

Conservation Commission Annual Report 2001 - 2002

Transmittal to the Minister

Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report 2001 - 2002 of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia, covering its activities for the period ending 30 June 2002, according to Section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

The Conservation Commission is constituted under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, and in performing its functions complies with the following State legislation:

Disability Services Act 1993
Electoral Act 1907
Equal Opportunity Act 1984
Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985
Freedom of Information Act 1992
Government Employees Superannuation Act 1987
Industrial Relations Act 1979
Library Board of Western Australia 1951
Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1984
Public Sector Management Act 1994
State Records Act 2000
State Supply Commission Act 1991
Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981

Dr John Bailey
Chairman

Chairman's Overview

This annual report draws to a close the first full year for the Conservation Commission since it was established in November 2000. I would like to acknowledge the support that I have received from Commission members and staff since my appointment as Chairman in November 2001. In particular I thank Mr Thomas Day for taking on the responsibilities as acting Chairman from the resignation of the previous Chairman, Mr Campbell Ansell on 20 July 2001 until my appointment.

A major focus of the Commission during 2001-2002 has been on the development of the new forest management plan. The Commission has attempted to engage the community as much as possible in the process by holding public forums during the second half of 2001, and releasing a discussion paper in January 2002 for public comment. In addition, a Science Forum, planned jointly with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (DCLM) and the Conservation Council of WA and sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Environmental Protection Authority and Forest Products Commission, was held to inform the development of the new management plan.

During the preparation of the draft forest management plan the Commission has been assisted by a Steering Committee comprising Conservation Commission members and staff and Forest Products Commission. Support from DCLM to this Steering Committee and in the considerable tasks involved in development of the draft forest management plan has been fundamental and I especially record appreciation to those involved.

As this work has continued the Commission has had to grapple with its interpretation of the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management as described in the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

These principles include the precautionary principle

"that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, the lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation";

and the biodiversity principle

"that the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making".

As the Conservation Commission we have sought to give effect to these principles. This is not an easy task when long-term, as well as short-term, social, economic and equitable considerations are also important. The way forward here is through an open and transparent discussion of the relevant issues within the wider community as well as between Government agencies.

During the year the Commission has reviewed the policies of the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, and opened discussions regarding policies to aid in the interpretation of the precautionary principle and in the management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Over the coming year it is important that the Commission gives effect to its own role in the development of biodiversity conservation policy.

An important function of the Commission is to promote the creation of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system throughout the State. This task is a long-term one focussing upon the formal establishment of proposed national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves. The Commission's advice was also sought on a regular basis regarding proposals to change the boundaries or purpose of a conservation reserve, the granting of leases, licences and apiary permits, and mining tenements.

The Commission considered draft management plans for two areas during the year through its Management Planning Review Committee and has commenced its audit program of the implementation of management plans. The latter function was new to the Commission in November 2000 and is seen as central to the Commission's responsibilities. The resources available to support the audit function remain small and the Commission will need to work towards expanding its capacity in this area in the year ahead.

Along with thanks to DCLM in relation to support in the development of the forest management plan, my general thanks go to the many other DCLM staff who have given support to the Commission.

Dr John Bailey

Members

The Conservation Commission of Western Australia has 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 their terms of appointment are:

Dr John Bailey, Chairman	November 2001-November 2004
Mr Thomas Day, Deputy Chairman	November 2000-November 2002
Mrs Patricia Barblett	November 2000-November 2002
Dr Jennifer Davis	November 2000-November 2003
Mr Glen Kelly	November 2000-November 2002
Mrs Barbara Morrell	Appointed November 2000; reappointed November 2001 – November 2003
Mr Graeme Rundle	Appointed November 2000; reappointed November 2001 – November 2003
Mr Rodney Safstrom	November 2000-November 2003
Dr Joanna Young	Appointed November 2000; reappointed November 2001 – November 2003

The inaugural Chairman, Mr Campbell Ansell, resigned from 20 July 2001. Mr Thomas Day acted as Chairman until the appointment of Dr John Bailey.

The Conservation Commission held 14 meetings during the reporting period including one in Carnarvon in August 2001.

