkland and Recreation - Shire of Mundaring) in the NPNCA.
 - Supported the registration of Sealers' Oven, Waychinicup Inlet onto the WA Register of Heritage Places.

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*, and *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 (DOME).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 the NPNCA position on mining and hydrocarbon extraction and exploration is available from our position statements (see Table 4).

REFERRAL PROCEDURES FOR MINING ACT TENEMENTS

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

1995/96 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 extend our appreciation.

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

• Exploration Licences

The Authority considered and gave advice to the Minister on a number of exploration and

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.

prospecting licences over the year. These included:

- Application for exploration licences within Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve A30490 was endorsed with conditions.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 77/516 over Wheatbelt reserves C16000 (Bodallin Nature Reserve) and C18584 due to the diversity of eucalypts in the reserves, possible presence of Declared Rare Flora, and the need to conserve remnant vegetation in the Wheatbelt.
- Application for environmental disturbance exploration activity within Jilbadji Nature Reserve 24049 was endorsed with conditions.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 70/1435 affecting Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
- Application for an exploration licence within South Jingalup Nature Reserve A17760 was endorsed subject to conditions and a 'no mining' clause on Jingalup Nature Reserve A17759.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 70/1440 within Lake King Nature Reserve A39422 due to alternative resources of agricultural gypsum available nearby.
- Applications for exploration licences within Karijini National Park A30082 were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for an exploration licence within Lake Champion Nature Reserve C24789 was endorsed subject to conditions, which included that exploration to be of the lakebed only.
- Application for environmental disturbance exploration activity within prospecting licences in Kambalda Nature Reserve C33300 was endorsed with conditions.
- **Miscellaneous Licences**
 - Application for the marking out of a miscellaneous licence (relating to iron ore railway operation) within Millstream-Chichester National Park was endorsed subject to conditions.

- Application for the marking out of a miscellaneous licence (access through the Park) within Neerabup National Park was endorsed subject to conditions.

- Applications for four miscellaneous licences within a Conservation Park C41986 in the Shire of Dandaragan were endorsed subject to conditions.

- **Mining Leases**

- Recommended refusal of mining lease 70/849 and 70/850 within Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 due to supplies of sand and marl being available outside of the reserve (see Special Reports page 29).

- Application for mining leases affecting Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 were endorsed with conditions (see Special Reports page 29).

- Recommended refusal of mining lease 70/907 within C Class reserve 42031 within the Shire of Coorow.

- Recommended refusal of mining lease 77/687 within Bodallin Nature Reserve C16000 due to the diversity of eucalypts in the reserve, possible presence of Declared Rare Flora, and the need to conserve remnant vegetation in the Wheatbelt.

- Recommended refusal of mining lease 70/905 and 906 within the proposed Wabbling Nature Reserve due to high conservation and landscape values within the proposed reserve.

- **Seismic Surveys - Petroleum**

The Authority approved in principle a seismic survey on Barrow Island. The Authority delegated to CALM authority to comment to DOME on the expected environmental impacts of the proposed seismic survey.

- **Petroleum - Other**

Other petroleum related matters referred to, or received direct, by the NPNCA included the Thevenard Island Area Operations Annual Environmental Management Report, and the endorsement of the action of the Executive Director of CALM as a Public Authority in granting the authority to Western Mining Corporation Ltd, on behalf of the East Spar Joint Venture, for the construction and maintenance of the pipeline across the beach

on Varanus Island. The company's processing site on the island will be on disturbed land within an existing development lease.

Representatives from the Authority undertook the biennial inspection of Barrow and Thevenard Islands in October 1995. The Authority initiated the formation of a working group to prepare Interim Management Guidelines for Barrow Island. The working group included a representative from WAPET (see Special Reports page 29).

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 NOI by Cockburn Cement Ltd for establishing a limesand extraction and calcination processing operation on the coastal plain south of Dongara, affecting the Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 vested for the protection of flora was considered. It was noted the proposed heavy haulage road would to some degree isolate an area of approximately 200 hectares of the north eastern corner of the Beekeepers Nature Reserve. Compensating factors from Cockburn Cement Ltd for the easement and road construction within the reserve were agreed to by the Authority (see Special Reports page 29).

