

National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority



# ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 1997–30 JUNE 1998





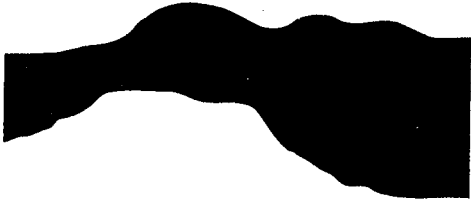
National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority

# ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1997 - 30 June 1998

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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 1998.



Tom Day  
CHAIRMAN

27 November 1998

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# CONTENTS

<b>Chairman's Review</b> .....	1
<b>General Information</b> .....	2
Functions of the Authority .....	2
Authority membership .....	2
Authority meetings .....	4
Resources .....	4
<b>The Conservation Estate</b> .....	5
Legislative background .....	5
Categories of reserve and functions .....	5
Land classifications and security of tenure .....	5
Area vested .....	5
Considerations of proposed changes for vested lands and waters .....	6
<b>Policy Development</b> .....	8
Legislative background .....	8
CALM policy statements .....	8
NPNCA policy and position statements .....	8
Other policy areas .....	8
<b>Management Plans, Leases and Licences</b> .....	12
Legislative background and management plan development .....	12
Management plan implementation .....	12
Management issues .....	13
Wildlife management programs .....	15
<b>Mining Issues</b> .....	19
Background .....	19
State Government policy .....	19
NPNCA policy .....	19
Referral procedures for Mining Act tenements .....	19
1997/98 mining issues considered .....	19
Other significant mining issues .....	20
<b>Advice to the Minister and Others</b> .....	23
Legislative background .....	23
Action during 1997/98 .....	23
<b>Liaison</b> .....	24
<b>Endorsement of grants made from the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account</b> .....	25
<b>Special Reports</b> .....	26

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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 1997 to 30 June 1998.

This year again has seen some changes to our membership. Dr Sue Colyer resigned from the Authority this year and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Sue for her participation and contribution to our activities during the term of her appointment. A vacancy on the Authority was filled during the year. Ms Tammie Reid, a Community Education Officer with the Department of CALM, was appointed to the position representative of CALM. A warm welcome is extended to Tammie.

Management plans coming before the Authority during the year included the draft management plans for the Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks and Muiron Islands, Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves and Perup Forest and Lake Muir-Unicup Nature Reserves.

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. During the 1997/98 reporting period the Committee produced a set of recommendations based on the results of monitoring carried out and forwarded them to the NPNCA for consideration. The NPNCA has endorsed these recommendations and forwarded them to the Minister for the Environment. I would like to thank staff from the Walpole District of the Department of CALM and members of the Walpole-Nornalup National Parks Association for their cooperation and contribution to this process.

A significant change to our role during the reporting period was proclamation of the Acts Amendment (Marine Reserves) Act 1997 on 29 August 1997 and subsequent formation of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) as the vested body for Western Australia's marine conservation reserves. Vesting of the existing marine conservation reserves was transferred at this time from the NPNCA to the MPRA.

The two authorities held a joint meeting in April 1998 to meet members and hold initial discussions regarding liaison between the two authorities. Liaison between the authorities will be important where integrated management of waters vested in the MPRA and land vested in the NPNCA is to be addressed and, generally, where island and coastal management issues as they relate to species conservation and environmental degradation may arise. I am looking forward to a positive and close working relationship between the two authorities.

Other activities of note during the year include representatives from the Authority undertaking the biennial inspection of Barrow and Thevenard Islands, representatives from the Authority carrying out a field inspection of routes for Robe River Iron Associates proposal for a railway between West Angelas and Cape Lambert, and field visits to the Fitzgerald River National Park and Yalgorup National Park.

I have continued to represent the NPNCA on the State Salinity Council during the year. Salinity and rising watertables in WA, particularly in the Wheatbelt and broadacre farming regions is a huge problem and will take substantial long term effort on behalf of the Government and the community to resolve. The State Salinity Council is playing an important part in tackling this issue and turning around the community attitude to landcare and the biodiversity of the State. The Salinity Action Plan has been rewritten with a greater focus on biodiversity and will soon be released in draft for public input.

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 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 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 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, and section 54 makes the Authority responsible for having management plans prepared).

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 1997 to June 1998 are recorded below.

