




Government of Western Australia
Conservation and Parks Commission

Conservation and Parks Commission Annual Report 2021–22





Cover photos

Top Jarrah forest, Munro Ecological thinning trial, Munro Forest Block, Balingup. *Photo – Kathleen Lowry*

Centre left Abrolhos Islands. *Photo – Kathleen Lowry*

Centre right Carnaby's Cockatoo. *Photo – Rick Dawson*

Bottom left Castle Rock, Porongorup. *Photo – DBCA*

Bottom right *Beaufortia aestiva* (Sand Bottlebrush). *Photo – Karla Forrest*



Government of **Western Australia**
Conservation and Parks Commission

Conservation and Parks Commission
Annual Report 2021–22

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Transmittal to the Minister

Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Environment

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Conservation and Parks Commission for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 in accordance with section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.



Professor Chris Doepel PSM
Chair
Conservation and Parks Commission

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Overview

Chair's report

The year in review saw further implementation of the Western Australian Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative, commencement of work on a new Forest Management Plan (FMP), and continuing oversight of the frameworks for managing the conservation estate. The Commission's role in reviewing new park proposals and planning for a new FMP was supported throughout the reporting period by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). It was a period of continuing difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions on face-to-face meetings and absences of commission and departmental colleagues because of illness were among the obstacles to be overcome in what remained essentially a co-operative enterprise involving Ministers, departmental officers, members of the community and the Commission in working through the many issues that arise in planning and managing the conservation estate.

The Commission believes that Western Australians can be rightfully proud of the finalisation of joint management plans for three new marine reserves and the amalgamation of four existing marine parks during the reporting period. Located along the Kimberly coastline, these reserves provide for conservation and management of pristine wilderness areas for which the state enjoys worldwide renown. The successful resolution of joint management plans with the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters that make up these reserves places the interests of Aboriginal communities at the forefront.

The Commission's preparation of a new FMP for the period 2024 to 2033 was preceded by the Government's announcement in September 2021 of a significant policy decision to end large scale commercial timber harvesting and preserve 400,000 hectares of south-west native forest. The move from timber production as a principal objective of the FMP to conservation, necessitated changes to data and information-gathering, and the bases for stakeholder consultation, in establishing processes and timelines for development of the plan. Those processes continue beyond the reporting period.

Sitting behind the prominent matters in which the Commission was involved were the many activities surrounding the updating of management plans, reviews of management effectiveness, and clarifying policy parameters. Management plans are not static and require updating from time to time to accommodate changes in use and for social and infrastructure purposes, for example, during the reporting period, the Commission reviewed the effectiveness of marine park management and carried out an end-of-term performance review of the FMP 2014-23. Policies such as prescribed burning remained under constant review and statements declaring the Commission's position on activities proposed in the conservation estate were revised and reissued.

In closing, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to Commission members for their time and commitment, to the Commission's Director Ms Kathleen Lowry for her tireless support, and to the Director General and staff of DBCA for the excellent support and services they provided throughout the reporting period.

Professor Chris Doepel PSM

Chair

Conservation and Parks Commission

Purpose

The Western Australian Conservation and Parks Commission has an important role to conserve the State's biological diversity and ensure the conservation estate is managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

The Commission's purpose is to act as a trusted community steward and government advisor for the protection of Western Australia's biodiversity and conservation estate while fostering its appreciation and sustainable use.

Functions

The Commission is a body corporate under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), comprising seven members appointed by the Governor through nomination by the State Minister for Environment. As part of its functions, the Commission has vested in it the following lands:

- (i) State forest, timber reserves and marine reserves
- (ii) unless section 8B(2)(f) of the CALM Act applies, national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves, either solely or jointly with an Aboriginal body corporate
- (iii) relevant land referred to in CALM Act section 5(1)(g).

The Commission also has the care, control and management of relevant land referred to in section 5(1)(h) placed with it, either solely or jointly with another person or body.

Section 19 of the CALM Act relates to the functions of the Commission which include:

- advising the Minister on the development of policies
- preparing and dealing with proposed management plans for land and water vested in or under the care, control, and management of the Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body
- conducting periodic assessments of the implementation of management plans by those responsible for implementing them, including the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and, if the land is State forest or a timber reserve, the Forest Products Commission (FPC).

