



Conservation Commission
of Western Australia



Annual Report

2004–2005



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Front cover photograph – Deputy Chairperson Patricia Barblett (AM) and Sylvia Allen, Miliyana Chichester Park Council in Millstream-Chichester National Park

Conservation Commission Annual Report 2004–2005

Transmittal to the Minister

Minister for the Environment

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report – 2004-2005 of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia, covering its activities for the period ending 30 June 2005, as provided for under section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

Dr John Bailey
Chairperson

Chairperson's Overview

The reporting period includes part of the first year of operation of the *Forest Management Plan 2004-2013* (Forest Management Plan), with important advances in implementing the Forest Management Plan. During 2004-05, 443 010 hectares (ha) of forest national parks and nature reserves were established. The Conservation Commission of Western Australia (Conservation Commission), the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Forest Products Commission contributed significant effort to ensuring the soil management provisions of the Forest Management Plan were implemented to protect both the socio-economic and environmental values of timber producing forests. There was considerable focus on the management of forestry activities under wet soil conditions. A workshop involving the three agencies and the timber industry was held in March 2005, resulting in adjustments to the interim soil management guidelines that will be tested through winter 2005.

The Forest Management Plan commitments concerning the selection and management of fauna habitat zones received substantial attention. These zones are established as a means of ensuring biodiversity recovery between one timber harvesting event and the next. The Conservation Commission has established a consultation process with community representatives to develop recommendations concerning the location of these zones.

The Conservation Commission also put considerable effort into developing assessment criteria and a process for reviewing old-growth forest reclassifications, with draft criteria to be released for public comment in July 2005.

With the Forest Management Plan in place, the Conservation Commission was able to devote more resources to its assessment and audit functions, both within the forest region and across the reserve system more widely. Field inspections were conducted during the year to support the audits and assessments.

The Conservation Commission has been meeting with the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority to ensure a smooth transition as the Government implements its policy to merge the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority into a new Biodiversity Commission.

The Conservation Commission has responsibilities beyond vested land. During the year the Conservation Commission has provided policy advice on broader issues including fire management, wetlands and biodiversity conservation across the State. I am looking forward to the Conservation Commission's ongoing, collaborative role in the development of a biodiversity conservation strategy for Western Australia and new biodiversity conservation legislation

The Conservation Commission also prepared a submission on the South West Yarragadee Water Supply Sustainability Evaluation Scoping Report and considered Water Corporation's proposed trial of thinning in water supply catchments to increase water yield. The Conservation Commission is concerned to ensure that efforts to increase the water supply are environmentally sustainable as well as meeting societal needs.

The Environmental Protection Authority's discussion paper on the use of environmental offsets was considered in detail as proposals for development on land vested in the Conservation Commission need to include consideration of appropriate offsets.

The Conservation Commission and the Conservation Commission's Research Advisory Committee provided substantial submissions on the Towards a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Western Australia Discussion Paper. The Conservation Commission will continue to work closely with CALM to ensure that the State's biodiversity conservation strategy, once finalised, meets the broader conservation needs across the whole State.

In May 2005 the Conservation Commission members and staff undertook cultural awareness training to ensure understanding and awareness of some of the issues and approaches necessary to improve the engagement with Aboriginal people over reserve management and broader issues of biodiversity conservation and Indigenous heritage

In June 2005 the Conservation Commission spent a week in the Pilbara improving its understanding and awareness of a key range of reserve management issues. Of particular value was the meeting with the Miliyana Chichester Park Council, the indigenous park council for the Millstream-Chichester National Park. The field trip was organised in coordination with CALM's regional staff.

In closing I would like to thank the members and staff of the Conservation Commission and CALM for their efforts and support during the year. I also thank Alistar Robertson and Ted Lefroy who have resigned from the Research Advisory Committee for their contributions.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Glen Kelly, one of the inaugural members of the Conservation Commission who left in April 2005 to take up a position interstate.

Members and Meetings

The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act)* provides that the Conservation Commission of Western Australia is to have nine members who, in the opinion of the Minister have knowledge of and experience in:

- conservation or management of biodiversity;
- environmental management, including the management of the natural environment for use for recreational purposes; or
- the sustainable use of natural resources,

or,

- who have a particular function or vocational interest relevant to the functions of the Conservation Commission, and
- who, in the opinion of the Minister, are able to make a contribution to the functions of the Conservation Commission.

One member is to be a person who, in the opinion of the Minister:

- has knowledge of and experience in Aboriginal cultural and Aboriginal heritage matters relevant to the functions of the Conservation Commission; and
- is able to make a contribution to the functions of the Conservation Commission.

The members of the Conservation Commission and the date of their initial appointment and term of appointment (including any reappointments) at 30 June 2005 were:

Dr John Bailey, Chairperson	November 2001 – November 2007
Mrs Patricia Barblett (AM), Deputy Chairperson	November 2000 – November 2005
Dr Jennifer Davis	November 2000 – November 2006
Dr Joanna Young	November 2000 – November 2006
Mr Graeme Rundle	November 2000 – November 2005
Mr William Mitchell	December 2002 – November 2005
Ms Regina Flugge	November 2003 – November 2007
Dr Thomas Hatton	November 2003 – November 2007

During the reporting period Mr Glen Kelly resigned his membership due to taking up a position interstate. The Minister is seeking an appropriate person with knowledge of and experience in Aboriginal cultural and Aboriginal heritage matters relevant to the functions of the Conservation Commission to fill this vacancy. The position has been advertised and the Minister is considering applications.

The Conservation Commission held 11 meetings during the reporting period.

Vested Lands

Total Estate

As at 30 June 2005 the total area vested in the Conservation Commission was 18 854 139 ha representing a net increase of 126 101 ha during 2004–2005. Much of this area added to the vested estate is in the southwest forest region, where implementing the Forest Management Plan resulted in the addition of land to the vested estate that was formerly reserved for water catchment purposes. Additionally, 443 010 ha was converted from State forest and timber reserve to conservation tenures during the reporting period.

The vested area was approximately 7.5 per cent of the land area of WA. Table 1 provides a summary of all tenure classifications.