#### **Ex officio Members**

- (1)(a)(i) Dr S R Shea, Executive Director (deputies Mr C D Haynes, Mr R Sneeuwjagt and Mr B Chandler)
- (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, 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 (Ms Colma Keating acted in Mr Rundle's absence from 12 June 1998)
- (1)(b)(ii) Vacant 1 July 1997 to 18 May 1998  
Mr T Day (Chairman) from 19 May 1998  
Mrs P Barblett
- (1)(b)(iii) Dr S Colyer (1 July 1997 to 12 December 1997)  
Vacant 13 December to 30 June 1998
- (1)(b)(iv) Mr K McMenemy
- (1)(b)(v) Cr H Browne  
Mr T Day (Chairman) (1 July 1997 to 19 May 1998)  
Vacant 20 May 1998 to 30 June 1998
- (1)(b)(vi) Mr T Adams
- (1)(b)(vii) Vacant 1 July 1997 to 18 May 1998  
Ms T Reid from 19 May 1998
- (1)(b)(viii) Mr R Bellotti

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## AUTHORITY MEETINGS

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

10 July 1997	9 January 1998
14 August 1997	13 February 1998
11 September 1997	13 March 1998
9 October 1997	3 April 1998
13 November 1997	8 May 1998
11 December 1997	12 June 1998

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 1997/98 year (excluding CALM officers' salaries) was \$70 000.



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# THE CONSERVATION ESTATE

## LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Under sections 7(2), 7(2a), 7(3), 7(4) and 22(1)(a) of the CALM Act, the NPNCA is the vested authority for terrestrial conservation reserves to which the Act applies. The Authority considers any cancellation and change of purpose or boundary for its reserves under Section 22(1)(c) and associated Section 17.

## CATEGORIES OF RESERVE AND FUNCTIONS

National parks, conservation parks and nature reserves are the three 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 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.** 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.** 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.

**Section 5(g) reserves.** 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.

## LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND SECURITY OF TENURE

Under the new *Land Administration Act 1997* all reserves are no longer classified as either Class A, Class B or Class C. There are only reserves, some of which may be classified as Class A. Before the Minister for Lands can put any major change into effect under the *Land Administration Act 1997*, such as a change of purpose or a major excision, to national parks, conservation parks and Class A reserves, it requires tabling in and the approval of both Houses of Parliament where it may be disallowed.

## AREA VESTED

**National park.** As at 30 June 1998, 63 national parks totalling 4 874 282 hectares were vested in the Authority. The major changes to the national park estate during the year consisted of additions to Cape Le Grand National Park (223 hectares), Porongurup National Park (110 hectares) and Francois Peron National Park (58 hectares).

**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 1998 was 117 316 hectares.

**Nature reserves.** The area of nature reserves vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1998 was 10 772 271 hectares representing an increase of 1 579 hectares. Notable were an addition to Benger Swamp Nature Reserve (428 hectares) and a new reserve created near Kwoenicup Lake (40 hectares) as a result of a bequest. Other new reserves include areas at Port Kennedy (589 hectares), adjacent to Serpentine River at Mandurah (258 hectares) and Kweda Townsite (175 hectares).

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

**Regional parks.** State Government policy decisions have recently been made concerning this category of conservation reserve, and management plans are now in preparation for some. More detail on the concept of "regional parks" is given in the section on Special Reports.

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## 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 or other matters. These are summarised below.

The NPNCA:

- Approved an amendment to the boundary of Water Reserve 24151 located within the Porongurup National Park to establish a more appropriate boundary for the reserve, which would protect Bolganup Dam located on the reserve. The Authority also approved the extent of clearing required for upgrading works on the Dam within the proposed Water Reserve.
- Approved a request from Main Roads WA for the resumption of 1.2 hectares from reserve C18130 for widening of the Great Eastern Highway, subject to conditions.
- Gave its support for the progression of proposed extensions to the Karijini National Park.
- Gave approval to WAPET to carry out weed control spraying within disturbed areas of Thevenard Island Nature Reserve.
- Approved that reserves A25696 and A25697 (Shire of Kent) be de-vested and their purpose changed from "Conservation of Flora and Fauna" to "Protected Road" or "Landscape Protection", and that they be vested in the appropriate authority.
- Approved a request from the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale for the resumption of approximately 3.1 ha from reserve A39825 for the dedication of a 20 m wide road reserve.
- Approved the excision of three easements from the Neerabup National Park required for access to the Water Corporation's proposed Water Treatment Plant.
- Approved an application from Western Power for an easement through Leschenault Conservation Park 42470 for the Collie Power Station Saline Water Disposal Pipeline, subject to conditions.
- Refused an application from the Fence Road Catchment Group to establish a seed orchard within reserve A13258 in the Wheatbelt. Assistance was offered to the Catchment Group in sourcing seed and developing other sites for an orchard.
- Agreed in principle to the Agriculture WA recommendation of upgrading the W drains on private property Plantagenet 5986 in order to improve current discharge of saline water from the private property into a drainage line that discharges into Chillinup Lake Nature Reserve 25386.
- Referred a Notice of Intent to drain into reserve A10472 from the Datatine Catchment Group to a group of officers from CALM, Agriculture WA and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for consideration and recommendation. The Authority considered the proposal and recommendations from the group and decided not to object to the Notice of Intent to drain within Datatine Catchment.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain in the Doradine Catchment.
- Considered and approved in principle a Notice of Intent to construct a diversion drain around Wamballup in reserve 11760 subject to the whole of catchment work continuing and ongoing monitoring of salinity levels in the swamp.
- Referred a Notice of Intent to dispose of surface drainage water from the Wakeman Catchment through Ski Lake Nature Reserve A42115 and into Seagroatt Nature Reserve A25062 to a group of officers from CALM, Agriculture WA and DEP for consideration and recommendation.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain on Mr Bristow's property in the Naremben Creek subject to a number of conditions, including the full exploration of alternatives to the proposal, field demonstration and monitoring in relation to deep drains versus shallow drains, and the staging of the proposal in two parts over three years.
- Approved the amalgamation of reserves A45041 and A44077, Port Kennedy Scientific Park.

