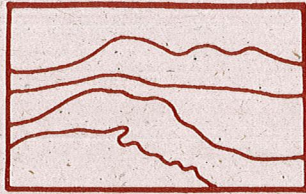


National Parks and Nature
Conservation Authority



ANNUAL REPORT

1 JULY 1999–30 JUNE 2000



National Parks and Nature
Conservation Authority

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 1999 - 30 June 2000

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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 (NPNCA) for the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000.

This year saw a change to our membership when a vacancy on the Authority was filled. Dr Jenny Davis, from Murdoch University, was appointed to the position representative of tertiary educational institutions. A warm welcome is extended to Jenny.

A significant change to the Authority has developed during the reporting period. The planning and legislative process for creating the new Conservation Commission, Forest Products Commission and a new Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is underway. In particular, the *Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill* seeks to establish the Conservation Commission in the place of the NPNCA (and Lands and Forest Commission). It will be the pre-eminent Ministerial advisory and policy development body, as well as the vesting body for all terrestrial conservation areas. The Conservation Commission will employ its own staff, including a management audit unit to monitor and assess the implementation of management plans by the Department of Conservation and Land Management against criteria set by the Conservation Commission. A history of national park administration in WA is provided in the Special Reports section on page 29.

The NPNCA held a debriefing workshop in June 2000 to discuss the work and achievements of the Authority since its inception. The workshop was held as a means of promoting continuity to the new Conservation Commission which will replace the NPNCA. The Authority identified key achievements, concerns, ongoing monitoring issues and objectives for the Conservation Commission. I believe that the debriefing workshop was a very worthwhile exercise from which members gained a lot. At this stage it appears that many of the issues identified will be addressed as part of the proposed new arrangements. Key achievements of the NPNCA are provided in the Special Reports section on page 31.

Once again the consideration of management plans has occupied a significant proportion of our time. Plans coming before the Authority during the year included the draft management plans for the Kimberley Region and Yellagonga Regional Park and final management plans for Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks and Muiron Islands, Serpentine National Park and Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves.

NPNCA members had the opportunity to carry out a number of field inspections and visits during the year. These included field inspections and visits to Jilbadji Nature Reserve, Dundas Nature Reserve, South Eneabba Nature Reserve, Bodallin Nature Reserve, Lake Champion Nature Reserve and Walpole Nornalup National Park. The NPNCA expresses its appreciation to the CALM staff involved in the organisation of past and present field inspections and visits, 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 and chair the Council's Biodiversity Standing Committee during the year. Salinity is a major environmental threat facing Western Australia. Approximately 1.8 million hectares in the south-west agricultural region are already affected by salinity to some extent. The NPNCA provided input to the revised Salinity Strategy that was released in April 2000 and supported funding proposals to help conserve biodiversity values under threat from salinity.

Mining and petroleum issues have continued to occupy a significant proportion of our time. Revised mining tenement processes have led to greater efficiencies in dealing with applications. The Authority has continued to hold the view that because so little of the Wheatbelt area has been set aside for conservation of flora and fauna, the little that has been set aside must be given a very high priority for protection. For this reason the NPNCA has consistently opposed activities such as mining being permitted in Wheatbelt reserves.

In the Authority's 1998/1999 Annual Report, the special reports section focussed on the Central West Coast Region basic raw material strategy, State Gravel Supply Strategy implementation and development of a State Lime Supply Strategy. The Authority, in March 2000, endorsed the Department's draft position paper on the Central West Coast Strategy for Lime and Limesand. This position paper proposes a strategic approach to access to limesands in the Central West Coast Region. The NPNCA is also represented on the Limesand Strategy Reference Group in developing a draft statewide Lime Supply Strategy and the Department is directly represented on the State Gravel Strategy Management Group.

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.

Tom Day
Chairman

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; and
 - (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 1999 to June 2000 are recorded below.

Ex officio Members

1. (a)(i) Dr S R Shea (from 1 July 1999 to 29 November 1999) and Dr W J Cox (from 30 November 1999 to 30 June 2000), Executive Director (deputies Mr R Sneeuwjagt, Mr B Chandler and Mr A Walker);
- (ii) Mr K J McNamara, Director of Nature Conservation (deputies Dr J Gomboso, Mr F Batini and Mr G Wyre);
- (iii) Mr J Sharp, Director of National Parks (deputies Mr W Schmidt, Mr J Williamson and Mr P Sharp);
- (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;
- (ii) Mr T Day (Chairman), Mrs P Barblett;
- (iii) Dr J Davis from 22 February 2000 (vacant from 13 December 1997 to 21 February 2000);
- (iv) Mr K McMenemy;
- (v) Cr H Browne, Cr T Stroud;
- (vi) Mr T Adams;
- (vii) Ms T Reid;
- (viii) Mr R Bellotti.

AUTHORITY MEETINGS

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

9 July 1999	14 January 2000
13 August 1999	11 February 2000
10 September 1999	10 March 2000
8 October 1999	14 April 2000
12 November 1999	12 May 2000
10 December 1999	9 June 2000

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 1999/2000 year (excluding CALM officers' salaries) was \$92,558.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 175ZE of the *Western Australian Electoral Act 1907*, the NPNCA incurred nil expenditure for the 1999/2000 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, as provisions for classifying them as B or C have been rescinded. Previously designated Class B reserves have been retained while Class C reserves are now referred to as 'unclassified' reserves. Provisions to designate reserves as Class A have been retained in legislation. 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, or it may be disallowed.

AREA VESTED

National parks. As at 30 June 2000, 64 national parks totalling 4,938,916 hectares were vested in the Authority, an increase of 64,634 hectares for the year. The increase was the result of the creation of the Goldfields Woodlands National Park (64,612 hectares) and the addition of Lake Josephine to Yalgorup National Park (22 hectares).

Conservation parks. The area of conservation parks vested in the Authority as at 30 June 2000 was 298,386 hectares, representing an increase for the year of 181,062 hectares. Notable was the creation of two new conservation parks – one adjacent to the Goldfields Woodlands National Park (about 33,112 hectares) and another in the Pilbara region over the area of the former Cane River Pastoral Lease (147,843 hectares).