Commission membership

Subject to sections 21(4) and 22 of the CALM Act, members are to be persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, have knowledge and experience or a particular function or vocational interest that is relevant to the functions of the Commission.

Professor Chris Doepel PSM – Chair (from 7 May 2019, former Deputy Chair)



Chris Doepel is a part-time Professor at the University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle, where he chairs the University's Program and Course Accreditation Committee and undertakes policy work within the Division of Academic Affairs. Until March 2016, he was the Dean of Business and Chair of College Committees for Arts and Sciences, Business and Law at the University. Prior to undertaking this last role, he was Dean of the Faculty of Law and Business at Murdoch University in Perth. Before joining Murdoch University in 2008, Chris was the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the National Native Title Tribunal. He has extensive experience as a senior manager in public administration and in the formulation of policy advice to governments. Chris holds a Bachelor of Jurisprudence, a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Arts. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. In 2006, Chris was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) in the Australia Day Honours for his native title work.

Mrs Jo-anne Lanagan – Deputy Chair (from 7 May 2019)



Jo Lanagan is the Chief Executive Officer at Central Desert Native Title Services, where she has worked in various roles for the past eight years. Jo has held senior roles in the State and Commonwealth Governments including Director of Heritage and Culture at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Director of Claims Management for the Office of Native Title. She has led negotiations on behalf of both the State and Commonwealth Governments in the Australian Square Kilometre Array Project, leading to the CSIRO build of the largest radio astronomy observatory in the world and Australia hosting international radio astronomy projects. Jo was one of two negotiators on behalf of the State Government to reach a comprehensive native title settlement with the Yawuru people over Broome, resulting in the creation of conservation estate and of a marine park. Through her native title work Jo has had the good fortune to visit much of the more remote conservation estate in Western Australia.

Mr Alan Walker – Member (from 7 May 2018–Sept 2021)



Alan Walker worked for more than 45 years in the management of parks, reserves and State forests in Western Australia. Since retiring from the public sector, he has also worked in the private sector in the field of bushfire management. For 10 years he was the Director of Regional Services in the former Department of Environment and Conservation. He was the leader of the State's involvement in the development of the first Regional Forest Agreement that prescribed outcomes in forest and biodiversity conservation, timber production and the protection of cultural and heritage values. He was the co-author of several forest and national park management plans. Alan was awarded an Honours Degree in Science (Forestry) from the Australian National University. He is a volunteer guide and committee member with the Rottnest Voluntary Guides Association. He was a former President

in Rotary and the leader of a Rotary Group Study Exchange team to South Wales. He is a keen bushwalker and has an interest in nature-based tourism.

Mrs Tania (Tahn) Donovan – Member (from 7 May 2019)



Tania (Tahn) Donovan is a Wadandi Yok woman from Busselton and has experience in Aboriginal affairs in relation to employment, tourism, business development, policy and capacity building across State Government. Tahn is currently working as a Project and Membership Officer with National Native Title Council. She has a wide range of skills and experiences in the environmental, tourism and hospitality, disability employment, farming and transport industries.

Ms Penny Bond – Member (from 7 May 2019)



Penny Bond graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (with Distinction) and Bachelor of Arts from Murdoch University and has both public and private sector experience. She previously worked as a Senior Policy Adviser in State Government, with responsibility for ensuring the implementation of cross-portfolio policies and progressing Bills through Cabinet and the State Parliament. Penny represented the Minister as a Panel Member on the Ministerial Advisory Panel for Occupational Health and Safety Reform, which saw her work collaboratively with stakeholders on important law reform. Penny is a lawyer at MinterEllison and is

undertaking a Master of Laws at The University of Western Australia, where she was recently recognised as the highest achieving postgraduate student in Climate Change and Emissions Trading Law. Penny enjoys hiking and camping and is passionate about the appreciation of Western Australia's conservation estate.

Ms Kim Eckert OAM – Member (from 7 May 2020)



Kim resides in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and is the Chief Executive Officer of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG), a not-for-profit community organisation in the Goldfields. Kim uses her broad range of skills and experience in conservation and the environment, not-for-profit, community group, disability, tourism, and volunteering sectors to assist community groups in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and sits on many community committees. Appointed as a WA Parks Foundation Ambassador in 2017, Kim is passionate about our State's conservation areas, educating the community about the

local flora (including facilitating traditional owners to educate the community about traditional bush food and bush medicine), connecting people to parks and nature and promoting travel in Western Australia to our most precious and natural areas. Kim holds a qualification in conservation and land management and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2019, Kim was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her significant contributions to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community. She is a Councillor for the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and also sits on the Pastoral Lands Board as the Conservation Interest Member.