Summary of the Conservation Commission's activities and outcomes 1 July 2001 - 30 June 2002

The Conservation Commission was formed on 16 November 2000 under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

Strategic Direction

In 2001 the Conservation Commission set itself a three-year plan to achieve a number of objectives relating to its statutory responsibilities and Government policy, and has adopted the following vision and mission. The Commission has commenced an annual review of its Strategic Plan 2001 – 2003.

Vision

Western Australia is recognised as a place where biological diversity and the natural environment are valued and protected, and natural resources are managed sustainably.

Mission

By its leadership and actions, the Conservation Commission will work to conserve the State's biological diversity and to ensure the conservation estate for which it has responsibility is managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

The Conservation Commission's achievements during the last twelve months are detailed below under the Commission's key result areas.

Policy

In meeting its objective to develop and maintain policy and provide policy advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and to develop policies that promote the conservation of the natural environment of the State, the Conservation Commission has undertaken the following:

- Developed a scoping paper for the development of a policy on the precautionary principle;
- Continued its review of the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority policies, including Wilderness Policy, Aboriginal Involvement in National Parks and Nature Conservation Policy, Mosquito Control Policy, Drainage Policy and Basic Raw Materials Policy, with a view to ascertaining whether or not they are consistent with the Conservation Commission's mission and whether or not they should be adopted by it.

The Wilderness Policy has been assessed and was rescinded given the development of a DCLM operational policy.

The policy on Aboriginal involvement in National Parks and Nature Conservation was rescinded, given the development of a statewide policy.

The Mosquito Control Policy has been reviewed by a committee comprising representatives of the Conservation Commission, the Departments of Conservation and Land Management (DCLM); Environment, Water and Catchment Protection (DEWCP) and Planning and Infrastructure (DPI); and HealthWA. As a consequence of this review a new draft policy on the 'Control of Insects of Nuisance and Health Importance at Wetlands' is being prepared.

The Drainage Policy has been going through an extensive review with an across Government approach. All relevant natural resource management agencies are involved in the committee as well as Conservation Commission members. A new draft policy is currently being written, in light of discussion held so far, for the committee to review before making a recommendation to the Conservation Commission.

The Basic Raw Materials Policy has been reviewed and comment is being sought from DCLM Regional Managers.

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 meeting of the Commission. Provision of advice on applications is subsequently provided to the Minister.
- In working towards establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserves system, the Commission considered changes to reserves and their uses. During the period, a total of approximately 10,000 ha of conservation reserves were added to the estate, including a significant increase to Walpole-Nornalup National Park (3,112ha).

Lands acquired by the Department of Conservation and Land Management in the present financial year, but not yet vested in the Conservation Commission, will be detailed in the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Annual Report.

- Provision of advice to the Department of Conservation and Land Management on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and other activities such as utility infrastructure proposed on land vested in the Conservation Commission was provided. During the year, the following applications were considered: 24 lease applications in 10 batches; 314 licence applications in 12 batches; and 157 apiary permits in 8 batches.
- During the year, 43 mining tenement applications were referred to the Conservation Commission for recommendations, none of which required statutory recommendations under Section 24 of the *Mining Act 1978*; all 43 applications however required Commission advice to be provided to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

Management Plans

The Conservation Commission's Management Planning Review Committee which was established to liaise with the Department of Conservation and Land Management in complying with the statutory responsibility for the preparation and submission to the Minister of proposed management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission, and for the review of expiring plans, met seven times during the year.

- In conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Conservation Commission follows agreed guidelines for the preparation of management plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission. An integral part of this process is the establishment in consultation with the Department of agreed priorities for the development and review of management plans for the coming year. It also provides for appropriate mechanisms whereby indigenous groups, organisations and traditional owners can fully participate, in a culturally appropriate manner, in the development and implementation of management plans.
- During the year, the Conservation Commission has considered the drafts of proposed Management Plans for Carnac Island and Beeliar Regional Park, and approved them for release for public comment.
- During the year, the Conservation Commission's Audit Manager undertook three audits of the implementation of, and compliance with, reserve management plans for Wanjarri Nature Reserve, Moorandung Nature Reserve and Dryandra Woodland. The reports from these audits were not finalised in this reporting period.

