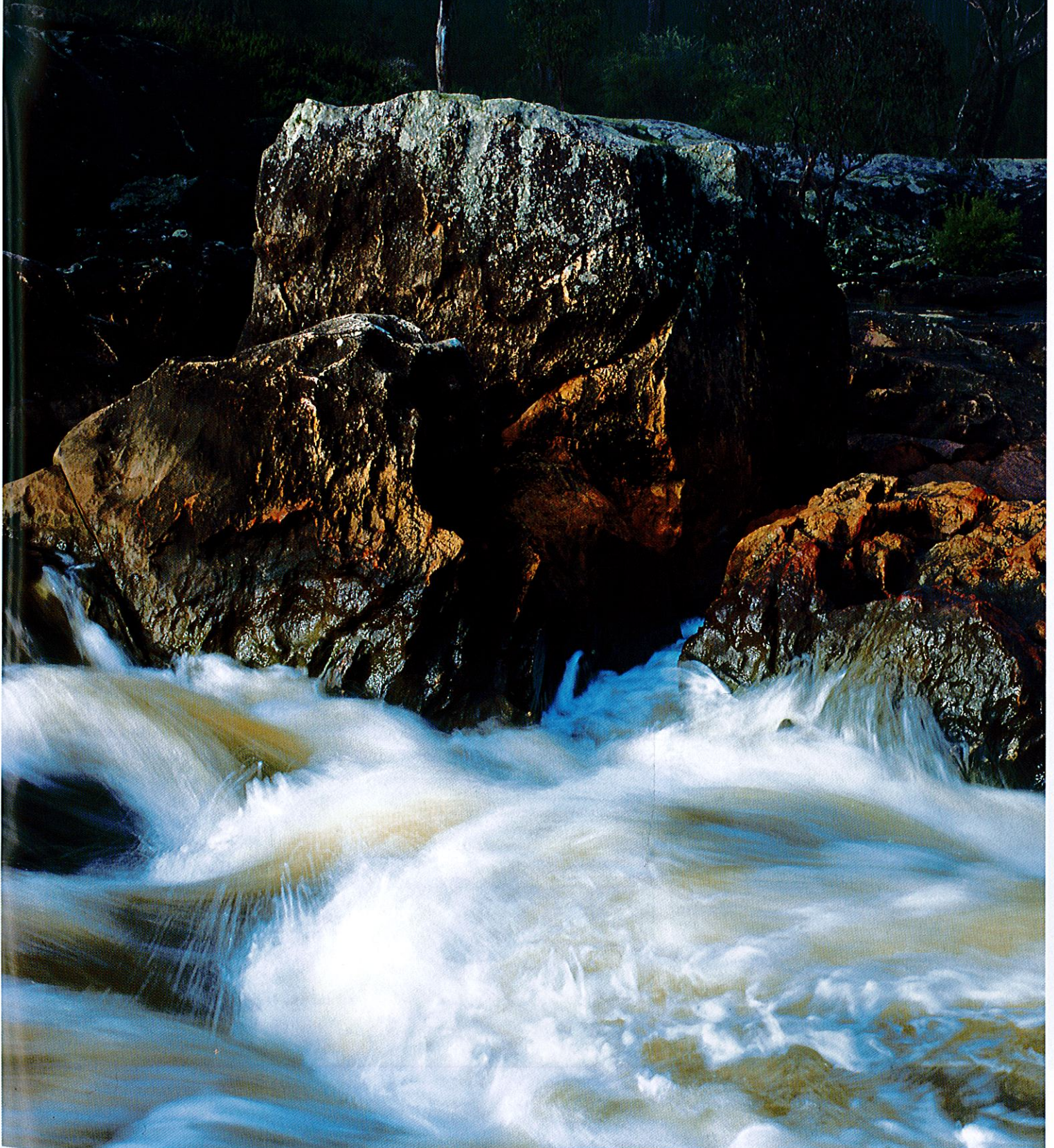


# LANE POOLE RESERVE INTO THE FUTURE

A DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE HIGHLY POPULAR LANE POOLE RESERVE. THE PLAN SEEKS TO ENHANCE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE WITH IMPROVED CAMPGROUNDS AND ACCESS, WHILE ALSO SAFEGUARDING THREATENED PLANTS, MAMMALS AND BIRDS. BY SAMILLE MITCHELL AND MELISSA MAZZELLA





