

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON PLAN FOR CARNAC ISLAND

Carnac Island, south-west of Fremantle, is becoming increasingly popular as a nature-based tourism destination, especially with commercial tour operators. However, there is the real possibility that, without sympathetic and ecologically sustainable management, the pressures on the island as a result of increasing visitor numbers could seriously degrade the very natural attractions people want to see.

Australian sea-lions—the world's rarest seal species—use the island as a haul-out area outside of their breeding season. The island is also an important nesting habitat for several species of seabirds such as little penguins, wedge-tailed shearwaters, pied cormorants, pied oystercatchers and several species of tern.

A recently released draft management plan, prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management on behalf of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia, outlines several strategies to help protect the island's conservation values while providing visitors with an opportunity to enjoy its natural beauty.



Above: The eastern bay of Carnac Island.

The public can now have a say in planning the future management of the Island and its wildlife. Among the factors to consider when making a submission is the island's significant population of tiger snakes. Tiger snakes are among the world's most deadly snakes and are a potential risk to visitors. Australian sea-lions also pose a potential risk to people and the draft plan contains guidelines to ensure visitor safety and minimise disturbance to the animals.

Other hazards include

steep, undercut limestone cliffs, which can be fragile and could collapse under the weight of people. The plan proposes to continue to allow access to the main beach, but has proposed a small visitor-exclusion zone to allow sea-lions a sanctuary area. Access to the beaches will continue to be limited to day-use only, and the use of temporary or seasonal controls will be considered if it is necessary to protect island wildlife further, such as beach-nesting birds. Other important issues covered in the draft

plan include weeds, fire and commercial operations.

Copies of the draft plan are available from the department's NatureBase website ([www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)), where you can also make an online submission. Printed forms are available from the department's offices at 17 Dick Perry Drive, Technology Park Western Precinct, Kensington, and at 47 Henry Street, Fremantle.

The deadline for public submissions is 24 May 2002.

WORKING TO CUT GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has taken steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, by sourcing 10 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources. The department is buying its power needs from the south-west grid as 'green electricity', and this commitment to 'green electricity' from the

grid will help support the development of renewable energy sources in Western Australia.

It has also undertaken an energy audit of its State Operations Headquarters in Kensington, as part of a program to develop an energy management plan covering all aspects of energy use. Already under way is the

department's implementation of a number of initiatives, particularly in remote locations, to increase the use of renewable energy resources such as solar power.

The department is preparing a Greenhouse Strategy to guide its actions to address greenhouse gas emissions, and this is expected to encourage other agencies

to adopt similar strategies.

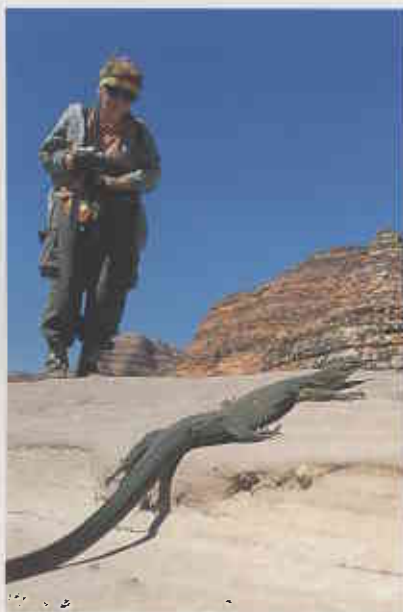
The department has been among the pioneers in promoting tree crops on cleared farmland as 'carbon sinks' and is actively engaged in promoting trading in 'carbon credits' as an economic diversification for the State's agricultural sector and to help conserve the State's biodiversity.

Winner of the Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting.

# LANDSCOPE



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During the past decade more than 500 people have contributed to science projects in WA by joining a LANDSCOPE Expedition (see page 34).



Since the 1960s Barrow Island's animals have shared their island paradise with the oil industry. Read how the mammals are being monitored and protected. See page 18.



Georgiana Molloy made a major contribution to the early botanical knowledge of the south-west. Read about this remarkable woman on page 43.



The Goldfields Woodlands National Park protects the region's best examples of eucalypt woodlands (see page 28).



Collecting seeds is one way in which we are helping to conserve biodiversity. Join the 'Hunters and Gatherers for Conservation' on page 49.

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Visit NatureBase at [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)

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## COVER

There's something going on in our schools. Students are voluntarily taking an active interest in conserving their local environments. They are visiting forests, beaches and wetlands to study native wildlife. And they are having fun! What is happening and why? See 'EcoEducation—winning over school communities' on page 10.



Cover illustration by Ellen Hickman

