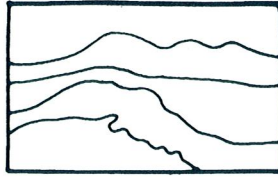


National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 1996-30 JUNE 1997



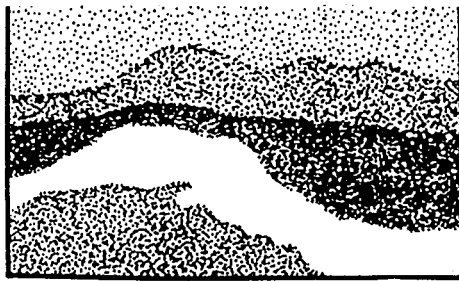
National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1996 - 30 June 1997

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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 1997.

Tom Day  
CHAIRMAN

24 November 1997

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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 1996 to 30 June 1997.

This year saw some changes to our membership. Don Paterson's term of appointment expired during the year and Cr Hugh Browne is the new appointee to this position. Hugh is a Councillor with the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and has been involved in a number of management plan advisory committees. Brian Collins and Kelly Gillen also resigned from the Authority during the year and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Don, Brian and Kelly for their keen participation and contribution to our activities during the term of their appointment.

Another vacancy on the Authority has also been filled during the year. Rod Bellotti, formerly a Community Liaison Officer with the Shire of Carnarvon, was appointed to the position representative of Aboriginal interests. A warm welcome is extended to our new members.

Once again 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 plans for the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks, Serpentine National Park, and the Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves. A CALM/NPNCA Planning Workshop was held during the year to address the role of the NPNCA in relation to the monitoring of the implementation of approved management plans. Resolutions from the Workshop will be used to finalise a set of guidelines that have been developed by the NPNCA for the monitoring of management plan implementation.

The Authority has hosted two public seminars during the year. We were fortunate enough to secure Ms Robin MacGillivray and Professor Marietha Welgemoed as guest speakers. Ms MacGillivray from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency spoke on interpretation the Aboriginal way. Professor Welgemoed from the School of Education, Cape Technikon in Cape Town, South Africa spoke on the role tour guides play in interpreting culture. Both seminars were a success and the Authority has developed a position statement "Seminar and workshop program: guidelines for developing and arranging an annual program" as a guide for future seminars.

Last year I reported that the Authority had formed a Red Tingle Consultative Committee made up of

representatives from the NPNCA, Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association and CALM. The role of the Committee was to address some of the issues and concerns regarding the use of fire regimes within Red Tingle forest of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The Committee met several times during the year and decided that a trial fuel reduction burn should be carried out within an area of Red Tingle. The trial burn was carried out successfully in March 1997. The Committee is now in the process of developing a number of recommendations for the NPNCA to consider. The Authority will then be forwarding recommendations on to the Minister for the Environment.

This year saw the release of the State Government's Salinity Action Plan. Salinity is the State's most serious environmental problem and requires urgent attention. I am pleased to be representing the NPNCA on the State Salinity Council. The Council will be reporting to the Cabinet Committee on matters of policy and performance of the Salinity Action Plan.

A significant change to our role, which was announced during the reporting period, was the Government's decision to introduce legislation to give regional parks legal standing and vesting them in the NPNCA. Management of the parks will be progressively transferred to CALM. Preparation of management plans for Beeliar, Yellagonga and Herdsman Lake will commence shortly.

The establishment of a new Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as the vesting body for marine conservation reserves has progressed during the reporting period. The Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act 1997 has been passed through Parliament and at 30 June 1997 was awaiting proclamation.

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 that frequently take up extra time and personal resources, and to the Authority's Secretary for her continuing hard work and assistance.

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# 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, causes 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

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\* The Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act has been passed through Parliament and is yet to be proclaimed. Part of the Act is for the transfer of vesting of marine conservation areas to a new authority - the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. Once the Act is proclaimed the transfer of vesting will be effected.

