

Management plan for Jurien Park

A POSSIBLE marine park at Jurien Bay may be the first in a series of world marine conservation reserves in WA.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes released an indicative management plan for the marine park at Jurien Bay in early October as part of the Coalition Government's New Horizons policy to create marine reserves.

The indicative management plan—released for a three-month public comment period—is a guide about how the proposed reserve would be managed.

Visitor increase

With an increase in visitors as a result of the planned new coast road linking Lancelin and Leeman, pressures on the marine environment are expected to increase.

"It's an important area

for marine biodiversity, having an unusual mix of tropical and temperate flora and fauna species. The area is also a breeding area for Australian sea lions, has extensive seagrass meadows and exceptionally high water quality," Mrs Edwardes said.

"It is popular for various marine-based recreational activities and supports a number of important commercial fisheries, including the valuable western rock lobster fishery."

She said the proposal to create a multiple-use marine park would ensure a framework was in place to provide for increases in recreational and commercial use of the area and to ensure they did not impact adversely on the pristine environment of the region.

The proposed Jurien

Bay Marine Park is one of five marine conservation reserves the Government has identified as short-term priorities. Others are in the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston area and Montebello/Barrow islands, Geographe Bay/Capes/Hardy Inlet region and the Walpole/Normalup estuaries. A review of the management plan and extensions to the Ningaloo Marine Park off the North West Shelf are also being considered.

Community interest

"A crucial part of the proposal's development has been the involvement of the community-based advisory committee," Mrs Edwardes said.

CALM conducted a broad public participation process to allow community input.

Interested people have been encouraged to read



At the launch of the indicative management plan for the proposed Jurien Bay Marine Park were CALM Mid-West Regional Operations Officer and Chairman of the Jurien community advisory group Nigel Sercombe (left), Marine Parks and Reserves Authority Deputy Chairman Ian Finlay, CALM Marine Conservation Branch Manager Chris Simpson, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, Dandaragan Shire Deputy President Mike Kenny and MRPMA Member Angus Horwood. Photo by Nigel Higgs

the plan and make a submission to CALM. By doing this, the final management will reflect a balanced view about how

the new park will be managed for today's and future generations.

For more information contact Nigel Sercombe

on (08) 9921 5955 or Chris Simpson on (08) 9432 5100. Copies of the indicative management plan are available from

our offices in Fremantle, Geraldton, Moora and Cervantes and on our Internet site at <http://www.naturebase.net>

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Launch of Indicative Management Plan
at Juwien, October 2000.