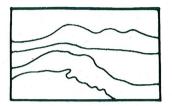
National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority



ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 1998-30 JUNE 1999



National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1998 - 30 June 1999

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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 1999.

Tom Day CHAIRMAN

17 November 1999

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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 1998 to 30 June 1999.

This year again has seen a change to our membership. A vacancy on the Authority was filled during the year. Cr Tess Stroud, from the City of Perth, was appointed to one of the positions representative of local government. A warm welcome is extended to Tess. Ms Colma Keating also acted in Mr Graeme Rundle's position for three months of the reporting period while he was on leave of absence. I would like to thank Colma for her participation and contribution during this time.

The NPNCA held a strategic planning workshop in March 1999 to review the performance of the Authority. This type of review has not been carried out since formation of the NPNCA in 1984 and I believe that it was a very worthwhile exercise that members gained a lot from. The NPNCA will be giving further consideration to results and recommendations from the workshop once the proposed administrative restructuring resulting from the Regional Forest Agreement has been finalised. At this stage it appears that many of the issues identified will be addressed as part of the proposed new arrangements.

Management plans coming before the Authority during the year included the draft management plan for Rowles Lagoon Nature Reserve and final management plans for Karijini National Park, Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks, and Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves.

NPNCA members had the opportunity to carry out a number of field inspections during the year. These included field inspections of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, Nambung National Park, Wanagarren Nature Reserve, Beekeepers Nature Reserve, Lesueur National Park and Grey and Wedge. Representatives from the Authority also took part in field visits to Walpole, Fitzgerald River National Park, Dundas Nature Reserve and D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

The NPNCA expresses its appreciation to the CALM staff involved in the organisation of these field inspections and for time committed to accompanying the Authority members. The opportunity to discuss issues on-site with those staff involved in the day-to-day management of parks and reserves vested in the NPNCA is invaluable to the members of the Authority.

I have continued to represent the NPNCA on the State Salinity Council during the year. Salinity resulting from rising watertables in the south-west agricultural region of WA is a huge problem and will take substantial long term effort on behalf of the Government and the community to resolve. One illustration of the extent of the issue is the number of drainage proposals that the Authority has had to consider this year (see page 6 for details). A draft update of the 1996 Salinity Action Plan was released for public comment during the reporting period. The NPNCA took the opportunity to provide comments on the draft.

The NPNCA considered and approved a proposal for the Lake Bryde wetland complex south-east of Lake Grace to be nominated as the fourth recovery catchment for natural diversity under the State Salinity Action Plan. The Authority submitted this proposal to a meeting of the State Salinity Council, where it was approved. The complex meets the criteria under the Salinity Action Plan whereby CALM will develop and implement a coordinated Natural Diversity Recovery Program to ensure that critical and regionally significant natural areas, particularly wetlands, are conserved. The nomination of Lake Bryde and surrounding lakes as a recovery catchment will not only have major conservation benefits, it will also assist the local community in restoring an area that will have important social impacts in terms of recreation and potential nature-based tourism.

The Minister for the Environment also adopted an environmental weeds strategy during the year. The strategy was overseen by a steering committee on which the NPNCA was represented. The strategy addresses issues such as integrated environmental weed management, control methods, monitoring and evaluation, community involvement and public awareness and resources. The strategy will make a contribution to the development of a State Weed Plan that will address both agricultural and environmental weeds on a State-wide basis.

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 Executive Officer for her continuing hard work and assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

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

Western Australia's national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves 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:

- 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.
- With the approval of the Minister, causes study or research to be undertaken to assist in policy development.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 1998 to June 1999 are recorded below.

Ex officio Members

- (1)(a)(i) Dr S R Shea, Executive Director (deputies Mr R Sneeuwjagt, Mr B Chandler and Mr A Walker)
- (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, Mr H Crawford and Mr K Wombell)

Appointed Members

- (1)(b)(i) Mrs M Blackwell (Deputy Chair)
 Mr G Rundle (Ms Colma Keating acted
 in Mr Rundle's absence from 1 July
 1998 to 11 September 1998)
- (1)(b)(ii) Mr T Day (Chairman) Mrs P Barblett
- (1)(b)(iii) Vacant from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999
- (1)(b)(iv) Mr K McMenemy
- (1)(b)(v) Cr H Browne Cr T Stroud from 8 September 1998 (vacant from 1 July 1998 to 7 September 1998)
- (1)(b)(vi) Mr T Adams
- (1)(b)(vii) Ms T Reid
- (1)(b)(viii) Mr R Bellotti

AUTHORITY MEETINGS

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

10 July 1998	8 January 1999
14 August 1998	12 February 1999
11 September 1998	12 March 1999
9 October 1998	9 April 1999
13 November 1998	14 May 1999
11 December 1998	11 June 1999

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 1998/99 year (excluding CALM officers' salaries) was \$93,000.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 175ZE of the *Western Australian Electoral Act 1907*, the NPNCA incurred nil expenditure for the 1998/99 year.

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. The 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 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 (whether classified or not) and to other reserves that are Class A, the proposal requires tabling in and the approval of both Houses of Parliament where it may be disallowed.

AREA VESTED

National park. There were no changes to the area of national parks vested in the Authority during the period. As at 30 June 1999, 63 national parks totalling 4 874 282 hectares were vested in the Authority.

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 1999 was 117 324 hectares.

Nature reserves. The area of nature reserves vested in the Authority as at 30 June 1999 was 10 772 680 hectares representing an increase of 409 hectares. Notable was the creation of a new nature reserve resulting from the purchase of 152 hectares south of Moora near Koojan. Other new nature reserves include areas at Kwolyin (80 hectares), near Dattening (56 hectares), 18 km east of Wandering adjacent to the Hotham River (53 hectares) and 24 km north of Boyup Brook (52 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 been made concerning this category of conservation reserve, and management plans are now in preparation for some. A special report focussing on this category of park was produced in last year's annual report of the Authority.