Table 0. Land vested in the Conservation Commission

Tenure Classification	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2005	Area (ha) as at 30 June 2004
National park	5 591 090	5 092 680
Conservation park	745 195	704 113
Nature reserve	10 856 529	10 827 872
State forest	1 304 631	1 729 677
Timber reserve	123 346	141 446
Sections 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserve	233 348	232 251
TOTAL	18 854 139	18 728 039

Source: Information Management Branch, CALM

National Parks

National parks are established for wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study, preservation of features of archeological, historic or scientific interest, and enjoyment by the public. They have national or international significance for scenic, biological or cultural values.

The area of the 96 national parks at 30 June 2005 was 5 591 090 ha, a net increase of 498 410 ha for the year. The majority of changes were as a result of implementing the Forest Management Plan culminating in three Reserves Acts late in 2004. During the year 414 186 hectares of land was converted from other vested tenure categories to national park, including 376 339 ha that was previously State forest and timber reserves.

Conservation Parks

Conservation parks have the same purpose as national parks, but they do not have the same national or international significance.

The area of the 37 conservation parks at 30 June 2005 was 745 195 ha, a net increase of 41 082 ha for the year. As for national parks, most of the changes were a result of implementing the Forest Management Plan.

Nature Reserves

Nature reserves are established for wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study, and preservation of features of archeological, historic or scientific interest. Some low impact recreation is allowed.

The area of the 1251 nature reserves at 30 June 2005 was 10 856 529 ha, representing a net increase of 28 657 ha for the year. As for national parks and conservation parks, most of the changes were a result of implementing the Forest Management Plan which saw 57 576 ha changed from State forest and timber reserve to nature reserve. Although the boundaries did not change there was a reduction in the recorded area of the Beekeepers Nature Reserve due to recalculation and the Nuytsland Nature Reserve due to redescription.

State Forest

State forests are managed for multiple purposes, including water catchment protection, recreation, timber production on a sustained yield basis, and conservation. Provision is also made for public utilities and mineral production, where these activities occur. Within State forests, designated areas are managed for specific purposes, such as conservation or optimum yield of exotic plantings.

The area of the 60 State forests at 30 June 2005 was 1 304 631 ha, a net decrease for the year of 425 046 ha. The majority of the excisions (424 925 ha) were due to tenure changes as a result of implementing the Forest Management Plan.

Timber Reserves

Timber reserves declared under the *CALM Act* are managed on the same basis as State forests. The category is often transitional; as reserves are evaluated they may be changed to a more appropriate tenure, e.g. State forest or nature reserve.

The area of the 76 timber reserves at 30 June 2005 was 123 346 ha, a net decrease of 18 100 ha. As for State forests the majority of the excisions (18 085 ha) were due to tenure changes as a result of implementing the Forest Management Plan.

Section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) Reserves

Under the *CALM Act*, lands categorised as section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserve are lands reserved under the *Land Act 1933* and the *Land Administration Act 1997* respectively, for which care, control and management is issued to the Conservation Commission. Unlike national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves, they are not automatically vested in the Conservation Commission. Immediately before the commencement of the *CALM Act*, some were vested in, or were under the control of, the National Parks Authority but not as a national park, e.g. Matilda Bay Reserve. Predominantly they have conservation/recreation purposes.

The area of the 111 section 5(1)(g) and section 5(1)(h) reserves vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2005 was 233 348 ha, a net increase for the year of 1098 ha. As for national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves, most of the changes were a result of implementing the Forest Management Plan which saw 1539 ha changed from State forest to section 5(1)(h) reserve. The principal changes were the creation of Wellington Discovery Forest reserve (684 ha) and a reserve for the purpose of Conservation, Recreation, Future Reservoir and Water Infrastructure (876 ha) located within the newly created Mt Lindesay National Park.

Summary of the Conservation Commission's Activities and Achievements: 1 July 2004 - 30 June 2005

The Conservation Commission was established in November 2000 under the *CALM Act*, and works independent of, but closely with, CALM. It is a statutory commission and body corporate and has vested in it terrestrial conservation reserves (including freshwater areas) and State forest and timber reserves. It has associated management planning responsibilities and functions in respect of monitoring and auditing performance of CALM and the Forest Products Commission in respect of those management plans. It also has policy advisory functions in relation to vested lands and waters, and broader biodiversity conservation matters. Appendix 1 provides details of the Conservation Commission's functions as provided in section 19 of the *CALM Act*.

The Conservation Commission contributes to the State Government's five strategic goals for public sector management under the Government's *Better Planning: Better Services* policy. These goals relate to:

- People and Communities;
- the Economy;
- the Environment;
- the Regions; and
- Governance.

The Conservation Commission is one of the lead agencies for achieving the goal: the Environment. The Conservation Commission also contributes, often indirectly, to the other goals through implementing its policies and responsibilities that fall within the Environment goal. Accordingly, this report of activities and achievements comes within the Government's Environment goal.

The Conservation Commission's activities and achievements during the last twelve months are detailed below under the key outcome areas of policy; estate; management plans; forest management; audit; advice and promotion; and other Conservation Commission activities.

Policy

In meeting its objective to develop and maintain policy and provide policy advice to the Minister for the Environment, the Conservation Commission has provided comment on the following major policies and related issues either in development or under review by CALM or by other relevant agencies:

- Ningaloo and Cape Range World Heritage Area Nomination – World Heritage Consultative Committee
- Review of Fire Policies and Management Practices of the Department of Conservation and Land Management – Environmental Protection Authority
- Draft Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands) Policy 2004 – Environmental Protection Authority
- Preliminary Position Statement No. 9 Environmental Offsets – Environmental Protection Authority
- South West Yarragadee Water Supply Sustainability Evaluation Scoping Report – Water Corporation
- Wungong Catchment Environment and Water Management Project – Water Corporation
- Towards a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Western Australia Discussion Paper – CALM
- Fisheries Management Paper No. 179 – A draft policy for the translocation of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) into and within Western Australia for the purposes of recreational stocking, domestic stocking, commercial and non-commercial aquaculture – Department of Fisheries

Estate

In meeting the objectives of:

- Identifying what is required for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Western Australia; and
- Considering proposed changes of purpose, or boundary of, land vested in the Conservation Commission and evaluating potentially incompatible activities on that land with a view to maximising biological diversity,

the following activities have been undertaken:

- Changes in purpose or boundaries, including advice on any contentious issue or activity, or the need to excise areas that are not of value in maintaining biological diversity, are considered at the monthly meetings of the Conservation Commission. Advice on applications is subsequently provided to the Minister.
- In working towards establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system, the Conservation Commission considered changes to reserves and their uses. As previously discussed, during the period, more than 126 000 hectares was added to the estate, through land purchases, land exchanges and reserve disposal by other agencies. Additionally, about 443 010 hectares of State forest and timber reserve were converted to conservation reserves. Lands acquired by CALM in the present financial year, but not yet vested in the Conservation Commission, will be detailed in CALM's Annual Report.
- Provision of advice to CALM on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and other activities such as utility infrastructure proposed on land vested in the Conservation Commission. Table 2 summarises the Conservation Commission's consideration of CALM Act leases, licences and permits.