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

- (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 1996 to June 1997 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, Mr F Batini and Mr I Herford)
- (1)(a)(iii) Mr J Sharp, Acting Director of National Parks (deputies Mr W Schmidt, Mr J Williamson and Mr P Sharp)
- (1)(a)(iv) Mr D Keene, Director of Forests (deputies Dr P Biggs and Mr H Crawford)

#### **Appointed Members**

- (1)(b)(i) Mrs M Blackwell (Deputy Chair)  
Mr G Rundle
- (1)(b)(ii) Professor B Collins (to 8 August 1996.  
Vacant 9 August 1996 to 30 June 1997)  
Mrs P Barblett
- (1)(b)(iii) Dr S Colyer
- (1)(b)(iv) Mr K McMenemy
- (1)(b)(v) Mr T Day  
Mr D Paterson (to 24 February 1997)  
Cr H Browne (from 25 February 1997)
- (1)(b)(vi) Mr T Adams
- (1)(b)(vii) Mr K Gillen until 13 December 1996  
(vacant 13 December 1996 to 30 June 1996)
- (1)(b)(viii) Mr R Bellotti from 8 August 1996  
(vacant 1 July 1996 to 7 August 1996)

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## AUTHORITY MEETINGS

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

12 July 1996	10 January 1996
9 August 1996	14 February 1996
13 September 1996	14 March 1996
11 October 1996	11 April 1996
8 November 1996	9 May 1996
13 December 1996	13 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 1996/97 year (excluding CALM officers' salaries) was \$70 000.



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# 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 that 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 that 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.

Once the Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act is proclaimed the vesting of marine conservation areas will be transferred to a new authority – the Marine Parks and Reserves 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:

- |                |                                                                                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Class A</i> | Approval of both Houses of Parliament (Western Australia)                                 |
| <i>Class B</i> | Approval of the Governor, provided the Minister for Lands presents a report to Parliament |
| <i>Class C</i> | 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 regardless of their class) will still require

Parliament's 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 1997, 63 national parks totalling 4 873 906 hectares were vested in the Authority. The major changes to the national park estate during the year consisted of increases in the area of D'Entrecasteaux National Park (881 hectares), the recalculation of Eucla National Park (218 hectares) and Fitzgerald River National Park (843 hectares) as a result of a land purchase.

**Conservation parks.** There were no changes to the area of conservation parks vested in the Authority during the period. The area of conservation park vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1997 was 117 316 hectares.

**Nature reserves.** The area of nature reserves vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1997 was 10 770 692 hectares representing a decrease of 14 059 hectares. The major excision of 16 422 hectares was from the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve whilst notable additions included 605 hectares to Yeal Nature Reserve in Swan Region and several new reserves totalling about 1 805 hectares in the Wheatbelt 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 1997 were:

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

Further details of the 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.

- The NPNCA gave approval to Western Mining Corporation for the application of herbicides to a trial area on Airlie Island Nature Reserve C40323 for the control of Buffel Grass infestations.
- The NPNCA provided comments on a research proposal from Kings Park and Botanic Garden for the eradication of Buffel Grass on Airlie Island Nature Reserve C40323.
- The NPNCA approved the excision of a 40 metre road reserve from Utcha Well Nature Reserve C640 for the realignment and upgrading of the Port Gregory-Kalbarri Road subject to a number of conditions.
- The NPNCA approved the excision of location 11998 from Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24996 for temporary vesting in the Shire of Irwin to implement the State Government Squatter Policy.
- The NPNCA noted the Ministers decision to delegate the function under section 17(2) of the CALM Act to the offices of the Executive Director and Directors of Nature Conservation, National Parks and Forests. Section 17(2) of the CALM Act requires proposals for cancellation and amendment of the purpose of certain reserves to be referred by the Minister to the NPNCA.
- The NPNCA approved the first stage of proposed runnelling on Pelican Point Reserve 40891 in the Swan Estuary Marine Park for the control of mosquitos.
- The NPNCA considered a request for waterskiing on Lake Coyrecup Nature Reserve A28552 from the Shire of Katanning. The Authority determined that the request needed to be considered in relation to the values and uses of the range of wetlands in the area, rather than being considered in isolation. Subsequently the NPNCA advised the Shire and CALM to collaborate to write, in consultation with interest groups, a local strategy for wetland recreation and nature conservation.
- The NPNCA considered a Notice of Intent to drain a portion of William location 3885 into Arthur River Nature Reserve A26790. The Authority approved the proposal subject to conditions.