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 the provision of gazetted access to Avon Location 3757 through the excision of a 20 metre strip of Woondowing Nature Reserve C14275 along the alignment of the existing firebreak, subject to conditions.
- Approved minor additions to Lake Warden Nature Reserve A32257, Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park A8427, A10922 and A8768, Cape Arid National Park A24047 and D'Entrecasteaux National Park A36996 and approved recalculation of the area of Neerabup National Park A27575.
- Approved the excision of approximately 1.85
 hectares from Class A Reserve 16245, located
 in the Shire of Koorda, to allow the creation of
 a road reserve for that section of Mollerin
 Rock-Narkal Road that currently occupies part
 of the nature reserve.
- Approved the amalgamation of Class A Reserve No. 29432 (with the purpose of 'National Park') to Francois Peron National Park A42471.
- Approved the excision of approximately 0.1514 hectares from 'Woody Lake Nature Reserve' A15231 for the upgrade of Lake Road.
- Approved the addition of two Class C Reserves (No. 18777, unvested with a purpose of 'Camping' and No. 25490, vested with the Minister for Water Resources with a purpose of 'Water') to Class A Reserve 28755, located in the Shire of Perenjori. Both reserves contain valuable remnant vegetation that will enhance the conservation and landscape protection values of Reserve No. 28755.
- Approved the addition of Murray Location 2078 of approximately 29.5 hectares to Kooljerrenup Nature Reserve A23756.
- Approved the addition of a portion (approximately 590 hectares) of Avon Location 27587 to North Kalgarin Nature Reserve A20338.

- Approved the excision of approximately 3.2
 hectares from Moonijin Nature Reserve A9228
 to allow the dedication and future extension of
 Booralaming West Road and Bailey Road,
 subject to conditions.
- Approved the addition of Avon Location 29342 to Wundowlin Nature Reserve A22262.
- Approved the extension of the Shire of Carnamah's vesting order of Reserve 42477 to 31 December 2001, to facilitate implementation of the State Government's Squatter Shack Policy.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain through Townsend Soak Nature Reserve C31091 (Mount Walker drainage proposal), subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain through 'Ski Lake Nature Reserve' A42115 (part of Wakeman drainage proposal) subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain through Reserve No. A26788 (part of Arthur River Nature Reserve), subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Proposal to Drain through Piawaning Nature Reserve C41042, subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered and decided not to object to Notices of Intent to drain on the properties of Mr Sprigg and Mr Butler in the Narembeen Creek Catchment 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 forwarding of an annual report to the NPNCA.
- Considered and approved a proposal for the Lake Bryde wetland complex to become a recovery catchment for natural diversity under the State Salinity Action Plan. The NPNCA submitted this proposal to a meeting of the State Salinity Council, where it was approved.
- Considered an invitation from the Environmental Protection Authority to nominate Lake Coomelberrup on the Register of the South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands Environmental Protection Policy (EPP). The

NPNCA decided not to nominate Lake Coomelberrup and advised that the local community should run with the development of a catchment strategy with the assistance of government, after which stage the NPNCA would discuss with them possible nomination of the Lake under the EPP.

- Considered and decided to refuse an application to dig test holes within Nature Reserve No. 42115 (Narembeen) to determine soil structure prior to developing a recreational development proposal for the area.
- Endorsed the proposed land tenure boundaries as outlined in the Shire of Dandaragan's coastal management plan, where they relate to proposed and previously vested NPNCA reserves.
- Endorsed the construction of a walk trail within Walyormouring Nature Reserve A17186.
- Was briefed by departmental staff on the approach being taken by CALM to the establishment and management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system in the rangelands of the Gascoyne-Murchinson region.
- Was briefed by departmental staff on proposed extensions to Kennedy Range National Park A42474.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the acquisition and addition of freehold and Crown land to Benger Swamp Nature Reserve C34811.
- Endorsed a proposal to fence Copley Dale Nature Reserve A25919 into the private Paruna Sanctuary (Avon Valley), subject to the reserve retaining its nature reserve status.
- Approved the carrying out of upgrading works on Mowen Road within the proposed St Johns Brook Conservation Park.
- Gave concurrence to the City of Joondalup to apply to seek approval for the proposed Tamala Golf Course from the WA Planning Commission, EPA, Water and Rivers Commission and Agriculture WA. The proposed course is to be located on the area to be excised from Neerabup National Park A27575.
- Endorsed the construction of facilities at Lake Toolibin as part of a Recreation and Interpretation Plan for the site.

 Approved the overlaying of a section of the buffer zone for the rifle range of the sporting Shooters Association of Australia over part of the Serpentine National Park. The final version of the Serpentine National Management Plan to make reference to the shooting complex being adjacent to the Park and the buffer to be shown.

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 itself 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 NPNCA considered and endorsed proposals to delete the positions of the Executive Director of CALM and the CALM Director of Forests from membership of the Authority. It was noted that this proposal would require legislation changes.
- The NPNCA endorsed the revised CALM Policy No. 3 – Management of *Phytophthora* and Disease Caused By It.
- The NPNCA held a strategic planning workshop in March 1999 to review the performance of the Authority.
- The Authority endorsed recommendations made by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee in relation to the species listed on the threatened flora and fauna lists.
- The Authority determined that approval of leases for communication sites (e.g. mobile phone systems) should be subject to any other service providers also having access to the facilities. This will alleviate the duplication of facilities.

Table 1

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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

NO.		DATE OF ISSUE
		2.00
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	Cancelled	
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	Cancelled - see Accounting Manual	
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 - suspended June 1994	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 2

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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

NO.		DATE OF ISSUE
2	Local Government Authority Access to Basic Raw Materials from State Forest and Timber Reserves (Revised)	February 1993
5	Research and Technical Publications (Revised)	August 1988
6	Staff Training and Career Development	January 1986
8	Cancelled – see Accounting Manual	
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	Cancelled – see Accounting Manual	
42	Staff Counselling	April 1992
43	Occupation Rehabilitation	March 1992
46	External Funds	August 1992
47	Control of Sirex Woodwasps in Pine Plantations	October 1992
48	Freedom of Information in CALM	September 1993

Table 3

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
Pl	Mining in National Parks and Nature Reserves (Revised)	September 1993
P2	Petroleum Exploration and Production in National Parks and Nature Reserves (Revised)	September 1993
Р3	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

^{*} Specific responsibility of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

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. 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 Karijini National Park, Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks and Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves.

