

Annual report

2011–12



Conservation Commission
of Western Australia



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Conservation Commission of Western Australia Annual report 2011–12

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Transmittal to the Minister

Hon Bill Marmion MLA
Minister for Environment

I am pleased to submit the *Annual Report 2011–12* of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 in accordance with section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' inside a circle, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brian Easton
Chairman

Overview of the agency

Chairman's report

This reporting period has seen a significant change in membership of the Conservation Commission with the conclusion of tenure of all members at the end of 2011. From 1 January 2012 six new Commissioners were appointed, including myself as Chairman, and three other members re-appointed.

As the new Chairman, I have been fortunate in having the opportunity of undertaking visits to forestry sites that are highly relevant to the preparation of the draft *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* and to meet with various stakeholders such as public interest groups, industry representatives and government agencies involved with the future management of the south-west forests.

The continuing preparation of the draft *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, a key planning document for the future management of our forests throughout the south west region of the State, has been a priority during the course of this reporting period. Members of the Commission and service unit staff have been called upon to consider a number of complex matters in relation to the management of State forests while at the same time adhering to relevant timelines.

In that regard, I would like to thank fellow Commissioners Mr Bill Mitchell and Ms Regina Flugge for their active role and efforts as members of the Conservation Commission's Forest Management Plan working group which I chair.

An important function of the Conservation Commission under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (the Act), is to prepare and deal with proposed management plans for lands vested in or under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission. It is pleasing to report that the Minister for Environment released six management plans during the course of this reporting period including the *Perup final management plan 2012* and the *Lane Poole Reserve and proposed additions final management plan 2011*. On advice from the Conservation Commission, the Minister for

Environment also released the *Tuart Forest National Park draft management plan 2011* and the *Barrow group nature reserves draft management plan 2011*.

Developments in management planning during the course of this reporting period reflect the Conservation Commission's commitment to ongoing improvements in the delivery of management planning functions under the Act through collaborative work with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

In relation to its policy functions, the Conservation Commission published *Position Statement No. 6 – Management Plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* which outlines the Commission's principles for the delivery of management plans under the Act. The Conservation Commission also released its *Position Statement No. 7 – The threat of Phytophthora dieback to biodiversity values on lands vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia*, a subject matter that is critical in the management of our forests.

I express my appreciation for the work undertaken by the Conservation Commission and its service unit throughout this reporting period and the ready support received from key officers from DEC. I also wish to acknowledge the work undertaken by former members of the Conservation Commission, particularly the previous Chair Ms Patricia Barblett AM, and the long-serving member Mr Graeme Rundle.

I believe this reporting period has been one of considerable achievement for the Commission through the finalisation of a number of management plans for vested lands under the Act and work associated with the draft *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.



Brian Easton
Chairman

Operational structure

The Conservation Commission of Western Australia was established in November 2000 by the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), and works independently of, but closely with, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). It is a statutory commission and body corporate and has vested in it terrestrial conservation reserves (including freshwater areas), State forest and timber reserves. It has associated management planning responsibilities and functions by way of monitoring and auditing the performance of DEC and the Forest Products Commission (FPC) with regard to 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.

Members and meetings

The CALM Act provides that the Conservation Commission is to have nine members who have knowledge of and experience in:

- the conservation or management of biodiversity, or
- 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 are able to make a contribution to the functions of the Conservation Commission.

One member is to be a person who:

- 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.

Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, on the nomination of the Minister. The members of the Conservation Commission and the date of their appointment and term of appointment at 30 June 2012 were:

Mr Brian Easton, Chairman	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Mr William Mitchell AM, Deputy Chairman	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Ms Regina Flugge	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Dr Steve Harvey	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Dr David Newsome	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Professor Ross Dowling	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Ms Vanessa Davies	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Mr Brian Middleton	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014
Mr Wade De Campo	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014

Up until 30 December 2011 the membership of the Commission was:

Mrs Patricia Barblett AM, Chair	November 2000 – December 2011
Ms Regina Flugge, Deputy Chair	November 2003 – December 2011
Mr William Mitchell	December 2002 – December 2011
Ms Karen Jacobs	November 2007 – December 2011
Dr David Newsome	December 2006 – December 2011
Mr Vince Paparo	December 2006 – December 2011
Mr Graeme Rundle	November 2000 – December 2011
Ms Carolyn Turner	July 2006 – December 2011
Dr Tony Brandis	December 2009 – December 2011

The Conservation Commission holds meetings on the second Monday of every month, and during the reporting period the Conservation Commission held 12 meetings.