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- Supported addition of vacant Crown land to the Port Kennedy Scientific Park Reserve A45041.
  - Endorsed the management proposals of the Shire of Carnamah for the portion of reserve 42477 between Leeman and Coolimba, including the development nodes proposed for Coolimba and Bat Cove within the Coolimba townsite.
  - Gave in principle approval for the construction of a standard gauge railway through East Yuna Nature Reserve 29231 for the transportation of iron ore from Tailering Peak to the Geraldton Plant at Oakajee, subject to conditions.
  - Gave approval for Alinta Gas to construct a section of gas pipeline within Melaleuca Park (proposed nature reserve), subject to conditions.
  - Approved a request from the Shire of Carnamah for interim access for the summer of 1997/1998 to three sites within Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 for approximately 27,000 m<sup>3</sup> of marl for road making material within previously disturbed areas, subject to conditions.
  - Approved the inclusion of Lots 63 to 110 plus adjacent streets (excluding Rooke Street) and a portion of gravel reserve 30775 into Tenterden Nature Reserve A30774.
  - Approved the inclusion of a 4.9 ha undeveloped recreation reserve, a 0.4 ha surplus water reserve and an area of closed road into Wilroy Nature Reserve A26196.
  - Approved in principle the excision of approximately 1.5 ha from Leda Nature Reserve due to an overlap between the Gilmore Avenue Road Reserve and Leda Nature Reserve.
  - Approved the vesting of Reserve C1703 (Shire of Broomehill) be changed from the NPNCA to the Lands and Forest Commission and that the purpose of the reserve be changed from "Conservation of Flora and Fauna" to "Timber".
  - Approved the inclusion of an area of closed road and vacant Crown land into Bokarup Nature Reserve A14739.
  - Approved a request from the Ministry for Education for the excision of approximately 1.47 ha from Leschenaultia Conservation Park A42958 for the extension of the Eastern Hills Senior High School oval.
  - Approved a request from the Water Corporation to locate 500 metres of below ground water supply pipeline within South Buniche Nature Reserve A26763, subject to conditions.
  - Gave approval for the removal of remaining overhangs on the cliffs at Huzza's in Cowaramup Bay, Gracetown, as recommended in reports on risk management of cliffs in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
  - Approved a request from the Ngaanyatjarra Council to establish a bore in the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve in Tjintjirra.
  - Approved a land adjustment involving Benger Swamp Nature Reserve C34811 to rectify a mistake that occurred when Benger Swamp Lots 61 and 62 were acquired in error by the Crown.
  - Endorsed the upgrading and proposed extension to the walk trails within Wongan Hills Nature Reserve 33530 (in the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu).
  - Approved in principle a proposal from the City of Melville to widen an existing path within Alfred Cove Nature Reserve A35066.
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# POLICY DEVELOPMENT

## LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

A statutory function of the Authority under 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 1 lists the CALM Policy Statements now endorsed and adopted by the Authority. Table 2 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 3. Copies are available on request.

## OTHER POLICY AREAS

- The Authority considered and endorsed the 1998-2002 management programs for the Red Kangaroo, Grey Kangaroo and Euro. The NPNCA also considered and endorsed the 1998 commercial harvest quotas for the Red Kangaroo, Grey Kangaroo and Euro, i.e. 200,000 for the Red Kangaroo, 74,000 for the Western Grey Kangaroo, and 10,000 for the Euro.
- The Authority considered recommendations made by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee in relation to the species listed on the threatened flora and fauna lists. The NPNCA endorsed the changes which included the removal of four mammal species from the threatened list, two of which, the Quenda and the Tammar Wallaby are in response to fox baiting initiatives through the Western Shield program. The Authority congratulated the Department on the success of the Western Shield program.