Nature reserves. The area of nature reserves vested in the Authority as at 30 June 2000 was 10,775,263 hectares, representing a net increase of 2,583 hectares in 1999/2000. Notable was the creation of two nature reserves resulting from purchases of land 11 kilometres east of Nungarin (400 hectares) and at Tutunup (24 hectares). Other new nature reserves include areas 35 kilometres south-east of Hyden (539 hectares) and eight kilometres north-east of Piesseville (440 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

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 the 1997/1998 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 excision of Victoria Location 11529 (approximately 317.95 hectares) from Kalbarri National Park (A27004) to rationalise Kalbarri National Park's boundaries.
- Approved tenure changes seeking to acquire about 12.3 hectares of State forest No. 16 (earmarked to be added to Yalgorup National Park) to widen the Perth Bunbury Highway south of Lake Clifton.
- Approved the Hamersley Iron Pty Limited proposal for alteration of the existing long drains at Mt Bruce Flats - Karijini National Park, subject to conditions.
- Approved the addition of unclassified Reserve No. 17516 (approximately 13.7 hectares) to South Kuminin Nature Reserve (reserve no. A38578).
- Endorsed a proposal for the connection of gas and water services to the Family and Children's Services Port Kennedy Youth Camp within the boundary of the Port Kennedy Scientific Park, subject to conditions.
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. 9753 (approximately 2533 hectares) to Class A Reserve (No. 28047).
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. 9431 to Nangeen Hill Nature Reserve (A23187).
- Considered and endorsed the proposal to reclassify Meelon Nature Reserve (C24430) from an unclassified reserve for the purpose of 'Protection of Flora' to a Class A Reserve for the purpose of 'Conservation of Flora and Fauna'.
- Approved the excision of a 20 m wide road reserve from Pallarup Nature Reserve (29860), located in the Shire of Grace, for the existing Magdhaba Track.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain into Lake Gounter Nature Reserve (21253) (Hyden drainage proposal), subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain into Coyrecup Nature Reserve (A28552 and A26020) (Nyabing Creek Catchment drainage proposal), subject to a number of conditions.
- Approved the upgrade of three roads within Monadnocks Conservation Park.
- Approved the amalgamation of two Class A Reserves (25555 and 36942) comprising Tutanning Nature Reserve (A25555) and add about 35 hectares of freehold land being purchased by the Department.
- Considered and decided not to object to a Notice of Intent to drain though Lake Gounter Nature Reserve (21253), subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered and decided not to object to Telstra's application to utilise the proposed Water Corporation's pipeline section through Lake Gounter Nature Reserve to lay telephone cable conduit, subject to a number of conditions.
- Approved the addition of the adjoining Swan View Sub Lot 136, Reserve No. 36357 and a closed portion of Neuman Road (Swan Location 12521) to John Forrest National Park (A7537).
- Approved the excision of about 0.015 hectares from Porongurup National Park (A18987) to allow the dedication of a road reserve that will provide legal access to Plantagenet Location 138.
- Approved the addition of about 2.37 hectares to Porongurup National Park (A18987) as a result of the closure of Road Reserve No. 11985.
- Approved the excision of 185 hectares from Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve (C42155) to allow the dedication and future expansion of Parry Creek Road through the Reserve.
- Considered and approved 'in principle' the establishment of lake drainage facilities at Chillinup Lake Nature Reserve (A25386).

- Approved the following amendments to Torndirrup National Park (A24258 and C5225): the excision of about 1 hectare; the addition of about 120 hectares; and the change of purpose of Torndirrup National Park from 'National Park and Recreation' to 'National Park'.
- Approved the excision of about 168 square metres from Gooseberry Hill National Park (A30200) to enable the Shire of Kalamunda to widen Graham Road.
- Approved the cancellation of Reserve No. 39031 near Yalgourp National Park in order for the land to become unallocated Crown land. The sale proceeds are to be used by the Department in consultation with the State Salinity Council.
- Approved the area set aside at Port Kennedy as a Scientific Park be formally named the Port Kennedy Scientific Park.
- Approved the addition of purchased land, Swan Location 2585 to Reserve A45035.
- Approved the excision of land from the Rudall River National Park to allow the dedication of Punmu Road and Kunawarritji Access, as road reserves under the care, control and management of the Shire of East Pilbara or Main Roads WA, subject to a number of conditions.
- Considered a proposal from Main Roads WA for an excision from Nuytsland Nature Reserve (A27632) to allow the dedication of a wider road reserve for the Eyre Highway. The Authority recommended that excisions be made from the nature reserve to provide a highway right of way 30 m deep from the pavement centre line and the highway right of way be limited to a 60 m wide corridor, to meet road engineering needs, and the nature reserve boundaries be closed up to coincide with this and take up the surplus unallocated Crown land.
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. 18794 (excluding Lot No. 68) to Emu Hill Nature Reserve (A25039).
- Approved the amendment to the boundary of Beagle Islands Nature Reserve (A26411) to include South West Beagle Island and all land above the low water mark.
- Approved the following amendments to Yillminning Class A Reserve (39718): excision and dedication of an unauthorised road (Boundain Road North - Crooked Pool Road) and the addition to the nature reserve of three portions of unconstructed road reserve.
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. 37092 to Avon Valley National Park (A30192), subject to conditions.
- Approved the transfer of Swan Location 9630 to the Crown so that it may be added to Neerabup National Park (A27575).
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. A13045 to Walpole Nornalup National Park.
- Approved the addition of purchased land, part Avon Location 23972 to Bending Nature Reserve (A25681).
- Considered and decided not to object to the renaming of the Yallingup Caves but opposed the excision of this location from Reserve No. 8427 for naming purposes.
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. 16715 to Reserve No. 12958 (Victoria Location 4187).
- Approved the proposed redistribution and future purpose (some areas to become Conservation Park) to Reserve No. 24496 in the Shire of Irwin. The proposal supports areas of Shire Reserve No. 42447 adjacent to developed private property being retained by the Shire of Irwin, with areas adjacent to NPNCA Reserve 24496 being vested in the NPNCA except for 147.7 ha in the North and South Cliff Head area.
- Considered and endorsed the proposal to amend Reserve No. 1703 from an unclassified reserve for the purpose of 'Conservation of Flora and Fauna' to the Lands And Forest Commission for the purpose of 'Timber'.
- Approved the addition of Sussex Location 1044 (approximately 230 ha) to Reserve A20455.
- Approved the excision of a small portion of Class A Reserve No. 42065 (approximately 100 square metres) to effect access to Sussex Location 1386, Karridale.
- Approved the addition of Lots 106 and 108 to Woody Lake Nature Reserve (A15231).
- Approved the addition of Reserve No. 21603 to Yorkrakine Rock Nature Reserve (A23586) and precise depiction of the location of the trigonometrical station within Reserve No. 11997 which is located in Yorkrakine Rock Nature Reserve.
- Approved the addition of unallocated Crown land (approximately 5 hectares) to Pallinup Nature Reserve (A28687).
- Approved the addition of Hay Location 2390 to Walpole Nornalup National Park (A31362).
- Approved the excision of 200 square metres from Yalgourp National Park (A12189) to allow the dedication and future extension of Quail Road.