The Rowles Lagoon Nature Reserve draft management plan was approved by the Authority for public release during the year.

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
Fitzgerald River National Park - November 1995
Yanchep National Park - December 1995
Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park - May 1999

The NPNCA endorsed the trial of a new approach to management plan monitoring for the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Management Plan.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Interim Management

In the absence of an Necessary Operations. 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" and Policy Statement No. 1 "Planning" apply 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.

Section 33(3)(b)(ii) Compatible Operations. provides that "compatible operations" may be undertaken in national parks, conservation parks and marine parks where there is no approved management plan. Under section 33(b) of the CALM Act, section 5(g) reserves are not subject to necessary or compatible operations. management of section 5(g) reserves needs to be in accordance with the Act and for the purpose of the reserve. 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 on compatible operations was sought during the 1998/99 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 was briefed on the issue of squatter huts in the Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks. The Authority approved the position reached on this matter by the Planning Team undertaking the management plan revision for the Parks. This position is consistent with the State Government Policy on Squatter Shacks.
- The NPNCA considered a proposal from Cape Bouvard Investments (CBI) for access routes, through Yalgorup National Park, to its Lake Clifton properties and for developments on these properties. CBI also developed a proposal for a land exchange involving part of its property and Yalgorup National Park. The NPNCA did not approve the proposed land exchange. While agreeing that the current formal road reserve location through the Park to the CBI land was unsatisfactory, the Authority advised that the access proposal should be considered as part of the formal process for the proposed land development.
- The NPNCA considered a proposal from the Shire of Carnarvon to have Foreshore Reserve 37500 at Coral Bay vested in the Shire. The reserve is vested in the NPNCA for the purpose of "foreshore management" and the Ningaloo Marine Park Management Plan proposes that the purpose of the reserve become "marine park", in which case it would be vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA). The NPNCA supported a change in vesting of Reserve 37500 to the Shire of Carnarvon subject to CALM, the NPNCA and MPRA being consulted on proposed developments on the reserve.
- The NPNCA recommended to the Minister that exotic species, *Eucalyptus globulus and E. muellerana*, be removed from the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and sold, with the revenues generated spent on projects within the Park.
- The NPNCA approved the ceding of private land at Injidup to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park with a suitable caveat over the proposed addition.

- During the 1997/98 period the NPNCA forwarded to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for consideration the revised fire management plan for the wilderness zone in Management Plan No. 15 Fitzgerald River National Park. During the 1998/99 period the EPA advised that the management plan amendment did not require formal assessment and the NPNCA forwarded the revised plan to the Minister for approval.
- The NPNCA approved vehicle access into the wilderness area within the Fitzgerald River National Park;
 - to carry out one survey in spring 1998 under the Western Bristlebird Research Plan.
 - to carry out one visit in spring/early summer 1998/99 to assess fire regeneration and carry out further survey for the critical endangered Fitzgerald Woollybush.
 - to survey, identify and construct the coastal wilderness walk route during summer 1998/99 as per the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan.
 - to carry out three site visits, one in February, one in March and one in October 1999, to undertake monitoring of a phosphite application 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 was briefed on a proposal for the structure of future marine conservation reserve management plans. The paper proposed a greater emphasis in management plans on outcomes rather than on management strategies, with measurable performance indicators and management targets. Marine Parks and Reserves Authority endorsed the trial of the new format for the management plan for the Rowley Shoals Marine Park and the indicative management plan for the proposed Jurien Bay marine reserve. The need for a consistent approach to all CALM Act management plans for conservation reserves (marine and terrestrial) was noted. NPNCA decided to give further consideration to adoption of the approach on completion of the trial.
- The NPNCA considered and gave approval to the proposed infiltration drain and associated pipework that would be part of the Walpole

- Wastewater Treatment Plant and would affect the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
- The NPNCA approved the addition of Location 7783 of about 3.73 hectares to Walpole-Nornalup National Park A31362.
- The Chairman of the NPNCA carried out a field inspection of an incursion of approximately 300 metres that occurred in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park during a CALM forest operation. The NPNCA subsequently provided a report on the matter to the Minister, advising that it was felt that active rehabilitation attempts would create more disturbance than was caused by the incursion, and that the area would rehabilitate naturally.
- The NPNCA was briefed on possible Murchinson River gorge tourist access options in Kalbarri National Park.
- The NPNCA was briefed on a proposal for the permanent siting of a Catalina display on Matilda Bay Reserve.
- The NPNCA provided comment on the department's five year management plan program.
- The NPNCA was briefed by departmental staff on progress of preparation of management plans for Regional Parks.
- The NPNCA approved a proposal from the Australian Marine Conservation Society to carry out enhancement of bird roosting habitat at the boundary of Milyu Nature Reserve and the Swan Estuary Marine Park. The proposal involves slightly modifying the shoreline of Milyu by creating two stretches of limestone rubble along the beach. The proposal was also considered and approved by the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.
- The NPNCA endorsed the Grey and Wedge Masterplan to be released for public comment.
- The NPNCA was briefed on the plans for the Karijini National Park Visitor Centre.

Leases and Licences

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

 Approval of licensing of shacks on the Dampier Archipelago recreation islands with the intent of phasing out individual shack licences but maintaining community shack licences. This is consistent with the State Government Policy on Squatter Shacks.