- The Authority approved the excision of a small portion (approximately 40 metre wide road reserve by 1.9 kilometres long) of Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 for an extension to Pye Road (Shire of Irwin).
- The Authority approved the proposed five year biological monitoring program for the Cockburn Cement Ltd Dongara Lime Plant.
- The Authority approved in principle for Westlime to conduct a geotechnical assessment within Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496, possibly leading to a General Purpose Lease within the Reserve in exchange for additional land. The proposal was subject to a number of conditions.

- Approval was given for the Shire of Carnamah to carry out an exploration program for marl in Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 subject to conditions and a CALM officer being on site to oversee the operation. The aim of the program is to properly quantify the marl deposits in order to draft a management plan for the reserve.
- Approval for Main Roads WA to sample gravel from the Wandoo Conservation Park A43281 for the upgrading of the Brookton Highway.
- Approval for Western Mining Corporation to run approximately 600 metres of buried pipeline through a corner of the Kambalda Nature Reserve C33300 under a Crown Easement (subject to conditions).
- Considered and approved the establishment of additional groundwater monitoring wells by WAPET on Thevenard Island Nature Reserve.
- Considered and approved the installation of electric power to a navigation beacon by WAPET on Thevenard Island Nature Reserve.
- The NPNCA advised the Minister of its opposition to the proposal to mine agricultural gypsum from Chinocup Nature Reserve A28395. The Authority also recommended a number of conditions for the proposal if mining did occur.
- The Authority recommended the Minister withhold his concurrence for another application to mark out a mining lease in Chinocup Nature Reserve A28395.

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 Authority - (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) Note (g)	<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) Note (g)	<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)	<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
Mining activity (environmentally significant disturbance) Note (a)			
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

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.

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" (ie. no exploration or prospecting) conditions for minor overlaps if not important to applicant. Notify CALM after grant.

Note (d) Geoscientific Survey Authority 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.

Note (f) Proposed reserves are those that have received Ministerial or Government endorsement (eg. within final CALM management plans).

Note (g) Retention Licences also covered in the same way.

Re: Section 5(g) (CALM Act) reserves: treatment depends on their classification, purpose and location.

MOU Memorandum of Understanding negotiated between EPA and DOME.

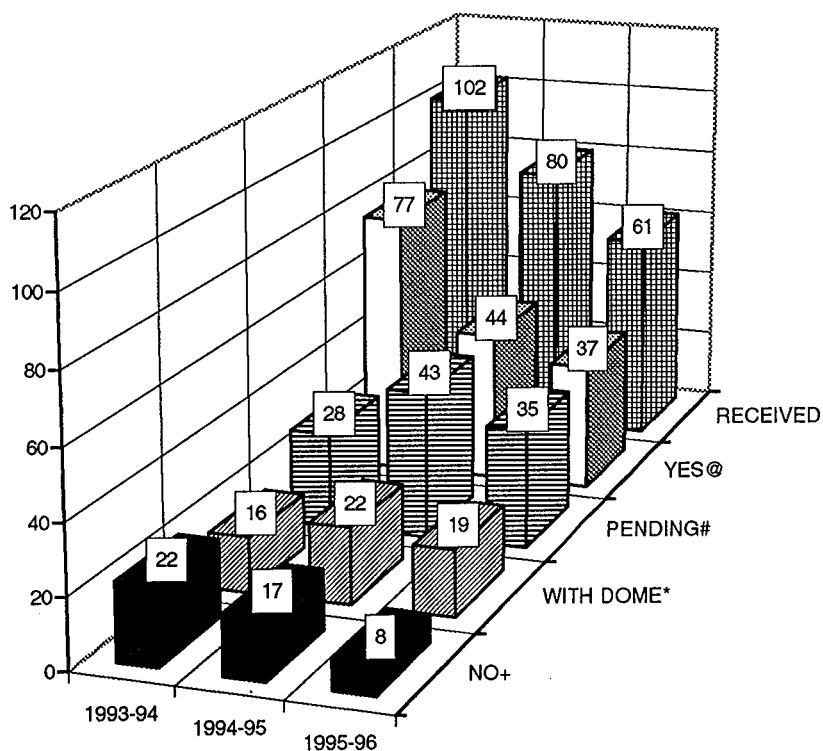
DOME Department of Minerals and Energy EPA Environmental Protection Authority

DEP Department of Environmental Protection NOI Notice of Intent

* "Environmentally significant disturbance" is now termed "environmental disturbance".

