

Wanjarri Nature Reserve Management Plan launched

A 10-YEAR management plan for one of Western Australia's most remote nature reserves has been launched.

The 53,000-hectare Wanjarri Nature Reserve is in the eastern Goldfields, about 60 kilometres north of Leinster and 90 km south east of Wiluna.

The management plan was prepared for the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNC) by CALM, and was funded by Goldfields Gas Transmission Pty Ltd.

It covers critical issues for the reserve, including feral animal control, fire

suppression, visitor impact, Aboriginal heritage, and mining company impact.

Chairman of the NPNC, Tom Day, said at the launch that Wanjarri Nature Reserve had one of the richest collections of vertebrate fauna of any arid zone nature reserve in WA.

"Given its relatively small area, and the fact that it is surrounded by pastoral leases controlled by mining companies, issues of neighbouring land management are very important," he said.

"Fortunately, the mining companies controlling

the neighbouring pastoral leases have been willing to assist.

"Western Mining Corporation and Dominion Mining have recently signed Memoranda of Understanding with CALM on management, research and monitoring of neighbouring lands.

Mr Day said these agreements would provide a sympathetically managed buffer around the reserve that would make it much more viable for native species' conservation.

The Wanjarri Nature Reserve is home to more than 122 bird species and a

number of threatened species, including the mulgara (a small carnivorous marsupial), and several rare and priority-listed plants.

"If these endangered populations are to be protected, continued support from neighbours in the form of feral animal control, habitat conservation and rehabilitation activities, is vital," Mr Day said.

The plan proposes to change the area's classification from nature reserve to conservation park—where recreation and camping are permitted.

"Once the classification is changed, one area of the

park can be zoned for recreational purposes and managed accordingly, while the rest remains devoted to conservation," he said.

"There will also be protection of sites significant to Aboriginal people, as well as relics of past European occupation."

Mr Day took the opportunity to welcome Western Mining's Brian Kennedy, Peter Longley and Adrian Leeds, Dominion Mining's Dave Milton and Mark Townsend, Great Central Mines' Len Boladeros, and Goldfields Gas Transmission's David Harrington, as well as local pastoralist

David Fitzgerald, and Goldfields Land Council representatives Yvonne Brownley and Lyall Walker.

He also welcomed Mrs Jean Lyneham, daughter of Tom Kinsella Moriarty, former lessee of Wanjarri Sheep Station, which is now Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

"Tom was light years ahead of his time. A conservationist before many people had heard the word, he set aside parts of his property to remain undeveloped, and worked closely with local Aboriginal people to protect native plants and ani-

mals," Mr Day said.

"To further ensure protection of local plants and animals, Tom later made a submission to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, recommending the property be bought by the State Government.

"Listening to Jean earlier today, it soon became clear to me that she had inherited her father's passion for this unique place and its people," Mr Day said.

Copies of the plan are available from CALM's Como headquarters and its Goldfields office in Kalgoorlie.



No-one could accuse this 'city suit', (and NPNC chairman) Tom Day of not having a 'sense of occasion'—but he was impressed with the appropriateness of the lectern. "It was exactly the right height for me," he said. Photo by Verna Costello



CALM Goldfields ecologist Andy Chapman, Yvonne Brownley and Goldfields Region planning officer Tony Brandis join Jean Lyneham (seated) in a brief respite after climbing one of the breakaways, which are a feature of Wanjarri Nature Reserve. Photo by Verna Costello

50B No 303 / 1 Ranch of Wanjarri Nature Reserve H/m ent Plen.