- Approval of a scenic helicopter tour licence for a three year period within Nambung National Park.
- Approval of the issuing of a walk-in safari camp licence within the Cape Range National Park for a two year period.
- Approval that permissive occupancy be granted to Telstra to be authorised to use the existing communication mast at Pelican Point, Matilda Bay Reserve, on a temporary basis until either the mast is removed or until the current Matilda Bay Reserve Management Plan expires in the year 2002, subject to any other carriers also having access to the mast.
- Approval of a lease to Telstra for a communication site within the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (see Policy Development, page 8).
- Approval of one new master lease for all of the Herdsman Lake Telstra sites (see Policy Development, page 8).
- Approval of a lease over an existing telecommunication facility within Collier Range National Park to allow Telstra continued use of the site (see Policy Development, page 8).
- Approval of a lease over an existing telecommunication facility within Millstream-Chichester National Park to allow Telstra continued use of the site (see Policy Development, page 8).
- An "essential works' licence for the sale of forest produce generated by roadworks within the Lane Poole Reserve was approved.
- An "essential works" licence for the sale of forest produce generated by roadworks and improved access to the Beedelup Falls within Beedelup National Park was approved.
- An "essential works" licence for the sale of forest produce generated by firebreak upgrading in the Gloucester National Park was approved.
- Endorsed a proposal to sell forest produce generated by upgrading access within Dryandra Woodland. The area of land is

- vested in the Lands and Forest Commission but is being managed as national park, pending amendment to the tenure, as proposed in the Dryandra Woodland Management Plan.
- During the 1998/99 period the granting of grazing leases in the Tuart National Park at Ludlow ceased. The NPNCA had approved issuing of previous grazing leases on the condition that the trials continue on an alternative fire hazard reduction strategy aimed at the phasing out of grazing by 1998.

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 1998/99 the Authority endorsed the following wildlife management programs:

- No. 21 Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Esperance District
- No. 23 Matchstick Banksia Recovery Plan
- No. 24 Corrigin Grevillea Recovery Plan
- No. 25 Declared Rare Flora in the Katanning District
- No. 28 Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Moora District
- No. 30 Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Narrogin District

During 1998/99 the Authority considered the WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit Recovery Team Annual Reports.

During the 1998/99 period the NPNCA also noted a report on the mammal monitoring program that has been established for Barrow Island Nature Reserve.

(See Special Reports for further information on Recovery Plans)

Table 4 APPROVED MANAGEMENT PLANS by plan number

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41 Swan Estuary Marine Park † 2 September 1998*		Karijini National Park	- I
			2 September 1998*

* Approved by Minister for Fisheries on 19 January 1999 but not yet released. Also see table 5.
† vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

Table 5 **MANAGEMENT PLANS BEING PREPARED**

DRAFT PLANS RELEASED (and final plans being prepared)	Date of Release
Monkey Mia Reserve*	28 October 1993
Shoalwater Islands Marine Park †	26 October 1995
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
Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks* and Muiron Islands Nature Reserves	3 June 1998
Perup Forest and Lake Muir/Unicup Nature Reserves	29 October 1998
Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves	28 October 1998
DRAFT PLANS BEING PREPARED (or about to be released)	
Beeliar Regional Park	
Herdsman Regional Park	
Jandakot Regional Park	
Jurien Marine Reserve † (indicative management plan)	
Kalbarri National Park	
Kimberley Region	
Lower Ord River and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserves	
Millstream-Chichester National Park - Mungaroona Range Nature	Reserve
Rockingham Lakes Regional Park	
Rowles Lagoon Nature Reserve	
Rowley Shoals Marine Park †	
Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux National Park revision	
Shark Bay World Heritage Area Strategic Plan*	
Wheatbelt Region	
Woodman Point Regional Park	
Yellagonga Regional Park	

^{*} not specific responsibility of NPNCA † vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

Table 6
INTERIM GUIDELINES - LISTING

REGION	GUIDELINES	YEARS
Kimberley	Mirima National Park Prince Regent National Park Parry Lagoons Point Spring Nature Reserve Drysdale River National Park	93-98 94-98 94-98 94-98 94-98
Pilbara	Millstream-Chichester National Park	1996-2001
Midwest	Kennedy Range National Park Kalbarri National Park Burma Road Nature Reserve Beekeepers Nature Reserve Badgingarra National Park Watheroo National Park Lancelin Island Nature Reserve	94-99 88 91-95 93-97 93-97 93-97 98-2003
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 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 1996-2001 1996-2001 1996-2001

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).¹

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 and Environmental Protection Act 1986.

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, legislation in force in 1998/99 did 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. 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 7.1

1998/99 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 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.

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.

• 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 exploration licences affecting Karroun Hill Nature Reserve A36936 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for exploration licences affecting Purnululu Conservation Reserve C39898 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for an environmental disturbance exploration program affecting Dundas Nature Reserve B36957 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Applications for exploration licences affecting Rudall River National Park A34607 were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for exploration licences affecting the Shark Bay World Heritage Property was endorsed subject to a "no mining (exploration)" condition over Zuytdorp Nature Reserve C34771.
- Application for exploration licences affecting Goongarrie National Park A35637 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for exploration licences affecting Nuytsland Nature Reserve A27632 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Recommended refusal of prospecting licences 70/1293, 1294 and 1319 affecting Beeliar Regional Park due to the significant conservation values of the area.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 74/227 affecting Lake Shaster Nature Reserve A32339 and Jerdacuttup Lakes Nature Reserve A40156 due to the significant conservation values of the area.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 70/1927 affecting Pinjarrega Nature Reserve A25210 due to the significant conservation values involved.

- Application for exploration licences affecting Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve A30491 was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Recommended refusal of prospecting licence 70/783 affecting the proposed Ridges extension to the Yanchep National Park due to the area's high nature conservation, recreation and tourism values.

Mining Leases

- Recommended refusal of a retention licence 70/16 and mining lease 70/423 within Bullsbrook Nature Reserve C1654 due to the conservation values of the area.
- Application for a Notice of Intent to mine limesands affecting Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 was endorsed subject to satisfactory resolution of access requirements and that mining would be of the mobile dune only.
- Application for a mining lease affecting Reserve 19206 (excised from Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496) was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for a mining lease affecting Conservation and Resource Management Reserve 44705 (excised from D'Entrecasteaux National Park) was endorsed subject to conditions.