Figure 1

**TENEMENTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED AND RECOMMENDATIONS
MADE FOR NPNCA LAND
1994-95 (VESTED AND PROPOSED) AND 1995-96 (VESTED)**



- @ 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)
- + Not recommended by Min Env for approval

Note: Each year a limited number of tenement applications have been withdrawn, surrendered or refused prior to processing.

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 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 functions 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.

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.

Minor amendments were made to the NPNCA's position statement on "Guidelines for flora and fauna surveys on land vested in the NPNCA". This document was reissued.

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. Minor changes were made to the statement to make it clearer and to remove inconsistencies.

OTHER POLICY AREAS

- The Authority was briefed by departmental staff on issues arising from the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 which affect CALM managed and NPNCA vested lands.
- The Authority considered and endorsed the draft Management Program for Flora Harvesting in WA as providing an adequate framework for the conservation management of the commercial harvesting of, trading in, and export of, protected flora.
- The Report of the Scientific Ranking Panel for Western Australia's Threatened Flora and Fauna was noted.
- The concept of joint vesting of reserves with the NPNCA was discussed. The Authority adopted the position that any future joint vesting arrangements involving the Authority cannot be accommodated within the CALM Act and are not to be encouraged. In practical terms, authorities operate under separate Acts which usually outline different administrative procedures.
- The Authority was briefed by staff from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the proposed Environmental Protection Policy for South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands.
- The Authority was briefed by staff from the DEP on the Sustainable Development in the Rangelands of WA - A Position Statement.
- Noted the draft Environmental Protection Policy for the Swan and Canning Rivers.
- The Authority considered the membership and role of the Endangered Flora Consultative Committee, Threatened Fauna Scientific Advisory Committee, Ranking Panel, and Threatened Species and Communities Consultative Committee. Due to duplication and overlap between the first three of these Committees, the NPNCA supported restructuring.

-
- The Authority considered recommendations made by the Threatened Fauna Scientific Advisory Committee in relation to the species listed on the Schedule of Threatened and Specially Protected Fauna under the Wildlife Conservation Act. The NPNCA endorsed the changes which included the removal of the Woylie from the threatened list because it no longer met the criteria for listing as endangered or vulnerable. This is the first case in mainland Australia where this downlisting has occurred because of active management, and the Authority congratulated the Department and the recovery team on this success. Other changes endorsed included the addition of the Quokka and 12 species of invertebrates to the threatened list.

- The Authority continued to consider recommendations made by the Endangered Flora Consultative Committee in relation to the species listed in the Schedule of Rare Flora. The Schedule of Declared Flora is reviewed annually in accordance with criteria detailed in CALM Policy Statement No. 9 - Conservation of Threatened Flora in the Wild.

The NPNCA endorsed this year's changes to the list which included 20 additions, nine deletions, six transfers from "presumed extinct" to "extant", and ten nomenclatural 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
P4	Guidelines for Flora and Fauna Surveys on NPNCA Vested Lands	Amended August 1995

MANAGEMENT PLANS, LEASES AND LICENCES

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 issues 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 Shark Bay Marine Reserves, and Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

The draft management plan for Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Reserves was approved for public release during the year.