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 Authority endorsed an NPNCA Code of Conduct.
- The NPNCA endorsed '*Phytophthora Cinnamomi* and Disease Caused By It - A Protocol for Identifying Protectable Areas and their Priority for Management'.
- The NPNCA held a debriefing workshop in June 2000 to discuss key strategic issues and procedures.
- The Authority undertook to develop a policy on road reserve widths.
- The Authority endorsed recommendations made by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee in relation to the species listed on the threatened flora and fauna lists.

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) and 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.	TITLE	DATE OF ISSUE
2	Local Government Authority Access to Basic Raw Materials from State Forest and Timber Reserves (Revised)	February 1993
5	Research and Technical Publications (Revised)	August 1988
6	Staff Training and Career Development	January 1986
8	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
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

* 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 management, 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 while 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 Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks and Muiron Islands, Serpentine National Park and Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves.

The Kimberley Region and Yellagonga Regional Park draft management plans were 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; and
- primary responsibility to fulfil (e.g. 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 listed below:

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;
and
Walpole Nornalup National Park - May 2000.

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

Necessary Operations. In the absence of an approved management plan for NPNCA vested lands certain necessary operations may be undertaken by the Department on national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves in accordance with section 33(3)(b)(i) of the Act. Such operations are defined in section 33A 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.

Compatible Operations. In addition to necessary operations section 33(3)(b) provides that 'compatible operations' may be undertaken in national parks and conservation parks where there is no approved management plan. Under section 33(3) the management of the CALM Act, section 5(1)(g) reserves are not constrained by necessary or compatible operations. The management of section 5(1)(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. One advice on compatible operations was sought during the 1999/2000 period. The NPNCA gave 'in principle' approval for the amendment of the Shannon National Park Management Plan to allow the siting of a proposed Infrasound Monitoring Station (IMS) in Shannon National Park.

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 gave approval for continued negotiations regarding the detail of two Dampier Archipelago developments on the basis of a lease between seven to ten years and lease details to be referred back to the Authority.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on 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 refused an application for a ticketing office at Bills Bay, Coral Bay, Foreshore Reserve 37500 in favour of a shared facility linked to the local tourist bureau.
- The NPNCA endorsed plans for the Karijini National Park Visitor Centre.
- The Authority approved plans for the redevelopment of the Yanchep Inn, construction of accommodation units and new kiosk/tearooms.
- The NPNCA provided a report to the Department on management plan monitoring and review.
- The NPNCA considered and approved the proposal to amend Management Plan No. 25 for Matilda Bay Reserve, to allow for the possible siting of a Catalina flying boat museum.
- The Authority approved the rehabilitation of the campsite at Martin's Tank within Yalgorup National Park and the prescribed burning of sections of Yalgorup National Park to regenerate tuarts.
- The NPNCA was briefed on Wittecarra Gully adjacent to Kalbarri National Park.
- The NPNCA considered a proposal from the Shire of Gingin for the realignment of Barragoon Road within State Forest 65 to provide access to the proposed South Guilderton development. The Authority endorsed the position that should the South Guilderton development proceed then the existing alignment of Barragoon Road is acceptable.

- The NPNCA considered a proposal for a camel operation in Nambung National Park. The proposal was refused by the Authority because of its potential to adversely affect the environment and safety conflicts between vehicles, camels and bushwalkers within the Park.
 - The NPNCA endorsed the proposed track closure and associated access works partially on the Lake Muir Nature Reserve as a necessary operation.
 - The Authority endorsed the proposal for the Tamworth Hill Chlorination Plant to allow the creation of a 2.5 hectare buffer zone to eventually be vested in the Water Corporation, but retained as a part of the Rockingham Regional Park.
 - The NPNCA considered and endorsed the proposed rehabilitation strategy and management of land purchased (part Nelson Location 12655) for inclusion into Yarnup Nature Reserve.
 - The NPNCA recommended to the Minister that exotic species, *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus radiata* and *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, be removed from the Tuart Forest National Park and sold, with the revenues generated spent on projects within the Park.
 - The Authority considered cliff visitor risk at the Hamelin Bay Headland and endorsed the proposed risk management actions.
 - The NPNCA endorsed CALM 'Guidelines for the Management of Field Operations Adjacent to Boundaries of Land Areas'.
 - The Authority considered and gave 'in principle' approval for the amendment of the Shannon National Park Management Plan to allow the siting of a proposed Infrasound Monitoring Station (IMS) in Shannon National Park.
 - The NPNCA approved vehicle access into the wilderness area within the Fitzgerald River National Park:
 - to survey, identify and construct the coastal wilderness walk route during summer 1999/2000 as per the management plan;
 - to undertake monitoring of the phosphite application project, which was implemented in autumn 1997 and continue to develop *Phytophthora cinnamomi* control strategies for the Bell Track infestation;
 - to carry out an initial survey to determine work requirement and priorities then allow access to complete such works as outlined in the Fire Management Strategy for the wilderness zone of the Fitzgerald River National Park 1999-2001.
- All access approved within the Fitzgerald River National Park was permitted only under dry soil conditions following standard dieback and hygiene requirements.
- 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.
 - 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. Approval for the amendment to the Fitzgerald River National Park management plan occurred in December 1999.

Leases and Licences

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

- Approval of a lease for Cygnet Hall and Boatshed, Crawley to the Governor of Hale School for a term of 21 years.
- Approval of a lease to the Bureau of Meteorology to formalise the use of a small portion of the Fitzgerald River National Park for an automatic weather station.
- Approval of an all-year-round boat service licence for Yardie Creek, Cape Range National Park, subject to conditions.
- Approval of a lease to Telstra for a mobile telecommunication tower site within the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.
- Approval of a lease for the Yanchep Inn, units and kiosk/tearooms, subject to conditions.
- Approval of a licence for a mobile kiosk at Cape Le Grand National Park, subject to conditions.

- Approval of a licence for a mobile kiosk at Cape Le Grand National Park, subject to conditions.
- Approval of a lease to Telstra over an existing communication site within the Purnululu Conservation Reserve (39898).
- Approval of a lease for a bore and pipeline through Yalgorup National Park to supply water to the Preston Beach townsite.
- Approval of a licence to the Water Corporation for the proposed infiltration drain and associated pipework within Walpole Nornalup National Park.
- Approval of a lease over part of Nuytsland Nature Reserve for the Eyre Bird Observatory (operated by Birds Australia) for a term of 21 years.
- Approval of an 'essential works' licence for the sale of forest produce generated by firebreak upgrading in the Gloucester National Park.
- Approval for a licence to Hamersley Iron Pty Limited for unrestricted right of access for a matter relating to the company's power transmission line in Millstream Chichester National Park.
- Approval of a lease to East Spar Joint Venture over a portion of Varanus Island for the venture's plant and pipeline respectively.
- Approval of a lease to Optus for a new telecommunications tower site within Cape Range National Park.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

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

During 1999/2000 the Authority endorsed the following wildlife management programs:

- No. 17 Djoongari (Shark Bay Mouse) Recovery Plan; and
- No. 22 Lancelin Island Skink Recovery Plan.