• Seismic Surveys - Petroleum

An application was referred to the Authority for a 3D seismic program affecting Serrurier Island Nature Reserve C33834 and 'Round Island Nature Reserve' C42757. The NPNCA had no objections to the proposal, subject to conditions.

An application was referred to the Authority for a seismic survey affecting Boonanarring Nature Reserve C41805. Approval was recommended subject to conditions.

An application was referred to the Authority for a 3D seismic program affecting Yardanogo Nature Reserve C36203. Approval was recommended subject to conditions.

An application for extension for a seismic survey affecting Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496 and 'Stockyard Gully Nature Reserve' A36419 was endorsed.

Petroleum - Other

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 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.
- Provided comments to the Minister on the environmental conditions for Robe River's West Angelas Iron Ore Project.
- Approved proposed drilling by Hamersley Iron within and adjacent to the railway corridor in Karijini National Park, subject to a number of conditions.
- Gave approval to the Shire of Chapman Valley for short term access to four gravel pits within Wandana Nature Reserve C36388 for the year's roading program, subject to conditions. The Shire to finalise its proposal to identify and excise gravel reserves from Wandana Nature Reserve in line with the recommendations of the State Gravel Strategy 1998
- Endorsed the recommencement of mineral sands mining affecting South Eneabba Nature Reserves C27886 and C31030, subject to conditions.
- Approved the excision of three marl pits from Beekeepers Nature Reserve C24496, as C Class Reserves for marl extraction and conservation, vested in the NPNCA, on the understanding that they will be leased to the Shire of Carnamah and rehabilitated to native vegetation to the satisfaction of CALM.
- Considered and did not object to proposed gas cooling facilities at the Woodada Gas Plant in Lake Logue Nature Reserve C29073.

- Approved a proposal from Phoenix Energy for an additional gas exploration well in Lake Logue Nature Reserve C29073.
- Considered a report from the department on the cumulative impacts of mining exploration on Rudall River National Park A34607.
- Was briefed on progress of a State Limesand Strategy.
- Gave support to the Airlie Island Nature Reserve buffel grass eradication proposal.
- Provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority's report and recommendations for the proposed Red Lake gypsum mining.
- Considered a proposal from the Shire of Coorow to allow commercial exploitation of sand resource from CALM Act section 5(g) reserve 42031 near Lesueur National Park. The NPNCA advised the Shire that if it is willing to agree to the southern half of Reserve 42031 being added to Lesueur National Park, the NPNCA would support vesting of the remainder in the Shire. The mining application would then be a matter for the Shire, possibly subject to the Environmental Protection Authority assessment.
- Gave approval for access to reserves for environmental assessment relating to a new gas pipeline corridor from Karratha to Bullsbrook.
- Representatives from the NPNCA took part in a field inspection of mining and rehabilitation being carried out at Dundas Nature Reserve B36957.
- Representatives from the NPNCA took part in a field inspection of the proposed South Jangardup sand mining project, D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

Table 7

REFERRAL PROCEDURES FOR MINING ACT TENEMENTS WITHIN CONSERVATION RESERVES AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS (NPNCA VESTED LANDS)

		LAND TENURE	
TENEMENT	NATIONAL PARKS	CLASS "A" NATURE RESERVES AND CONSERVATION PARKS (South West) Notes (a) (b)	NATURE RESERVES AND CONSERVATION PARKS Notes (a) (c)
Grant of Prospecting, Exploration and Retention Licences (low impact disturbance)	Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNCA DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (g) Min. for Env. concurrence A1 Conditions. Note (h)	Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNCA DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (g) Min. for Env. concurrence A1 Conditions. Note (h)	Refer to CALM & NPNCA Min. for Environment recommendation A1 Conditions. Note (h)
Prospecting & Exploration activity (environmental disturbance) Note (i)	Refer to CALM & NPNCA. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM. Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages	Refer to CALM & NPNCA. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM. Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages	. Refer to EPA if required by CALM
Grant of Mining Lease (low impact disturbance)	Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNCA NOI required by DME & CALM EPA assessment	Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNCA NOI required by DME & CALM EPA assessment	Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNCA NOI required by DME & CALM Refer to EPA if significant impact (MOU). Note (j)
Mining activity (environmental disturbance) Note (i)	Parliamentary concurrence required for grant of title with conditions set F conditions apply	Parliamentary concurrence required for grant of title F conditions apply	Min. for Env. recommendation F conditions apply
General Purpose Leases Miscellaneous Licences Note (k)	as per mining lease Case by case basis - DME refers	as per mining lease to EPA only if potential significan	as per mining lease t environmental impact

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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

"Refer" means formal referral under the Environmental Protection Act 1986; "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) Class "A" 5(g) reserves in the South West Land District have the same consultative procedures as for:-

- Class "A" nature reserves; and
- Class "A" designated conservation situated within the South West Division of the State or within the Shires
 of Esperance and Ravensthorpe.

Other 5(g) reserves have the same procedures as for:-

- Nature reserves (other than Class "A"); and
- Includes all conservation parks outside the South West Division of the State and outside the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe.
- Note (b) Class "A" Conservation Parks (South West) refers to Class "A" designated conservation parks situated within the South West Division of the State or within the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe.
- Note (c) Nature reserves (other than Class "A") under the Land Administration Act 1997 and the repealed Land Act 1933.