Table 0. CALM Act Leases, licences and permits considered during 2004-2005

	Pre-approved *	Delegated approval by the Chairperson	Conservation Commission approval
Leases	not applicable	not applicable	42
Licences	199	5	16
Licence endorsements	18	5	5
Apiary permits	not applicable	not applicable	611

* Licences endorsed by the amended procedure as being consistent with the Tour Operator's Handbook for which the reserves and activities are pre-endorsed by the Conservation Commission.

- During the year CALM received 67 mining tenement applications. 31 mining tenements were referred to the Conservation Commission for recommendations. Of the 31 applications requiring Conservation Commission advice to be provided to the Minister for the Environment, 2 required statutory recommendations under section 24 of the *Mining Act 1978*.
- The Conservation Commission supported the Government's proposal to vest, as a national park, the part of Rottnest Island outside of the settlement area in the Conservation Commission with management by CALM. The proposal would ensure the area is managed to maintain its conservation values by the agency with both the skills and the resources to do so.
- The Swan River Trust has proposed changes to the vesting and management of the reserves along and within the Swan River as part of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Bill*. The Conservation Commission has been engaged in discussion with the Swan River Trust, the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and CALM concerning this proposal. The Conservation Commission is endeavouring to ensure changes are most appropriate for conservation on behalf of the Western Australian community.

Management Plans

Soon after it was established the Conservation Commission established a Management Planning Review Committee in order to facilitate liaison with CALM. The committee's function is to improve the delivery of the Conservation Commission's statutory responsibility for the preparation and submission to the Minister of proposed management plans, and for the review of expiring plans. During the course of the reporting period this committee met 11 times and considered and facilitated action on the following matters:

- In consultation with CALM, development of agreed priorities for the development and review of management plans for the coming year.
- The proposed management plans for Herdsman Lake Regional Park, Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve and Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve were endorsed and submitted to the Minister and approved by her.
- Draft management plans for Jandakot Regional Park, Proposed St John Brook and Jarrahwood Conservation Parks and Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks were considered by the committee and endorsed for release for public comment.

Over the course of the reporting period this committee also provided considerable input to final and draft plans under development. These covered the following areas of the conservation estate:

- Canning River Regional Park
- Cape Range National Park
- Kennedy Range National Park
- Lake McLarty Nature Reserve
- Parks of the Darling Range;
- the proposed Wellington National Park and Westralia Conservation Park

A summary of the status of those management plans under development or review as at 30 June 2005 is shown in Table 3.

During the past year issues concerning the co-ordination and management of areas where the terrestrial conservation estate and the marine conservation estate meet have expressed themselves, most notably at the Cape Range National Park/Ningaloo Marine Park and Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserve/Proposed Dampier Archipelago Marine Park junctions. The Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority have been working together to improve management planning and conservation policy co-ordination. Complexities arise because the intertidal zones (the area between the low and high tide marks) of the adjoining reserves are effectively marine environments vested as part of the terrestrial reserves. Work continues on effectively resolving this issue.

Following from the management planning workshop held jointly with the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and CALM in May 2004, the Conservation Commission has been working with CALM staff to implement improvements to management plan development and performance. Principal among these initiatives have been the new planning model adopted for the Parks of the Darling Range and the guidelines for the development of management plans for conservation reserves. The Parks of the Darling Range planning model includes an overarching planning document to address management issues common across the reserves, underpinned by a series of planning documents that address management issues specific to particular reserves. The guidelines were started in accordance with the requirements of the forest management plan and have been expanded to address conservation reserves throughout the State.

The auditing of management plan implementation is a key Conservation Commission function and is discussed separately in a later section.

Table 0. Summary of Management Plan Progress

	Develop Public Participation Strategy	Issues paper released	Form or notify Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Draft plan submitted to Conservation Commission and finalise	Minister release draft plan for public comment	Submit final plan and Analysis of Public Submissions (APS) to Minister(s)	Gazettal of final management plan	Comments
Beeliar Regional Park	Management plan commenced in 1998 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		1998 (new)	28/9/01	14/11/01			APS and proposed final plan in preparation. Anticipated that final plan will be released in second half of 2005.
Cape Range NP and proposed extensions	1/5/03	1/4/04	29/7/03 (reformed); Aboriginal Park Council formed 10/4/04	24/1/05 (preliminary draft) 13/5/05 (draft)				3 Coral Coast Parks Advisory Committee meetings and 1 Coral Coast Park Council meeting relevant to management planning.
Dampier Archipelago Island NRs and section 5(1)(g) reserves	7/10/02	25/3/02	Deemed not necessary as major stakeholder groups targeted.					Draft plan in preparation with ongoing public consultation. The proposal to change the 4 Dampier Archipelago nature reserves to national park continues, with ongoing negotiations with the Department of Industry and Resources.
Esperance Coastal Reserves	In prep	In prep	1/8/02 (new)					Issues paper to be released in second half of 2005.
Forrestdale Lake NR	1/3/02	31/3/02	31/7/02 (existing)	31/5/03	27/10/03	12/1/05	27/5/05	
Herdsmen Lake Regional Park	Management plan commenced in 1998 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		1998 (new)	22/3/01	5/6/01	22/9/04	3/12/04	
Jandakot Regional Park	Management plan commenced in 1999 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		1999 (new)	7/7/04	24/11/04			APS and proposed final plan in preparation.