During 1999/2000 the Authority considered the WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit Recovery Team Annual Reports.

(See Appendix A for further information on Recovery Plans.)

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 – Coomallo Nature Reserve	25 September 1995
32	Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve	3 November 1995
33	Purnululu National Park	18 November 1995
34	Shark Bay Marine Reserves †	18 July 1996
35	Wanjarri Nature Reserve	1 May 1996
36	Canning River Regional Park	1 September 1997
37	Nambung National Park	2 September 1998
38	Leschenault Peninsula	2 September 1998
39	Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves	21 April 1999
40	Karijini National Park	11 November 1998
41	Swan Estuary Marine Park †	2 September 1998*

* Approved by the 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

1. 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 1997
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
Rowles Lagoon Nature Reserve	22 October 1999
Yellagonga Regional Park	17 April 2000
2. 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 Rowley Shoals Marine Park † Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux National Park revision Shark Bay World Heritage Area Strategic Plan* Wheatbelt Region Woodman Point Regional Park	

* not specific responsibility of the NPNCA

† responsibility of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority

Table 6
INTERIM GUIDELINES - LISTING

REGION	GUIDELINES	YEARS
Kimberley	Mirima National Park Prince Regent Nature Reserve Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve Point Spring Nature Reserve Drysdale River National Park	1993-98 1994-98 1994-98 1994-98 1994-98
Pilbara	Millstream-Chichester National Park Barrow Islands Group Cane River Pastoral Lease*	1996-2001 1999-2003 1999-2003
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 Burnerbinmah Pastoral Lease Muggon Pastoral Lease	1994-99 1988 1991-95 1993-97 1993-97 1993-97 1998-2003 2000-2005 2000-2005
Goldfields	Earaheedy Pastoral Lease	1994-2000
Wheatbelt	Reserves A1931, A2079 + C2096 Lake Chandala Nature Reserve Reserve No. 16904	1990-95 1991 - reviewed 1991-95
Swan	Walyunga National Park Yule Brook Reserve Woodvale Nature Reserve Murray Shire Monadnocks Reserves	1992 1987 1991 1986-90 1989-91
Central Forest	Minninup Block Harvey District Nature Reserves	1993-97
Southern Forest	Pemberton National Park Lake Barnes Nature Reserve Big Brook Nature Reserve Denbarker Fire Protection Area	1987-91 1987 1988-91 1989-93
South Coast	Waychinicup National Park (including Mt Manypeaks Nature Reserve and Arpenteur Nature Reserve) Torndirrup National Park Helms Forestry Reserve Recherche Archipelago 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	1993-1998 1995-2000 1998-2003 2000-2005 1999-2004 2000-2005 1999-2004 1995-2000 1996-2001 1996-2001 1996-2001 1997-2002

* Cane River Pastoral Lease became a Conservation Park during the reporting year.

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 1999/2000 did not contain a formal requirement for comment by the NPNCA. However, the *Petroleum Act* was amended to remove the requirement for 'proclamation' of reserved land as 'Crown Land' by the Governor. Changes to Section 15 of the *Petroleum Act 1967* (Acts Amendment 17 of 1999, effective 24/7/1999) now require the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment for petroleum related activities (except for production licences) on reserved land vested in the NPNCA. This responsibility has been delegated to CALM in consultation with the NPNCA. Involvement of the NPNCA in relation to petroleum production licences 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

1999/2000 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 with previous years are shown at Figure 1.

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:

- Applications for exploration licences 69/1424 to 1431, 69/1433 to 1437 and 69/1453 to 1454 affecting Great Victoria Nature Reserve 30490 were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for an environmental disturbance exploration program affecting Yardanogo Nature Reserve (36203) was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Applications for environmental disturbance exploration programs affecting Jilbadji Nature Reserve (24049) were endorsed subject to conditions.
- Application for exploration licence 38/1230 affecting Yeo Lake Nature Reserve (A36271) was endorsed subject to conditions.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 74/263 and 74/267 affecting Fitzgerald River National Park owing to the area's outstanding conservation values and international designation of a biosphere reserve.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 70/2173 affecting Wanagarren Nature Reserve (C31675) owing to the area's high nature conservation, recreation and tourism values.
- Recommended refusal of exploration licence 80/2501 affecting Ord River Nature Reserve as the wetland is of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- Application for prospecting licences affecting Yellowdine Nature Reserve was endorsed subject to conditions.

- Application for exploration licences 70/588 and 70/589 affecting Jangardup South 5g Reserve was endorsed subject to conditions.

- Application for an environmental disturbance exploration program affecting Queen Victoria Springs Nature Reserve (340491) was endorsed subject to conditions.

- Application for an environmental disturbance exploration program affecting South Eneabba Nature Reserve was endorsed subject to conditions.

- Application for an environmental disturbance exploration program affecting Plumridge Lakes Nature Reserve was endorsed subject to conditions.

- **Mining Leases**

- Recommended refusal for mining lease 70/876 within Wandj Nature Reserve (36110) owing to the conservation values of the area.

- Recommended refusal of a retention licence 70/16 and mining lease 70/423 within Bullsbrook Nature Reserve (C1654) owing to the conservation values of the area.

- **Seismic Surveys - Petroleum**

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

- **Petroleum - Other**

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

OTHER SIGNIFICANT MINING ISSUES

The NPNCA:

- The Authority considered and decided not to object to the shore protection system on Thevenard Island, subject to a number of conditions.
- Representatives from the NPNCA took part in a field inspection of mining and rehabilitation being carried out at Jilbadji and Dundas Nature Reserves.
- Representatives from the NPNCA took part in a field inspection of mining and rehabilitation being carried out at South Eneabba Nature Reserve.
- The NPNCA endorsed the WA Planning Commission's Basic Raw Materials Policy 10.
- The Authority endorsed applications for Miscellaneous Licences 47/47, 47/40, 47/55 and 47/67 for a railway route for Robe River Mining's West Angelas Iron Ore project, subject to conditions.
- Representatives from the NPNCA took part in a field inspection of mining and rehabilitation being carried out at Bodallin Nature Reserve.
- Was briefed on the progress of the State Lime Strategy.
- Was briefed on the progress of the State Gravel Strategy.
- The Authority gave approval to the Shire of Chapman Valley for access to gravel pits within Wandana Nature Reserve (C36388), subject to conditions. The Shire to finalise its proposal to identify and excise gravel reserves from Wandana Nature Reserve.
- The NPNCA gave approval for Miscellaneous Licence 70/59 for pipeline access through Scott National Park relating to a contingency mine water disposal option was endorsed, subject to conditions.
- Was briefed by Robe River Iron Associates and Ecologia Environmental Consultants on the West Angelas Project Coondewanna West rail route environmental review.
- Provided comments to the Minister on the environmental conditions for Robe River's West Angelas Iron Ore Project.
- The Authority was briefed by the Department on the forfeiture of 'Rutherford's Reward Gold Mine' mining lease within Bodallin Nature Reserve and the significant rehabilitation liability that exists. The proposal was originally refused by the Authority but was overridden by the Department of Minerals and Energy.
- Provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority on the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline environmental review.
- The Authority endorsed the application for the installation of optic fibre cable within a powerline easement through proposed Regional Forest Agreement conservation reserves (Augusta to Pemberton), subject to conditions.
- The NPNCA considered and did not object to the proposed gas cooling facilities at the Woodada Gas Plant in Lake Logue Nature Reserve (C29073).
- The Authority considered and endorsed the proposed mining tenement application procedures developed by the Department.
- The Authority approved the proposal from Jurien Gypsum Mine for vegetation clearing along an access road within Beekeepers Nature Reserve (A24496), subject to conditions.
- The Authority endorsed the Department's draft position paper on the Central West Coast Strategy for Lime and Limesand.
- The NPNCA was represented on the Lime Strategy Reference Group in developing a statewide Lime Supply Strategy and the Authority was informed that the Department has direct representation on the State Gravel Strategy Management Group.

Table 7

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

TENEMENT	LAND TENURE		
	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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNC DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (g) Min. for Env. concurrence A1 Conditions. Note (h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNC DEP notified (not referred to EPA) Note (g) Min. for Env. concurrence A1 Conditions. Note (h) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM & NPNC Min. for Environment recommendation A1 Conditions. Note (h)
Prospecting & Exploration activity (environmental disturbance) Note (i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM & NPNC. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM. Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to CALM & NPNC. DEP notified. Refer to EPA if required by CALM. Forward to DEP for information for subsequent stages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to EPA if required by CALM
Grant of Mining Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNC NOI required by DME & CALM EPA assessment Parliamentary concurrence required for grant of title with conditions set F conditions apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNC NOI required by DME & CALM EPA assessment Parliamentary concurrence required for grant of title F conditions apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess by DME Refer to CALM & NPNC NOI required by DME & CALM Refer to EPA if significant impact (MOU). Note (j) Min. for Env. recommendation F conditions apply
General Purpose Leases	as per mining lease	as per mining lease	as per mining lease
Miscellaneous Licences Note (k)	Case by case basis - DME 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

'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 Tèngraph.

Note (g) If referred by member of the public, EPA will obtain further advice from NPNC/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.

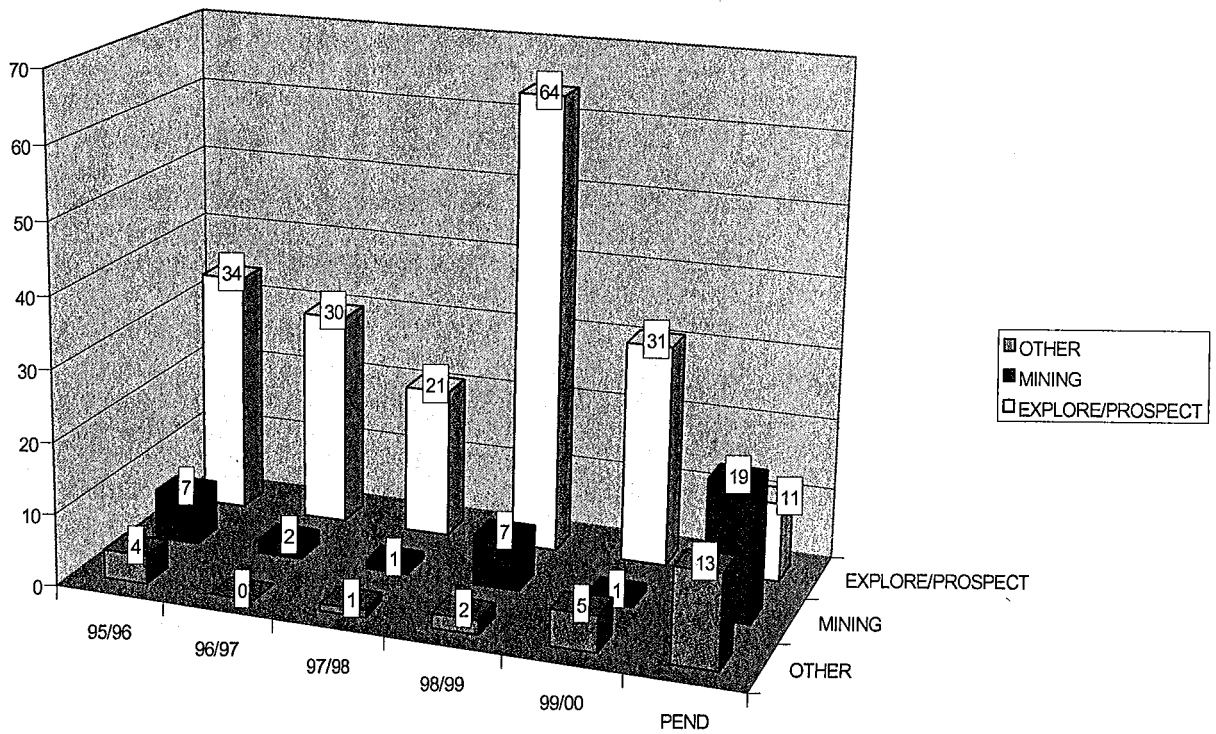
Note (j) MOU refers to Onshore Minerals Memorandum of Understanding between DME and EPA (1995).

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 1999-2000
(1998-99 FIGURES INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL PARKS AND THE
SHARK BAY WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY)**



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 1999/2000

The NPNCA:

- Provided comments to the Department of Environmental Protection on the public environmental review guidelines for the Coral Bay to Yardie Creek Road.
- Provided comments to the Health Department of WA in relation to the proposal for tunnelling installation in the Peel Region.
- Provided comments to the Department of Transport regarding the relocation of a proposed railcar depot adjacent to Neerabup National Park.
- Provided comments to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Minister in relation to the proposed Exmouth Industrial Park.
- Provided comments to the Water and Rivers Commission on the Gnangara Land Use and Water Management Strategy.
- Provided comments to the WA National Parks and Reserves Association (WANPARA) regarding the implementation, monitoring, review and replacement of the 1987 Forest Region Management Plans.
- Provided comments to the Minister in relation to the revised Salinity Action Plan and supported the proposed biodiversity funding proposals to help conserve biodiversity values under threat from salinity.
- Submitted comments to the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation pointing out the need for greater clarity in guidelines to proponents on preparing drainage proposals.
- Provided comments to the Water and Rivers Commission on the draft policy for pesticide use in public drinking water source areas.
- Provided comments to the Minister on the proposed changes to environmental conditions for the amendments to the 1987 Forest Management Plans and Timber Strategy.
- Advised the Minister of its support for a public firewood area in Victoria Block State Forest (proposed national park).
- Provided comments to the Minister on the all-year-round boat tour service licence at Yardie Creek, Cape Range National Park.
- Provided comments to the Department in relation to the independent review of sustained yield incorporating principles of ecologically sustainable forest management.
- Provided comments to Southern Cross Aquaculture on the Wyndham Prawn Aquaculture proposal.
- Provided comments to the Environmental Protection Authority on the proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 992/33 for Clarkson Butler (impacting on Neerabup National Park).
- Provided comments to the Minister on the creation of Fish Resources Management Act fish habitat protection areas over terrestrial reserves.
- Submitted comments to the Minister on management plan production and resourcing.
- Provided comments to the WA Planning Commission and Canning Catchment Coordinating Group regarding the Southern River - Forrestdale - Brookdale - Wungong Draft Structure Plan.
- Provided comments to the Department of Environmental Protection on the assessment of development proposals in the Shark Bay World Heritage Property.

-
- Submitted comments to the Minister in relation to the Wittecarra Gully site, Kalbarri National Park.
 - Provided comments to the Ministry for Planning, Department of Transport, Main Roads WA and the Shire of Gingin outlining the conservation values of the Wilbinga Caraban area and the need for integrated and balanced regional planning to prevent dissection of the area and the consequent long term deterioration in environmental values.
 - 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 Minister on the Native Vegetation Working Group recommendation on clearing.

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 Main Roads WA and GHD on the proposed Coral Bay to Yardie Creek Road.
- Briefed by the Department on a field inspection of an incursion of approximately 300 metres that occurred in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park during a CALM forest operation.
- Representatives from the NPNCA attended the National Dryland Salinity Program lecture.
- Representatives from the Authority met with the Western Australian Municipal Association and the Country Shire Councils Association to discuss representation of the NPNCA on Regional Road Groups.
- Briefed by the Department on the tuart decline at Yalgorup National Park.
- Briefed by Martinick McNulty, Springdale Holdings and Chappell and Lambert Town Planning Consultants in relation to the proposed Exmouth industrial park.
- Briefed by the Department on conservation reserve system land acquisitions of freehold and pastoral lease land for addition to the State's conservation estate.
- Briefed by Southern Cross Aquaculture and WA Aquaculture Council on the Wyndham Prawn Aquaculture proposal.
- Briefed by the Ministry of Planning on the proposed Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 992/33 for Clarkson Butler (impacting on Neerabup National Park).
- Briefed by the Department on the discussion paper on the proposal to allow trading of apiary sites on CALM managed and Crown land.
- Briefed by the Department on the damage caused by Cyclone Steve to NPNCA managed lands.
- Briefed by the Department on the dieback situation within the wilderness area in Fitzgerald River National Park.
- Briefed by the Ministry for Planning, Department of Environmental Protection and the Department on Perth's Bushplan.
- Briefed by the Department on the fire at Beekeepers Nature Reserve A24496.
- Briefed by the Department on the Fitzgerald River National Park Scientific Reference Committee.
- 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 the proposed CALM administrative arrangements resulting from the Regional Forest Agreement.
- Briefed by the Department on legislative changes and restructuring of the Authority.
- Briefed by the Department and Jones Coulter Young Architects and Urban Designers on the proposal for the permanent siting of a Catalina Memorial Museum on Matilda Bay Reserve.
- Representative from the NPNCA attended a meeting and workshop in Albany in relation to the vesting of Gull Rock National Park.
- Briefed by the Department on fish habitat protection areas overlapping terrestrial nature reserves.
- A representative from the NPNCA attended a meeting on runnelling in the Peel Region.
- Representatives attended a State Weed Plan briefing session.
- Carried out a field inspection of Walpole Nornalup National Park in May 2000.
- Representatives from the NPNCA attended a field visit undertaken by the Sons of Gwalia of Jilbadji and Lake Champion Nature Reserves.
- 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 Lime Supply Strategy Reference Group, 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 committee, WA Threatened Species and Communities Consultative Committee and 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; and
- Wildflower industry 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 and where a number of actions are taking place.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL PARKS ADMINISTRATION IN WA

Introduction

Over many years various independent boards and committees were established to administer separate and sometimes small reserves indicating that such appointments were made largely on an ad hoc basis and that little thought was given to coordinating the activities of the various conservation bodies.

The creation of Kings Park in 1872 was the catalyst for the subsequent evolution of early park administration legislation. Originally called the *Perth Park*, it was enlarged in 1890 at the suggestion of Sir John Forrest, who by that time had become the State's first Premier. In 1895 a management committee for the Park was formed and Forrest became its first President. Under his patronage, two important pieces of legislation were passed to both enable management of the Park and to provide parliamentary protection for it. These Acts were framed in such a way, however, that the management and protection provisions could be applied to other reserves as well.

- *Parks and Reserves Act 1895* – enabled boards of management to be formed for specific reserves or collection of reserves (e.g. Kings Park Board).
- *Permanent Reserves Act 1899* – enabled reserves to be declared Class A, requiring Parliament's consent to amend their boundaries, change their assigned purposes, or cancel them (Kings Park became the State's first Class A Reserve).

It is arguable that the first 'national park' board was the Caves Board, which was formed from a Caves Committee set up in 1901. In 1894 the first step was taken to protect the wonderful caves in the Augusta – Margaret River – Yallingup district, when a 6,600 hectare reserve to protect caves was created near Augusta. During the next several years a government survey of caves was conducted and the report was published in 1900. The assessment concluded that the Leeuwin Naturaliste area, with its caves, spectacular coast, forest and waterways should be developed as a resort base for the relief of people then living in the inland Goldfields, linked to Busselton by convenient, comfortable and relatively cheap rail travel. This was the contemporary

concept of a national park, and the means that major parks in North America and Australia's Eastern States were accessed.

The Caves Board continued as a body until 1910, and during its existence it established Caves House at Yallingup as an accommodation base, oversaw the construction of Caves Road to link the Busselton railhead with Caves House and a dozen caves were developed for public access. Electric lighting in the caves was also introduced to prevent smoke contamination from candles and similar lamp appliances. After the Caves Board became defunct, for a time the caves came under the control of a State Hotels Department, which took over Caves House.

