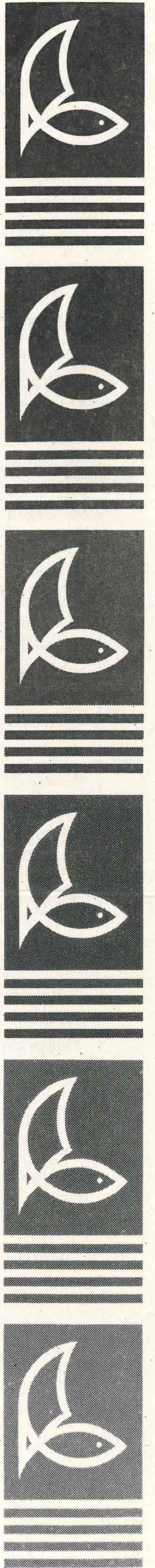


WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Guidelines for the preparation of foreshore management plans in waterways management areas

- a guide for proponents

**Waterways Guidelines No 5
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FORESHORE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The foreshores are an integral part of any waterway system providing a biological unit, a scenic resource and a valuable tourism and recreational asset.

Waterways management authorities constituted under the Waterways Conservation Act 1976 Amended are responsible for planning, managing and protecting various waterways in the south west of Western Australia. These authorities provide advice to the Department of Planning and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Authority and local government authorities on development and subdivision proposals in and adjoining waterways.

The waterways management authorities regularly see proposals to develop the foreshores and abutting land. One of the best ways of ensuring these development proposals enhance and maintain the integrity of the river system is to prepare foreshore management plans for these areas. These plans guide future use of the foreshore and outline management strategies to enhance these areas. Consequently the waterway management authorities often recommend the development of foreshore management plans when providing advice to decision making authorities

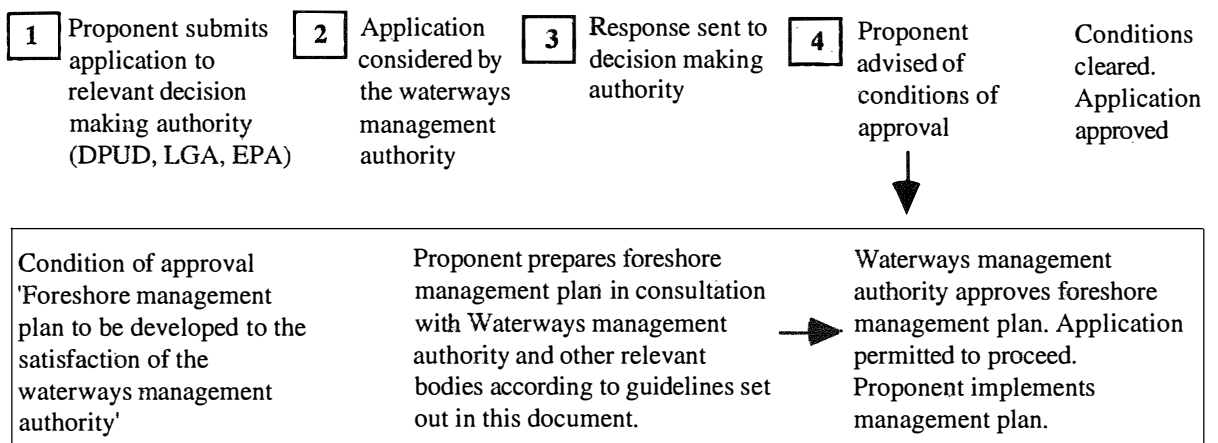
These guidelines have been prepared to assist proponents in the preparation of foreshore management plans. The guidelines outline what information the proponent should include in a management plan and the process by which a plan should be prepared. Foreshore management plans should be brief, addressing only the pertinent issues and outlining solutions. Management plans should not necessarily be a costly exercise for the proponent.