	Develop Public Participation Strategy	Issues paper released	Form or notify Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Draft plan submitted to Conservation Commission and finalise	Minister release draft plan for public comment	Submit final plan and Analysis of Public Submissions (APS) to Minister(s)	Gazettal of final management plan	Comments
Kalbarri NP	Management plan commenced in 1999 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		29/7/99 (new)					Process for pastoral acquisitions completed during 2005, which will allow management planning to recommence late 2005 when resources are available.
Kennedy Range	Draft plan will replace interim management guidelines which were endorsed by the Conservation Commission in September 2003. No advisory committee was formed but views of key stakeholders are being sought on the main issues.			23/3/05				
Kimberley Regional Plan	Management plan commenced in 1999 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper. Formation of Advisory Committee considered ineffective due to size of region.			15/6/01				Other planning priorities have delayed completion. Discussions to be held with Kimberley Region staff in second half of 2005 to address new issues and recommence planning.
Lake McLarty NR	Deemed not necessary. Major stakeholders targeted for input.			22/6/05				
Lane Poole Reserve	16/1/04	2/2/04	18/9/02 (existing) 25/5/04 (revised committee approved)					Draft in preparation with ongoing public and stakeholder consultation, and with input from the Lane Poole Reserve Advisory Committee. Draft plan proposed for release by end of 2005.

	Develop Public Participation Strategy	Issues paper released	Form or notify Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Draft plan submitted to Conservation Commission and finalise	Minister release draft plan for public comment	Submit final plan and Analysis of Public Submissions (APS) to Minister(s)	Gazettal of final management plan	Comments
Millstream-Chichester NP	Management plan commenced in 1998 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		Aboriginal Park Council formed 19/3/03					Work continuing with the Miliyana Chichester Park Council to reach consensus relating to recreation facilities within the park. Draft plan to be released late 2005.
Parks of the Darling Range including: <i>National Parks</i> Avon Valley Canning Gooseberry Hill Greenmount John Forrest Kalamunda Mundaring Pickering Brook Serpentine Susannah Brook Walyunga <i>Regional Parks</i> * Chidlow Kalamunda Kelmscott-Martin Wungong Gordon Block State Forest			1999 (new)					Public submission period for indicative boundaries of new forest parks closed end of November 2003. Resolution of boundaries will determine future planning area boundaries and timelines for completion for new national parks and regional parks.

* The names of the regional parks within the Parks of the Darling Range are interim names only. Work is ongoing to determine appropriate names for these parks.

	Develop Public Participation Strategy	Issues paper released	Form or notify Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Draft plan submitted to Conservation Commission and finalise	Minister release draft plan for public comment	Submit final plan and Analysis of Public Submissions (APS) to Minister(s)	Gazettal of final management plan	Comments
Parks of the Leeuwin Ridge, Scott NP and Gingilup NR	30/6/03	30/9/01	30/4/00 (existing as Leeuwin Naturaliste NP AC, expanded on 12/7/04 to form the Capes Parks CAC)					Initial public consultation completed in 2003. Delays experienced due to changes in key staff. Draft proposed for release late 2005.
Proposed St John Brook and Jarrahwood CPs	Originally commenced as Interim Management Guideline in June 2002. Nannup Tourist Association provided community input pre-draft. No CAC.			17/3/04	4/1/05			Proposed that final plan will be considered by Conservation Commission in second half of 2005.
Rockingham Lakes Regional Park	Management plan commenced in 1999 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		1999 (new)	13/8/03	27/10/03			APS and proposed final plan in preparation. Anticipated that final plan will be released in second half of 2005.
Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux NPs	Management plan commenced in 1999 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		23/6/99 (existing)	3/9/04	21/5/05			Public submission period closes 31 August 2005.
Thomsons Lake NR	1/3/02	31/3/02	30/9/02 (new)	31/5/03	27/10/03	10/11/04	27/5/05	
Tuart Forest	In prep	In prep	Adverts being prepared.					
Turquoise Coast Island NRs	Management plan commenced prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper. No advisory committee formed as community input achieved through marine planning process, which preceded islands management plan.			8/9/00	19/12/01	12/5/04	24/3/05	

	Develop Public Participation Strategy	Issues paper released	Form or notify Community Advisory Committee (CAC)	Draft plan submitted to Conservation Commission and finalise	Minister release draft plan for public comment	Submit final plan and Analysis of Public Submissions (APS) to Minister(s)	Gazettal of final management plan	Comments
Walpole Wilderness Area	1/5/03	27/3/03	31/1/03 (new)					24 Advisory Committee meetings have been held to date. Anticipated that the draft plan will be submitted to the Conservation Commission in second half of 2005.
Wellington NP and proposed CPs	15/7/02	30/6/02	31/3/02 (new)	21/7/04				Issues related to water supply have delayed the completion of the draft plan. Options for management will be presented in the draft, and issues resolved prior to the release of the final plan. Anticipated that the draft plan will be released second half of 2005.
Wheatbelt Regional Plan	Management plan commenced in 1998 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper. Formation of Advisory Committee considered ineffective due to size of region.			7/4/04 (preliminary draft)				Delays experienced due to changes in key staff. Anticipated that the draft plan will be submitted to the Conservation Commission in late 2005.
Woodman Point Regional Park	Management plan commenced in 1999 prior to current system of preparing Public Participation Strategy and Issues Paper.		1999 (new)	13/5/02	30/8/02			APS and proposed final plan in preparation. Anticipated that final plan will be released in second half of 2005.
Yanchep and Neerabup NPs and Neerabup NR	17/8/01	17/8/01	31/7/01 (existing)					Plan deferred due to other planning priorities. Proposed release in second half of 2005.

Forest Management

The Conservation Commission has a statutory role to prepare forest management plans, and aims to ensure that the State forest and timber reserves, in particular, vested in the Conservation Commission are managed according to the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management. The reporting period saw the completion of the first year of implementation of the Forest Management Plan.

Implementation of the Forest Management Plan is the responsibility of the Conservation Commission, CALM and the Forest Products Commission, with the Conservation Commission undertaking independent audits of the effectiveness of land management by the other two agencies under the Forest Management Plan. The audit function is discussed in a later section.