The completion of these audits is an important step on the process of developing a system for publicly reporting on the management of conservation reserves.

Forest Management

The Conservation Commission has a statutory role to prepare management plans and aims to ensure that the State forest and timber reserves vested in the Conservation Commission are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis, and that these principles are applied in the management of forest produce throughout Western Australia. Development of the new Forest Management Plan continued, through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and where applicable, acting jointly with the Forest Products Commission, the Water and Rivers Commission and any relevant water utility.

The Steering Committee which was established to guide the process, comprising members and staff from the Conservation Commission and the Forest Products Commission met 13 times during the year.

Consistent with the Government's *Protecting our old –growth forests* policy, a number of reviews were initiated as part of the process of monitoring, assessing and auditing the existing Forest Management Plan, as well as providing input to future management plans.

These included: -

- An Assessment of High Conservation Value Forest for possible inclusion in the reserve system which was used by the Conservation Commission to provide advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.
- An independent *Expert Panel Review of the Sustained Yield of Timber in the Context of ESFM* that is ongoing and will ultimately report on the final sustained yield figures in the new Forest Management Plan.
- The Assessment of the scientific, economic and community values and the impact of timber harvesting on salinity of the proposed 25,000 hectare expansion of the Wellington National Park near Collie, Palmer and Leach blocks near Collie, and Helms block near Nannup.
- A Review of Stream and River Timber Harvesting Buffers to ensure their adequacy in protecting waterways from salinity, degradation and turbidity.
- A review of silvicultural guidelines: *Towards Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management in Jarrah Forests of Western Australia*

- A Social and Economic Impact Study of the potential impact of the new Forest Management Plan on regional communities commenced and continues.

The results of reviews are published on the Conservation Commission website as they are finalised.

A Discussion Paper "A new forest management plan for Western Australia" was published in January 2001 to assist the Conservation Commission in formulating the Forest Management Plan by seeking input on management objectives for the biological, ecological, social, cultural and other forest values. The Discussion Paper was released for a period of two months public consultation and 132 submissions were received. These submissions were considered in the preparation of the Draft Forest Management Plan.

The Forest Management Plan Public Participation Program, which is managed by an independent Co-ordinator, contracted to the Commission, continued to disseminate information to interested parties to ensure that the community had the opportunity to provide input to the Plan in an effective, timely and productive manner. A mailing list of over 900 addresses has been developed and five mailings conducted.

Public displays in sixteen locations throughout the South West were held in July and early August 2001. The purpose of these displays was to provide broad project information to a large number of people in the general community. The Public Involvement Co-ordinator staffed all of the displays, providing general information on the Forest Management Plan development process, maps and contact details for queries, comments and submissions.

Five Region and City Forums were held in August/September 2001 in Collie, Margaret River, Manjimup, Mundaring and Perth. The forums featured a series of information presentations on six main outcome areas, followed by a workshop session by forum attendees on their feedback on these and additional areas in relation to the new Forest Management Plan. The forums allowed all attendees to take part in a focussed and structured manner, providing effective outcomes which were collated and forwarded to the Steering Committee and Round Table Group convened by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage to involve key stakeholder groups in the development process.

To promote debate and discussion among various scientific and educational interest groups, the Conservation Commission convened a scientific technical seminar on biodiversity issues in March 2002. Planning for the seminar was jointly undertaken by the Conservation Commission, DCLM and the Conservation Council of WA. Sponsorship was provided from DCLM, Environmental Protection Authority and Forest Products Commission.

Consultation with Aboriginal groups has been ongoing during the year, assisted by an Aboriginal Working Group which provided advice and assistance with respect to contact information and matters of cultural protocol. Initial meetings were held with a number of groups, including the Native Title Claimant Groups for the area covered by the new Plan.

Advice and Promotion

The Conservation Commission meets regularly with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage to inform her of current issues facing the Conservation Commission. Additionally, the Conservation Commission provides advice on specific issues concerning the conservation estate as and when required.

There have been no instances under the *CALM Act 1984* Section 24 where the Minister for the Environment and Heritage has given the Conservation Commission directions in writing with respect to the exercise or performance of its functions.