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

NO.	TITLE	DATE OF ISSUE
1	Planning	January 1986
3	Phytophthora dieback (Revised)	February 1991
4	Cancelled - see 15	
7	Cancelled	
9	Conservation of threatened flora in the wild (Revised)	December 1992
10	Rehabilitation of disturbed land	November 1986
11	Protection of Aboriginal sites	Yet to be issued
13	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

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**Table 2**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT**

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

<b>NO.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>
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 3****NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY****POSITION AND POLICY STATEMENTS**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>POLICY STATEMENTS</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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
<b>NO.</b>	<b>POSITION STATEMENTS</b>	<b>DATE</b>
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 have prepared and 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 4 lists the management plans approved whilst Table 5 shows those currently in preparation.

During the year the Authority approved for forwarding to the Minister for her approval the final management plans for Canning River Regional Park, Nambung National Park, Wanagarren, Nilgen and Southern Beekeeper's Nature Reserves, Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Nature Reserves, and Leschenault Peninsula.

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

- Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks and Muiron Islands
- Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves
- Perup Forest and Lake Muir/Unicup Nature 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



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## 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 6 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. Advice on one compatible operation was sought during the 1997/98 period.

**Leases and Licences.** The *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 1992* 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 and waters 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. Under section 99 of the CALM Act licences and leases require the approval of the NPNCA and the Minister for the Environment.

### Issues Considered

Issues relating to management plans and interim management matters considered during the year included:

- The NPNCA approved a CALM Act section 62 notice prohibiting public access to the "Special Conservation" zone on Penguin Island for protection of fauna and public safety at all times and closing Penguin Island during the penguin egg-laying season.
- The NPNCA approved the realignment of Nanga Road for reasons of public safety and the related boundary changes to Conservation Park A39823 within the Lane Poole Reserve.
- The NPNCA noted action being taken to transfer the vesting of reserve 34745 from the Shire of Harvey to the NPNCA for inclusion in the Yalgorup National Park.
- The NPNCA endorsed proposals for the introduction of fees to further National Parks.
- The NPNCA approved the resumption of approximately 4.9 ha from Lane Poole Reserve A39827 to allow for the dedication of an existing constructed road.
- The NPNCA approved vehicle access into the wilderness area within the Fitzgerald River National Park:
  - to carry out surveys in late spring or early summer 1997 under the Western Bristlebird Research Plan and for the purpose of research work related to the Biosphere Research Project.
  - for one visit in early summer 1997/1998 to collect and carry out further survey for critically endangered Fitzgerald Woollybush.
  - for one visit in March 1998 and one visit in October 1998 to undertake monitoring of phosphite application projects.
  - for NPNCA and CALM representatives to inspect issues related to fire management on 2-3 February 1998.
  - to carry out one survey in autumn 1998 under the Western Bristlebird Research Plan.

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

- The NPNCA met with the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale to discuss the Serpentine National Park Draft Management Plan.
- Representatives from the NPNCA visited the Fitzgerald River National Park to examine fire regimes within the wilderness zone of the Park and a recent wildfire within the Park.
- The NPNCA approved a revised fire management plan for the wilderness zone in Management Plan No. 15 Fitzgerald River National Park, which was advertised, gazetted and commented on through the public submission process. The proposed amendment was submitted to the EPA for consideration.
- The NPNCA approved the excision of approximately 0.52 ha from along the boundary of Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park to be formally gazetted as a road reserve.
- The NPNCA wrote to the Minister for Lands recommending that the road reserve to be excised from the Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserve 36053 for the Cervantes to Jurien Road be reduced to the width of the road management needs instead of the proposed 200 metres.
- The NPNCA approved the installation of a wind turbine on Penguin Island Nature Reserve.
- 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 Committee inspected the site of the burn. During the 1997/98 period the Committee developed a number of prescriptions based on results from the trial burn and forwarded these to the NPNCA for consideration. The NPNCA endorsed these prescriptions and forwarded them to the Minister for the Environment (see further under Special Reports).

- The NPNCA noted the Tamala-Carrarang Draft Recreation and Tourism Plan.
- The NPNCA approved proposed alterations and additions to the Royal Perth Yacht Club in the Matilda Bay Reserve, subject to the Royal Perth Yacht Club, in conjunction with CALM, producing a landscape plan for the building surrounds.
- The NPNCA approved the excision of approximately 1.0 ha from Nilgen Nature Reserve C31781 to be created as a CALM Act 5(g) reserve to allow for a lease to the Shire of Gingin for a television retransmission mast.