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

- Dryandra Woodland - approved 8 September 1995
- Lesueur National Park - Coomallo Nature Reserve - approved 25 September 1995

- Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve - approved 3 November 1995
- Purnululu National Park - approved 18 November 1995
- Wanjarri Nature Reserve - approved 1 May 1996

In addition to consideration of the above draft and final management plans the Authority was consulted for the draft Shark Bay World Heritage Area Strategic Plan. Whilst the Strategic Plan is a non-statutory plan it proposes areas to be vested with us and managed by CALM. The Authority provided comment and endorsed the proposed 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
Fitzgerald River National Park - November 1995
Yanchep National Park - December 1995

A committee was formed in the 1995/96 period to produce a set of draft guidelines for the monitoring of management plan implementation.

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. No advice was sought during the 1995/96 period.

Leases and 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. Leases can also be issued on

NPNCA vested lands and waters. Under section 99 of the CALM Act licences and leases require the approval of the NPNCA and the Minister for the Environment.

Issues Considered

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

- Supported the addition of Lot 208 (0.5 hectares) into the John Forrest National Park A7537.
- The NPNCA gave approval (subject to conditions) to the Water Authority of WA to access six sites within the Yalgorup National Park for the construction of groundwater monitoring wells as part of the National Landcare Program designed to obtain data on the Park's groundwater system.
- The Authority was briefed by Cape Bouvard Investments on the issue of access to an area of land surrounded by Yalgorup National Park. The Authority approved the process for Cape Bouvard Investments to determine preferred access to this land. This proposal would then be referred back to the Authority for approval.
- The Authority approved in principle the proposed alignment for the Culham Inlet access road affecting Fitzgerald River National Park, subject to referral to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for consideration of a detailed environmental assessment, including assessment of landscape impact. Approved the Southern Ocean West Road (Culham Inlet) Environmental Assessment and Management Plan affecting the Fitzgerald River National Park.
- The Authority supported the location of the proposed sanitary land fill site within the Fitzgerald River National Park as identified by the Shire of Jerramungup. This site is identified in the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan to be excised from the Park and vested with the Shire.
- Approved vehicle access to the central wilderness area of the Fitzgerald River National Park and foot access to Thumb/Mid Mount Barren Range between mid October and mid November 1995 for the purpose of a biological survey on Thumb Peak. This access permit was then extended until December 1995. Further approval for vehicle and foot

access within the Park was given between 15 and 30 January 1996 and between March and September 1996 to complete to rare flora survey.

Approved vehicle access into the wilderness area along Fitzgerald South Track within the Fitzgerald River National Park to allow the next stage of the Dibbler research program to proceed.

Approved access into the wilderness area within the Fitzgerald National Park to rectify soil erosion occurring along Bell Track and alleviate further disease intensification.

All access approved within the Fitzgerald River National Park was permitted only under dry soil conditions following standard dieback and hygiene requirements.

- Noted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CALM and Western Mining Corporation Ltd for cooperative management of pastoral leases adjacent to the Wanjarri Nature Reserve.
- Noted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CALM and Hamersley Iron for integrated management of three adjacent pastoral leases with the management of the Karijini National Park.
- Noted with pleasure the annual report of the Yanchep National Park Advisory Committee for the year ending 31 May 1995.
- Supported the addition of two areas west and the area north of Mt Hollister into the Cape Range National Park. Also supported the reservation of the areas in the immediate vicinity of Mt Hollister as a 5g reserve vested in the NPNCA.
- The Authority considered the report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park.
- The Authority was briefed by a representative from Coral Coast Marina Development Pty Ltd on the proposed Coral Coast Resort at Mauds Landing and the impacts on the Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Noted the proposed formation of Committees for the Shark Bay World Heritage Area including a Ministerial Council, Community Consultative Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee.
- The Authority approved exploratory drilling in the Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserve (subject to conditions) by the Water Corporation for future water supplies for the Cervantes Town.
- Approved an application from Main Roads WA to scrub roll (subject to conditions) to an approximate width of one machine blade within the Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserve to allow for the preconstruction of the Cervantes to Jurien proposed Coastal Road.
- Noted that the proposed amendment to the Shannon D'Entrecasteaux National Park Management Plan No. 6 to allow for the completion of the last section of the Great Tree Self Guided Drive Tour had been advertised for public comment. The Authority considered public submissions on the proposed amendment and endorsed the amendment of the plan as was advertised.
- The Authority was advised that during the drafting of the final management plan for Walpole-Nornalup National Park the scale of the Fire Management Map had to be changed and areas were replotted and rehatched. In this process two areas were incorrectly hatched from fuel reduction to no planned burn. The NPNCA approved that the Walpole-Nornalup Management Plan be re-opened for public comment in respect to the proposed amendments.
- An issue that the Authority has been addressing during the 1995/96 period is fire regimes within Red Tingle forest of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association expressed concern to the NPNCA on this issue during April 1996. As a result the Authority hosted an informal meeting with relevant interested parties and specialists on the subject of fire regimes in the Red Tingle forest during May 1996. Members from the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association also briefed the Authority on the subject at the NPNCA's May 1996 meeting.