As previously discussed, the reporting period saw the conversion of many areas of State forest and timber reserve to conservation reserves. This achievement was part of implementing the tenure changes envisaged in the Forest Management Plan.

During the reporting period the Conservation Commission had principal responsibility for the production of two documents: an assessment process and field assessment criteria for old-growth forest classification amendments; and guidelines for the preparation of management plans. The Conservation Commission has consulted with CALM and key stakeholders during the development of the draft assessment criteria for old-growth forest reclassification. A draft document is to be released for public comment in July 2005.

Work on draft guidelines for the development of management plans for conservation reserves was conducted in cooperation with CALM. As the work has progressed it has become evident that these guidelines will be more useful if broadened to address management for conservation reserves throughout the state, rather than just the south-west forest region. Work is ongoing, with draft guidelines expected to be released for public comment during 2005-06.

The Conservation Commission has also been working with CALM and the Forest Products Commission on achieving other aspects of the Forest Management Plan, for which those agencies have lead implementation responsibilities.

Soil Management

2004 was the first year of the introduction of improved soil management through the application of soil damage risk periods and prescribed measures to be applied during those periods, as described in Appendix 6 of the Forest Management Plan, *Protection of soil in native forest harvesting*. The Forest Management Plan, in recognition that some of the measures were new, provided discretion to CALM's Director of Forests in relation to certain aspects of their application, that adaptive management trials set up to test soil protection measures and that the soil protection requirements be reviewed after a year.

Due to a limited capacity on the part of the Forest Products Commission and the timber industry to plan for and adapt to the new soil protection requirements, the Director of Forests applied his discretionary authority, in accordance with the Forest Management Plan, to ensure the required supply of timber for sawmills was maintained over winter and spring 2004.

As provided under the Forest Management Plan, the soil protection provisions were reviewed after the first full year of operation, informed by operational experience gained during that year and the results of the adaptive management trials. In addition to the meetings and field visits concerning soil protection issues, the review included a consultative workshop organised by CALM involving the Conservation Commission, the Forest Products Commission and the timber industry in March 2005. The review resulted in a revised approach to implementing the soil protection measures that is fully consistent with the Forest Management Plan's soil management objectives. The revised approach will be reviewed following winter/spring 2005.

Fauna Habitat Zones

Fauna Habitat Zones within State forests and timber reserves are intended to maintain fauna populations and to provide a source for recolonisation of nearby areas after timber harvesting. There are approximately 300 indicative Fauna Habitat Zones of at least 200 ha each that are designed to provide a sufficiently extensive network of areas excluded from timber harvesting to maintain fauna numbers.

The Conservation Commission provided advice concerning proposed locations of Fauna Habitat Zones. To assist in the development of this advice, the Conservation Commission requested reports from the Conservation Council of Western Australia in terms of a prescribed set of information about biodiversity, disturbance and linkages with other areas. In one case agreement with CALM could not be reached, namely on the final boundaries for the Fauna Habitat Zone in Palmer block. This issue was submitted to the Minister for the Environment who made a decision based on a range of community values.

Performance assessment work has been undertaken in relation to Fauna Habitat Zones and soil management with reports expected to be finalised during 2005-06.

Audit

Assessment and auditing (performance assessment) are an essential component of sound environmental management systems. The results of performance assessments are used in many ways, including:

- to promote adaptive management which leads to continuous improvement;
- to improve management planning; and
- to promote accountability and public support for management actions.

The Conservation Commission considers performance assessment to be much more than a compliance tool. The greatest value of performance assessments is that they will:

- assist land managers in their work;
- improve management planning practice and management outcomes; and
- help inform policy decisions that will benefit the environmental management of the lands vested in the Conservation Commission.

With the Forest Management Plan in place, the Conservation Commission has been able to focus more attention on its performance assessment role. During the reporting period considerable progress has been made on the development of a policy and guidelines for the performance assessment of management plan implementation and biodiversity management. It is anticipated that these will be finalised early in the next reporting period as an interim document that will be implemented over a period of one year. During this time stakeholder comment will be sought and comments provided will be considered, together with experience learned from implementation, in the finalisation of this policy and guideline.

Work has commenced on developing performance assessment reports, consistent with the performance assessment policy and guidelines, for management plan assessments carried out in previous years. A number of these will be finalised and published early in the next reporting period.

A consultation paper for the review of old-growth reclassifications has been developed through research and a pilot study of the field assessment criteria, and consultation with CALM and stakeholder groups. Both the finalisation of the guiding document and the subsequent implementation of the review are expected to commence in the third quarter of 2005. The Forest Management Plan also provides an opportunity for persons to request the Conservation Commission to assess whether areas on an indicative timber harvest plan should be classified as old-growth forest. A public nomination form has been developed and attached to the consultation paper for this purpose.

In relation to performance assessment of forest management activities, work has been undertaken on the Fauna Habitat Zone selection and establishment process, and elements of new requirements to limit harvesting activities during periods when soils are wet. A performance assessment report on

Fauna Habitat Zones is expected to be finalised early in the next reporting period. Information gathered on wet soil harvesting has been used to inform recent refinements of interim operational guidelines described under Forest Management.

The Environmental Audit Manager also participated in community forest inspections in the Collie and Pemberton localities. These inspections were organised through the Office of the Minister for the Environment. These inspections are organised in order to better engage the community in regard to concerns over the impact of harvesting operations. While they cannot replace the strategic and planned audits required to satisfy the Conservation Commission's function they can be used to help inform the priorities for issues to be audited.

With the finalisation of the Conservation Commission's performance assessment policy and guideline significant progress on this function is expected in the coming year. Priority areas for performance assessment are:

- Forest Management Plan performance assessments
 - Old growth reclassification
 - Feral animal and weed management
 - Prescribed burning (as recommended by the Environmental Protection Authority in its *Assessment and audit of the CALM's fire research and prescribed burning programs*)
 - Old growth boundary integrity
 - Stream zone and less well protected vegetation
- Conservation reserve management plan performance assessments
 - Dryandra Woodland
 - Lesueur National Park-Coomallo Nature Reserve
 - Mooradung Nature Reserve
 - Wanjarri Nature Reserve
 - Yalgorup National Park

Advice and Promotion

The Conservation Commission met with the Minister for the Environment ten times to inform her of current issues facing the Conservation Commission and to provide advice on issues raised by the Minister. Additionally, the Conservation Commission provided advice on specific issues concerning the conservation estate as and when required.

The Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority met with the Minister for the Environment to provide advice about implementing the State Government's environment policy, particularly as it related to merging the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority into a new Biodiversity Commission. The Conservation Commission continues to work with the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority to ensure a smooth and effective transition to the new arrangements, when the time comes.

In the course of the year the Research Advisory Committee met twice, chaired by Professor Alistar Robertson. During the year Professor Robertson and Ted Lefroy resigned from the Research Advisory Committee. The Conservation Commission is currently considering potential candidates to fill the vacancies. The Research Advisory Committee provided a detailed submission on the Towards a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Western Australia Discussion Paper.

In the reporting period there have been no instances under the *CALM Act* section 24 where the Minister for the Environment has given the Conservation Commission directions in writing with respect to the exercise or performance of its functions.

In accordance with the *CALM Act* section 17(4), there have also been no instances where advice has been provided to the Minister for the Environment under section 19(10) and she has decided to act otherwise than in accordance with the recommendation.

Other Conservation Commission Activities

Field inspections

In order to introduce Conservation Commission members to conservation estate management issues and brief them on specific issues of importance, the Conservation Commission undertook one major field trip during 2004 - 2005 and a number of shorter field trips. All were co-ordinated and supported by CALM's regional staff.

Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and Lake Bryde Nature Reserve

In September 2004 Dr Jennifer Davis and the Director visited the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and Lake Bryde Nature Reserve to consider salinity management issues with representatives from CALM and the Department of Agriculture. The knowledge acquired has been used to assist the Conservation Commission with making decisions concerning specific management proposals.

Lake McLarty Nature Reserve

In October 2004 the Conservation Commission's Management Planning Review Committee visited the Lake McLarty Nature Reserve with CALM planning and regional staff to consider planning visions ahead of the draft management plan coming before the Committee.

Quairading inspection

In November 2004 Dr Jennifer Davis and the Director visited the Quairading area to consider salinity issues, inspect the lake system and meet with the WA Channel Management Group. The knowledge acquired has been used to assist the Conservation Commission with making decisions concerning specific management proposals.

Wungong thinning trial proposal inspection

In November 2004 several Conservation Commission members and staff participated in a field visit organised by the Water Corporation to consider the potential impacts of the Water Corporation's proposal to conduct a forest thinning trial to increase water supply. The inspection included visiting a number of Alcoa's mine site rehabilitation areas.

Neaves Nature Reserve and Yanchep National Park

In December 2004 Conservation Commission members and staff visited Neaves Nature Reserve and Yanchep National Park to consider groundwater recharge, impacts on threatened ecological communities, community education and recreation issues on vested land in the Perth area.

Perth hills wildfire inspection

In January 2005 the Chairperson and several members of staff visited the Perth hills to inspect the area burnt in the January 2005 wildfires and to assess the implications for CALM's fire management activities.

Gull Rock

In March 2005 the Chairperson and the Director visited Albany for a series of meetings regarding the vesting of Gull Rock Reserve. As a result of the meeting, a proposal was developed which included vesting the reserve in the Conservation Commission and developing a management plan under the guidance of the Gull Rock Community Working Group. This proposal was subject to a four week public consultation period which closed in May 2005. A final proposal for consideration by the City of Albany was developed from the 25 submissions.

Goldfields Region

In April 2005 the Chairperson and the Director visited the Goldfields region to inspect sandalwood operations with the Forest Products Commission and to consider with CALM issues relating to mineral resources, particularly iron ore and the implications for rare flora at the Mt Manning Nature Reserve and proposed Conservation Park.

Pilbara Region, June 2005

Most members, the Director, the Environmental Audit Manager and the Executive Assistant visited the Pilbara in June 2005 to inspect conservation reserves in the region and to become acquainted with key management issues, including joint management. In the course of the visit the Commission visited areas of the Burrup Peninsula, Millstream-Chichester National Park and Karijini National Park.

Meetings were also held with representatives from Miliyana Chichester Park Council, the Karijini Park Council and regional staff from CALM, the Department of Environment and Main Roads WA.

There was significant benefit gained from the field inspection in providing first hand information on Aboriginal liaison and joint management issues, logistical constraints in remote areas, recreation and visitor management and the biological and cultural values of the region.

Participation on External Committees

The following members represented the Conservation Commission on other committees as noted:

Mrs Patricia Barblett:	Bush Bank Board Capes Parks Community Advisory Committee
Ms Regina Flugge:	Cape Range Park Council (alternate)
Mr William Mitchell:	Cape Range Park Council
Dr Joanna Young:	Dieback Consultative Council Dieback Response Group

Interaction with Other Agencies

In order to ensure it effectively conducts its responsibilities the Conservation Commission works closely with a range of other agencies on a variety of issues. The Conservation Commission works closely with CALM on a day to day basis, both with the headquarters and regional staff. It is through this relationship that the Conservation Commission was able to assist CALM during January's Perth Hills fire emergency by providing two staff members to assist with fire management.

The Conservation Commission works collaboratively with other environmental agencies including the Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Environment and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. It also has association with the Forest Products Commission, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Industry and Resources, Tourism Western Australia, Western Australian Museum, local government authorities, Department of Indigenous Affairs, Rottnest Island Authority, Main Roads WA, Water Corporation, Department of Fisheries, and Swan River Trust.

Outside the public sector, the Conservation Commission works with a range of community, conservation and industry stakeholders, as well as Indigenous representatives to ensure that policies and plans meet the balanced needs of the wider community.

Issues and Trends

There are a number of key areas of Government policy that the Conservation Commission will either have responsibility for or will have significant interest in over the coming year.

Forest Management Plan

There is significant ongoing work for the Conservation Commission through the process of implementing the Forest Management Plan. Most notable among those requirements in the coming year is the ongoing fieldwork required to finalise the review of CALM's reclassification of areas previously mapped as old-growth, a targeted audit program, the need to comment on guidelines for the selection and management of fauna habitat zones and the finalisation of guidelines for the preparation of new conservation reserve management plans that are integrated with existing management plans. Additionally, the Conservation Commission will focus on increasing effective community involvement in forest management, with fauna habitat zone selection being an important component.