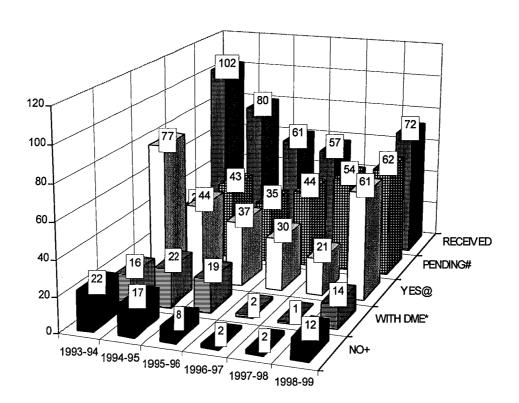
 Includes all conservation parks outside the South West Division of the State and outside the Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe as well as those located within these areas that are not designated Class "A".
- Note (f) Environmentally Sensitive Areas as agreed between DME, EPA or CALM and marked on public plans and in Tengraph.
- Note (g) If referred by member of the public, EPA will obtain further advice from NPNCA/LFC and DME before deciding on assessment.
- Note (h) Apply "No Mining" (e.g. no access to explore or mine) condition for minor overlaps if not important to applicant.

 Notify CALM after grant.
- Note (i) Definition of environmental disturbance is based on an agreed list developed between CALM, EPA and DME.
- Note (j) MOU refers to Onshore Minerals Memorandum of Understanding between DME and EPA (1995).
- Note (k) Miscellaneous licences for infrastructure purposes have environmental conditions imposed as the result of negotiations with CALM and/or DEP.
- DME Department of Minerals and Energy EPA Environmental Protection Authority
 DEP Department of Environmental Protection NOI Notice of Intent

Figure 1

TENEMENTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE FOR NPNCA LAND 1998-99

(PRE 1995-96 FIGURES INCLUDE PROPOSED AS WELL AS VESTED LAND, 1998-99 FIGURES INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL PARKS AND WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY)



- @ Recommended by the Minister for the Environment for approval
- # Pending at close of each period (this total includes those with DME)
- * With DME 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.

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 1998/99

The NPNCA:

- Provided comments to the Minister in relation to the issue of funding for wildfire control on vacant Crown land.
- Provided comments to the Minister on the proposed changes to environmental conditions for the amendments to the 1987 Forest Management Plans and Timber Strategy.
- Provided comment to the Minister and Lands and Forest Commission on a "wilderness" concept proposal from the South Coast Environment Group, involving largely State forest adjoining the Mount Frankland National Park.
- Advised the Minister of its support for the nomination of the following wetlands for Ramsar listing: Becher Point Wetlands,

Chandala Swamp, Lake Gore and the Lake Muir-Byenup System, and additions to the Ord River Floodplain, Peel-Yalgorup System, Toolibin Lake and Vasse-Wonnerup System Ramsar sites.

- Provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority on the proposal to construct a roadway from Windy Harbour Road to Nelson Location 7965 (Sandy Peak) within a gazetted road reserve through the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.
- Provided comments to the Australian Heritage Commission on the proposal to enter the Shark Bay area in the Register of the National Estate.
- Provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority and Department of Resources Development on the Robe River West Angelas Iron Ore Project.
- Provided comments to the Water and Rivers Commission on the Implementation of the National Water Quality Management Strategy.
- Submitted comments to the Water and Rivers Commission on a Draft Natural Resources Management Policy for WA.
- Submitted comments to the Water and Rivers Commission on the Draft Environmental Water Provisions Policy for WA.
- Provided comments to the WA Salinity Action Plan draft update.
- Provided comments to Agriculture WA on the Native Vegetation Working Group.

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 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. This briefing was also attended by representatives from the Water and Rivers Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Ministry for Planning and City of Mandurah.
- Briefed by the Chairman of the Soil and Land Conservation Council, Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Environmental Protection Authority and staff from Agriculture WA on groundwater drainage issues.
- Briefed by the Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Environmental Protection Authority in relation to an invitation for the NPNCA to nominate Lake Coomelberrup for inclusion on the Register of the South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands Environmental Protection Policy.
- 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.
- Briefed by departmental staff on assessments carried out as part of the Regional Forest Agreement.
- Briefed by departmental staff on the proposed CALM administrative arrangements resulting from the Regional Forest Agreement.
- Representatives from the NPNCA met with representatives from the Bushfire Brigade Volunteers, CALM, and the Shire of Ravensthorpe at Ravensthorpe to discuss the use of volunteers to fight wildfires on NPNCA lands. As a result the NPNCA wrote to the department requesting that consideration be given to locating a staff member at Ravensthorpe. Implementation of this proposal has commenced.
- Briefed by staff from the Water Corporation on the proposed Walpole Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- Met with the Minister for the Environment, Hon Cheryl Edwardes, to discuss legislation changes and restructuring of the Authority.
- Briefed by department, and Ministry for Planning staff on the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge Planning Study.
- Representative from the NPNCA attended an Oil Mallee Seminar.
- Briefed on work being carried out on Bullingara farm as part of the Land for Wildlife Scheme.
- Updated by departmental staff on the Squatter Shack Program in the Shire's of Dandaragan, Carnamah, Coorow and Irwin.
- Representatives attended a State Weed Plan briefing session.
- Carried out a field inspection which included Nambung National Park, Wanagarren Nature Reserve, Beekeepers Nature Reserve, Lesueur National Park and Grey and Wedge, in September 1998.
- Representatives from the NPNCA carried out a field inspection in relation to the South Coast Environment Group's Walpole Wilderness Proposal. The NPNCA informed the Lands and Forest Commission of this visit.
- Carried out a field inspection of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park in May 1999.
- Representatives took part in a field inspection of phosphite spraying trials being carried out in the Fitzgerald River National Park with the Park advisory committee.
- Representatives from the NPNCA attended a field visit undertaken by the Federal Forestry and Conservation Minister to the Dumbleyung area.
- 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, Natural Heritage Trust State Assessment Panel, Grey-Wedge Consultative Planning Group, Kalbarri National Park management plan advisory and committee Busselton Wetlands Conservation Strategy Steering Committee.

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
- Quokka research.

Note:

Section 68 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account within the Conservation and Land Management Trust Fund. The account is credited with money derived under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and income from investments, gifts, devises, bequests and donations. The funds may only be applied to scientific research relating to flora and fauna, subject to compliance with any conditions imposed in connection with any gifts or bequests.