### **Leases and Licences**

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

- Approval of the release of a Compatible Operations Notice in relation to the operation of a mobile kiosk at Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park.
- A lease over a CALM Act 5(g) reserve, within Nilgen Nature Reserve, was approved to the Shire of Gingin to formalise the use of a site for a television retransmission mast.
- Extension for 12 months to licences for aquaculture shore bases on Dolphin and West Lewis Island Nature Reserves.
- A replacement licence for an aquaculture shore base on West Lewis Island Nature Reserve for a three year period. Renewal of a licence for an aquaculture shore base on Dolphin Island Nature Reserve for a period of three years.
- The transfer of two existing E-class commercial licences for the operation of a ferry service to Penguin Island and tours within the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and for the granting of two new five year E-class licences with amended terms and conditions.
- Approval in principle of CALM negotiating a lease with the Bunbury Water Ski Club for the continued use of reserve 34745 and buildings after the transfer of vesting to the NPNCA.
- Approval of the issue of an interim lease to the Speleological Group (Inc) for "Storage of Equipment and Overnight Shelter", having a commencement date of 1 July 1992 and an amended final date of 30 June 1998.

- 
- Approval of the renewal of four existing licences to carry out commercial fly/drive tours within Purnululu National Park for a five year period. The NPNCA also approved an increase to licence charges, to be reviewed after two years.
  - Approval of a standard safari tour operator licence in the Cape Range National Park.
  - Approval of a lease over an existing telecommunication facility within Cape Range National Park to allow Telstra continued use of the site.
  - Granting of permission for Ningaloo Safari Tours to place their boat on a sand anchor in Yardie Creek only while Yardie Creek Boat Tours have their boat removed from the Creek.
  - A lease for the John Forrest National Park Tavern.
  - A licence to operate commercial horseback riding in Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Park for a one year trial period with the option of another year if the review of the Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks Management Plan is not complete.
  - An "essential works" licence for the sale of forest produce generated by roadworks and improved access to the Gloucester Tree within the Gloucester National Park was approved.

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

The NPNCA endorsed the proposed translocation of Mala to Trimouille Island, Montebello Islands Conservation Park. The introduction is part of *Montebello Renewal*, a Western Shield Project and is possible because of the success of the rat eradication component of *Montebello Renewal*.

**Table 4**  
**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
36	Canning River Regional Park	1 September 1997



**Table 5**

**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
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
Serpentine National Park	24 September 1998
Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves	12 May 1998
Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks* and Muiron Islands Nature Reserves	3 June 1998
2. DRAFT PLANS BEING PREPARED (or about to be released)	
Beeliar Regional Park Herdsman Regional park Jurien Marine Park † Kimberley Region Lower Ord River and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserves Millstream-Chichester National Park - Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve Perup Forest and Lake Muir/Unicup Nature Reserves Rowles Lagoon Nature Reserve Rowley Shoals Marine Park † Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves Shark Bay World Heritage Area Strategic Plan* Wheatbelt Region Yellagonga Regional Park	

\* not specific responsibility of NPNCA

† vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

**Table 6**

**INTERIM GUIDELINES - LISTING**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>GUIDELINES</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
Kimberley	Mirima National Park	93-98
	Prince Regent National Park	94-98
	Parry Lagoons	94-98
	Point Spring Nature Reserve	94-98
	Drysdale River National Park	94-98
Pilbara	Millstream-Chichester National Park	1996-2001
Midwest	Kennedy Range National Park	94-99
	Kalbarri National Park	88
	Burma Road Nature Reserve	91-95
	Nambung National Park	87
	Beekeepers Nature Reserve	93-97
	Badgingarra National Park	93-97
	Watheroo National Park	93-97
Wheatbelt	Reserves A1931, A2079 + C2096	90-95
	Lake Chandala Nature Reserve	91 - reviewed
	Reserve No. 16904	91-95
Swan	Walyunga National Park	92
	Yule Brook Reserve	87
	Woodvale Nature Reserve	91
	Murray Shire	86-90
	Manadnocks Reserves	89-91
Central Forest	Minninup Block	93-97
	Harvey District Nature Reserves	
Southern Forest	Pemberton National Park	87-91
	Lake Barnes Nature Reserve	87
	Big Brook Nature Reserve	88-91
	Denbarker Fire Protection Area	89-93
South Coast	Waychinicup National Park (including Mt Manypeaks Nature Reserve and Arpenteur Nature Reserve)	93-98
	Torndirrup National Park	89-93
	Porongurup National Park	87-91
	Stirling Range National Park	87-91
	Cape Le Grand National Park	92
	Cape Arid National Park	92
	Stokes National Park	88-93
	Lake Shaster Nature Reserve	1995-2000
	Esperance Lakes Nature Reserve	1995-2005
	Woody Island Nature Reserve	1996-2001
	Eucla National Park	1996-2001
	Peak Charles and Frank Hann National Parks	1996-2001
Nuytsland Nature Reserve	1997-2002	

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# MINING ISSUES

## BACKGROUND

Petroleum and mineral development within WA is permitted under a variety of tenements (licences, leases, permits) which are regulated under petroleum laws and the *Mining Act 1978*. The *Mining Act 1978*, *Petroleum Act 1967*, *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969* and *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982* prevail over the CALM Act (with some qualifications in respect of marine reserves). 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 (DME).<sup>1</sup>

## STATE GOVERNMENT POLICY

Current Government policy, subject to certain constraints, allows exploration, production and mining in terrestrial 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 conservation reserves, 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 (either directly or via delegation to CALM) 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 and 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* processes 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 3).

