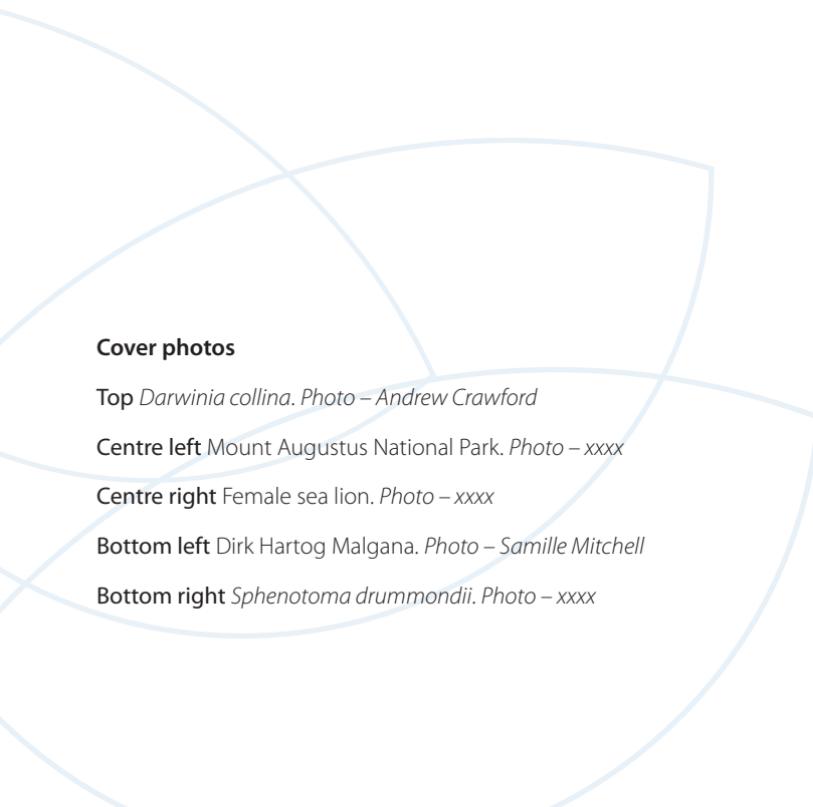




Government of **Western Australia**
Conservation and Parks Commission

Conservation and Parks Commission **Annual Report 2023–24**





Cover photos

Top *Darwinia collina*. Photo – Andrew Crawford

Centre left Mount Augustus National Park. Photo – xxxx

Centre right Female sea lion. Photo – xxxx

Bottom left Dirk Hartog Malgana. Photo – Samille Mitchell

Bottom right *Sphenotoma drummondii*. Photo – xxxx



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

Conservation and Parks Commission
Annual Report 2023–24

Table of contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Transmittal to the Minister | 2 |
| Overview | 3 |
| Chair's report | 3 |
| Purpose | 5 |
| Functions | 5 |
| Commission membership | 6 |
| Priorities – building an environmental legacy | 10 |
| Plan for Our Parks | 10 |
| Management planning | 11 |
| Forest Management Plan 2024–33 | 11 |
| Strategic directions and governance | 12 |
| Policy development and advice | 12 |
| Periodic assessment framework | 13 |
| Terrestrial management plan management effectiveness | 13 |
| Marine park management effectiveness | 13 |
| Estate management | 13 |
| Mineral exploration consents | 13 |
| Leases, licences and apiary authorities | 14 |
| Evidence based information for decision making | 15 |
| Stakeholder engagement | 15 |
| Biodiversity and conservation | 16 |
| Vested lands and waters | 16 |
| Additions to the conservation estate | 16 |
| Disclosures and legal compliance | 18 |
| Financial statements | 18 |
| Board and committee remuneration | 18 |
| Governance disclosures | 19 |
| Employment and industrial relations | 19 |
| Ministerial directives | 19 |
| Recordkeeping plans | 19 |
| Government policy requirements | 20 |
| Substantive equality | 20 |
| Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes | 20 |
| Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework | 20 |
| Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes | 20 |
| Occupational safety, health, and injury management | 20 |

Transmittal to the Minister

Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Environment

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Conservation and Parks Commission for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in accordance with section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

Jo Lanagan
Chair
Conservation and Parks Commission

Contacts:

Postal

Locked Bag 104
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE
Western Australia 6983

Electronic

Email: info@conservation.wa.gov.au
Internet: conservation.wa.gov.au
Telephone: +61 8 9219 9000

Overview

Chair's report

This year the Commission has continued to deliver strongly on its statutory functions, guided by its strategic plan, and with support from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Continuation of the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative which proposed to increase the conservation estate by 20 per cent has increased joint management of much of the proposed estate with indigenous groups. The Commission affixed its common seal to seven Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), for the creation of the reserves and to support the exchange of knowledge and a deeper understanding of Traditional Owner obligations in caring for country.