- The NPNCA approved the excision of the existing house and grassed surrounds from the Woodman Point Nature Reserve C42469 and re-vesting with the Recreation Camps and Reserves Board. Noted that that the Recreation Camps and Reserves Board has agreed to the inclusion of two stands of Rottnest cypress (*Callitris preissii*), located within reserve C41084, being added to NPNCA reserve C42469.
- Representatives from the NPNCA and CALM met with the Hon Monty House MLA, representatives of the Lower Kalgan Progress Association, the Shire of Albany and the Department of Land Administration (DOLA) to discuss the future vesting and management of Gull Rock Class A Reserve 27107. The area is already reserved as national park but is not vested. It was agreed that CALM, in liaison with the Shire of Albany, prepare draft Interim Management Guidelines for the Park. The agreed guidelines would then form a basis for the development of a management plan for the area. It is hoped that the guidelines will be able to allay any continuing concerns about vesting in the NPNCA.
- The NPNCA approved a request from the Shire of Beverley for the resumption of approximately 13 hectares from Wandoo Conservation Park A43281 for a 20 metre road reserve to provide the owners of Avon Location 28869 gazetted access to their property.
- The NPNCA approved a request from DOLA for the resumption of approximately 1.6 hectares and 17 hectares respectively from nature reserves A33466 and C33475 (both named Urawa Nature Reserve) for the survey and gazettal of an existing road.
- The NPNCA approved the vesting of Nature Reserves C22906 and C22907, located within the Kondinin townsite, with the Shire of Kondinin for the purpose of *Landscape Protection*. Approval was subject to CALM having input into a management plan for the reserves.
- The NPNCA approved a request from Telstra for access to Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve C42155 to lay portions of the Wyndam Optic Fibre Cable.
- The NPNCA approved a request (subject to conditions) from the Town of Kwinana for the resumption of 0.081 hectares from Wandu Nature Reserve C3611 for the realignment and reconstruction of De Haer Road for safety reasons.
- The NPNCA approved the provision of drought relief facilities in Toompup Nature Reserve A15756. This included the use of an existing track for an underground pipeline adjustment and the clearing of a maximum of 0.7 hectares within the Reserve for a drought relief water supply tank and associated access.
- The Yenyenning Lakes Management Group referred the Yenyenning Lakes Management Strategy to the Authority for comment. The Yenyenning Lakes include nature reserves vested in the Authority. The NPNCA endorsed the Management Strategy subject to a number of comments being taken on board.
- The NPNCA noted the realignment of the Bibbulmun Track through Monadnocks Conservation Park A39826.
- The NPNCA recommended to the Minister for the Environment that a CALM Act section 62 limited access notice be drafted, prohibiting the use of bicycles on that portion of the Bibbulmun Track which will be located on lands vested in the NPNCA.
- The NPNCA granted permission to the Wagin Shire Council to construct and use an access track across Reserve A30440 from the Great Southern Highway to the Great Southern Kart Club subject to a number of conditions.
- The NPNCA approved an amended route for a sewer through the Yellagonga Regional Park.
- The NPNCA noted the announcement made by the State Government regarding the introduction of legislation to give regional parks legal standing and vesting them in the NPNCA.

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# 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).<sup>1</sup>

## 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.

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

## 1996/97 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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- **Exploration Licences**

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

- Application for an exploration licence within Moore River National Park C28462 was endorsed with conditions.
- Application for exploration licences affecting Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Applications for exploration licences affecting Dundas Nature Reserve B36957 were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Applications for exploration licences affecting Rudall River National Park A34607 were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Exploration proposal affecting Reserve C26001 (Eneabba) was approved subject to conditions. The NPNCA delegated authority to CALM for approval of future exploration proposals for Mining Lease 267SA in Reserve C26001.
- Application for an exploration licence affecting Barlee Range Nature Reserve A26808 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Applications for exploration licences affecting Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve A30491 were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 80/2211 within Ord River Nature Reserve C31967 due to the area being a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- Application for an exploration licence affecting Karijini National Park A30082 was endorsed subject to conditions.

- **Miscellaneous Licences**

- Application for general purpose leases and a miscellaneous licence for a Mineralogy Iron Ore Project affecting a portion of Preston Island Nature Reserve B33831 was endorsed subject to conditions.

- **Mining Leases**

- Application for a mining lease affecting Reserve C42477 (formerly part of Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496) was endorsed with conditions.
- Application for a mining lease affecting Wanjarri Nature Reserve A30897 was endorsed with a no mining condition on the lease area.
- Recommended refusal of an application for the marking out of a mining lease within Lake King Nature Reserve A39422 due to supplies of gypsum being available outside of the reserve.
- Recommended refusal of an application for the marking out of a mining lease within Chinocup Nature Reserve A28395 due to supplies of gypsum being available outside of the reserve.
- Recommended refusal of mining lease 70/929 within Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 due to the impact on conservation and recreation values.
- Recommended refusal of mining lease 70/932 affecting Chopping and Brand Reserve C42477 due to supplies of limesands being available outside of the reserve.