In accordance with the *CALM Act 1984* Section 17 (4), there have also been no instances under the *CALM Act 1984* Section 19 (10) where advice has been provided to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and she has decided to act otherwise than in accordance with the recommendation.

Assessment of log stockpiles

In accordance also with the Government's *Protecting our old-growth forests* Policy, an independent assessment of log stockpiles and forest 'waste' was undertaken for the Minister for Environment and Heritage in order to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the log stockpiles and in-forest waste management systems. The assessment estimated that there was approximately 100,000m³ of logs stockpiled on landings in the south west forests. A number of recommendations were made in relation to the management of stockpiles and residues.

Other Conservation Commission Activities

Field inspections

In order to introduce Commission members to conservation estate management issues and brief them on specific issues of relevance to their charter, the Conservation Commission undertook two major field trips during 2001 co-ordinated and supported by DCLM regional staff.

Kimberley region 6 – 9 July 2001

Three Conservation Commission members and the Director attended the tour, which aimed to inform the members about:

- diversity of managed lands in the Kimberley Region;
- access problems and protection of National Parks;
- issues in relation to joint management planning with traditional owners; and
- visitor fees and licensing of tourist facilities.

Members visited Kunnunurra and surrounds, Mirima National Park, Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve, Purnululu National Park, and Mitchell River National Park.

Kennedy Range National Park 15 – 18 August 2001

Following a Conservation Commission meeting, held in Carnarvon eight of the members the Director and Audit Manager toured the Park, to familiarise themselves with rangeland management generally and Kennedy Range National Park management issues in particular.

Issues examined included:

- the management of the Park particularly in relation to feral animal control;
- rangeland management issues generally; and
- the management of properties recently acquired by the Department of Conservation and Land Management under significant estate expansion programs.

Forest management field inspections 22 -23 November 2001, 6 – 8 March 2002

As part of the development of the new Forest Management Plan field inspections were held in both the jarrah and karri forests.

Tour of regional parks, 22 April 2002

Six members and the Director undertook a tour of Yellagonga Regional Park, Herdsman Lake Regional Park, Woodman Point Regional Park, and Beeliam Regional Park, noting regional park management issues.

In particular:

- the involvement of the community through Advisory Committees;
- fire control and management; and
- community recognition of the parks through "branding" individual parks.

Community involvement

In order to improve community knowledge about the role of the Conservation Commission and to fulfil its statutory obligations, members have contributed to a number of other forums during the year, including:

- a 'think tank' to consider performance indicators for use in management plans;
- an Ecoforestry Forum; and
- a Symposium: Fire in South West Australian Ecosystems: Impacts and Management.

Participation on external committees

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

Mrs Pat Barblett: Busselton Wetlands Conservation Strategy Steering Committee
Bush Bank Board

Mr Tom Day: Salinity Council

Dr Joanna Young: Dieback Consultative Council

Gorgon

Dr John Bailey: Standing Interagency Committee of Chief Executive Officers (SIAC)
Director Technical Advisory Committee

Submissions to external reviews

The Conservation Commission made submissions to a number of external reviews during the year including:

- State Lime Strategy
- Salinity Taskforce
- State Sustainability Strategy
- Australian Forestry Standard Development
- Carnarvon Coastal Strategy
- Environmental Protection Authority development review processes.

Issues and Trends

There are a number of specific Government policies that the Conservation Commission will advance in the coming year.

Forest Management Plan

The main issue, which will continue to occupy the Conservation Commission in the forthcoming year, is the completion of the new Forest Management Plan and the accompanying Public Participation Program. The Public Participation Program encompasses six regional and city forums, with the aim of including community and stakeholder input into the development of the next Forest Management Plan, as articulated in the Government's *Protecting our old-growth forests* policy. Additional forums specific to a sector of the community, such as local government, will be held as required.

Aboriginal joint management

The Conservation Commission, in meeting its statutory requirement to prepare management plans, will develop and implement joint management strategies for conservation reserves in full consultation with indigenous people. These strategies will take into account the inclusion of indigenous people in management and in decision-making.

- **Expansion of conservation estate**

As a consequence of the Government's policy to create new national parks and new reserves, the Conservation estate has increased. The Conservation Commission has factored these areas into the priorities for the development of management plans over the forthcoming triennial.