Early National Parks Board

A State Gardens Board was created under the *Parks and Reserves Act* in 1920 to take responsibility for caring for parks and gardens in the Perth city area. The first lands vested in the Board comprised ten small parks, including Stirling Gardens and the closed, but historic, East Perth Cemetery. In the early 1930s two significant events occurred:

- the first major planning report to guide the future development of Perth's metropolitan region was published – recommending that the State Gardens Board also become responsible for areas such as John Forrest National Park; and
- the Great Depression struck, with the consequential creation of thousands of jobless individuals.

Progressively, unvested or unmanaged bushland parks and existing national parks were vested in the Board. With the aid of philanthropist Sir Charles McNess and a pool of sustenance labour, the Board completed the major buildings at Yanchep and John Forrest National Parks and various other important projects were initiated.

On 13 April 1956, the State Gardens Board, became the National Parks Board (still operating under the *Parks and Reserves Act*), a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and was made responsible to the Minister for Lands. The membership of the new board was broadened, the conservation policy was strengthened by the cancellation of grazing leases that had existed over some reserves, and a general review of park management was initiated.

Separate reserve boards had also been created prior to this, one to manage the Walpole Nornalup

early 1940s and the latter ceased to operate much later. These national parks were subsequently transferred to the State Board.

In 1950 legislation was passed to establish a second body, to advise on the management of native fauna generally and wildlife reserves, the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. Over the years, the names of both the legislation and the Committee were modified to become the *Wildlife Conservation Act* and the WA Wildlife Authority. The Wildlife Authority was serviced by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, which also managed nature reserves vested in the Authority. In 1972, the State Government formed a National Parks Review Committee to recommend on the future of these bodies and conservation reserve administration. It proposed that separate national park and wildlife administrations continue, but that the role and powers of the National Parks Board be strengthened. This was accepted by the Government and was implemented by the passing of the *National Parks Authority Act* in 1976. The Act provided for a National Parks Director and staff, who were responsible to a management board with wider community representation and ex officio appointments from the Department of Lands, Fisheries and Wildlife, Forests, Tourism and specific representation for Primary Industry, Local Government and Conservation interests.

The major objectives of the National Parks Authority over its eight years was to ensure that:

- boundaries for national parks were secured;
- management prescriptions were prepared and undertaken;
- visitor usage was maximised and accommodated commensurate with an ability to manage the land so as to enhance the natural values; and
- information services were provided for the interpretation by visitors of the natural and other features of the parks.

The formation of the Environmental Protection Authority in 1972, and Government acceptance of most of its proposals to expand the State's conservation reserve system, led to the establishment of an extensive estate of reserved land to be managed by both Authorities.

CALM and the NPNCA

In 1984 a Task Force on Land Resource Management in Western Australia reported to the Government on the most efficient and effective means of coordinating the administration and management of land resources in the South West of Western Australia. The report resulted in the amalgamation of the Forests Department with the National Parks Authority and the Wildlife portion of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management and three statutory controlling bodies were established under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. The Department commenced operations on 22 March 1985 and the controlling bodies shortly after. Two of the controlling bodies had land and marine estate vested in them:

- National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) – initially terrestrial and marine conservation reserves.
- Lands and Forest Commission (LFC) – State forest and timber reserves.

The CALM Act was later amended to create an additional controlling body – the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) to which marine parks and marine nature reserves were transferred from the responsibility of the NPNCA.

The functions of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority are to:

- be the vested body for national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and some miscellaneous reserves;
- develop policies for the preservation and enjoyment of the natural environment and the promotion of appreciation of flora and fauna, consistent with the essential purposes of parks and reserves;
- process and monitor land management plans for parks and reserves;
- advise the Minister on the development of policies for the conservation and management of flora and fauna;
- provide advice to others in the public interest; and
- advise on appropriate research.

The NPNCA, through the commitment of its dedicated members over its fifteen years of operation, endeavoured vigorously to conserve and manage the State's national parks and reserves so far as the funds at the Authority's and Department's disposal would allow. In conclusion, the Authority thanks past and present members (especially past Chairmen Mr Norm Halse and Professor A J McComb) for their dedication to the management of the conservation estate vested in the NPNCA.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The NPNCA has recorded some remarkable achievements in its 15 years of operation. The Authority discussed its key achievements in its debriefing workshop held in June 2000.

Outlined below are the key achievements identified by the Authority:

- created approaches to balancing the uses and values of vested lands;
- drawn on community input;
- assessed the key issues for conservation in WA;
- created a new model involving the community and CALM in partnership on conservation issues;
- operated as a responsible and effective custodian of the vested estate;
- as a public body operated extensively in the field;
- gained agreement on the future of Gull Rock National Park after 30 years of uncertainty;
- opened communication lines with groups regarding the Red Tingle forest;
- brokered agreements between interest parties;
- represented views and presented informed, balanced and considered advice to the Minister;
- contributed to the development of an excellent reserve and national parks system for WA;
- provided an advocacy role on important issues;
- reinforced and focussed initiatives from various interest groups;
- assisted Ministers to have the confidence to make best decisions;
- established a recognised role and presence in a range of 'across portfolio' government policy issues;
- submitted quality management plans to the Minister and effectively implemented management plans;
- developed State policy in conservation areas; and
- handled leases and licenses effectively.

Since its inception the NPNCA has striven to ensure that the State's national parks and reserves have been adequately managed, within the resources allocated by Government for this purpose. The Authority has been enabled to make some very positive achievements over its fifteen years, especially in terms of developing policy in conservation areas.

TUART FOREST DECLINE IN YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

The Authority was briefed by the Department on the tuart tree decline within Yalgorup National Park. Yalgorup National Park is located on the south-west coast of Western Australia, between Mandurah and Bunbury. It consists of several disconnected blocks of land and a chain of long narrow lakes. The park can be considered as four sections: the White Hill/Tims Thicket area north of Lake Clifton, the area west of Old Coast Road; the area of land surrounding the Martin Tank chain of lakes which

connects to a coastal block to the west; and the block south of Preston Beach Road. The initial establishment of Yalgorup as a National Park occurred in the early 1970s recognising its values and the need for their protection and management.

Tuarts (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) were once widespread along the Swan Coastal Plain but clearing for towns, communities and farmland has restricted big stands to conservation areas such as Yalgorup National Park. Many of the tuarts in Yalgorup National Park, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston and surrounding areas have recently been attacked by an insect called the 'tuart borer', which has had a severe impact on tuart trees and in some instances has led to the death of trees.

The tuart borer (*Phoracantha impavida*) is recognised as the main contributor to the severe branch decline that is obvious in the tuart trees. The borer burrows in under the bark and then makes its way around the limb. This is known as girdling. The result is the same as if the limb had been ringbarked and leads to the death of the limb. In the most severe cases, the borers will girdle the entire trunk and kill the tree.