Dr John Keesing – Member (from 7 May 2021)



Dr John Keesing is a Senior Principal Research Scientist with the CSIRO and is Australia's representative on the UNESCO Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms. As a marine biologist he has carried out research in Australia, New Zealand, China, India and Japan, publishing more than 100 scientific articles. John has led ship-based research voyages surveying the biodiversity in many of the marine parks off the Western Australian coast and in his spare time he enjoys camping and exploring in our national parks. John holds a Bachelor of Applied Science, a PhD in Zoology and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment. He was previously a Visiting Senior Professor with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and is a past President of the Australian Marine Sciences Association.

Executive support

The Secretariat of the Commission had the following staff at 30 June 2022:

Director – Ms Kathleen Lowry MBA, BEd

Operational systems support was provided to the Commission by DBCA under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DBCA and the Commission for service delivery effective as of October 2020.

Priorities – building an environmental legacy

Government environmental priorities have seen the development of key initiatives in the areas of legislative reform such as the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, (BC Act), and key election commitments and government priorities including:

- continued expansion of the Aboriginal Ranger program
- increasing the conservation estate by five-million hectares under the Plan for Our Parks (PfOP) initiative by February 2024
- recognition of Aboriginal connection to country and opportunities for joint management and joint vesting of conservation reserves
- increased opportunities for sustainable visitation and appreciation of the natural environment
- protection of the State's biodiversity.

Plan for Our Parks

In early 2019, the State Government announced a plan to create five-million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves across Western Australia. The five-million-hectare expansion will see the conservation estate increased by over 20 per cent.

PfOP will create more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism, provide enhanced biodiversity conservation and build on Aboriginal joint management throughout Western Australia.

The Commission's role in the development of PfOP has included considering reserve proposals, responding to departmental briefings on work in progress and providing subsequent advice to the Minister for Environment. Now that the PfOP reserve proposals have been refined, the State Government has commenced the negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and concurrent management planning processes for each reserve proposal.

A presentation by DBCA to the Commission highlighted that 10 out of 28 proposals had been completed with 467,000 hectares reserved, which equates to approximately nine per cent of the five-million-hectare target. It is anticipated that additional proposals will be presented to the Commission for endorsement in the later part of 2022.

The Commission has recommended the creation of four marine reserve proposals within the 2021–22 reporting period. This includes the creation of the Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks, which is a combination of three marine parks – Mayala Marine Park, Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park and Maiyalam Marine Park – and the amalgamation of the Maiyalam Marine Park, Lalang-garram/Horizontal Falls Marine Park, North Lalang-garram Marine Park and Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park, within Dambeemangarddee (formerly spelt Dambimangari) sea country, to create the Lalang-gaddam Marine Park.

Joint management

During this reporting period, the Commission endorsed three joint management plans and the amalgamation of four marine parks for the Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks including the:

- Mayala Marine Park
- Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park
- Maiyalam Marine Park
- the amalgamation of the Maiyalam Marine Park, Lalang-garram Horizontal Falls Marine Park, North Lalang-garram Marine Park and Lalang-garram/Camden Sound Marine Park

The Commission will continue to be updated on DBCA's learnings to strengthen existing partnerships and expand the joint management program, including through the PfOP initiative.

Forest Management Plan 2024–33

The Commission has embarked on the development of the Forest Management Plan 2024–33 (FMP 2024–33) with DBCA. The State Government made a significant policy decision in September 2021 to end large scale commercial timber harvesting in south-west native forests from 2024 and preserve 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah, and wandoo forests. This announcement ensures that nearly two-million hectares of native forest will be protected for future generations and almost 9,000 hectares of high conservation value karri was immediately protected, with other high value forest areas to be recommended for national park status through the next FMP.

A steering group has been established between the Commission, the FPC and DBCA. The steering group's remit is to guide and oversee the delivery of the FMP 2024–33, giving effect to the government's policy position.

Engagement has occurred with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and will continue with the Noongar Regional Corporations when they are established and operational. Consistent with the South West Native Title Settlement, the next FMP will provide for cooperative management of south-west forests with Noongar Traditional Owners to give effect to their aspirations for this area.