The Commission's Management Plan Review Committee (MPRC) engaged closely with DBCA during the planning stages of proposed management plans and the review of older management plans. We also endorsed four indicative joint management plans for the proposed South Coast Marine Park. Much work was achieved during the year by DBCA on the Review and Reform of Statutory Management Planning project, with regular briefings to the MPRC and the Commission to exchange ideas and advice for inclusion into the process.

Delivery of the *Forest Management Plan 2024-33* (FMP 2024-33), which incorporates the decision by the State Government to end the logging of native forests on state lands was a significant outcome. The new plan will see ensure approximately 400,000 additional hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests are preserved for the future. The draft FMP 2024-33 was assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and subsequent appeals on the EPA report were considered by an independent panel, resulting in refinements to the plan. Following approval by the Minister for Environment in December 2023, the plan came into effect on 1 January 2024.

The Commission undertook a review of two terrestrial management plans, namely the *Ord River and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserves Management Plan 2012* and *Tuart Forest National Park Management Plan 2014* and attended a site visit to the Tuart Forest National Park management plan area. Input into the annual marine park management effectiveness assessments was also provided.

Our Conflict-of-Interest Policy was reviewed and updated, as well as several position statements and guidelines which support the Commission's governance.

I want to acknowledge and commend Professor Chris Doepel PSM, who chaired the Commission through most of the reporting year, for his outstanding commitment and skilled contribution to the Commission over the past eight years, including the last five years as Chair. The Commission also farewelled Penny Bond whose considered and measured contribution over the past five years was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to Mark Webb who has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Commission. We also welcome Professor Matthew Tonts and Rod Clark who bring extensive knowledge and experience which will greatly contribute to the Commission's strong advocacy of the State's biodiversity and conservation estate.

Thank you to the Commission members for their commitment and energy to all matters that come before them. The Commission also acknowledges the generous and professional support of DBCA Director General, Stuart Smith, Deputy Director General Parks and Wildlife, Peter Dans and DBCA staff. Finally, the Commission thanks Campbell Youngson for his outstanding and patient secretariat support to the Commission throughout the reporting period.

Jo Lanagan

Chair

Conservation and Parks Commission

Purpose

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

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

Functions

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

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

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

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

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

Commission membership

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

Professor Chris Doepel PSM – Chair (outgoing)



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

Mrs Jo Lanagan – Chair (current)



Jo Lanagan heads up a consultancy providing governance and policy advice, and consulting across industry on engagement with Indigenous groups. In February 2023, Jo left full-time work at Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS) where she had held the position of Chief Executive Officer for the preceding 3 years. Jo had worked in various roles at CDNTS for 12 years. She has held senior roles in the State and Commonwealth Governments including Director of Claims Management for the Office of Native Title and Director of Heritage and Culture at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. She has led negotiations on behalf of both the State and Commonwealth Governments in the Australian Square Kilometre Array Project, leading to the CSIRO build of the largest radio astronomy observatory in the world and Australia hosting international radio astronomy projects. Jo was one of two negotiators on behalf of the State Government to reach a comprehensive native title settlement with the Yawuru people over Broome, resulting in the creation of conservation estate and marine park. Through her native title work Jo has had the good fortune to visit much of the more remote conservation estate in Western Australia.

Having been appointed Deputy Chair in 2019, Jo was appointed Chair on 25 June 2024.

Mr Mark Webb PSM – Deputy Chair (current)



Mark retired from the Public Service in February 2023. Before this, he was Director General of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, which included being the Chief Executive Officer of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, the Rottnest Island Authority, and the Zoological Parks Authority. Mark has extensive experience in horticultural research, public and private sector management and business, both nationally and internationally. Mark also volunteers in his local community and has a strong interest in social justice.