- **Seismic Surveys - Petroleum**

In the 1995/96 period the Authority approved in principle a seismic survey on Barrow Island. In the 1996/97 period the Authority was informed that the onshore and shallow water components of this proposal would not be followed up. The Authority approved an application for a seismic survey affecting Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 subject to conditions.

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- **Petroleum - Other**

Other petroleum related matters referred to, or received direct, by the NPNCA included the endorsement of the action of the Executive Director of CALM in granting the authority for the construction and maintenance of a pipeline across the beach on Varanus Island with similar conditions to the East Spar Pipeline Project. The pipeline would be in the same area as the recently constructed East Spar pipeline.

The Authority noted a report from WAPET on the protection of groundwater on Barrow Island.

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**

- A Notice of Entry by Alinta Gas to survey a proposed pipeline route affecting State Forest No. 65 (proposed Melaleuca Park) was approved. Resulting from the Notice of Entry the Authority wrote to Alinta Gas, Western Power and Main Roads Western Australia stressing the need to coordinate the provision of utility services affecting Neerabup National Park.
- The Authority approved a proposal for a 'land swap' involving the excision of part of the Yakabindie pastoral lease to be included permanently in the Wanjarri Nature Reserve A30897 in return for the grant of a mining lease over part of the south west corner of the Wanjarri Nature Reserve. This area would be used for infrastructure and waste dumps associated with the project, and would be rehabilitated on completion of the project.

**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"> <li>Refer to CALM (&amp; NPNCA)</li> <li>Min. for Env. concurrence GSA Conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CALM (&amp; NPNCA)</li> <li>Min. for Env. concurrence GSA Conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CALM (&amp; NPNCA)</li> <li>Min. for Env. recommendation GSA Conditions</li> </ul>
Grant of Prospecting & Exploration Licences (no environmentally significant disturbance) Note (g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess by DOME</li> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA</li> <li>DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (e)</li> <li>Min. for Env. concurrence</li> <li>A1 Conditions</li> <li>Note (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess by DOME</li> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA</li> <li>DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (e)</li> <li>Min. for Env. concurrence</li> <li>A1 Conditions</li> <li>Note (c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CALM &amp; NPNCA</li> <li>Min. for Env. recommendation</li> <li>A1 Conditions</li> <li>Note (c)</li> </ul>
Prospecting & Exploration activity (environmentally significant disturbance) Note (a) Note (g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM.</li> <li>Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM.</li> <li>Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to EPA if required by CALM</li> <li>A1 conditions</li> </ul>
Grant of Mining Lease (no environmentally significant disturbance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess by DOME</li> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA</li> <li>NOI, required by DOME/CALM</li> <li>EPA assessment</li> <li>Parliamentary concurrence</li> <li>Title granted and conditions set</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess by DOME</li> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA</li> <li>NOI, required by DOME/CALM</li> <li>EPA assessment</li> <li>Parliamentary concurrence</li> <li>Title granted and conditions set</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess by DOME</li> <li>Refer to CALM/NPNCA</li> <li>NOI required by DOME/CALM</li> <li>Refer to EPA if significant impact (MOU)</li> <li>Min. for Env. recommendation</li> <li>Title granted and conditions set - based on F Conditions</li> </ul>
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.

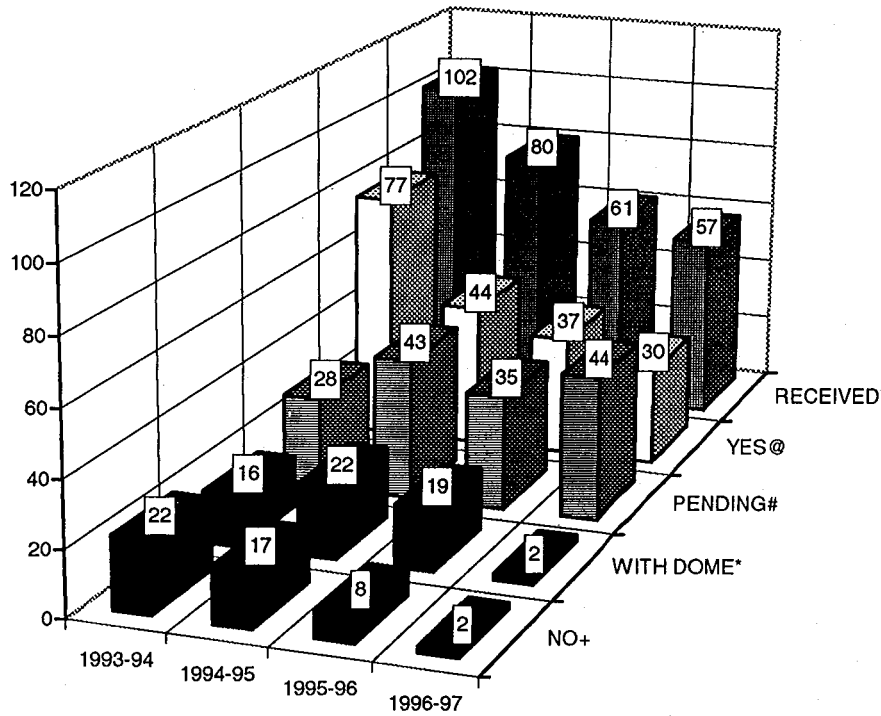
DOME Department of Minerals and Energy EPA Environmental Protection Authority

