

# BIOSPHERE RESERVES

At the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) Standing Committee Meeting of May 7, 1976, the question of Biosphere Reserves was discussed in relation to the UNESCO Programme called "Man and the Biosphere." Two pamphlets explaining the programme and giving criteria for identifying such areas were provided by the Australian National Commission of UNESCO and distributed to the Standing Committee.

There was agreement at the meeting that a number of significant Australian areas should be included on the list but there was general concern about how best to identify them.

In general, it appears that Biosphere reserves essentially should be self (contained) regulating, effective units containing a diversity of typical and representative ecosystems of national and international significance. The ecosystems can be either natural or extensively man modified. The Reserves should be protected and managed by a responsible Authority.

From those areas in Western Australia of outstanding importance to conservation in Australia the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has selected fourteen which may be suitable for inclusion in the UNESCO Biosphere list.



Solea Falls, Drysdale River National Park. Note helicopter near top of the falls.



Geographic distribution as described in list hereunder.

Name	Area (ha)	Loc. No.
Prince Regent River Nature Reserve	633 830	A
Hamersley Range National Park	590 200	B
Barlee Range Nature Reserve	104 400	C
Rudall River Area*	1 216 800†	D
Lake Disappointment Area*	350 000†	E
Gibson Desert Area*	1 457 000†	F
Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve	272 600	G
Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve	2 495 780	H
Nuytsland Nature Reserve	884 090	I
Cape Arid National Park		
Fitzgerald River National Park	242 730	J
Kalbarri National Park	186 620	K
Drysdale River National Park	424 344	L
Chichester Range National Park	150 609	M

†Areas are approximate only.

\* Areas proposed as either National Parks or Nature Reserves and endorsed by Cabinet.

## CORRECTION

Section 1A on page 12, S.W.A.N.S., Vol. 6 No. 1 (Our Diminishing Heritage) should be deleted.

It should read:

A. The fur of Potoroos feels soft.

The fur of Bandicoots feels harsh.