## REFERRAL PROCEDURES FOR MINING ACT TENEMENTS

Referral procedures for Mining Act tenements affecting NPNCA vested lands are displayed in Table 7.<sup>1</sup>

## 1997/98 MINING ISSUES CONSIDERED

Matters relating to mining and exploration in NPNCA vested lands continued to occupy a large percentage of the Authority's time. The staff of the Department of CALM'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 (including those by CALM under delegation) during the year and in comparison to previous years 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 affecting Campion Nature Reserve C24789 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for an exploration licence affecting Reserve 26692 (Kondinin Salt Marsh) was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 70/889 within Scott National Park due to the high conservation values in the area.
- Application for environmental disturbance exploration activity affecting Jilbadji Nature Reserve 24049 was endorsed with conditions.
- Application for an exploration licence affecting Monadnocks Conservation Park and proposed Duncan Conservation Park was endorsed with a "no mining" (exploration) condition for the portion of exploration licence 70/1965 affecting Monadnocks Conservation Park.

- **Mining Leases**

- Recommended refusal of a revised mining lease 70/907 within C Class reserve 42031 within the Shire of Coorow.
- Recommended refusal of an application for the marking out of a mining lease within Ludlow Tuart National Park 40251 due to the significant conservation values and sensitivity of the area.

- **Seismic Surveys - Petroleum**

An application was referred to the Authority for a seismic survey affecting Yardanogo Nature Reserve. Approval was recommended subject to conditions.

An application was referred to the Authority for a seismic survey affecting Beekeeper and Lake Logue Nature Reserves. Approval was recommended subject to conditions.

The NPNCA was briefed by Apache Energy on the proposed Denise 2D and Shelley 3D Seismic program to be conducted between the Montebello and Lowendal Islands.

- **Petroleum - Other**

Other petroleum related matters referred to, or received direct, by the NPNCA included the Thevenard Island Third Triennial Environmental Report 1995-1997 and the Barrow island Annual Environmental Review 1997.

Representatives from the Authority undertook the biennial inspection of Barrow and Thevenard Islands in September 1997.

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

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT MINING ISSUES**

The NPNCA:

- Was briefed by Clough Resources on an application to mark out mining leases for gypsum on the Peron Peninsula, Shark Bay.
- Provided comments to the DEP on the draft Consultative Environmental Review (CER) guidelines for proposed Red Lake gypsum mining, M77/578 and L77/172.
- Gave approval to the Shire of Northampton to test for gravel sources within the Kalbarri National Park, subject to conditions, to meet requirements for the construction of a proposed airstrip and other roading.
- Recommended to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) that a proposal for gypsum mining at Lake Brown be subject to formal assessment.
- Noted Cockburn Cement's Biological Annual Report for the second year of the five year biological monitoring programme for the Dongara Lime Plant.

**Table 7**

**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 RESERVE 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.

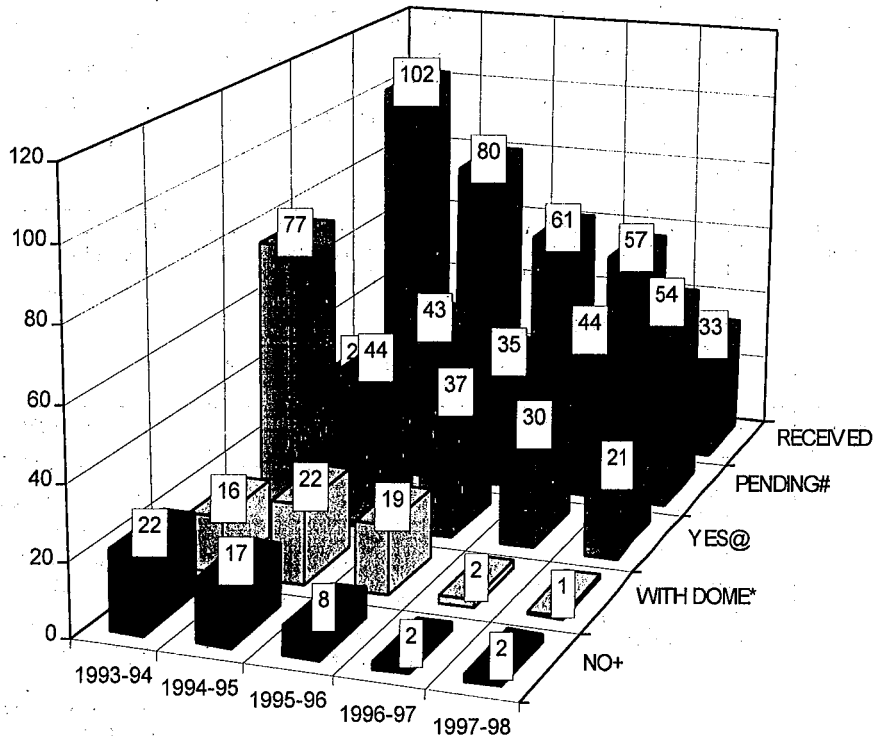
DOME Department of Minerals and Energy EPA Environmental Protection Authority