- **Management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi***

In response to the Government's *Protecting Our Old Growth Forests* policy (for a review of the current *Phytophthora cinnamomi* policies and management practices) and the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority's Bulletin 1010 (February 2001) titled "Protocol for the identification and prioritisation for management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* 'protectable' areas", the Conservation Commission will participate in a number of key strategies for the adaptive management of the threat posed by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* to Western Australia's biodiversity.

Conservation Commission Budget

The Conservation Commission was established with a minimal budget. Submissions for additional funds over the past two financial years have not been successful. It is a challenge for the Commission to continue to develop its policy and audit functions and fulfil its statutory responsibilities within budget.

Executive

The Conservation Commission has the following staff:

Acting Director:	Christine Shervington
Executive Assistant:	Vikki Santwyk
Audit Manager:	Peter Baldwin
Project Officer:	Gary Whisson (on secondment for May - June from Department of Environment Water and Catchment Protection)

For the duration of the Forest Management Planning process, a Public Involvement Coordinator, Marie Hauxby, Tailored Media, has been appointed from June 2001.

Corporate services

Corporate Services, including Human Resource Management, Financial Services and Information Technology support are provided under a Bureau Services Agreement with the Department of Conservation and Land Management Corporate Services Division.

As noted above, the Conservation Commission complies with a number of other Department of Conservation and Land Management policies and procedures, for example, the Disability Service Plan and the Use of Credit Cards, until such time as the Commission develops its own.

The Conservation Commission is committed to the recycling of waste paper.

Director's Statement on Compliance

Disability services plan outcomes

In the absence of its own Disability Services Plan, the Conservation Commission worked to the Department of Conservation and Land Management Plan, provided through the human resource management service.

In particular, the Conservation Commission has adopted the strategies to 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.

Statement of compliance with public sector standards

The Department of Conservation and Land Management undertakes human resource management for the Conservation Commission under a bureau service agreement.

In the administration of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia, 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.

Information statement 2001

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 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 the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Corporate Services Division. Documents held by the Conservation Commission include routine administrative records, Commission agendas and minutes, committee records, financial reports. Personnel records are held in CALMpeople Services Branch, which undertakes human resource management for the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission will formulate a records disposal schedule in the coming financial year, and the former National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority records will be forwarded to the Western Australian State Archives when the schedule is approved and archival storage space available at the State Archives.

Submission of FOI request

In the first instance, contact the Conservation Commission by telephone, email or in person, as it may not be necessary to submit a formal FOI request. The 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
Corner of Hackett Drive and Australia II Drive
Crawley 6009
Tel: 08 9389 1766
Email: information@conservation.wa.gov.au

Applications will be acknowledged on receipt and a decision will be made and forwarded in writing 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 themselves if they think that it may be inaccurate or misleading. To do this, applications 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.

2001-2002 Statistics

One (1) request was made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* during the reporting period and it was satisfied within the stated timeframe.

Electoral Act 1907 (s175ZE Disclosure)

In accordance with Section 175 ZE 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 2001 /2002 was \$ 17,233.00

Expenditure was 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) \$17,233.00



Western Australia

office of the

**AUDITOR
GENERAL**

Our Ref: 4064

RECEIVED

13 JUN 2002

CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WA

Chairman
Conservation Commission of Western Australia
Cnr Hackett Drive and Australia II Drive
CRAWLEY WA 6009

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West Perth 6005
Western Australia

Tel: 08 9222 7500
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SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Dear Sir

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2001 TO AUGUST 10, 2001**

The final audit of the controls and financial statements for your agency has now been completed. A copy of the opinion of the Auditor General is attached, together with a set of the audited financial statements. The audit opinion and financial statements have been forwarded to the Minister for Environment and Heritage for tabling in Parliament.

Performance Indicators

An opinion on performance indicators has not been issued as the Commission has not submitted indicators as required by section 68 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the management and staff of your agency for the cooperation that has been given to the audit team during the course of the audit.