Also in May 1996 the Minister for the Environment requested the Authority's advice on this issue. As a result the NPNCA conducted a field inspection of recent Red Tingle forest prescribed burns in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park during June 1996. The Authority also held its June meeting in Walpole. At this meeting the Authority resolved to form a Red Tingle Consultative Committee to address some of the issues

before the NPNCA gave advice to the Minister. The Committee is made up of representatives from the NPNCA, Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association and CALM.

- Approved in principle for the University of WA to restore the existing boatshed and construct a new stone and timber building within their lease area of Matilda Bay Reserve 17375.

Leases and Licences

During the year the Authority considered a number of leases and licences including:

- A long term lease for the upgrading of tourist facilities on Woody Island Nature Reserve A39435 (Recherche Archipelago) to MacKenzie Family Nominees was approved. This replaces a lease originally granted by the former Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The island nature reserve has a purpose of 'Conservation of Flora and Fauna, Recreation and Tourism Development'
- Extension for 12 months to licences for aquaculture shore bases on Dolphin Island and West Lewis Nature Reserves.
- Licences to conduct tours on Carnac Island Nature Reserve.
- Licence for a transparent dinghy hire business at Ningaloo Marine 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 1995/96 the Authority endorsed the recovery plans for the Rose Mallee and the Wongan Hills Triggerplant, the Orange-bellied and White-bellied Frogs, and the Noisy Scrub Bird. The Authority also endorsed the revised recovery plan for the Woylie.

During 1995/96 the Authority considered the Threatened Species and Communities Recovery Team Annual Reports. The Authority extended its appreciation for this work to the Chair of each Recovery Team.

The Authority was briefed by departmental staff on the Western Shield program announced by the Minister for the Environment in April 1996. Western Shield is the biggest wildlife conservation program ever undertaken in Australia and will see a five-fold increase to almost five million hectares in the area baited to control introduced predators such as the European fox and feral cat. These predators have been largely responsible for the extinction of 10 species of native mammals and have driven many more species to the brink.

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 (NPNCA and LFC)	14 December 1987
10	Central Forest Region (NPNCA and LFC)	14 December 1987
11	Southern Forest Region (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	2 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 (LFC and WAWA)	18 December 1989
21	Shoalwater Islands	13 July 1992
22	Walpole-Nornalup National Park	5 February 1992
23	Marmion Marine Park	30 January 1992
24	South Coast Region (NPNCA and LFC)	23 December 1991
25	Matilda Bay Reserve	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
30	Dryandra Woodland	8 September 1995
31	Lesueur National Park - Coomallo Nature Reserve	25 September 1995
32	Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve	3 November 1995
33	Purnululu National Park	18 November 1996
34	Shark Bay Marine Reserves	18 July 1996
35	Wanjarri Nature Reserve	1 May 1996