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 1997-98  
(PRE 1995-96 FIGURES INCLUDE PROPOSED AS WELL AS VESTED LAND)**



- @ 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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# 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 and natural environment 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 1997/98

The NPNCA:

- Provided advice to the Minister for the Environment on an application for a commercial licence to carry out sand boarding in Yeagarup Dunes, D'Entrecasteaux National Park.
- Forwarded recommendations to the Minister for the Environment in relation to fire regimes within the red tingle forest of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park (see further under Special Reports)
- Submitted comments to the 1997 Draft State of the Environment Report.
- Provided comments on the Karratha to Tom Price Road Link Planning Study.
- Provided comment on the development of *Perth's Bushplan*.

- Provided comments to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the Consultative Environmental Review (CER) for a subdivision at Cockburn Sound Location 16, Rockingham.
- Submitted comments to the DEP on the Draft Policy for State Rangelands Protection.
- Submitted comments to the DEP on Robe River Iron Ore West Angelas Project Environmental Review Management Plan (ERMP).
- Submitted comments to the DEP on the Red Lake Gypsum Mining, M77/578 and L77/172 CER.
- Submitted comments to the EPA on the CER for the Walpole Waste Water Scheme.
- Provided comments on the Department of Transport's proposal for a boating facility at Coral Bay.
- Provided advice to the WA Planning Commission on the Location 1295 Town Planning Appeal Tribunal Report, involving a subdivision within Location 1295 which is surrounded by the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
- Submitted comments to the Abrolhos Islands Management Committee on the draft management plan for the management of the Houtman Abrolhos System.

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 Robe River Iron Associates and Ecologia Environmental Consultants on proposals for a railway between West Angelas and Cape Lambert, which would pass through Millstream-Chichester National Park and Karijini National Park. Representatives from the NPNCA also carried out a field inspection of proposed routes.
- Briefed by staff from WAPET and CALM on the conservation values of Barrow Island Nature Reserve.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the Land for Wildlife Scheme and updated on the Roadside Conservation Committee.
- Briefed by staff from the department, DEP, Ministry for Planning and Water and Rivers Commission on the preparation of Perth's Bushplan.
- Briefed by departmental staff on strategies for conservation in the State's rangelands.
- Representatives from the NPNCA gave a briefing to an Executive Meeting of the Country Shire Councils Association.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the extent of the weed problem on CALM estate.
- The NPNCA met with the new Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.
- Briefed by representatives from the Fitzgerald River National Park Advisory Committee, Shire of Jerramungup and Shire of Ravensthorpe on proposed amendments to the fire regimes in the wilderness zone in the Fitzgerald River National Park.
- Briefed by Cape Bouvard Investments on proposed access routes, through Yalgorup National Park, to its Lake Clifton properties and on proposed developments on these properties. The NPNCA was also briefed by Cape Bouvard Investments on a proposed land exchange involving Yalgorup National Park. The NPNCA carried out a field inspection of the proposed land exchange areas.
- Representatives from the NPNCA carried out a field inspection of the Fitzgerald River National Park wilderness zone and the area affected by the 1998 wildfire.
- Representatives from the NPNCA met with representatives from the Shire of Ravensthorpe to discuss the future vesting and management of Ravensthorpe Range and the development of a draft indicative management plan for the area.
- Briefed by representatives from the Shire of Carnarvon, Department of Transport and D.A. Lord and Associates Environmental Consultants on the proposed Coral Bay boating facility.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the preparation of an environmental weed strategy for WA.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the petroglyphs at the Burrup Peninsula.
- Briefed by departmental staff on Regional Parks.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the management of Calgardup and Gaints Caves in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the Regional Forest Agreement process and on the Comprehensive Regional Assessment report.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the Land Administration Act 1997 and the impact it has in relation to reserves vested in the Authority.
- The Authority continued to provide input via its representation on the State of the Environment Report Reference Group, Beekeepers Consultative Committee, WA Flora Industry Advisory Committee, Forest Monitoring and Research Committee, State Gravel Supply Strategy Group, State Salinity Council and 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
- Priority Flora survey
- Seal research
- Dibbler research
- Quokka research
- 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 NPNCA 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.