Consultation has also commenced with key stakeholders and community. A pre-draft public survey was made available in April 2022 to capture the various community views of the management of the forests into the future and focus groups were established with key stakeholder groups. An independent silviculture review panel was established by DBCA and the final report will be one of the many inputs into the development of the FMP 2024–33. It is anticipated that a draft FMP 2024–33 will be released for the statutory two-month public consultation period towards the end of 2022.

Management planning

The Commission's main objectives in relation to estate planning are to provide quality and timely advice to the Minister for Environment and ensure the preparation and

implementation of effective management plans for land and water vested either solely or jointly in the Commission.

The Commission's Management Plan Review Committee was established to ensure early engagement with the Commission with the aim of ensuring a consistent planning approach, more uniform presentation of plans and effective use of key performance indicators (KPIs).

During the 2021–22 financial year, four CALM Act management plans were endorsed by the Commission and released for public comment including the:

- Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks
 - Mayala Marine Park
 - Bardi Jawi Gaarra Marine Park
 - Maiyalam Marine Park
- Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park

Amendments to Management Plans

Amendments were proposed to the Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves Management Plan 2008, to rationalise designated areas for dogs to alleviate pressure on nearby popular high volume locations. A review of the public submissions is to be presented to the Commission for consideration.

Additional amendments were received on developing easements to enable the construction of charging stations to accommodate electric vehicles.

Amendments to the Murujuga National Park Management Plan 2013 were required to facilitate visitor opportunities, public access, current recreation priorities and reflect changes to the plan area. The Commission endorsed these amendments subject to adequate protection of cultural sites and values.

Beelu National Park Management Plan was proposed for amendment for public safety on Fern Road. The Commission endorsed the amendment and reiterated that any clearing that is to occur was for public safety only to ensure minimal impacts on biodiversity values.

WA Recovery Plan

The Western Australian Government announced a \$5.5 billion dollar recovery plan to outline how Western Australia will bounce back from the impacts of COVID-19 to reposition itself as a thriving and innovative place in which to live, work, visit and conduct business.

The plan has 21 priority streams, each underpinned by direct commitments, including investment, resourcing and programs of work. Relevant areas to the Commission include initiatives in the environment, training and tourism areas.

The Commission received updates from DBCA on lead projects being funded under the WA Recovery Plan, with the majority of these located on lands vested in the Commission.

Strategic directions and governance

The Commission operates under its functions outlined in the CALM Act and supports government priorities. For effective management of the conservation estate in Western Australia, the Commission works collaboratively with DBCA for the delivery of these services. The Commission reviewed its operations and developed a new Strategic Directions 2022 –25 document in consultation with DBCA and the Minister for Environment’s office. The new strategic directions focus on planning, evidence-based decision making, performance monitoring, management effectiveness and good governance.

An MOU developed in September 2020 between the Commission and DBCA to establish terms for the service provisions and indicative resource requirements is still operational and has proven effective in enabling the Commission to deliver on its priorities.

In February 2022, the Commission endorsed the establishment of a Governance and Risk sub-Committee (GRC). The GRC has been reviewing all Commission documents, policies, procedures, guidelines and position statements to ensure relevance and currency.

The Public Sector Commission’s principles for good governance continued to be implemented and maintained by carrying out the annual review of the Commission’s Charter, Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy and Risk Register.

Policy development and advice

The Commission develops position statements to inform the Commission’s functions under section 19 of the CALM Act. These functions include advising the Minister for Environment and preparing management plans. During the 2021–22 financial year, the Commission reviewed and updated the following policies, position statements and associated guidelines:

- Position statement no.15 Artificial structures in marine reserves
- Position statement no.17 Sea wrack management in marine reserves
- Position statement no.1 Prescribed burning on vested lands
- Position statement no.3 Mining and petroleum exploration development on lands vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission
- Position statement no.19 Carbon farming on lands vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy

Periodic Assessment framework

The Commission has a statutory responsibility to ensure the conservation estate is being managed effectively. A corporate policy was adopted by DBCA that guides management effectiveness. DBCA is in the process of operationalising this policy and finalising a reporting process that will support the Commission's Periodic Assessment Framework reporting for parks and reserves. It is anticipated that better integrated reporting will deliver a more systematic approach to management plan implementation (and will provide for continuous improvement in the development of new management plans).