The forest-cloaked valleys and meandering waterways of Lane Poole Reserve near Dwellingup attract some 170,000 visitors a year. People flock here to canoe tranquil stretches of the Murray River in spring, race the river waters in winter on rafts, hike through the jarrah-marri forest along the Bibbulmun Track, cycle the Munda Biddi Trail, fish and camp.

But as the area's popularity grows, so too does the pressure on its natural environment. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is to release a new draft management plan for the reserve that seeks to enhance the experience for visitors, while also better protecting the natural attractions that visitors have come to admire.

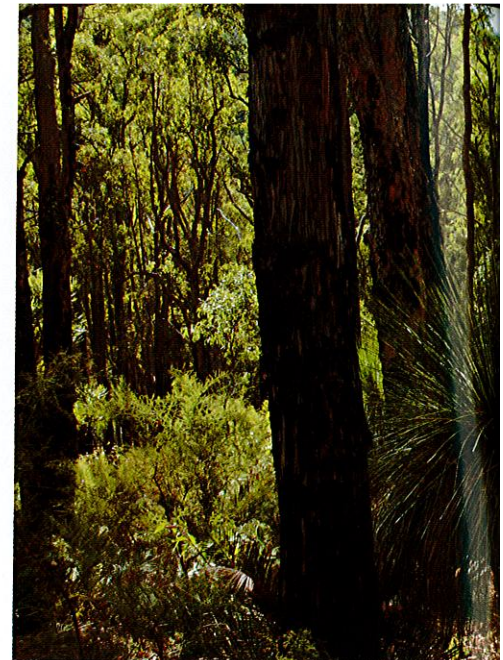


● Lane Poole Reserve

### Natural attractions

Lane Poole Reserve lies on the edge of the Darling Scarp about 100 kilometres south-east of Perth and 24 kilometres east of Pinjara. The draft management plan sets out the strategic management direction for the 51,643-hectare reserve and proposes several additions totalling 24,163 hectares. The plan, once finalised, will protect 75,806 hectares of steep valley slopes, the waters and still pools of the Murray River, old-growth forest, tall open forests of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), and wandoo (*E. wandoo*) woodlands to the east.

In all, about 500 native flora species adorn the landscape here. Such species offer habitat for 32 species of native mammals and 123 species of native birds. Some habitats are in particular



need of protection. For example, the densely vegetated *Taxandria* swamp thickets with a sedge understorey provide habitat for the quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), which is restricted on the mainland, as well as the highly threatened noisy scrub-bird.

Of the mammals that occur here, 22 are endemic to the management plan area, while 13 are specially protected fauna. Threatened species like the woylie (*Bettongia penicillata*), western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*) and numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) survive here, hidden deep within the reserve, while protected birds like the Baudin's and Carnaby's black-cockatoos screech raucously from the tree tops. The wetlands harbour several frog species, while the waters are home to five species of native fish, including several species which only occur in the south-west.

There are many threats to reserve's natural values. Environmental weeds, introduced animals such as foxes and pigs and diseases such as dieback



Previous page

Main Lane Poole Reserve.

Photo - David Bettini

Above right Jarrah and grass tree woodland.

Photo - Michael Pelusey

Left Bike riding is popular at Lane Poole Reserve.

Photo - Lee Stewart/Lochman

Transparencies

Below Noisy scrub-bird.