Yours faithfully

ROCHELLE BRADLEY CPA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT
June 12, 2002

Attach



AUDITOR GENERAL

To the Parliament of Western Australia

CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2001 TO AUGUST 10, 2001

Scope

I have audited the final accounts and financial statements of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia for the period July 1, 2001 to August 10, 2001 under the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.

The Commission is responsible for keeping proper accounts and maintaining adequate systems of internal control, preparing and presenting the financial statements, and complying with the Act and other relevant written law. The primary responsibility for the detection, investigation and prevention of irregularities rests with the Commission.

My audit was performed in accordance with section 79 of the Act to form an opinion based on a reasonable level of assurance. The audit procedures included examining, on a test basis, the controls exercised by the Commission to ensure financial regularity in accordance with legislative provisions, evidence to provide reasonable assurance that the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements are free of material misstatement and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Treasurer's Instructions so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Commission's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed below has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys and the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows and the Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Commission at August 10, 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the for the period July 1, 2001 to August 10, 2001.


D D R PEARSON
AUDITOR GENERAL
June 12, 2002


4th Floor Dumas House 2 Havelock Street West Perth 6005 Western Australia Tel: 08 9222 7500 Fax: 08 9322 5664

CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2001 TO 10 AUGUST 2001

The accompanying financial statements of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the period 1 July 2001 to 10 August 2001 and the financial position as at 10 August 2001.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.


27 Christine Shervington
Principal Accounting Officer
May 2002


John Bailey
Chairman
27 May 2002


Patricia Barlett
Commission Member
27 May 2002



CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	1.7.01 – 10.8.01 \$000	16.11.00 – 30.6.01
COST OF SERVICES		
Expenses from ordinary activities		
Employee expenses	35	198
Supplies and services	12	41
Depreciation expense	0	2
Administration expenses	19	30
Accommodation expenses	0	16
Total cost of services	66	307
Revenues from ordinary activities	0	5
NET COST OF SERVICES	66	302
REVENUES FROM GOVERNMENT		
Resources received free of charge	66	302
Change in net assets	0	0
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS	0	0

The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
Total ASSETS	0	0
Total Liabilities	0	0
Total Equity	0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	0	0

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2001 \$000	2000 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT		
Recurrent appropriations	0	0
Capital appropriations	0	0
Net cash provided by Government	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Utilised as follows:		
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	0	0
Cash assets at the beginning of the financial year	0	0
Cash assets transferred from other sources	0	0
CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Commission mission and funding

The Commission's mission is: by its leadership and actions, the Conservation Commission will work to conserve the State's biological diversity and to ensure the conservation estate for which it has responsibility is managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

The Conservation Commission was established on 16 November 2000 under the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Act 2000.

The Commission does not receive a parliamentary appropriation under a separate Division. Resources and services are provided through the agency of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

On 10 August 2001 the Commission was removed from Schedule 1 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985. Consequently, these financial statements are for the period 1 July 2001 – 10 August 2001, and will not be produced thereafter.

2. Significant accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording. The Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views. The modifications are intended to fulfill the requirements of general application to the public sector together with the need for greater disclosure and to satisfy accountability requirements.

If any such modification has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and where practicable, the resulting financial effect, are disclosed in individual notes to these financial statements.

The statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge or for nominal value that can be reliably measured are recognized as revenues and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value. For the period 1 July 2001 to 10 August 2001, the Department of Conservation and Land Management provided resources free of charge to the Commission valued at \$58,000 and the Office of the Auditor-General provided audit services valued at \$8,000.



3. Outputs of the Commission

The key functions of the Commission are:

- To be an advisory and policy development body to the Minister;
- To be a vesting body for all terrestrial conservation areas, including national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forests and timber reserves;
- To submit management plans for vested lands to the Minister for Environment;
- To develop policies to protect the State's natural environment and for the appreciation and enjoyment of that environment by the community;
- To promote and facilitate community involvement;
- To advise the Minister on management of native flora and fauna;
- To recommend guidelines for ecotourism;
- To set performance criteria for assessing and auditing the performance of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Forest Products Commission, in carrying out and complying with management plans;
- To advise the Minister on the application of the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management in the management of State forests and timber reserves and forest produce throughout the State; and
- to commission research for the purposes of its policy development function, with Ministerial approval.