Marine park management effectiveness

The Commission reviewed the annual marine park management effectiveness assessments and attended the Marine Management Workshop held in November 2021 with DBCA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). The Commission provided DBCA a summary of its observations from the workshop, providing guidance and requesting advice on how particular issues were to be addressed.

An update was provided to the Commission by DBCA on the implementation of the Management Effectiveness Policy and its operationalisation in the form of a guideline.

End-of-term performance review of the Forest Management Plan 2014–23

The FMP 2014–23 covers land vested in the Commission within the State's south-west forests. The focus of the FMP 2014–23 is on managing State forest and timber reserves. The FMP 2014–23 is a 10-year plan developed through DBCA in consultation with the community. It is the key policy framework for managing forests on public lands in Western Australia's south-west, seeking to balance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem health with human use and commercial industries. The FMP 2014–23 identifies goals and performance targets and proposes management activities to achieve these goals.

The Commission continues to seek improvements to management of the area covered by the FMP 2014–23 and monitor DBCA's application of the plan's KPIs.

The end-of-term performance review of the FMP 2014–23 was carried out in 2021. The Commission responded to DBCA's reporting against the 24 KPIs in the FMP 2014–23. The report has now been published. The Commission wrote to the SWALSC in June 2022 to provide an opportunity for a presentation on the end-of-term performance review of the FMP 2014–23 and to seek to continue to engage with the SWALSC on the development of the FMP 2024–33.

Estate management

Prescribed burning, biodiversity and monitoring

The Commission received a presentation from DBCA on the prescribed burn planning, burn implementation and post-burn processes which included lessons learnt from other jurisdictions. Prescribed burning is the primary means at a landscape scale of reducing the level of combustible fuel, and therefore the risk of bushfire faced by the community and the environment. DBCA has the responsibility of balancing the impacts of prescribed burning on biodiversity against the need to protect communities from the damaging impacts of bushfire.

Fire is an environmental factor that has shaped Australian landscapes over thousands of years and fire is also the main land management tool Aboriginal people use to manage and care for country. While contemporary prescribed burning practices may differ from cultural burning practices, increasing engagement between traditional owners and other land managers such as DBCA is building an understanding of the differences, and the opportunities to improve fire management practices through a partnership and two-way learning approach. Importantly, both contemporary and cultural fire practices are complementary and share the common goal to look after people and country.

Education strategies are being implemented to explain to the general public why DBCA undertakes prescribed burning activities on the conservation estate. These strategies are delivered through social media, *LANDSCOPE* magazine and DBCA's Fire Talk program which is specifically designed to educate young people and impart an understanding of the history of fire in the environment and the role it plays in ecological processes and ecosystem health.

The Commission's position statement No.1 Prescribed burning on vested lands was reviewed in line with State legislative and government policies.

Mineral exploration consents

Section 24 of the *Mining Act 1978* requires that the recommendations of the Minister for Environment and the Commission are provided to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum prior to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum's consideration of consent to mining activities within 'other than class A' reserves, managed under the CALM Act and within class A reserves (other than national parks and nature reserves) outside the South West Land Division of the State and the shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe.

In general, proponents were required to develop exploration plans or conservation management plans in consultation with DBCA that detail the proposed activities, risks to reserve values and risk management measures before the Commission would consider the applications.

In 2021–22, the Commission provided recommendations relating to applications to undertake mineral exploration activities in a number of vested reserves or amendments to existing mining leases including the following:

- Lakeside 5(1)(g) Timber Reserve-Goldfields Region

- Yallari 5(1)(h) Timber Reserve R19212-Goldfields Region
- Dundas Nature Reserve R36957-South Coast Region.

In cases where recommendations agreeing to provide consent for exploration activities were provided, the Commission also highlighted that its support for further exploration activities was not guaranteed. This would be dependent upon detailed review of proponents' proposals, advice from DBCA and anticipated effects on the conservation estate.

Commercial leases and licences

Advice on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and other activities, such as utility infrastructure proposed on land and water vested in the Commission, was provided to DBCA during this reporting period. Table 1 summarises the Commission's consideration of CALM Act leases, licences and permits during this reporting period.