Photo - Jiri Lochman







caused by the deadly plant pathogen *Phytophthora* threaten to upset the natural balance. Wildfire also threatens the area—a threat which is tackled by strategic prescribed burning to protect biological and community assets. The draft management plan highlights how DEC will manage these threats.

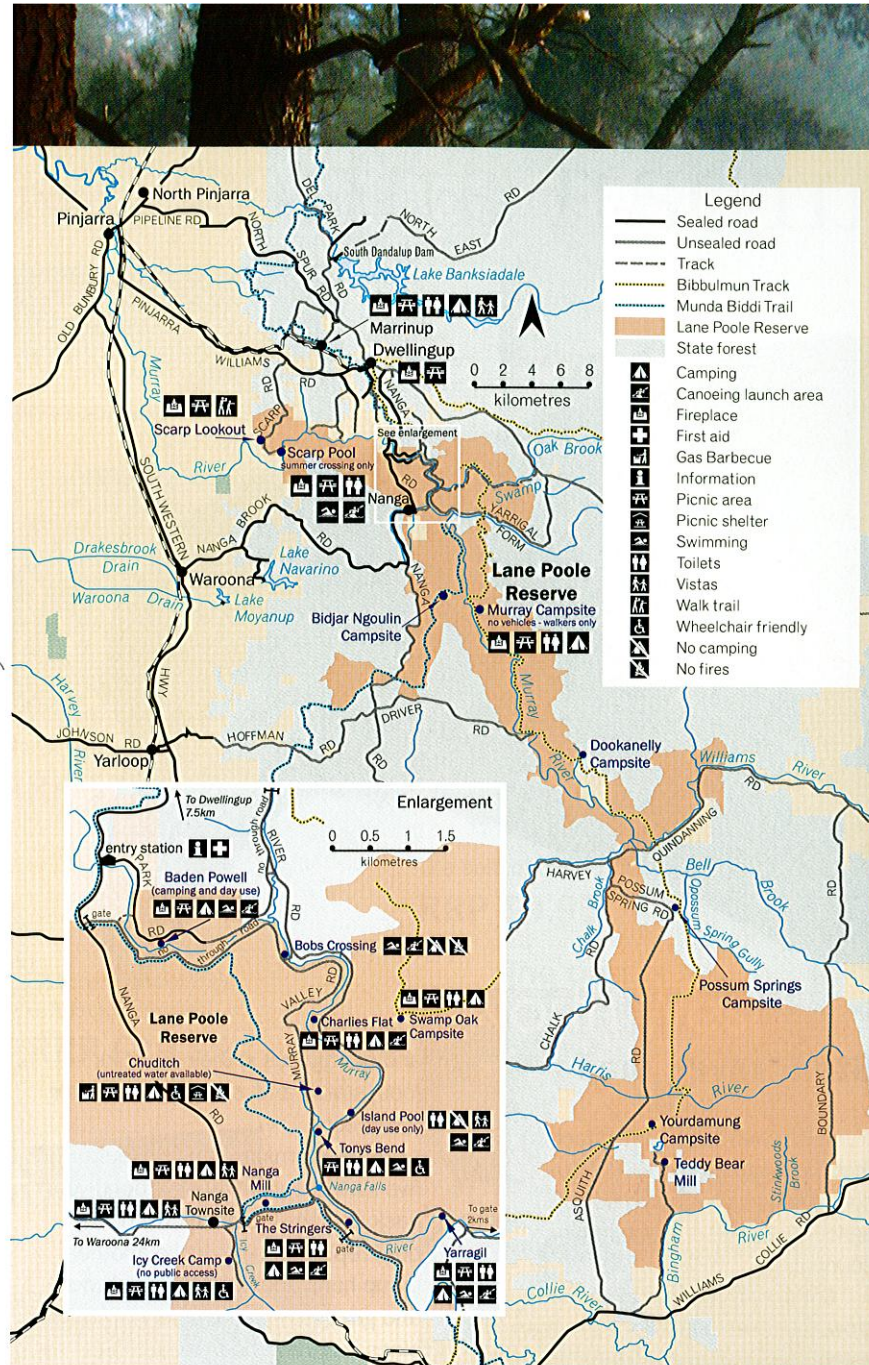
### Visitor opportunities

Lane Poole Reserve caters for many user groups with a diverse range of facilities and opportunities. The plan outlines a host of initiatives aimed at improving the experience for visitors. Perhaps most noteworthy are plans to expand and improve the campgrounds.