Mark was appointed Deputy Chair of the Conservation and Parks Commission on 25 June 2024.

Mrs Tania (Tahn) Donovan – Member



Tania (Tahn) Donovan is a Wadandi Yok woman from Busselton and has experience in Aboriginal affairs in relation to employment, tourism, business development, policy and capacity building across State Government. Tahn is the Community, Corporate and Policy Manager with Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation. She has a wide range of skills and experiences in the environmental, tourism and hospitality, disability employment, farming and transport industries

Ms Penny Bond – Member (until 6 May 2024)



Penny Bond graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (with Distinction) and Bachelor of Arts from Murdoch University and has both public and private sector experience. She previously worked as a Senior Policy Adviser in State Government, with responsibility for ensuring the implementation of cross-portfolio policies and progressing Bills through Cabinet and the State Parliament. Penny represented the Minister as a panel member on the Ministerial Advisory Panel for Occupational Health and Safety Reform, which saw her work collaboratively with stakeholders on important law reform. Penny is a lawyer at MinterEllison and is undertaking a Master of Laws at The University of Western Australia, where she was recently recognised as the highest achieving postgraduate student in Climate Change and Emissions Trading Law. Penny enjoys hiking and camping and is passionate about the appreciation of Western Australia's conservation estate.

Ms Kim Eckert OAM – Member



Kim resides in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and is the Chief Executive Officer of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG), a not-for-profit community organisation in the Goldfields. Kim uses her broad range of skills and experience in conservation and the environment, not-for-profit, disability, tourism, and volunteering sectors to assist community groups in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and sits on many community committees. Kim also sits on the Pastoral Lands Board as the Conservation Interest Member. Appointed as a WA Parks Foundation Ambassador in 2017, Kim is passionate about our State's conservation areas, educating the community about the local flora (including facilitating Traditional Owners to educate the community about traditional bush food and bush medicine), connecting people to parks and nature, and promoting travel in Western Australia to our most precious and natural areas. Kim holds a qualification in conservation and land management and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2019, Kim was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her significant contributions to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community.

Dr John Keesing – Member



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

Professor Matthew Tonts – Member (from 25 June 2024)



Professor Matthew Tonts holds the position of Provost at Curtin University. Between 2021 and 2024, he was the Chair of the WA Environmental Protection Authority and prior to this held a range of senior leadership positions at The University of Western Australia. Professor Tonts has international academic and policy experience in environmental science, regional development and spatial planning, including work in Australia, North America, Africa and Asia.

Mr Rod Clark – Member (from 25 June 2024)



Mr Rod Clark has over 40 years' experience in the Western Australian Public Service, most recently as a Senior Policy Officer for the then Minister for Education and Training; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Prior to this Mr Clark held a Policy Officer position within the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, and a variety of electorate office roles.

Before moving to Parliamentary work, Mr Clark taught for 20 years in WA government schools in a range of areas including Primary Education, Special Needs and Indonesian Language in the Pilbara, the South West and Christmas Island. While teaching on Christmas Island, Mr Clark rewrote a natural history book, *Christmas Island, Naturally*, updating the research in consultation with a team of scientists from National Parks Australia (now Parks Australia).

Executive support

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

Priorities – building an environmental legacy

During 2023-24, the Commission has contributed to and supported delivery of election commitments and Government priorities including:

- increasing the conservation estate by five million hectares under the Plan for Our Parks (PfOP) initiative by 2024
- recognition of Aboriginal connection to Country and opportunities for joint management and joint vesting of conservation reserves
- development and release of the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*
- increased opportunities for sustainable visitation and appreciation of the natural environment
- protection of the State's biodiversity.

Plan for Our Parks

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

Throughout 2023-24, the State Government continued to progress the negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), which are generally required to create the reserves, and concurrent management planning processes for each reserve proposal.

The Commission's role in the implementation of Plan for Our Parks has included considering reserve proposals and associated ILUAs, responding to departmental briefings on work in progress and providing subsequent advice to the Minister for Environment.

As of 30 June 2024, 17 out of 29 proposals had been fully or partially completed with 3.47 million hectares reserved under the Plan for Our Parks initiative. This equates to approximately 69 per cent of the five-million-hectare target.