Table 1. CALM Act leases, licences and authorities endorsed by the Commission during 2021–22

Commercial operations licences	0
Apiary authorities	2064
Other leases and licences	22

*Supplied by DBCA, 2022

Apiary General Conditions review and amendment 2021

Beekeeping is a significant industry to WA and provides pollination services to the horticulture industry. The WA beekeeping industry is significant globally given the state does not suffer the same pests and diseases experienced elsewhere. The Apiary General Conditions apply to all beekeepers accessing land under the CALM Act apiary authority. The conditions outline the mandatory requirements of beekeepers and include provisions to manage environmental impacts, address hygiene management etcetera.

A new online apiary authorisation system is currently being developed by DBCA, and to compliment the introduction of the online system DBCA has reviewed the Apiary General Conditions to reflect updates and provide clear guidance for beekeepers when undertaking apiary activities.

A significant amendment to the conditions is that a *Phytophthora* Dieback Green Card (Green Card) will be mandatory for all apiary authority holders accessing CALM Act land. A large number of apiarists now meet the requirement following DBCA providing the Green Card training to apiarists in July 2021.

The Commission was briefed by DBCA on the proposed amendments to be made by the Streamlining (Environmental Legislation) Amendment Bill 2021 to the CALM Act to

improve efficiency of managing authorisations for the apiary industry on CALM Act lands and certain Crown lands.

Evidence based information for decision making

To assist in gaining a better understanding of the range of issues confronting estate managers in different parts of the State, the Commission received presentations on the following matters:

- Plan for Our Parks initiative
- Aboriginal Ranger Program
- Native Title and Indigenous Land Use Agreements
- visitor risk management
- benefits of Joint Management under the CALM Act
- Bent Street Navigational Channel, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park
- Point Perron Boat launching facility spur groyne sand accumulation
- Streamlining (Environmental Legislation) Amendment Bill 2021
- status of Penguins on Penguin Island
- integrity and risk – Public Sector Commission
- WA Environmental Offsets review
- updates on the implementation of the Forest Management Plan 2014–23
- Agency Capability Review–Public Sector Commission
- stakeholder engagement and development of the next Forest Management Plan 2024–33.

Stakeholder engagement

Commission members regularly engage with key stakeholders on matters relevant to the objectives of the CALM Act and the role of the Commission. Through the Management Plan Review Committee (MPRC), Commission members engage with traditional owners and representatives from conservation, industry, mining and forestry etcetera, via the management planning processes, and have participated in key workshops, stakeholder forums and steering group meetings including:

- members of the *Forest Management Plan 2024–33* Steering Group
- proposed South Coast Marine Park consultation process
- proposed amendment to Marmion Marine Park consultation process.

Biodiversity and conservation

Regional conservation plans

In 2019, DBCA formed a working group to consider conservation planning processes and preparation of regional conservation plans in acknowledgement that a consistent, documented and transparent approach was required.

The regional conservation planning process provides a consistent, documented and transparent approach to regional conservation planning and reporting within DBCA. It provides a process for structured decision making, in the context of finite resources, regarding the prioritisation and implementation of conservation actions for threatened and priority species and ecological communities within and outside the conservation reserve system across Western Australia.

The Commission did not receive any new regional conservation plans for noting during this reporting period. However, plans are expected in late 2022.

Vested lands and waters

Table 2 provides a summary of lands and waters vested in the Commission during the 2021–22 financial year.

Table 2. Lands and waters vested in the Commission

Land classification	Area as at 30 June 2022 (ha)	Area as at 30 June 2021 (ha)
National parks	6,510,138	6,449,679
Conservation parks	1,264,027	1,154,192
Nature reserves	10,093,737	10,088,170
State forests	1,281,292	1,307,476
Timber reserves	123,148	123,143
CALM Act section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h)	1,081,823	1,081,536
Marine park	4,424,469	4,424,469
Marine nature reserve	132,000	132,000
Marine management area	143,385	143,385
Total	25,054,019	25,048,528

* Supplied by DBCA, 2022

Additions to the conservation estate

The Commission endorsed the following additions to the conservation estate:

- inclusion of 0.36 hectares from Reserve 5567 into Waterloo Nature Reserve 46108. This inclusion rationalises the boundaries of Waterloo Nature Reserve
- addition of 0.88 hectares of unconstructed road reserve to Leeuwin-Naturalist National Park to rationalise the park’s boundaries
- addition of Reserve 19770, being 304.76 hectares into Unnamed Reserve A29027 in the Shires of Kondinin and Kulin
- addition of Lot 51, being 53.38 hectares to Yanchep National Park. Lot 51 contains nine vegetation communities including threatened ecological community banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

In accordance with section 31(2) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the Commission is not a statutory authority within the meaning of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, but is a statutory body established by section 18 of the CALM Act.