The reserve has 15 camping areas offering a range of experiences for visitors. Campers wishing to be more secluded are best suited to sites such as Chuditch Campsite and low-key camping at Charlies Flat, with the larger campgrounds at Baden Powell and Nanga Mill. Icy Creek can cater for large groups with its bush cabins, campground and kitchen facilities.

Four-wheel drivers are catered to within the management planning area, with the Nanga Heritage Circuit and the new Captain Fawcett Commemorative Track. And walkers have several options, including the 18-kilometre King Jarrah Walk and 3.8-kilometre Chuditch Walk Trail, which takes in the timber heritage aspects of the reserve through Nanga Mill and Nanga Townsite.

Walkers on the Bibbulmun Track, which traverses the reserve, will benefit from upgrades earmarked within the management plan, with proposals to redesign Dookanelly, Murray, Swamp



**Right background** Camping at Nanga.  
Photo - Michael Pelusey

Oak and Yourdamung camp shelters to cater to the ever-increasing numbers of people walking this long-distance track. Cyclists are not forgotten, with the Munda Biddi Trail camp shelter, Bidjar Ngoulin, also up for a redesign to cater to more bike riders. The plan also outlines plans for road realignments and a new entry station.

While the draft management plan is soon to be released for public comment, the finalised plan will guide management of the popular recreation getaway for years to come. With the right plans in place, people can continue to flock here to immerse themselves in a beautiful natural environment while minimising their impacts on the very landscapes they've come to admire.



Samille Mitchell is a Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) publications officer and *LANDSCOPE* editor. She can be contacted on (08) 9389 4020 or by email ([samille.mitchell@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:samille.mitchell@dec.wa.gov.au)).

Melissa Mazzella is a DEC planning officer and can be contacted on (08) 9334 0403 or by email ([melissa.mazzella@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:melissa.mazzella@dec.wa.gov.au)).



- 52 Into the wild: restoring rangelands fauna  
The former pastoral station Lorna Glen is now becoming a haven for threatened wildlife, thanks to fauna reintroduction efforts.
- 59 Lane Poole Reserve into the future  
A draft management plan guides the future of this popular camping and recreation area near Dwellingup.

## Regulars

- 3 Contributors and Editor's letter
- 15 Bookmarks  
*Pemberton Wine Region Western Australia*  
*The Clean Industrial Revolution*  
*Rescuing the Rangelands*
- 30 Feature park  
Rowley Shoals Marine Park
- 45 Endangered  
Gilbert's potoroo
- 62 Urban antics  
Stark raven mad...

### Publishing credits

**Executive Editor** Ron Kawailak.

**Editors** Samille Mitchell, Rhianna King.

### Scientific/technical advice

Kevin Kenneally, Paul Jones, Keith Morris.

**Design and production** Natalie Jolakoski, Tiffany Taylor, Gooitzen van der Meer.

**Illustration** Gooitzen van der Meer.

**Cartography** Promaco Geodraft.

**Marketing** Estelle de San Miguel.

Phone (08) 9334 0296 Fax (08) 9334 0432.

### Subscription enquiries

Phone (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437.

**Prepress and printing** Lamb Print, Western Australia.

© ISSN 0815-4465

All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers.

Please do not send unsolicited material, but feel free to contact the editors.

Visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)

Published by the Department of Environment and Conservation, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia.



Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