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  
1993-94, 1994-95 (VESTED AND PROPOSED) AND 1995-96, 1996-97 (VESTED)**



- @ Recommended by the Minister for the Environment 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 the Minister for the Environment for approval

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



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# 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

The Authority has also formulated a number of policy and position statements. These are listed at Table 4. Copies are available on request.

The NPNCA's position statement on "Seminar and workshop program: guidelines for developing and arranging an annual program" was finalised and circulated during the period.

## OTHER POLICY AREAS

- The Authority was involved in the development of recommendations to the Minister for membership of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.
- The Authority considered and endorsed the 1997 commercial harvest quotas for the Red Kangaroo, Grey Kangaroo and Euro, ie. 180 000 for the Red Kangaroo, 70 000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo, and 12 000 for the Euro.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the Draft Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge Statement of Planning Policy Report.
- Noted the release of the State Salinity Plan, developed by Agriculture WA, CALM, Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) and Water and Rivers Commission for the State Government.
- The Authority considered and endorsed recommendations made by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee in relation to the species listed on the threatened flora and fauna lists.

**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**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>
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
P5	Seminar and Workshop Program: Guidelines for Developing and Arranging an Annual Program	October 1996

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# 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.

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

- Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks
- Serpentine National Park
- Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves

The NPNCA was also represented at the release of the final management plans for the Wanjarri Nature Reserve and the Shark Bay Marine Reserves.

## 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.

An NPNCA/CALM Planning Workshop was held in the 1996/97 period to address the role of the NPNCA in relation to the monitoring of management plans and within the general planning process. A number of resolutions resulting from the Workshop are still to be considered by the Authority. The draft guidelines for the monitoring of management plan implementation will be developed after consideration of these resolutions.

## 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:

- The NPNCA recommended that the management zones prescribed in the management plan for Marmion Marine Park be classified areas under section 62 of the CALM Act 1984.
- The NPNCA approved an amendment to the fire management plan and the reclassification of two areas designated as 'no planned burn' areas to 'fuel reduction' areas in Management Plan No. 22 for the Walpole-Nornalup National Park as advertised, gazetted and commented on through the public submission process. The proposed amendment was submitted to the Minister in accordance with the requirements of section 60 of the CALM Act. The Minister subsequently approved the amendment to the plan.
- The NPNCA approved the review of the fire management section of the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan be advertised for public comment.
- The NPNCA approved vehicle access into the wilderness area within the Fitzgerald River National Park during November and December 1996 to undertake biological monitoring of permanent monitoring sites.

The NPNCA approved vehicle access into the wilderness area within Fitzgerald River National Park from January to May 1997 for the implementation of a phosphonate research project.

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

- The NPNCA initiated the formation of the Red Tingle Consultative Committee in 1995/96 to address the issue of fire regimes within Red Tingle forest of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The Committee is made up of representatives from the NPNCA, Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association and CALM. The Committee met several times and decided that a trial fuel reduction burn should be carried out in an area containing red tingle forest within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The trial burn was carried out in March 1997. The

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Committee inspected the site of the burn. The Committee will be developing a number of prescriptions based on results from the trial burn and will be forwarding these to the Minister for the Environment.