Tuart borers are a naturally occurring insect that would have evolved with the tuart trees over hundreds of thousands of years. Consequently, outbreaks of insect attack are natural and the tuart forest has recovered in the past.

The NPNCA along with the Department and other agencies have been examining the reasons for the crown decline caused by the tuart borers. Information on extremes of weather, exclusion of fire and available water levels is being analysed to determine the underlying cause of the severe attack by insect borers. The Department is also liaising with local landowners and businesses to investigate possible treatments for individual trees, such as spraying, as well as regenerating badly affected areas.

The severity and spread of the current insect attack is unprecedented in recent times and the Authority believes that much of the tuart of the tuart forest within affected areas will need to be regenerated because of the deaths of the trees. Work will also be needed in some recreation areas and campsites to ensure the safety of the public. These operations will be conducted in accordance with the Park's management plan.

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Fitzgerald River National Park lies on the central south coast of Western Australia, 420 km south-east of Perth, between Bremer Bay and Hopetoun in the

Shires of Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe. The major values and attractions are the highly diverse flora, including rare plant species, rare fauna and its natural landscape including rugged coastal ranges, sea cliffs, gorges and inlets. The major management concerns are dieback disease and fire. The Authority was briefed on these matters during the reporting period.

The Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the richest areas of flora diversity in Western Australia, containing 20% of the State's described plant species. Dieback caused by *Phytophthora* species is a major threat to the ecology and conservation of susceptible plant communities of South West Australia. *Phytophthora megasperma* is killing *Banksia speciosa* in a localised area near East Mt Barren. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infects a narrow 6 km long strip along Bell Track, illegally constructed in 1971 in the northern central part of the park. Within the infected area the pathogen is destroying *Banksia baxteri* - *Lambertia* thicket. Infected *Hakea victoreae* survives for a time but eventually dies. Of necessity a high priority is the protection of the healthy vegetation that covers most of the park from infection by *Phytophthora* species.

The NPNCA noted that specific information relevant to the control of *P. megasperma* and the management of infested native communities is lacking. Most of the literature relates to the biology of *P. megasperma* in agricultural situations and in environments very different from those experienced in native communities in South West Australia. In addition, although more is known of the interaction between *P. cinnamomi* and the jarrah forest, further emphasis should be given to studies on host susceptibility, pathogen dynamics and control of *P. cinnamomi* in shrublands and woodlands. The Authority stressed the importance of further research and its specific funding.

The Fitzgerald River National Park management plan stipulated that a review of fire management provisions in the wilderness zone would be undertaken in 1995. This was to allow for growth of vegetation following large wildfires in 1989. Fire management activities were excluded in the wilderness zone for at least five years based on the assumptions that no serious fire threat would be posed during that period and that symptoms of dieback disease would be difficult to identify until the vegetation had regrown sufficiently following the 1989 wildfires.

The Fitzgerald River National Park management plan was reopened for public comment with regard to the draft fire management proposals for the wilderness zone and the proposed bridle trail in the Bremer Bay area. The proposals were released for public comment on 18 October 1996 and were

circulated to all individuals and organisations that expressed interest during the preparation of the management plan. The proposals were available for public comment for a period of two months until 31 December 1996. As a result of some concerns expressed in the submissions and another major wildfire in the Park, representatives from the NPNCA visited the Park on 2 and 3 February 1998 with a number of interested individuals and parties. The area affected by the more recent wildfire within the Fitzgerald River National Park along with other areas within the wilderness zone were inspected. The NPNCA considered and endorsed a revised fire management plan for the wilderness zone of the Fitzgerald River National Park at its meeting held 13 March 1998.

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. 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. Approval for the amendment to the management plan was given on 22 December 1999.

The overall fire management objective for the Fitzgerald wilderness is:

- to protect the wilderness itself and surrounding areas of national park from extensive wildfires using the minimum of human intervention; and
- all operations in the Fitzgerald River National Park are subject to prior completion of environmental checklists, dieback hygiene evaluations and job safety analyses as a matter of course. Such prescriptions and checklists are to be approved by the Department prior to implementation.

The need for a Fitzgerald River National Park research and monitoring group was foreshadowed in the revised Fitzgerald River National Park Fire Management Strategy, which saw the need for more information on the biological values of the wilderness zone to be taken into account in fire management planning for the area. A Fitzgerald River National Park Scientific Reference Group has now been established and the terms of reference, which are based on the Fire Management Strategy, are along the following lines. The Group is primarily concerned with issues relating to fire management, disease and threatened species in Fitzgerald River National Park, particularly in the wilderness zone and special conservation zone. The Group exists to provide information on the biological values of these areas and the impacts of fire, fire management and associated operations on these values and as a source of technical expertise providing advice on request to the NPNCA and the Department.

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	9	6
Flora Management plans	4	6
	Number approved	In draft
Interim Recovery Plans	69	~30

PUBLISHED RECOVERY PLANS

<i>Published Recovery Plans</i>	<i>Series number</i>
Western Swamp Tortoise	11
Noisy Scrub-bird	12
Chuditch	13
Rose Mallee	14
Wongan Triggerplant	15
Woylie	16
Djoongari (Shark Bay Mouse) Recovery Plan	17
Orange-bellied and White-bellied Frogs	19
Lancelin Island Skink Recovery Plan	22

DRAFT RECOVERY PLANS

Numbat
Dibbler
Corrigin Grevillea
Matchstick Banksia
Wongan Cactus
Toolibin Lake

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

Draft Flora Management Programs = 6

Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Esperance District
Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Moora District
Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Narrogin District
Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Katanning District
Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora of the Central Forest Region
Declared Rare and Poorly Known Flora in the Geraldton District

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 (<i>Teyl</i> species "C")	19
Wongan Gully Acacia	20
Western Woolly <i>Cyphanthera</i>	21
Blunt Wattle	22
Orange-flowered Wattle	23
Spiral Fruited Wattle	24
Spreading Grevillea	25
Green Hill Thomasia	26
Gingin Wax	27
Rough Emu Bush	28
Hinged Dragon Orchid	29
Giant Andersonia	30
Prostrate Flame Flower	31
Pungent Jackson	32
Trigwell's Rulingia	33
Abba Bell	34
Winged-fruited Lasiopetalum	35
Western Prickly Honeysuckle	36
Cunderdin Daviesia	37
Milky Emu Bush	38
Dwarf Spider Orchid	39
Pinnate-leaved Eremophila	40
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Heath dominated by one or more of <i>Regelia megacephala</i> , <i>Kunzea praestans</i> and <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> on ridges and slopes of the chert hills of the Coomberdale Floristic Region	65
Perched wetlands of the Wheatbelt region with extensive stands of living sheoak (<i>Casuarina obesa</i>) and paperbark (<i>Melaleuca strobophylla</i>) across the lake floor (occurrences other than Toolibin Lake)	66
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