Waterway management authorities may also require other management plans to be prepared. These may include nutrient irrigation management plans (NIMP) and landscape plans. Separate guidelines are currently being prepared to guide the preparation of these plans.

Responsibility of the proponent

Once a condition is set on a subdivision or development approval it is mandatory to comply with the condition. If the condition relates to the preparation of a foreshore management plan, subdivisional or development works should not proceed until the plan has been approved by the waterways management authority.

The planning process



CONTENTS OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section outlines the basic requirements of a waterways management authority for the development of a foreshore management plan. Following these guidelines will ensure that the needs of the authority are met and that the development can proceed smoothly with no unnecessary delays.

The following sections should be included in the plan.

Study area

- Define the study area.
- Specify co-ordinates and cadastral references.
- Use maps to illustrate location.

Purpose and aim of the plan

- Establish the purpose or aim of the plan.

Tenure and zoning

- Outline the tenure of land being considered including crown reserves, vacant crown land and private land and the town planning scheme and MRS zonings.
- Use maps to illustrate this information.

Description of the environment

- Briefly describe the physical, biological and social elements of the study area. This section should be brief and specific. One page in length is acceptable.

Relevant studies

- Outline plans, policies and recommendations that affect the study area. For example the Department of Planning and Urban Development regional plans, System Report studies,

town planning schemes, local rural strategies waterways management programmes and plans.

Issues

- Briefly outline the issues pertaining to the study area including those identified by the checklist supplied by the waterways management authority.

Objectives

- Outline management objectives for the issues identified above. These should be clear, concise and achievable.

Actions

- Outline what the proponent is going to do to achieve the objectives and address the issues.

Management responsibilities

- Identify the overall coordinator who will be responsible for implementation of the management plan.
- Identify who will implement individual actions.
- Identify the future vesting body or manager of the foreshore land.

Funding

- Outline the funding arrangements for management of the foreshore land.

Implementation

- Construct a timetable for implementation of the various actions.

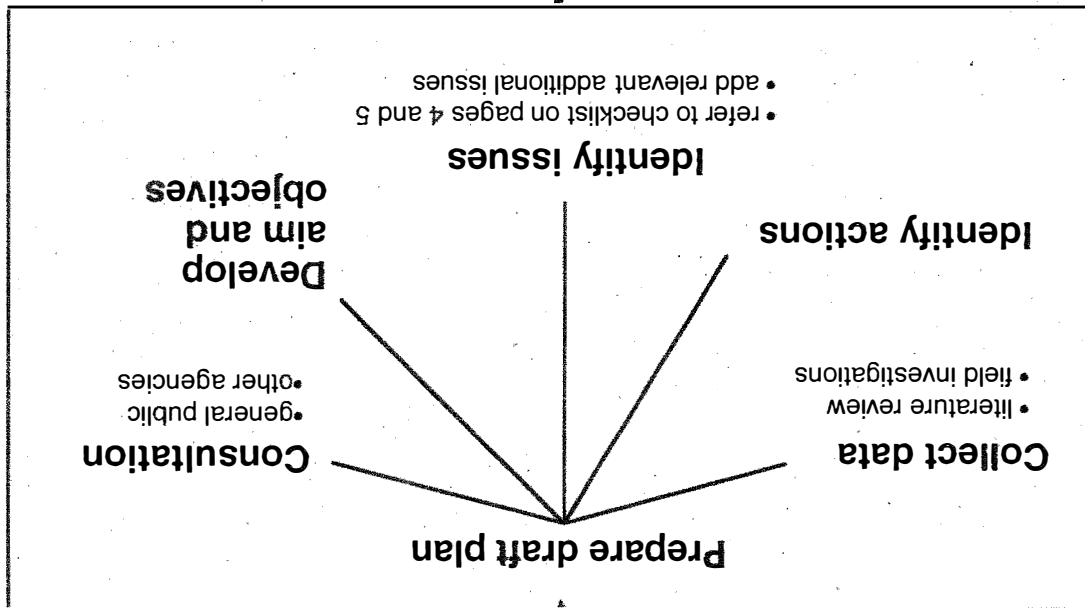
Review

- Determine a suitable period after which the management plan is to be reviewed.