Table 6

MANAGEMENT PLANS BEING PREPARED

1. DRAFT PLANS RELEASED (and final plans being prepared)	Date of Release
Monkey Mia Reserve*	28 October 1993
Nambung National Park, Wanagarren, Nilgen, Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserves	10 October 1995
Shoalwater Islands Marine Park	26 October 1995
Canning River Regional Park*	13 February 1996
Karijini National Park	3 March 1996
Leschenault Peninsula	19 June 1996
2. DRAFT PLANS BEING PREPARED (or about to be released)	
<p>Esperence Lakes Nature Reserves</p> <p>Kimberley Region</p> <p>Millstream-Chichester National Park - Mungaroon Range Nature Reserve</p> <p>Perup Forest and Lake Muir/Unicup Nature Reserves</p> <p>Rowley Shoals Marine Park</p> <p>Serpentine National Park</p> <p>Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves</p> <p>Shark Bay World Heritage Area Strategic Plan*</p> <p>Stirling Range-Porongurup National Parks</p> <p>Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Reserves</p> <p>Wheatbelt Region</p>	

* not specific responsibility of NPNCA

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
Pilbara	Millstream-Chichester National Park	1996-2001
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 on 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 1995/96

- Provided briefing notes to the Minister for the Environment in relation to the State Gravel Supply Strategy and NPNCA position with respect to extraction of Basic Raw Materials from the conservation estate - ie, that the conservation estate within the agricultural region in the south-west 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.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the proposed environmental conditions for the Jurien to Greenhead Coastal Road.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the proposed environmental conditions for the Port Geographe Harbour Development, Busselton.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the proposed environmental conditions for the Mt Keith Nickel Project: Tailings Storage Upgrade.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the proposed environmental conditions for the Marandoo to Great Northern Highway, East West Link Road Across Karijini National Park.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the draft Environmental Protection Policy for South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Advised the Minister for the Environment that the NPNCA supports the proposal that the System 6 Review and Urban Bushland Strategy be integrated with a view to producing a single report and set of recommendations for public comment.
- Provided comments to the WA Tourism Commission on the 'Draft Nature Based Tourism Strategy'.
- Submitted comments to the WA Tourism Commission on the draft 'Western Australian Tourism Infrastructure Strategy'.
- Submitted comments to the EPA on the report 'Perth's Water Future - A water Supply Strategy for Perth and Mandurah' prepared by the Water Authority of WA.
- Submitted comments to the EPA on the Sustainable Development in the Rangelands of WA - A Position Statement.
- Provided comments to the EPA on the proposal to extend the approved mining area of the Beenup Titanium Minerals Project.
- Provided comments to the EPA on the Public Environmental Review on the Limestone Mine, Quicklime Plant and Shiploading Facility, Exmouth.
- Provided comments to the DEP on the Consultative Environmental Review (CER) for the Marandoo to Great Northern Highway, East West Link Road Across Karijini National Park.
- Provided comments to the EPA on the CER for Clearing of Land on Victoria Location 10598, Cockleshell Gully Road, Jurien.

-
- Provided comments to the EPA on the CER for the Mt Keith Nickel Project Tailings Storage Upgrade.
 - Submitted comments to the Ministry for Planning on the 'Shark Bay Region Strategy - A Review of the 1988 Shark Bay Region Plan'.

- Submitted comments to the WA Planning Commission on the Metropolitan Scheme Amendment No. 977/33 Technical Report.

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.

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:

- A field inspection to the Herdsman Lake Nature Reserve C31906 regarding concerns expressed to the Authority from a community group about access to a proposed development through the nature reserve.
- Hosted a public seminar with guest speaker Professor Paul Eagles from the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada speaking on ecotourism and sustainability of parks.
- A briefing by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation on sustainable rural development in the Agriculture portfolio - implementing objectives of the Decade of Landcare Plan.
- Joint informal meetings with the Conservation Council of WA (Inc) in October 1995 and February 1996.
- A field visit to Karijini National Park, Millstream-Chichester National Park and Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves to address a number of management issues.
- A briefing by the President of the Gould League WA on their position on encroaching developments on the Herdsman Lake Nature Reserve and effects on the Wildlife Centre.
- A briefing by staff from the Ministry for Planning on planning proposals for the Herdsman Lake area.
- Briefed by departmental staff on CALM's Visitor Interpretation Program.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the wildfire that occurred in the Stirling Range National Park in January 1996.
- Briefed by staff from the Ministry for Planning on the Darling Range Regional Park Major Amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme.
- The Authority met with the Minister for the Environment, Hon Peter Foss to discuss details regarding the proposed restructuring of the NPNCA.
- The Authority hosted an informal meeting with relevant interested parties and specialists on the subject of fire regimes in the Red Tingle Forest. Also briefed by members from the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association on this subject at the NPNCA's May 1996 meeting. Conducted a field inspection of recent Red Tingle forest burns in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park in June 1996.
- The Authority continued to provide input via its representation on the State of the Environment Report Reference Group, National Landcare Program State Assessment Panel, 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
- *Verticordia eriocephala* research
- Narrogin District Threatened and Priority Flora Management Program
- *Boronia megastigma* research
- Research on two species of Pythons
- Numbat research
- Dibbler research
- Quokka research
- Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Plan
- Antina survey in Cape Range National Park