- The NPNCA noted with pleasure the annual report of the Yanchep National Park Advisory Committee for the year ending 31 May 1996.
- The NPNCA noted the definition statement for the 1997 progress and compliance report by CALM on the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003. The Authority was briefed by departmental staff on the progress of tenure change recommendations in the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003.
- The NPNCA conducted a field inspection of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park in February 1997. Issues addressed during the visit included grazing leases in the Tuart forest, access, recreational use of caves, and the introduction of Park fees.
- The NPNCA gave approval for the Shire of Exmouth to extract gravel from Cape Range National Park for the upgrading and sealing of Yardie Creek Road within Cape Range National Park, subject to conditions.
- Held a CALM/NPNCA Planning Workshop to discuss the current management plan process and the involvement of the NPNCA.
- The NPNCA approved the construction of a strategic firebreak adjacent to the Tree Top Recreation Site (Valley of the Giants), within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, for the protection of visitors and facilities.
- The NPNCA recommended to the Minister for the Environment that exotic pine species be removed from the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and sold, with the revenues generated spent on projects within the Park.
- The NPNCA was briefed by department staff on the Return to Dryandra Project. It noted the nature conservation component of the Project including the operation of a native animal breeding facility for the purpose of reintroductions to the wild within Dryandra and other sites. The Authority also endorsed the tourism component of the Project.

## Leases and Licences

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

- A lease to Auster Investments Ltd Pty for the provision of tourist accommodation in Karijini National was approved subject to conditions.
- A lease within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park was approved to the Walpole Yacht Club.
- A lease to Yanchep National Park Developments Pty Ltd for the development and operation of the Yanchep Inn and kiosk in the Yanchep National Park was approved subject to conditions.
- A lease over a portion of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park for the construction and use of a warden house, in relation to the historic Ellensbrook homestead, was approved to Homeswest.
- A lease over a portion of Towerrining Nature Reserve for public recreation and aquatic sports was approved to the Shire of West Arthur.
- Approved the extension of the lease between Governors of Hale School and CALM for a further 10 years for the use of Cygnet Hall and Boatshed, Crawley.
- A lease over a portion of Cape Range National Park to allow the continued use of a weather watch radar facility by the Bureau of Meteorology was approved to the Commonwealth of Australia.
- A lease to the Gould League of WA as the principal lessees and managers of the Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre. A lease to the World Wide Fund for Australia (WWF), as lessees of the Warden's Cottage adjacent to the Centre, with rights of access to the Wildlife Centre to utilise meeting facilities under a collaborative arrangement with the Gould League.
- A lease over a portion of 5(g) reserve (Conservation and Radio Facilities) Alfred Cove was approved to Radio 6AR.

- 
- A lease of a mobile repeater site adjacent to Herdsman Lake Nature Reserve (to be vested in the NPNCA) to Telstra was approved subject to conditions.
  - Approved the granting of a licence (initially for two years, then reviewed annually) as a 'necessary operation' to the University of Western Australia to allow them to enter and use the Harry Waring Nature Reserve for the purpose of research and education.
  - Licences to conduct tours in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.
  - Licence to operate helicopter scenic tours within the Purnululu National Park.
  - Licence to operate helicopter scenic tours within the Nambung National Park.
  - Renewal of Whale Shark Interaction Tour Licences in 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 1996/97 the Authority endorsed proposals from the Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team resulting from a review of the success and problems associated with translocation of tortoises from the Perth Zoo to Twin Swamps Nature Reserve.

During 1996/97 the Authority endorsed the draft Whale Shark Management Program for referral to the Minister for the Environment for approval.

During 1996/97 the Authority considered the Threatened Species and Communities Recovery Team Annual Reports and noted the status of Recovery Plans, Interim Recovery Plans and Region/District Flora Management Programs. The Authority also noted 11 Interim Recovery Plans for Critically Endangered Taxa.



**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 - Coomaloo 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	5 March 1996
Leschenault Peninsula	19 June 1996
Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Nature Reserves	2 March 1997
Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks	16 April 1997
2. DRAFT PLANS BEING PREPARED (or about to be released)	
<p>Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves</p> <p>Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks* and Muiron Islands Nature Reserves</p> <p>Kimberley Region</p> <p>Lower Ord River and Parrys Lagoon</p> <p>Millstream-Chichester National Park - Mungarooona 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>Wheatbelt Region</p>	

\* not specific responsibility of NPNCA

**Table 7**  
**INTERIM GUIDELINES - LISTING**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>GUIDELINES</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
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 Woody Island Nature Reserve Eucla National Park Peak Charles and Frank Hann National Parks Nuytsland Nature Reserve	93-98  89-93 87-91 87-91 92 92 88-93 1995-2000 1995-2005 1996-2001 1996-2001 1996-2001 1997-2002

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# 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 1996/97

- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the 'Lake Chinocup Integrated Catchment Management Plan' prepared by the Lake Chinocup Catchment Resource Management Committee.
- Provided comments to the Minister on the proposed 'State Wetlands Conservation Policy'.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the proposed environmental conditions for gypsum mining in Chinocup Nature Reserve.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the 'State Gravel Supply Strategy'.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the draft Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy.

- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on drafting instructions relating to proposed changes to the NPNCA.
- Provided comments to the Minister for the Environment on the draft Gascoyne-Murchison Rangelands Strategy.
- Provided comments to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the Consultative Environmental Review (CER) for the Hard Rock Quarry, Burrup Peninsula, Dampier.
- Provided comments to the DEP on the Public Environmental Review (PER) for the Perth to Bunbury Highway Peel Deviation.
- Submitted comments to the DEP on the reviewed Referral Questionnaire for Local Government Roadworks.
- Submitted comments to the National Rangeland Management Working Group on the 'Draft National Strategy for Rangeland Management'.
- Submitted comments to the Conservation Council on the conservation and status statements for the Western Brush Wallaby (Black-gloved Wallaby) and the Quenda (Southern Brown Bandicoot).
- Submitted comments to the Ministry for Planning on the 'Inner Peel Region Structure Plan'.
- Provided comments to the Ministry for Planning on the Port Kennedy Scientific Park and Rockingham Lakes Regional Park Management Framework.

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.

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# 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:

- Briefed by departmental staff on the proposed and existing land management regulations.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the wildfire that occurred in the Stirling Range National Park in January 1997.
- Briefed by departmental staff on fire management and dieback in the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks.
- Briefed by department staff on the realignment of the Bibbulmun Track.
- A briefing by staff from the Ministry for Planning and the EPA on the Urban Bushland Strategy and System 6 review.
- Briefed by staff from Cable Sands (WA) Pty Ltd on the proposed Jangardup South Project.
- Briefed by staff from the Department of Resources Development and Hamersley Iron on the future plans for mining tenements in Karijini National Park.
- A joint informal meeting with the Conservation Council of WA (Inc) in July 1996.
- Briefed by staff from Kings Park and Botanic Garden on the functions of the organisation and projects being undertaken. Conducted a tour through the laboratories and nurseries at the Park.
- The Authority met with the Minister for the Environment, Hon Cheryl Edwardes, to discuss details regarding the proposed restructuring of the NPNCA.
- Hosted a public seminar with guest speaker Ms Robin MacGillivray from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency speaking on interpretation the Aboriginal way.
- Hosted a seminar with guest speaker Professor Marietha Welgemoed from the School of Education, Cape Technikon in Cape Town, South Africa speaking on the role tour guides play in interpreting culture.
- Briefed by staff from CALM, Crown Solicitors, WA Planning Commission, Bush Fires Board, and representatives for the proponent on the Location 1295 Town Planning Appeal Tribunal Report. The proposal involves a subdivision within Location 1295, which is surrounded by the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
- 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, WA Flora Industry Advisory Committee, Forest Monitoring and Research Committee, State Gravel Supply Strategy Group, State Salinity Council, Natural Heritage Trust State Assessment Panel.

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# 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
- Narrogin District Threatened and Priority Flora Management Program
- *Boronia megastigma* research
- Priority Flora survey
- Seal 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.

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## 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.*

### RED TINGLE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

In April 1996 the NPNCA became aware of some concerns from the local community in relation to prescribed burning regimes within areas of Red Tingle Forest in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

As a result the Authority hosted an informal meeting with relevant interested parties and specialists during May 1996. Items discussed at the meeting included the history of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Management Plan, mechanics of designing, planning and implementing prescribed burns, subsequent assessment and monitoring - focusing on past/recent tingle burns, and potential impacts on fauna and flora with particular reference to red tingle. Subsequent to this meeting, members from the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association also briefed the Authority on the subject at the NPNCA's May 1996 meeting.

In the meantime, community concern in relation to prescribed burning proposals within areas of Red Tingle Forest in the Walpole-Nornalup National Park resulted in a formal referral to the EPA. The EPA considered that a review of the matter was more appropriately the role of the NPNCA, since this Park was covered by an approved management plan. As a result of the Minister for the Environment requesting advice from the Authority on the issue, 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 provided advice to the Minister. The Committee is made up of representatives from the NPNCA, CALM and the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association.

The Red Tingle Consultative Committee met a number of times during the year. The Committee resolved that a fuel reduction burn be carried out in an area of Red Tingle with the aim of determining

whether an unburnt mosaic could be achieved if burning was carried out under ideal conditions. Other aims of the burn included reducing the number of mature Red Tingle trees that were damaged by fire. The Committee carried out a field inspection of the site chosen for the burn and considered the type of conditions that would be required on the day of the burn. The Committee specified pre and post burn monitoring that would be required to determine the success of the burn. The trial burn was carried out successfully in March 1997. The Committee carried out an inspection of the area after it had been burnt. The results of the pre and post burn monitoring are being collated. The Committee will then consider the results and make a number of recommendations to the NPNCA. The NPNCA will then forward its advice to the Minister for the Environment.

