



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 65

GOOD NEIGHBOUR POLICY

December 2019

1. OBJECTIVE

To establish and maintain good relations with the department's neighbours.

2. SCOPE

This policy relates to all lands managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (the department), and all operations performed by the department's Biodiversity and Conservation Science division on those lands. This policy does not apply to marine areas and properties managed by the department's statutory authorities: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.

Neighbours include any individual or entity, including local, State and Commonwealth government agencies that own, occupy or manage lands adjacent to lands managed by the department.

3. CONTEXT

The department is a major land manager in the State with many neighbours. As of September 2019, the department manages around 31.6 million hectares of land and water. This includes 26.9 million hectares of land (national parks, regional parks; State forest, reserves and other land), and 4.7 million hectares of water (marine parks and reserves). The department is also responsible for fire preparedness, feral animals and declared weeds across an additional 91.4 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged Crown reserves outside Perth and townsites.

The department aims to establish and maintain good relations with all neighbours to these lands.

The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) provides for lands to be vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission, jointly vested between the Conservation and Parks Commission and Aboriginal people, other landowners, or those with a vested or other interest in the land. The CALM Act also provides for Aboriginal people to undertake customary activities on lands managed by the department.

Sound relationships between neighbours are fundamental to all parties achieving their respective land management objectives. Sound relations requires respectful and effective communication, consultation and collaboration.

This policy and the associated corporate guideline (Good Neighbour Guideline No 34) will guide the department's approach to managing relationships with its neighbours.

The department's principles for effective neighbour relations are:

- Maintaining open, positive and respectful relationships with neighbours is mutually beneficial.
- Effective communication is the basis for effective neighbour relations.
- All landowners and occupiers benefit from maintaining a productive and sustainable environment.
- The department considers the potential broader environmental, social and economic impacts of its policy decisions.
- Given the limited resources for both the department and private property owners, expectations need to be tempered.

4. LEGISLATION

The department has responsibility for administering the following legislation relevant to this policy:

- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*; and
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

There are many other acts and associated regulations are relevant to this policy, and these are listed in the Good Neighbour Guideline.

5. POLICY

To build and maintain good neighbour relations, the department will:

- 5.1 Actively communicate with its neighbours about its plans and activities that that may affect neighbours, and encourage neighbours to do the same.
- 5.2 Recognise the rights of neighbours to undertake their legitimate activities without undue impact from the department's activities and encourage neighbours to respects the department's need to do the same.
- 5.3 Encourage the department's joint land-management partners to also develop and maintain good relations with neighbours.
- 5.4 Be responsive to neighbours' concerns and requests, and work with them to promptly resolve cross-boundary issues as much as practicable.
- 5.5 Communicate with neighbours in an open and positive manner, and encourage neighbours to do the same.
- 5.6 Provide information to neighbours that may assist them with their land management issues, and encourage them to manage their land in an ecologically sustainable manner.

- 5.7 Participate in cooperative management programs and initiatives with neighbours regarding areas of common interest, such as fire management, pest animal and weed control, where they are consistent with the department's strategic directions.
- 5.8 Provide opportunities for neighbours to gain awareness about the department's objectives, operations and initiatives relevant to land management.
- 5.9 Seek opportunities to understand and appreciate the objectives and activities of neighbours.

6. STANDARDS

When dealing with neighbours, departmental staff will adhere to the department's Code of Conduct and always undertake communication in a respectful manner.

7. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Implementation of this policy is outlined in DBCA's corporate guideline No. 34 - Good Neighbour Guideline.

8. CUSTODIAN

Executive Director Regional and Fire Management Services.

9. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's website and intranet.

10. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no later than five years or earlier if required.

11. KEY WORDS

Good neighbour, stakeholder relations.

12. DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL

Approved by



Mark Webb
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Effective date: 17 December 2019