

INTRODUCTION

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At its thirteenth meeting in July 1984, the Council of Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) supported a proposal for a technical workshop on the management of islands in the Australian-New Zealand region. The Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) accepted the task of convening the workshop and decided that it would be held on Barrow Island, a 22 500 ha nature reserve of great importance situated off the Pilbara coast.

Barrow Island, as well as being one of the most important island reserves in the world, also supports a producing oil field. The Company that owns and operates the oil field, West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) agreed to support the workshop and its conservation consultant, Mr W.H. (Harry) Butler, provided generous support and assistance to the organiser. I am most grateful to WAPET and Harry for their assistance.

The workshop was held from November 8 to 13, 1985. Its objective was to review island survey, ecology and management as it relates to nature conservation, and to publish a series of comprehensive review papers as an up-to-date statement of current island biological conservation.

The workshop was attended by representatives of a number of Australian State, Territory and Commonwealth and New Zealand nature conservation agencies and by other people involved in island research and conservation. The Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian nature conservation authorities were not represented at the workshop, although New South Wales contributed a paper. A list of participants is given below.

In addition to the presentation of review papers and workshop sessions, field excursions constituted a most important part of the workshop. Oil was discovered on Barrow Island in 1964 and by 1985 over 700 wells had been drilled. Workshop participants were able to see WAPET's management procedures in action, and this gave impetus to discussions about ways of preventing deleterious impacts on islands elsewhere.

This publication is the report of the CONCOM Technical Workshop on Island Management. As well as the papers presented at Barrow Island it includes a contributed paper from New South Wales and Workshop Reports resulting from discussions held on the island. Finally, it includes the Summary Report of the Workshop.