During this reporting period, the Commission resolved to affix its common seal to the following ILUAs:

- Yurriyngem Tamm Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) ILUA for the proposed Fitzroy River Yurriyngem Tamm National Park
- Karlka Niyaparli Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ILUA for the proposed conservation estate on Niyaparli Country
- Nyamal Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ILUA for the proposed conservation estate on Nyamal Country
- Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ILUA for the proposed conservation estate on Wajarri Yamaji Country

- Malgana ILUA for a portion of the Shark Bay terrestrial reserve additions
- Nanda ILUA for a portion of the Shark Bay terrestrial reserve additions, Meentheena conservation reserves and the Giralia National Park and Booloogooro Nature Reserve
- Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation ILUA for creation of the Wudjari Marine Park, being portion of the proposed South Coast Marine Park.

Management planning

The Commission's main objectives in relation to estate planning are to provide quality and timely advice to the Minister for Environment and to ensure the preparation and implementation of effective management plans for land and water vested either solely or jointly in the Commission. DBCA prepares management plans on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission's Management Plan Review Committee was established to ensure early engagement with the Commission with the aim of ensuring a consistent planning approach, more uniform presentation of plans and effective use of key performance indicators (KPIs). The Management Plan Review Committee has been provided updates on the active planning processes throughout the reporting period, and have provided advice to DBCA on the Review and Reform of Statutory Management Planning project that is currently underway.

During this reporting period, the Commission endorsed four indicative joint management plans for the proposed South Coast Marine Park:

- Mamang Maambakoort Marine Park Indicative Joint Management Plan
- Proposed Wudjari Marine Park Indicative Joint Management Plan
- Proposed Western Bight Marine Park Indicative Management Plan
- Proposed Mirning Marine Park Indicative Joint Management Plan.

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

Forest Management Plan 2024–33

The Commission finalised the *Forest Management Plan 2024–33* (FMP 2024–33) with DBCA, which gives effect to the State Government's decision to end large-scale commercial timber harvesting in south-west native forests and preserve 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah, and wandoo forests in reserves. This followed consideration of the Draft FMP 2024-2033 by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and appeals on the EPA's report and recommendations by an independent panel, and publication of Ministerial Statement 1214 on 30 November 2024, which led to refinements being made to the plan. The Minister for Environment approved the plan on 14 December 2023, and it came into effect on 1 January 2024.

Strategic directions and governance

The Commission operates under its functions outlined in the CALM Act and supports government priorities. For effective management of the conservation estate in Western Australia, the Commission works collaboratively with DBCA for the delivery of these services. The Commission continued to operate under its Strategic Directions 2022–25, which supports a focus on planning, evidence-based decision making, performance monitoring, management effectiveness and good governance.

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

The Commission has established two committees: the Governance and Risk Committee which reviews Commission documents, policies, procedures, guidelines and position statements to ensure relevance and currency; and the Management Plan Review Committee which considers CALM Act management plans and makes recommendations to the Commission.

The Public Sector Commission's principles for good governance continued to be implemented and maintained.

Policy development and advice

The Commission develops position statements to inform the Commission's functions under section 19 of the CALM Act. These functions include advising the Minister for Environment and preparing management plans. During the 2023–24 financial year, the Commission reviewed and updated policies, position statements and guidelines, including:

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Risk Appetite Statement
- Terms of Reference: Governance and Risk Committee
- Board Induction for New Members
- *Position Statement No. 7: The threat of Phytophthora dieback to biodiversity values on lands vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission*
- *Position Statement No. 12: Extraction of basic raw materials on lands vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission.*

The Commission will continue to work with DBCA to prioritise policies and position statements requiring review.

Periodic assessment framework

The Commission partners with DBCA to ensure management plans are implemented effectively through a periodic assessment framework. This framework incorporates the Commission's statutory responsibility to develop guidelines for monitoring, sets performance criteria for evaluating and conducts periodic assessments of the implementation of management plans.

A corporate guideline was adopted by DBCA that guides management effectiveness. DBCA has operationalised this guideline and reporting process that supports the Commission's periodic assessment framework reporting for parks and reserves. It is anticipated that better integrated reporting will deliver a more systematic approach to management plan implementation (and will provide for continuous improvement in the development of new management plans).