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.

BEEKEEPERS NATURE RESERVE

Reserve C24996 is situated between Brand Highway and the coast in the Eneabba-Dongara region, and was originally set aside in 1956 to protect rich Kwongan (sandplain) flora for the State's apiary industry. It includes extensive tracts of both coastal plain and limestone ridge, the latter being rugged in places with abundant karst features, including caves. Over the years since World War II, a number of squatter settlements have developed around nuclei that were originally shore anchorages for rock lobster boats and farmer's fishing shacks. About two decades ago, the area was opened up by more extensive farm settlement and the Brand Highway.

In recent years there have been some significant changes to the Beekeepers Nature Reserve. Firstly, it's wildlife conservation values have become increasingly recognised, along with its value for beekeeping. In the south, part of the reserve was subsequently excised and added to the Lesueur National Park. More recently, the State Government has been tackling the problem of squatter settlements and shacks along the coast.

The strategy to resolve the squatter situation relies heavily upon action being taken by the several coastal local governments involved, and to enable them to do this the local governments have to legally have the land involved vested in their control. As a consequence, CALM and the various Shire Councils have entered into Memoranda of Understanding whereby coastal strips from the Beekeepers Nature Reserve containing squatter settlements can be temporarily vested in the Shires. This will result in many of the shacks being removed and others being consolidated into formal Shire-administrated 'villages'. At the end of the rationalisation process, former reserve, not required for Shire services and community use associated with formal coastal settlement, will be returned to the Beekeepers Nature Reserve.

The Beekeepers Nature Reserve is increasingly being targeted via mining tenements for limestone and limesand extraction, both for industry and road construction. A planned coastal arterial road is progressively being constructed southward from

Cliff Head (near Dongara) to Cervantes, and eventually Lancelin. By arrangement through CALM, local governments have been granted conditional access to limestone and marl deposits in the reserve for this road and for street development in the associated coastal settlements. Contractors have also sought access to these resources and building sand in Beekeepers Nature Reserve. Where such resources are available from outside the reserve, the NPNCA recommends refusal of applications.

Closer to Dongara, Cockburn Cement Ltd and Westralian Sands Ltd each have shown interest in developing limestone and limesand deposits for industrial use. A principal market is the booming gold mining industry where the gold extraction process from treated ore can use calcium carbonate. Cockburn Cement's extraction site is on land adjacent to Beekeepers Nature Reserve but requires an access road across it, while Western Sand's extraction site is in the reserve itself and involves an unstable limesand dune. Both the Authority and CALM have agreed to an initial mining project by Westralian Sands whereby the company has to demonstrate satisfactory revegetation at the end of the extraction phase.

BARROW AND THEVENARD ISLAND NATURE RESERVES

In last year's NPNCA Annual Report, a 'Special Report' was given on the conservation and management of North West Islands generally. This year's special report focuses on two specific islands, Barrow and Thevenard, which are offshore from Onslow.