PREPARATION OF A PLAN

Consult with the waterways management authority

The proponent should first consult with officers of the waterways management authority. These officers will identify issues on the checklist contained on pages 4 and 5. These issues will not be exhaustive however, they will provide a guide to the authority's key concerns. It is not the responsibility of officers to prepare the management plan but to enable the streamlined preparation of these documents. At this time officers may also indicate other relevant agencies who need to be consulted whilst preparing the plan. Note: Often development proposals may raise concern amongst the general public. It may be necessary in these instances for the proponent to conduct public meetings to obtain community comment. Officers will indicate whether this is necessary.



Submit draft plan to waterways management authority

The authority will ensure that the draft plan covers all issues adequately. The authority may advise of changes to the draft plan which are necessary for approval

Revise draft plan

Concerns of the authority should be incorporated into the draft plan and a final plan prepared

CHECKLISTS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aboriginal sites	Aboriginal sites are protected by legislation. Such sites need to be identified and protected.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drainage/hydrology	An assessment of any proposed changes to the existing surface and groundwater drainage of the site is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erosion	Processes of erosion and accretion need to be determined and if necessary, methods of reducing identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fauna habitat	Measures should be taken to maintain or enhance native fauna habitats.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire management	Provision should be made to minimise the likelihood of wild fires and provide access in times of fire.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flooding	Facilities should be located outside the floodway. Vegetation planting should be designed to withstand inundation by flood waters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreshore vegetation	Preference should be given to the enhancement and maintenance of native vegetation and protection of fauna habitat.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heritage value	Strategies should be developed to protect areas of local and regional heritage. Some of these will be protected by legislation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land tenure	Wherever possible the whole foreshore should be consolidated into one reserve and vested with one agency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	Natural landscape features should be protected and 'linked' with surrounding areas. Key exotic landscapes may be worthy of protection.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mosquitoes	Mosquito control measures should ensure wetland areas are protected.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nutrient export	Measures should be taken to minimise nutrient export from the site into the waterway.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public access	Access should be restricted to defined nodes in order to protect important flora and fauna habitats and facilities designed to minimise alteration to the environment. Public access to these nodes should be through dual use paths.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	Recreation should harmonise with the local environment and not involve major alteration to the area. Nodes of degraded foreshore may be identified for recreational use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserve boundaries	The reserve should be physically defined to discourage intrusion from surrounding land uses. This can be achieved through dual use paths and uniform fencing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil types	Soil types should be determined to establish suitable vegetation for the area and identify nutrient leaching problems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stormwater disposal	This should occur in accordance with the policy of the local waterways management authority.
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Report studies	Recommendations for areas identified in the Department of Conservation and Environment (1983) Systems Reports should be implemented as far as practicable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utility services	Corridors for utility services should be identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water features	Where water features exist or are proposed an assessment of water quality and landscaping will be required. Nutrient Irrigation Management Plans may be required in some cases.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water quality	Measures to ensure ongoing satisfactory water quality should be developed. Nutrient Irrigation Management Plans may be required in some cases.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weed and feral animal control	Environmentally safe and cost effective measures for control of weed species and feral animals should be identified. Herbicides are to be to the satisfaction and specifications of the Department of Environmental Protection and the waterways management authority.

Agencies to be consulted

State government agencies

Local government authorities

Community groups

***GUIDELINES IN THIS SERIES**

1. Local government and waterways management - considerations in the planning and management of land near waterways
2. Guidelines for the preparation of foreshore management plans - a guide for proponents (Swan River Trust).
3. Guidelines for the development of a waterways protection precinct (in preparation).
4. Guidelines for residential wastewater disposal (in preparation).
5. Guidelines for the preparation of foreshore management plans in waterways management areas - a guide for proponents.