### EXPLORATION AND MINING IN CONSERVATION RESERVES

At pages 8-10 of this Annual Report is an account of the Authority's dealings with mining issues during 1996/97. The introduction to that section provides background on the legislation, and on Government and NPNCA policy on mining tenement applications that involve conservation reserves that are vested in the Authority. Table 1 at page 11 also sets out consultative procedures for mining tenement applications that involve NPNCA vested reserves.

The procedures are based on statutory requirements set out in the *Mining Act 1978*, and practical detail that has been formally agreed to by relevant government agencies. Petroleum exploration and extraction tenements are covered by other legislation and therefore have different procedures. These are not discussed in this Special Report.

It can be seen from Table 1 that different degrees of security apply to different types of conservation reserve, so far as mining and mineral exploration are concerned. The level of approval for activities is also generally lower for exploration proposals than for actual mining. Thus the levels of a reserve's security concerning mineral exploration and mining activities is different in many respects than security against changes of purpose or size reduction, as outlined at page 5 of this Annual Report.

With regard to national parks (of any class) and other conservation reserves that are Class A, the

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Minister for Mines can approve conditional mineral exploration tenements – providing the Minister for the Environment also concurs. However, when the conservation reserves are Class B or C (excepting for national parks), the Minister for Mines can approve (or refuse) mineral exploration tenements covering them after receiving recommendations from the Minister for the Environment. Accordingly, the statutory need for the Minister for the Environment to be involved provides both CALM and the NPNCA with opportunities to make recommendations – either that proposals not be approved or be approved only with specific conditions.

In the case of applications for tenements to mine within conservation reserves, the Minister for Mines can give approval in:

- Any national park or other conservation reserves that are Class A – only if the Minister for the Environment concurs and, where a lease is intended to be granted, the concurrence of Parliament.
- Class B and C conservation reserves that are not national parks – after considering recommendations made by the Minister for the Environment.

Within these procedures there is scope for both CALM and the NPNCA to also advise the Minister for the Environment. However, there is another way in which mining can be approved for an area originally within a national park or other conservation reserve that is Class A – that is by first excising the intended mine site out of the reserve. Nevertheless, excision also requires Parliament's consent and, providing the proposal is referred to CALM and the NPNCA, similar scope exists to advise the Minister for the Environment.

Current protective provisions in the Mining Act applying to conservation reserves are far better than they used to be. Real improvements were initiated at community request when a Committee of Inquiry into the 1904 Mining Act reported to Government in 1970. The eventual result was the 1904 Act's replacement by a new Act in 1978. However, even provisions in the original 1978 Act have been improved over the past few years. These have been enhanced by the professional approach taken in consultation procedures and cooperation developed by the Departments of Mining, Environmental Protection, and Conservation and Land Management.

There are, however, some commodities that are mined from conservation reserves that don't come within provisions of the Mining Act on free hold

land. These are basic raw materials, and include road construction material like lateritic gravel and limestone; limestone and lime sand for agricultural use; and gypsum for agricultural use. Recently CALM and the NPNCA have participated in a Government study to develop a proposed *State Gravel Supply Strategy* that considers potential sources of this commodity. After passing through a community consultation process, a final draft is being prepared for ministerial and Cabinet approval. The NPNCA and CALM have suggested to the Minister for the Environment that a similar strategy be developed for supplying gypsum to both local industry and agricultural needs. Of interest, the NPNCA has noted that the 1997 draft State of the Environment Report also proposes that a *State Lime Strategy* be developed to secure lime resources and to also protect areas of high conservation value.

In the NPNCA 1995/96 Annual Report, a special report was made on the Beekeepers Nature Reserve, south of Dongara, particularly concerning limestone mining proposals. As at May 1997 there were 30 mining tenements affecting the Beekeepers Nature Reserve. There is obviously a high mineral interest in this reserve, and the recently approved Central Coast Regional [Planning] Strategy also has a requirement for a basic raw material strategy to be developed for that part of the State. The basic raw material strategy is now being developed, and CALM and the Department of Minerals and Energy are key players. One objective of the strategy is to secure strategic limestone resources while ensuring that prime conservation areas in the region are avoided.



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