Barrow Island is a large island by WA standards, being about 10km wide by 25km long, and is some 22 000 hectares in extent (ie. not much bigger than Nambung National Park near Cervantes). Discovered by the French in 1803, the island is of subdued relief formed by a limestone anticline, with vegetation dominated by spinifex. Some small creek line valleys exist in which taller shrubs occur. Cut off from the mainland 8 000 to 10 000 years ago by rising seas, Barrow Island has become a natural sanctuary for many wildlife species now rare or extinct in the rest of Australia.

Early biological work by WA naturalist John Tunney in 1900 (commissioned by Lord Rothschild) revealed the island's special values

which in turn were promoted by influential WA and Australian natural history interests. As a consequence, Barrow Island became one of Australia's very early conservation reserves when the State Government effectively declared it a nature reserve in 1908. Its security was increased by designating the reserve Class A in 1910.

In 1975, on the advice of its Conservation Through Reserves Committee, the EPA recommended that the State Government set aside other islands of the NW Shelf as nature reserves. Thevenard Island and several others were particularly commented on because of their special interest. In the case of Thevenard, this related to the existence of seabird colonies and the Thevenard Mouse (*Pseudomys forresti*). A lease had already been issued for part of the island to accommodate a tourist fishing base and the remainder of the island subsequently became a nature reserve.

Today, both Barrow and Thevenard Islands are centres of producing oil fields operated by WAPET. WAPET is a joint venture company that acts as operator for participant companies. Its principal oil and gas field interests are on Barrow Island, the Saladin oil field (Thevenard Island) which is offshore from Onslow, and extensive gas fields on the edge of the NW Shelf beyond Barrow Island (eg. Gorgon, West Tryal Rocks, Spar). It also operates a producing gas field at Yardarino near Dongara.

Following encouraging but unsuccessful oil drilling in the Cape Range area in the 1950's, the company struck oil on Barrow Island a decade later, in 1964. Extensive offshore gas fields were discovered in the 1970's but Woodside Petroleum's gas field development was well advanced and captured export markets. Additionally, expensive infrastructure is required to develop offshore gas fields for export production. In 1985 WAPET discovered the Saladin oilfield and by commissioning production facilities on Thevenard Island, was able to improve cash flow and enable the company to consider production development of its Gorgon gasfield.

Since their formation a decade ago, both the NPNCA and CALM have maintained a watching brief on Barrow Island, as did the WA Wildlife Authority and Department of Fisheries and Wildlife before it. In recent times, with WAPET's cooperation, this has become more formalised. The company produces periodic reports on its operations likely to impact on the island's habitat and wildlife, and on related environmental activities aimed at minimising impacts and improving past practices. Both CALM and NPNCA representatives attend annual briefings on the company's activities

program. NPNCA field inspection visits to both Barrow and Thevenard Islands are now conducted on a biennial basis, involving checklists and formal reporting and feedback procedures.

The most recent of these was in October 1995, and the company's management of its oil field operations on both islands continues to be very satisfactory in relation to wildlife conservation. While the development of the Saladin oilfield and WAPET's use of Thevenard Island was the subject of an environmental assessment by the EPA and resulted in conditional approval, Barrow Island development pre-dates environmental protection legislation. However, under the Environmental Protection Act, certain Barrow Island operations and facilities still require environmental licensing, and these provisions are helping to set standards. The company itself had also recently commissioned an independent environmental audit of its activities, as a matter of good housekeeping, and identified deficiencies were addressed. The value of Barrow Island's cave and ground water habitats had only recently been recognised and WAPET has since been assessing the likely impacts of its operations in this area also.

Current issues regarding the management of these islands that are being addressed by the NPNCA and CALM are:

- The development of interim guidelines to guide management needs for Barrow Island Nature Reserve.
- Further examination of the tourist development lease (administered by DOLA) on Thevenard Island, with a view to overcoming any quarantine deficiencies in an effort to prevent the further inadvertent introduction of mice and weeds to the island.

The Authority is also mindful that Barrow Island is one of several sites under consideration as a production base for processing gas for export from the Gorgon field. Even if a mainland location is eventually chosen, some preliminary processing may still occur on Barrow Island to remove condensate (oil fraction) for shipping via existing oil facilities.

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