Terrestrial management plan management effectiveness

The Commission reviewed terrestrial management plan management effectiveness assessments for *Ord River and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserves Management Plan* and *Tuart Forest National Park Management Plan* and undertook a site visit to the *Tuart Forest National Park Management Plan* planning area as part of its periodic assessment program.

Marine park management effectiveness

The Commission reviewed the annual marine park management effectiveness assessments and attended the marine management workshop held in November 2023 with DBCA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). The Commission provided DBCA a summary of its observations from the workshop, providing guidance and requesting advice on how particular issues were to be addressed.

An update was provided to the Commission by DBCA on the implementation of the Management Effectiveness Policy and Guidelines.

Estate management

Mineral exploration consents

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

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

The Commission endorsed a process for joint responsible body consideration of mineral exploration consents on joint vested reserves.

In 2023–24, the Commission provided recommendations relating to applications to undertake mineral exploration activities in a number of vested reserves or amendments to existing mining activities including the following:

- Dundas Nature Reserve, Reserve No. 36957 – South Coast Region
- Jilbadji Nature Reserve, Reserve No. 24049 – Wheatbelt Region

In addition, the Commission received a briefing on exploration activities in Julimar State Forest.

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

Leases, licences and apiary authorities

Advice on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and other activities, such as utility infrastructure proposed on land and water vested in the Commission, was provided to DBCA during this reporting period. Table 1 summarises the Commission's consideration of CALM Act leases, licences and permits during this reporting period. It is noted that only licences that are not consistent with the approved Commercial Operator Handbook are referred to the Commission.

Table 1. CALM Act leases, licences and authorities endorsed by the Commission during 2023–24

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Commercial operations licences | 3 |
| Apiary authorities | 3 |
| Other leases and licences | 40 |

**Supplied by DBCA, 2024*

Evidence based information for decision making

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

- Plan for Our Parks initiative
- Native Title and Indigenous Land Use Agreements
- visitor risk management
- climate action
- green energy proposals
- CALM Act amendment proposals
- development of the Forest Management Plan 2024–33
- annual assessment reports for marine parks
- Review of Joint Management Effectiveness (Yawuru Nagulagan / Roebuck Bay Marine Park)
- Bent Street Navigational Channel, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.

Stakeholder engagement

Commission members regularly engage with key stakeholders on matters relevant to the objectives of the CALM Act and the role of the Commission. Through the Management Plan Review Committee (MPRC), Commission members engage with Traditional Owners and representatives from conservation, tourism, industry, mining, forestry and other relevant sectors, via the management planning processes.

Members have participated in key workshops, stakeholder forums and steering group meetings including the *Forest Management Plan 2024–33* steering group, Proposed South Coast Marine Park, and Marmion Marine Park community reference committees and the annual marine park management workshop.

Biodiversity and conservation

Vested lands and waters

The following table provides a summary of lands and waters vested in the Commission during the 2023–24 financial year.

Table 2. Lands and waters vested in the Commission

| Land classification | Area as at 30 June 2024 (ha) | Area as at 30 June 2023 (ha) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| National parks | 8,486,885 | 7,275,931 |
| Conservation parks | 1,407,673 | 1,323,095 |
| Nature reserves | 10,365,757 | 10,296,811 |
| State forests | 1,281,161 | 1,281,234 |
| Timber reserves | 123,146 | 123,147 |
| CALM Act section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) | 1,081,410 | 501,282 |
| Marine park | 5,070,469 | 5,070,469 |
| Marine nature reserve | 132,000 | 132,000 |
| Marine management area | 143,385 | 143,385 |
| Total | 28,091,886 | 26,147,354 |

* Supplied by DBCA, 2024

Additions to the conservation estate

Reserves created under the Plan for Our Parks initiative include:

- In July 2023, Pimbee National Park (93,752 hectares) was created, and Kennedy Range National Park was expanded by 174,885 hectares. Both will be jointly managed and jointly vested with Yinggarda Aboriginal Corporation.
- In August 2023, Danggu National Park (2943 hectares), Bandilngan National Park (2471 hectares) and Balili Conservation Park (42,781 hectares) were created and jointly vested with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation. This followed the creation and joint vesting of 215,528 hectares of new reserves last financial year.
- In August 2023, Gurdurdu Conservation Park (78,530 hectares) was created and jointly vested with Badimia Bandi Barna Aboriginal Corporation.
- In February 2024, Wanjarri Nature Reserve was expanded by 8477 hectares and jointly vested with Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation.