Joint Management

The Conservation Commission will seek opportunities to become more closely involved in joint management initiatives. During the Conservation Commission's June 2005 field inspection in the Pilbara, Ms Regina Flugge has been invited to participate in the Miliyana Chichester Park Council, as an observer.

The Conservation Commission's role in joint management includes statutory management planning and performance assessment. Additionally, the Conservation Commission will participate in the triennial review of the broader joint management process.

Assessment and audit of the CALM's fire research and prescribed burning programs

In July 2005 the Minister for the Environment endorsed the Environmental Protection Authority's recommendations that:

- The Conservation Commission be responsible for auditing the prescribed burning programme, and that this audit forms part of the auditing for the 2004-2013 Forest Management Plan.
- The Conservation Commission's Research Advisory Committee should be tasked formally to advise on CALM's fire research activities.

Consequently, the Conservation Commission is adjusting its audit program to enable a greater emphasis on assessing the prescribed burning planning and practices of CALM and realigning the Research Advisory Committee's work plan to fully incorporate this new priority.

Improving the management planning process

There will be a focus of Conservation Commission attention on further improvement of the management planning process, considering issues such as the range of policies and strategies that are common to plans and regional recreational opportunities and constraints.

Environmental Protection Authority Preliminary Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets

The Conservation Commission was involved in the provision of comment on the Environmental Protection Authority's Preliminary Position Statement on Environmental Offsets. It is anticipated that there will be ongoing involvement from the Conservation Commission in this important issue where resource development is affecting the vested estate.

Recreational Fishing

As nearly 10 per cent of Western Australia is vested in the Conservation Commission, including rivers, streams, lakes and intertidal marine areas within which recreational fishing occurs, the Conservation

Commission has a significant interest in this activity which impacts on the environment directly through the fishing itself and indirectly through associated activities like access and fish stock releases. The Conservation Commission is seeking to ensure that recreational fishing takes biodiversity values into account.

Biodiversity Commission

The Conservation Commission will continue to work with the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and the Government to ensure a smooth and effective transition to the new Biodiversity Commission, when the time comes.

Obligatory Reporting

Conservation Commission Budget

The Conservation Commission had a cash expenditure of \$757 000 for the reporting period against a budget allocation of \$786 949. The reporting and audit of the Conservation Commission's expenditure is included within that for CALM under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* and is incorporated into CALM's annual report on an accrual basis.

Executive Support

The Conservation Commission had the following staff at 30 June 2005:

Director:	Bill Carr
Executive Assistant:	Karen Prosser
Environmental Audit Manager:	Peter Baldwin
Forest Management Auditor:	Tom Hughson
Forest Policy Advisor:	Kathryn Allen

Additional support was provided to the Conservation Commission through the part-time temporary engagement of Jane Van der Meer to assist with the processing of records.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services, including Human Resource Management, Financial Services and Information Technology support are provided under a bureau services agreement with CALM Corporate Services Division.

In accord with these arrangements the Conservation Commission complies with a number of other CALM administrative policies and procedures in order to comply with Government policies and relevant legislation, for example, the Disability Service Plan, Equal Employment Opportunity and the Use of Credit Cards.

Waste Paper Recycling

The Conservation Commission is committed to the recycling of waste paper and the use of paper made from recycled products where appropriate.

Energy Use

The Conservation Commission's office has flexible heating and lighting arrangements to help reduce energy consumption. It contributes to CALM's energy use efforts.

The Conservation Commission's fleet vehicles comprise two four cylinder cars and one six cylinder four wheel drive.

Corruption Prevention

The Conservation Commission has a Code of Conduct that addresses accountability, use of public sector resources, record keeping and use of information, conflict of interest, and compliance with the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and Codes of Conduct.

New staff are inducted according to CALM's induction program, which includes ensuring they are informed about information and asset security as well as guidelines for private use of vehicles, if applicable. The Conservation Commission complies with CALM's administrative policies and procedures as they relate to corruption prevention issues such as the use of credit cards.

Evaluations

No evaluations were undertaken during 2004-05. A review of the operations and effectiveness of the Conservation Commission, as required under the *CALM Act* section 26AC(1), is due during the next reporting period.

Sustainability

While the *Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies and Resource Guide for Implementation* does not apply to the Conservation Commission, the Conservation Commission works in accordance with the Sustainability Code's goals, as sound operational practice. These goals are:

- Planning, reporting and decision making are conducted in accordance with sustainability principles;
- Agency operations support sustainability; and
- Employees are encouraged and empowered to support sustainability

Director's Statement on Compliance

Disability Services Plan Outcomes

(Disability Services Act 1993, section 29)

The Conservation Commission's Disability Services Plan was formally adopted in 2002 and focuses on strategies that ensure compliance with outcomes focused on ensuring Conservation Commission information can be made available to people with disabilities; and providing increased opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public consultation, grievance mechanisms and decision-making processes.

Equal Employment Opportunity Outcomes

(Equal Opportunity Act 1984, section 146)

The Conservation Commission complies with CALM's administrative policies and procedures as they relate to equal employment opportunity outcomes.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

(Public Sector Management Act 1994, section 31(1))

CALM undertakes human resource management for the Conservation Commission under a bureau service agreement.

In the administration of the Conservation Commission, I have complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the WA Code of Ethics and the Conservation Commission's Code of Conduct.

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

No complaints have been lodged under the Code of Ethics during the reporting period and there have been no instances of misconduct.

The Conservation Commission has developed an Equal Employment Opportunity/Diversity Management Plan in accord with the Government's Equity and Diversity Plan 2001-2005.

Information Statement

(Freedom of Information Act 1992, section 96-97)

The *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (FOI)* provides that the public can access the majority of the records of the Conservation Commission. Wherever possible the Conservation Commission will

endeavour to provide access to information as quickly and easily as possible without the client needing to submit a formal FOI request.

The Conservation Commission's records are managed in-house, with professional advice through the bureau service provided by CALM's Corporate Services Division. Documents held by the Conservation Commission include routine administrative records, Commission agendas and minutes, committee records, and financial reports. Personnel records are held in CALM's People Services Branch, which undertakes human resource management for the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission has formulated a records disposal schedule and the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and any relevant Conservation Commission records will be forwarded to the Western Australian State Archives when the schedule is approved and archival storage space is available at the State Archives.