Funding for the operation of the Commission is provided through DBCA. Expenditure is monitored by the Commission and the reporting and audit of expenditure is undertaken by DBCA.

Total expenditure for the Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 was \$352,935.21

Board and committee remuneration

The Commission operates in accordance with Part III of the CALM Act, the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, and its Charter, Code of Conduct and other policies. The Commissions remuneration is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Commission remuneration

Position	Name	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Chris Doepel	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022	\$40,570.00
Deputy Chair	Jo-anne Lanagan	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022	\$25,538.00
Member	Penny Bond	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022	\$19,427.00

Member	Tahn Donovan	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022	\$19,427.00
Member	Kim Eckert	1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022	\$19,427.00
Member	Alan Walker	1/7/2021 to 17/9/21	\$ 4,483.00
Member	John Keesing	01/07/21 to 30/6/2022	N/A
Total			\$128,872.00

The Commission met 11 times during the reporting period. Attendance for the total number of eligible meetings for each member are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Commission meeting attendance

Position	Name	Attendance	Eligibility
Chair	Chris Doepel	10	11
Deputy Chair	Jo-anne Lanagan	11	11
Member	Penny Bond	9	11
Member	Tahn Donovan	11	11
Member	Kim Eckert	9	11
Member	John Keesing	9	11
Member	Alan Walker	3	3

Governance disclosures

At the date of reporting, no Commission members or officers, or firms of which Commission members or officers are members, or entities in which Commission members or officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the Commission, other than normal contracts of employment of service, or had any interests in issues before or likely to come before the Commission for consideration, endorsement or consultation.

Employment and industrial relations

Further to CALM Act amendments in 2015, staffing resources are provided to the Commission through the Director General of DBCA as the employing authority.

Table 5 indicates specific staff allocated to service delivery in the secretariat of the Commission and does not include staff numbers and effort allocated to the delivery of Commission functions through DBCA.

Table 5. Secretariat staff profile at 30 June 2022

	Head count	FTE
Full-time permanent	1	1
Part-time permanent	0	0
Secondment	0	0
Total	1	1

Ministerial directives

No Ministerial directives were received during this reporting period.

Recordkeeping plans

The Commission prepared and reviewed its recordkeeping plan in consultation with DBCA in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*. The review was submitted to the State Records Commission. In 2024 the Commission will be included in DBCA's review of its business classification system, however, the Commission's records will remain independent of DBCA's.

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

The Commission implements the State Government's Policy Framework for Substantive Equality, primarily through management planning processes associated with the CALM Act.

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

The Commission is committed to fostering an accessible and inclusive environment for its staff and Commission members. The Commission advocates under DBCA's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2021–25 for disability inclusion. The Commission has adopted DBCA's Disability Confident Recruiter process.

Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework

The Commission has adopted DBCA's Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework and workforce and diversity plan for its staff and Commission members. The Commission is committed to building an inclusive and diverse workforce.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Commission staff are employees of DBCA. DBCA provided the framework for human resource management within the Commission through a MOU.

In the management and direction of the office of the Commission, the Director has complied with Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and the Commission's Code of Conduct.

Information on both the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct is provided to new employees and members of the Commission on commencement with the Commission.

Occupational safety, health, and injury management

DBCA's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) policy requires managers to demonstrate, maintain, monitor and review OSH in the workplace and places a responsibility on employees to implement a cycle of continuous improvement.

The Commission works to DBCA's Health, Safety, Wellbeing (HSW) and Injury Management Framework which provides a consistent and coordinated approach to the ongoing management of HSW. The Framework provides a structure to ensure all health and safety representatives, appointed safety officers and committees across are provided with a clear understanding of the HSW strategic objectives, desired health and safety culture and mutual obligations for all employees, contractors and volunteers.

No workers' compensation claims were recorded during the reporting period. The performance of the Commission OSH and injury management is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Performance reporting: Occupational safety, health, and injury management

Measure	Actual result		
	Reporting period 2020	Target	Comment on result
Number of fatalities	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	0	0	Achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 6 weeks	0	0	Achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health, and injury management responsibilities	100%	100%	Achieved