Information on the fire behaviour, scorch, proportion of area burnt and unburnt, and damage to trees particularly hollow-butted veterans was recorded. In addition research on the survival of eucalypt seedlings following prescribed fire in the Red Tingle forest and a survey of invertebrate populations in a range of forest fuel ages in the Walpole area has been conducted.

The Committee developed a set of recommendations based on the results and forwarded them to the NPNCA for consideration. During the 1997/98 period the NPNCA approved these recommendations and forwarded them to the Minister for the Environment.

The recommendations included:

- Future Tingle burns being conducted within moisture content parameters of Soil Dryness Index in the range of 500 - 900 and Profile Moisture Content of 50-70%.
- Findings from current research and monitoring into the effects of fire upon the Tingle environment, especially in relation to tree loss, invertebrates and seedling survival being considered when reviewing the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Management Plan.
- Monitoring of the impacts of prescribed burning in Red Tingle forest to continue and include number of large tree collapses, ability to retain unburnt zones, impacts on invertebrate populations, and germination and survival of eucalypt species following prescribed burns.

Finally the Committee recognised the extent of tree falls in the 1997 trial burn and recommended that this area be monitored in future burns to determine comparative tree loss. When linked to the monitoring programme described above, this may assist in identifying whether previous damaging wildfires were significant in contributing to the loss during the 1997 trial.

It is acknowledged that there are other areas involving the relationship between Red Tingle and

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prescribed fire, such as nutrient cycling and bark loss and replenishment, which were not part of this particular trial burn but would be worthy of future investigation.

## REGIONAL PARKS

There is a need to provide some background on the concept of regional parks in Western Australia. While it is a category not yet formalised in legislation and thus not mentioned in this Annual Report under the section on the conservation estate (e.g. page 5), it is referred to at Table 4 concerning management plans that have already been prepared for the Canning River Regional Park and others currently being prepared for the Beeliar, Herdsman and Yellagonga Regional Parks.

Essentially, a regional park is a landscape and/or wildlife habitat area of regional importance. This implies that they are not as important in quality as, say national parks (which are of both regional and national importance). In the Western Australian context, however, the concept of a regional park is more that of a conservation area being created through regional planning mechanisms, often including the acquisition of the necessary land.

Once the land has been assembled it is designated for appropriate purposes (e.g. wildlife conservation, recreation, etc.) and vested in appropriate management bodies. Appropriate management bodies will not always be the NPNCA and CALM. Whiteman Park, Kings Park and Rottnest Island, for example, are "regional parks" already managed by other authorities. There are seven metropolitan regional parks, however, which the State Government has decided will come within the CALM Act, and in most cases parts will be vested in local governments (recreation) and the balance will be vested in the NPNCA. These are Canning River, Yellagonga, Herdsman, Beeliar, Rockingham Lakes, Woodman Point and Jandakot "Botanic" Regional Parks.

An eighth metropolitan regional park is Darling Range Regional Park. This extensive area includes State forest and some existing and future national parks, such as John Forrest National Park, Serpentine National Park (for which management plans have been completed or are nearing completion) and a future national park in the Helena Valley. In the case of Darling Range Regional Park, while the inclusion of existing and proposed National Parks clearly indicates that much of it is regarded as having national conservation importance, the assembly of most of the land has involved regional statutory processes. Other components involve extensive land along the

Darling Escarpment between Kalamunda and Armadale, and miscellaneous scattered reserves. Some of the latter will be managed by local governments and other relevant authorities, such as the Water Corporation.

In the statutory town planning context, regional parks can also be created in regions outside of metropolitan Perth. This has already occurred in the Peel Region and at Meelup near Dunsborough. Additionally, the WA Planning Commission and the Ministry for Planning are important participants in the initial process for creating regional parks, and are involved in purchasing much of the land when it is not already publicly owned.

In the case of regional parks in which the NPNCA and CALM are involved, many will include land under local government management. The government's concept is that the whole of a regional park will be managed as though it were a "zoned" single unit, with all of the parties acting as a consortium drawing on the commitments outlined within a single management plan covering a whole park. However, because local governments and CALM carry out their functions under separate Acts, some changes to the CALM Act may be required to more readily accommodate situations of cooperative management.

Under a recent government policy decision, funds have been made available to CALM from the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund, controlled by the WA Planning Commission, to enable regional park management plans to be prepared. This financial year the funds have enabled the commissioning of management plan drafting for Yellagonga, Herdsman and Beeliar Regional Parks.

The WA Planning Commission has provided, through its existing Area Assistance Grants Scheme, up to \$5 million over five years for the completion of capital works requirements which are identified in the management plans. Funds can also be made available through the Area Assistance Grants Scheme for Councils within Regional Parks.

Additional funds from the Government's Consolidated Fund have been provided to CALM to enable a regional parks unit to be established to oversee the production of management plans and the management of the parks.



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