Submission of FOI request

In the first instance, contact the Conservation Commission by telephone, fax, and email or in person, as it may not be necessary to submit a formal FOI request. The Conservation Commission will endeavour to satisfy each information request as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

Should an applicant wish to proceed with a formal application, a valid FOI application needs: to be in writing; to give sufficient information so the document(s) requested can be identified; give an Australian address to which notices can be sent; and be lodged at the Conservation Commission office with any application fee, if payable.

Applications and Enquiries

FOI Coordinator: Director
Conservation Commission of Western Australia
Corner of Hackett Drive and Australia II Drive
CRAWLEY WA 6009

Tel: 08 9389 1766

Email: information@conservation.wa.gov.au

Applications will be acknowledged on receipt. A decision will be made, with notification of this decision and any information made available under the request forwarded within 45 days.

The means of accessing documentation is to be determined by negotiation between the Conservation Commission and the applicant. Documents can be inspected at the Conservation Commission office, posted, sent by facsimile or emailed.

Should an applicant be dissatisfied with an access decision she/he can request the Conservation Commission to undertake an internal review of that decision and, subsequently, a review by the Information Commissioner, if still not satisfied.

Amendment of personal information

Under FOI procedures, an individual may also apply to amend personal information about them if they think that it may be inaccurate or misleading. To do this, applicants need to contact the designated FOI Coordinator nominated above.

Access charges

The *Freedom of Information Act 1992* states that a \$30 fee must accompany a valid FOI application unless the request is entirely for personal information about the applicant. The Conservation Commission can help applicants determine if their enquiry is likely to attract the application fee if they contact the FOI Coordinator before submitting an application.

Fees may also apply for copying or transcribing information. These will be charged at cost, depending on the type and volume of copying necessary to meet the request. Photocopies will be charged at 20 cents per A4 page.

Concessions of 25% are available to applicants who can demonstrate financial hardship. As noted above, no fee is charged for a request to amend personal information.

2004 - 2005 Statistics

There were no requests made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* during the reporting period.

Advertising and Sponsorship

(Electoral Act 1907, section 175ZE)

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Conservation Commission of Western Australia incurred the following expenditure in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising:

Total expenditure for 2004-2005 was \$4 716.

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

Advertising agencies	nil
Market research organisations	nil
Polling organisations	nil
Direct mail organisations	nil
Media advertising (including employment, public participation notices and advertising of contracts)	\$4716

Public Interest Disclosures

(Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003, section 23(1)(f))

The *Public Information Disclosure Act 2003* serves to facilitate the disclosure of public interest information and to provide protection for those who make disclosures and for those who are the subject of such disclosures.

Over the reporting period there have been no disclosures under this Act.

Recordkeeping Plans

(State Records Act 2000, section 61 & State Records Commission Standards, Standard 2, Principle 6)

All staff have received basic training in record keeping as part of the Conservation Commission's employee induction program. A Record Keeping Plan was submitted to the State Records Office in 2003 in compliance with the *State Records Act 2000*.

As reported in the 2003-04 Annual Report, during 2004 the Auditor General undertook a review of the Conservation Commission's records management. The report of the Auditor General's review – *Records Management in Government – A Preliminary Study* – is included in its Second Public Sector Performance Report 2004 and can be accessed at: http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/reports/report2004_04.html. During the reporting period the Conservation Commission has used the Auditor General's findings as a basis for improving the implementation of the Record Keeping Plan.

Appendix 1 – Functions of the Conservation Commission

Policy

- To develop policies —
 - (i) for the preservation of the natural environment of the State and the provision of facilities for the enjoyment of that environment by the community;
 - (ii) for promoting the appreciation of flora and fauna and the natural environment; and
 - (iii) to achieve or promote the objectives for management plans, taking into account specific requirements referred to in the *CALM Act* pertaining to State forests, timber reserves, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other vested land.
 - (iv) to advise the Minister on the development of policies for the conservation and management of biodiversity and biodiversity components throughout the State.
 - (v) with the approval of the Minister, to cause study or research to be undertaken for the purposes of the development of policies.

Estate

- To have vested in it State forest, timber reserves, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, relevant land referred to in section 5(1)(g) of the *CALM Act* and to have the joint management function with other bodies as provided for in the *CALM Act*.
- To have the care, control and management of relevant land referred to in section 5(1)(h) of the *CALM Act* placed with it.
- To consider any cancellation, change of purpose or boundary alteration in respect of land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Conservation Commission.
- To be consulted on matters relating to the granting of licenses, leases, permits and mining tenement applications on land vested in the Conservation Commission.

Management Plans

- To be responsible for the preparation of proposed management plans, and the review of existing management plans for all lands vested in the Conservation Commission.
- To prepare [as the controlling body] proposed management plans for land vested in the Conservation Commission –
 - () through the agency of CALM;
 - () if the vested land is State forest or a timber reserve, the Conservation Commission through the agency of CALM in consultation with the Forest Products Commission; or
 - () if the vested land is or includes a public water catchment area, the Conservation Commission through the agency of the CALM in consultation with the Waters and Rivers Commission and any relevant water utility.
- To submit proposed management plans to the Minister for approval.
- In relation to management plans for land vested, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, in the Conservation Commission —
 - () to develop guidelines for monitoring and assessing the implementation of the management plans by CALM;
 - () to set performance criteria for assessing and auditing the performance of CALM and the Forest Products Commission in carrying out and complying with the management plans; and
 - () to assess and audit the performance of CALM and the Forest Products Commission in carrying out and complying with the management plans.

Forest Management

- To advise the Minister on the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management in the management of —
 - () State forest and timber reserves; and

- () forest produce throughout the State.
- To advise the Minister on the production and harvesting, on a sustained yield basis, of forest produce throughout the State.

Advice and Promotion

- To inquire into and after relevant consultation, to advise the Minister on any matter on which the Minister requests advice.
- To provide advice, upon request, on matters relating to land and waters vested in the Conservation Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, to any body or person, if the provision of the advice is in the public interest and it is practicable for the Conservation Commission to provide it.