

# Conservation Commission launched

A NEW direction for the management of Western Australia's conservation estate has begun with the creation of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes said the new Commission would meet public demand for a separate, independent body to manage State forests.

The Commission is the vesting body for all conservation lands including national parks, nature reserves, conservation parks, multiple-use State forests and timber reserves.

Responsibility for native forest and plantation commercial activities has been transferred from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to the new Forest Products Commission.

Mrs Edwardes said the public had made it very clear it did not want a single agency as both a commercial user and conservator of the forest resource.

The Commission will have its own staff, including an auditing section that would oversee CALM's implementation of management plans as well as the vesting activities by the Forest Products Commission.

"The changes the Government has pioneered make a genuine advancement in conservation and land management while at the same time building on the strengths of the previous arrangements," she said.

Mrs Edwardes said allied to the new direction was a strong commitment to build on the public participation processes and to facilitate more public involvement in conservation.

"We have introduced an increasing level of openness and accountability so that there is greater public participation in both the preparation and implementation of forest management plans," she said.

The new Commission's members are:

- Campbell Ansell (Chair), Company Director
- Tom Day (Deputy Chair), chair of the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNC)
- Pat Barblett, founder and chair of Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism, and member of the former NPNC

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Conservation Commission members, L-R, Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes, Campbell Ansell (Chair), Dr Jenny Davis, Rodney Safstrom, Graeme Rundle, Pat Barblett, Barbara Morrell, Tom Day and Glen Kelly. (Absent: Dr Joanna Young). Photo by Ernie McLintock

## CALM in world-wide joint project

WESTERN Australia's role as one of the world's biodiversity 'hotspots' has been recognised through an invitation to be part of a co-operative Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP).

Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes



# Conservation Commission launched cont'd

- Dr Jenny Davis, Head of School of Environmental Science at Murdoch University
- Glen Kelly, Project Officer with the Aboriginal Lands Trust
- Barbara Morrell, Farmer in the Shire of Kent, member of the State Salinity Council and member of several community landcare and catchment management groups
- Graeme Rundle, Secretary, WA National Parks and Reserves Association and member of the Conservation Council of WA; a member of the former NPNCA
- Rodney Safstrom, Environmental Consultant and the Chair of Greening Australia

- Dr Joanna Young, consultant on forest pathology and forest management.

Mrs Edwardes said each member had been appointed for their expertise in relation to the Commission's functions.

CALM would be responsible for the integrated management of conservation lands and waters, including State forests and timber reserves, fire control and hazard reduction burning.

The Department's key functions included preparing management plans for consideration by the Conservation Commission as well as providing scientific advice and drafting policy in relation

to sustainable management, including sustainable levels of forest resources production.

However, the Conservation Commission can engage research when developing policy and in particular, it would promote and facilitate the involvement of the community.

Mrs Edwardes acknowledged the contribution of people who had served the State's conservation efforts as members of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Lands and Forest Commission in the past 15 years.

"Their efforts have laid a very firm foundation on which the new Conservation Commission can build," she said.









DEPARTMENT OF  
**Conservation**  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

**Key Principle**  
• Responsibility for the conservation and protection of fauna and flora throughout the film.

























