

Explaining other aspects of the policies Mr. MacKinnon said that associated with the control of the fishing effort will be a control on the total processing capacity for prawns. This will be done under recent legislation passed by Parliament (see monthly Service Bulletin Vol. XVI, No. 12) which gives the Director power to refuse a processing license if he considers it to be in the better interest of the fishing industry to so do.

Every encouragement will be given to freezer boats already engaged in the crayfishing industry to move into the prawning industry and process their catch.

However, mother-ships will not be permitted to produce a final packed product on board. The Department will permit them holding the catch, in a frozen condition, prior to being transported to a shore based plant for final processing. These vessels will be regarded as an extension of the shore based plant. Mr. MacKinnon said shore based plants in the prawning industry will have to be approved by the Department to ensure that it is in the better interest of the fishing industry.

LET'S KEEP THEM NATURAL !

It is gratifying to learn that gradually the public of Western Australia is beginning to be more active in the task to preserve our rich wildlife heritage. Interest in native animals and birds is generally deeply rooted in the minds and emotions of a broad cross-section of people. It manifests itself in such widely different individuals as those who enjoy hunting anything and those who are ardent naturalists and desire total protection for all living creatures. In a normal community a conservation plan between these two extremes is desirable.

The term "fauna" applies to all vertebrate Western Australian fauna, whether indigenous or introduced and whether aviary bred or not. It includes in its definition, frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals, alive or dead and any part of them, their nests, eggs and young.

Fauna conservation means the wisest possible use and management, over a long term of all our wild birds and other animals for the benefit of all the people. The basic needs of fauna are adequate food, water and cover to meet their specific requirements and protection from decimating factors which reduce their numbers. These needs can be met only by proper management and control of the land or the waters the fauna inhabit. To partly meet this responsibility, certain areas of land and water are set aside for the conservation of the fauna and flora.

The importance of such wildlife reserves, in the past, was not widely appreciated and was too often under-rated by persons unaware of, or out of sympathy with, the value and requirements of our remarkable fauna.

It is gratifying to learn that Shire Councils, and the people individually, are gradually learning that reserves set aside for the conservation of fauna and flora are not to be used to dump rubbish.

A recent example was where a long established practice of dumping rubbish on a reserve which had been set aside for the conservation of flora and fauna, in the Kondinin Shire, was brought to a close with the full co-operation of the Shire Council. Action was taken by the Kondinin Shire Council to clear up the area previously used as a rubbish dump. Notices were then erected prohibiting the dumping of rubbish on any part of the reserve. The Shire Council's appreciation that conservation reserves need to be kept clear of rubbish and that they be disturbed as little as possible, is encouraging.

Mr. T. Evans, the Department's Warden of Fauna stationed at Pingelly, must be complimented for his campaign to keep litter out of sanctuaries. It is due to his efforts that the co-operation of this Shire Council was gained and the case for conservation upheld.