SPECIAL REPORTS

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

RECOVERY PLANS

The Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 provides for taxa of plants and animals to be listed as 'threatened'. Listings are reviewed and changes recommended by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. The NPNCA considers these recommendations before they are forwarded to the Minister for approval and gazettal.

CALM's responsibility for wildlife conservation and maintaining biodiversity transcends conservation reserves and management plans developed for these reserves. A rigorous approach to the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities has been developed through Recovery Plans and Interim Recovery Plans, which often enlist the help and cooperation of other landowners and managers, and the community. This approach has the following aims:

- 1. For threatened and priority flora in the south west to develop Regional or District Threatened Flora Management Programs. These operate within a CALM administrative area, and provide a brief summary of each threatened and priority taxon (species, subspecies, variety). They highlight threatening processes and set overall priorities and actions for management and research.
- For threatened ecological communities to progressively develop information on their status and conservation and compile this information into the Threatened Ecological Communities Database.
- 3. For all species and ecological communities ranked as critically endangered and the highest priority species and ecological communities ranked as endangered, to develop and implement detailed Recovery Plans. Where threatened species and ecological communities are ranked as critically endangered and there is insufficient information to prepare a Recovery Plan, Interim Recovery Plans will be used as an interim measure.
- 4. For threatened species and ecological communities ranked as Endangered, which do not currently have a Recovery Plan or Interim Recovery Plan, to develop and implement

Recovery Plans or Interim Recovery Plans for their conservation, once resources for this work become available.

5. For threatened species and ecological communities ranked as vulnerable to ensure that monitoring and conservation actions are integrated into routine operations at the District level.

The most important part of a Recovery Plan or Interim Recovery Plan is the list of recovery actions; tasks that must be implemented in order to ensure the conservation of the species or ecological community. Recovery Teams for threatened taxa or ecological communities are set up with the responsibility of coordinating the recovery actions and are usually involved in the preparation of the Recovery Plan. Recovery Teams include among their membership representatives of all groups that have a stake in or may be affected by the Recovery Plan.

Recovery Teams produce annual reports, which are referred to the NPNCA. The Authority regularly takes the opportunity to congratulate the Recovery Teams on often achieving excellent results.

Recovery Plans are detailed documents and are appropriate for species or ecological communities where sufficient information is available to prescribe recovery actions with confidence. Interim Recovery Plans prescribe immediate actions that are necessary to halt the decline and commence recovery of a species or ecological community. Recovery Plans are considered to be evolving documents that will be amended in the light of new discoveries and experience.

Recovery Plans are referred to the NPNCA and/or Marine Parks and Reserves Authority before being forwarded to the Minister for endorsement.

During 1998/99 the Authority endorsed the following wildlife management programs:

- No. 21 Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Esperance District
- No. 23 Matchstick Banksia Recovery Plan
- No. 24 Corrigin Grevillea Recovery Plan
- No. 25 Declared Rare Flora in the Katanning District
- No. 28 Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Moora District
- No. 30 Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Narrogin District

These wildlife management programs continue CALM's progress towards complete coverage of the South West Botanical Province with management programs at a regional or district level covering all the threatened flora in a CALM region or district and individual recovery plans for each threatened taxon ranked as critically endangered.

There are currently seven Recovery Plans and four flora management plans published and another eight and four respectively that are in preparation or in draft form. There are 16 approved Interim Recovery Plans and over 60 that are in preparation or in draft form. A list is at Appendix A.

Some remarkable results can be achieved through the implementation of Recovery Plans. An example is the removal of the Woylie from the list of threatened fauna in 1996 as a result of its recovery through fox control, the establishment of new populations through translocations, and habitat The Woylie is, however, still management. regarded as being conservation dependent, that is dependent on continuing conservation actions. Similar success has been achieved with the removal of the tammar wallaby and quenda from the threatened fauna list in 1998. An essential strategy that cuts across several mammal Recovery Plans is broadscale fox control under the umbrella of the Western Shield program. This program has assisted the recovery of many other medium-sized mammals in the south west of the State.

BASIC RAW MATERIALS UPDATE

In the Authority's 1995/96 and 1996/97 Annual Reports, the special reports focussed on both the Beekeepers Nature Reserve (between Jurien and Dongara) and on access to basic raw materials (e.g. road construction and building material) occurring on the conservation estate generally. The NPNCA and CALM have been especially concerned about the focus on limesand and limestone deposits in the Beekeepers Nature Reserve. Our special reports mentioned that an overall State gravel strategy was being development by the State Government, and that the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) was developing a basic raw materials strategy for the Central Coast Region (Lancelin-Dongara).

Central Coast Region

Under the provisions of the Cabinet endorsed Central Coastal Region [Planning] Strategy, the WAPC commissioned a consultant to prepare a basic raw materials strategy. This was completed in October 1998 and subsequently adopted by the Commission. The study area basically extends from

the Lancelin-Dongara coast, inland to the Brand Highway.

Geologically, significant deposits of laterite gravel are confined to the Dandaragan Plateau, and the Brand Highway route clings to the edge of the uplands to avoid drainage problems that exist toward the coast. Large gravel deposits for road construction are absent except where a remnant of the plateau projects coastward in the Coomallo-Mt Lesueur area near Jurien.

Between the Plateau uplands and the coast is a major sandplain area with extensive swamp terrain. While containing extensive sand deposits that can be used for sand and concrete works in building construction, the area is depauperate in road construction material. At the coast, however, is a broad strip of Tamala Limestone overlain by vegetated coastal dunes and areas of bare dunes. Within this system, the limestone has variable calcium carbonate content, but where the dunes compose limesand the calcium carbonate content is very high. Saline lagoons also lie within coastal dune hollows.

Deposits of road construction quality material exist in the surface limestone outcrops and as lime marl associated with the lagoons. The dunes of limesand, because they have a very high calcium carbonate content, are unconsolidated surface deposits, and are mining targets for direct supply as agricultural lime, or conversion to quick lime. The latter is sought by the mining industry to assist with ore processing and mineral recovery, or enhancing processing technology to improve recovery and reduce costs. Agricultural lime is being promoted by Agriculture WA in its 'time to lime' program for farmers, as substantial areas of farmland soils are progressively becoming more acidic. Lime is needed to counter this growing problem which was also recognised in the State of the Environment report.