- In March 2024, Jilgu National Park (101,934 hectares) was created and jointly vested with Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation. A 235,161-hectare portion of Collier Range National Park, to be known as Gulali National Park, was also jointly vested with Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation.
- In June 2024, Burringurrah National Park (482,096 hectares), Muggon National Park (191,547 hectares), Dalgara National Park (135,567 hectares) and Lakeside Conservation Park (7741 hectares) were created and jointly vested with Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation. Mt Augustus National Park was also jointly vested with Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation.
- In June 2024, the Yurriyangem Taam section of the Fitzroy River National Park was created (25,000 hectares) and jointly vested with Yurriyangem Taam Aboriginal Corporation.

Further, the Commission endorsed the following additions to the conservation estate:

- Addition of 40.6 hectares of freehold land added to Faunadale Nature Reserve. The addition meets environmental offset requirements.
- Addition of 39.9 hectares of freehold land to Reserve 44838, Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands. The lands were provided for conservation as part of planning approval.
- Addition of 3.3 hectares of closed road to Yalgorup National Park. The addition rationalises the boundary of the national park.
- Addition of 4.5 hectares of closed road to Sir James Mitchell National Park as part of project to rationalise the management of roads in the national park.
- Addition of 3.8 hectares of closed road to State Forest No. 25 as part of project to rationalise the management of roads in this portion of State forest.
- Addition of 5.4 hectares of freehold land to Ellen Brook Nature Reserve. The land was acquired for conservation to expand habitat of the western swamp tortoise.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

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

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

Total expenditure for the Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 was \$172,486.

Board and committee remuneration

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

Table 3. Commission remuneration

| Position | Name | Period of membership | Gross/actual remuneration (\$) |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chair (outgoing) | Chris Doepel | 1/7/2023 to 6/5/2024 | \$35,421 |
| Chair (current) | Jo Lanagan | 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 | \$25,810 |
| Member | Penny Bond | 1/7/2023 to 6/5/2024 | \$16,961 |
| Member | Tahn Donovan | 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 | \$8,488 |
| Member | Kim Eckert | 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 | \$19,771 |
| Member | John Keesing | 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 | Not eligible |
| Member | Mark Webb | 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024 | \$19,771 |
| Member | Matthew Tonts | 25/6/2024 to 30/6/2024 | \$0 |
| Member | Rod Clark | 25/6/2024 to 30/6/2024 | \$0 |
| Total | | | \$125,219 |

The Commission met 11 times during the reporting period. Attendance for the total number of eligible meetings for each member are shown in Table 4, noting that formal leaves of absence are sought, approved and recorded where necessary.

Table 4. Commission meeting attendance

| Position | Name | Eligibility | Attendance |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Chair | Chris Doepel | 9 | 7 |
| Deputy Chair | Jo Lanagan | 11 | 11 |
| Member | Penny Bond | 9 | 5 |
| Member | Tahn Donovan | 11 | 11 |
| Member | Kim Eckert | 11 | 11 |
| Member | John Keesing | 11 | 11 |
| Member | Mark Webb | 11 | 11 |

Governance disclosures

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

Employment and industrial relations

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

Ministerial directives

No Ministerial directives were received during this reporting period.

Recordkeeping plans

The Commission has a current recordkeeping plan, which was prepared in consultation with DBCA, and in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*. Its records remain independent from those of the department.

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

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

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

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

Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework

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

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

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

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

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

Occupational safety, health, and injury management

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

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

No workers' compensation claims were recorded during the reporting period. The performance of the Commission in relation to OSH and injury management is shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Performance reporting: Occupational safety, health, and injury management – 2023-2024

| Measure | Results | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|------------------------|--------|----------|
| | Base year | Prior year | Current reporting year | Target | Comment |
| Number of fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Achieved |
| Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Achieved |
| Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Achieved |
| Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 13 weeks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Achieved |
| Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 26 weeks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Achieved |
| Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health, and injury management responsibilities | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | Achieved |