The overriding aim of the Central Coast Region's basic raw materials strategy is to protect and facilitate the extraction of valuable deposits required to serve the future needs of that region, particularly in locations that are in close proximity to demands. In this case, the local demand will largely be for road construction and building materials - gravel, crushed and block limestone, lime marl, sand and Within the specific Central Coast shellgrit. [Planning] Region, apart from sand, much of the sought after resources will occur on the conservation estate. Some lateritic gravel deposits will be on farmland near the Brand Highway, and roads adjacent to the Coomallo/Mt Lesueur/Cockleshell Gully area. Limestone also exists on private land.

The implications of this strategy have yet to be fully addressed by CALM and the NPNCA. Already, however, concessions have been made for local government formal access to gravel and marl sources for road construction needs, and these instances have been listed elsewhere in this and other annual reports. Access by commercial operators raises issues of competition, equity, and marketing the resource beyond local needs. Commercial interests also generally use Mining Act procedures to address their objectives, while local government authorities obtain leases from CALM with NPNCA and Ministerial approval.

State Gravel Supply Strategy - Implementation

Reference to the development of this strategy was made in the special reports section of the Authority's 1996/97 Annual Report. A strategy was subsequently given in principle approval by Cabinet and a Management Group was formed in 1998 to oversee its implementation, and comprises representatives from the following:

- Main Roads WA
- WA Municipal Association
- Department of Minerals and Energy
- WA Farmers Federation.

A detailed action plan proposal has since been prepared by the Management Group, with costing and clearly defined outputs intended to achieve the four objectives of the strategy. Over a seven year period, about \$2.1 million has been considered necessary for the strategy's implementation, to be contributed by stakeholders.

Getting this far has taken some time and the NPNCA is still awaiting feedback on further progress. It is likely that the Authority and CALM will need to review existing policies on granting access to State forest and the conservation estate due to other changes, such as the recent revision of the Local Government Act and its provisions concerning access to road construction material, and the fact that Main Roads WA has now gone completely across to contracting out its roadworks program. Any permitted gravel, sand and limestone quarries on the conservation estate will need specific long term management and rehabilitation commitments from Main Roads WA rather than from external contractors.

Development of a State Lime Supply Strategy

The need for a statewide lime supply strategy was identified in the 1997 State of the Environment Report for WA. It was basically raised in the context of the agricultural need to counter growing acidity on farmland soil, due to current practices of fertiliser use and growing leguminous crops. Soil

acidification is a continuing problem and applying lime to the soil is a palliative measure to address it.

Lime is also an important component of the State's industrial base, used in cement manufacture and mineral processing. The development of a State lime supply strategy was proposed by the Minister for the Environment in January 1998, coinciding with Cockburn Cement's proposal to continue dredging limesand in Cockburn Sound for its cement and lime manufacturing operation. Development of a strategy was supported by other Ministers, and the Department of Resources and Development was selected as the lead agency for the project.

An inter-departmental steering committee has been formed to produce a draft strategy for Ministerial consideration, and CALM is represented on it. Under the guidance of the steering committee, experienced consultants have since been engaged to develop an initial draft strategy. At this stage, the project has been separated into two phases:

- Phase I being the development of an initial draft strategy for referral to stakeholder groups.
- Phase II being the finalisation of the draft following stakeholder feedback, and referral for Ministerial consideration and Cabinet endorsement.

The project is expected to be completed sometime during 2000.

Conclusion

CALM and the NPNCA's principal interest in the basic raw material supply strategies is to have outcomes that ensure that important conservation values are not unnecessarily targeted as quarry sites. A complementary goal is to have quarry operations and subsequent rehabilitation well managed and conducted to satisfactorily high standards. There is also a need for stakeholders to look for and seek alternative methods and materials to these products, as well as ensuring that resource are not wasted.

STATUS OF RECOVERY PLANS AND INTERIM RECOVERY PLANS

Recovery Plans and Flora Management Programs are published in the Wildlife Management Program series. Totals published are as follows.

	Number published	In draft
Recovery Plans	7	8
Flora Management plans	4	4
	Number	In draft
	approved	
Interim Recovery Plans	16	60+

PUBLISHED RECOVERY PLANS

Published Recovery Plans	Series number
Western Swamp Tortoise	11
Noisy Scrub-bird	12
Chuditch	13
Rose Mallee	14
Wongan Triggerplant	15
Woylie	16
Orange-bellied and White-bellied Frogs	19

DRAFT RECOVERY PLANS

Numbat
Dibbler
Djoongari (Shark Bay Mouse)
Lancelin Island Skink
Corrigin Grevillea
Matchstick Banksia
Wongan Cactus
Toolibin Lake

Published Flora Management Programs	Series
-	no.
Declared Rare Flora and other plants in need of special protection in the	5
Northern Forest Region	
Declared Rare Flora and other plants in need of special protection in the	9
Merredin District	
Declared Rare Flora and other plants in need of special protection in the	10
Metro area	
Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Albany District	20

APPROVED INTERIM RECOVERY PLANS (IRPS)

Species	Number of IRP
Wyalkatchem Foxglove	1
Lancelin Island Skink	2
Gilbert's Potoroo	3
Night Parrot	4
Antina	5
Western Ground Parrot	6
Small Flowered Conostylis	7
Red Snakebush	8
Dwarf Rock Wattle	9
Mogumber Bell	10
Norseman Pea	11
Kamballup Dryandra	12
Stirling Range Dryandra	13
Metallic Flowered Eremophila	14
Majestic Spider Orchid	15
Swamp Starflower	16
Western Ringtail Possum	17
Dibbler	18
Minnivale Trapdoor Spider	19
Wongan Gully Wattle	20
Western Woolly Cyphanthera	21

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