The Conservation Commission had two sub-committees operating in the reporting period:

- the Management Planning Review Committee (MPRC), which provides recommendations to the Conservation Commission on planning matters

- the Communications and Promotions Sub-Committee, whose focus is on recommendations relating to stakeholder interactions including website design and improvement.

Executive support

In 2006 an operational relationship agreement was signed between the Conservation Commission and DEC that established the Conservation Commission Service Unit.

The Conservation Commission Service Unit had the following staff at 30 June 2012:

Director:	Gordon Graham
Executive Assistant:	Kelly Watkins
Senior Environmental Auditor:	Tom Hughson
Environmental Auditor:	Geoff Cullen
Environmental Auditor (Acting):	Peter Hill
Policy Advisor:	Wildaliz De Jesús
Policy Officer – Forest Management:	Paul Roberts
Project Officer:	Karla Forrest

Corporate Services support, including human resource management, financial services and information technology, is provided to the service unit by DEC under the operational relationship agreement.

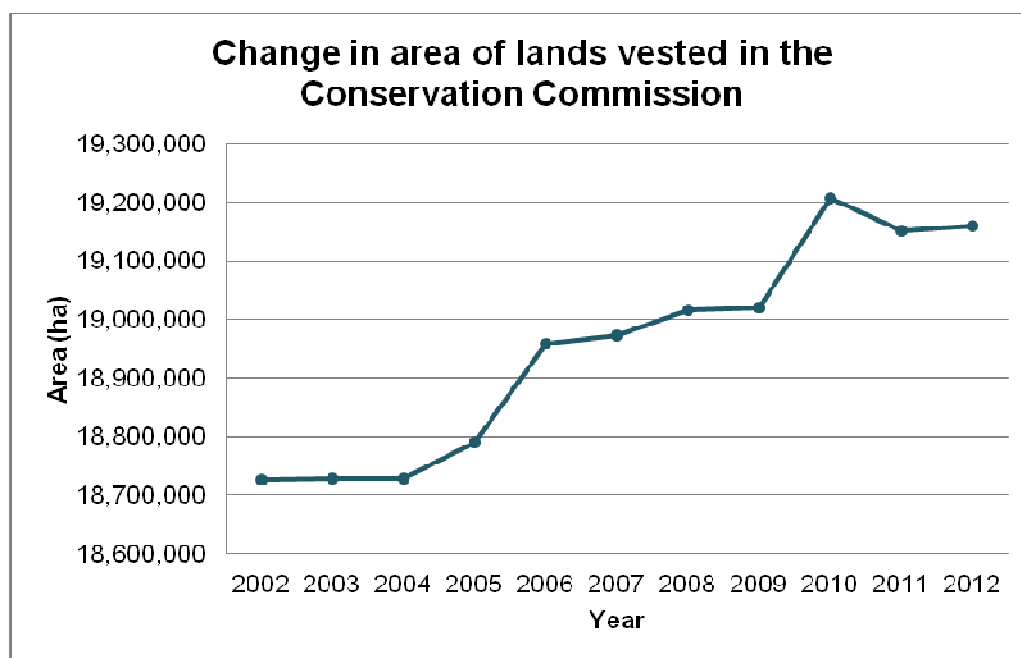
Vested lands

As at 30 June 2012 the total area of the lands vested in the Conservation Commission was 19,159,175 hectares, approximately 7.5 per cent of the land area of Western Australia. Table 1 provides a summary of the land categories and Figure 1 demonstrates the variation in lands vested over time.

Table 1 Land vested in the Conservation Commission

Land classification	Area as at 30 June 2011 (ha)	Area as at 30 June 2012 (ha)
National park	6,246,626	6,246,675
Conservation park	847,312	847,312
Nature reserves	10,240,607	10,244,921
State forest	1,304,442	1,304,442
Timber reserves	123,269	123,269
Section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves	389,508	392,556
Total	19,151,764	19,159,175

Figure 1 Change in area of lands vested in the Conservation Commission



National parks

National parks are established for wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study, preservation of features of archaeological, 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 national parks vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2012 was 6,246,675 hectares, an increase of 49 hectares in this reporting period.

Conservation parks

Conservation parks have the same purpose as national parks but do not have the same national or international significance. They have significant local or regional value for conservation and recreation.

The area of the conservation parks vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2012 was 847,312 hectares, the same area as in the previous reporting period.

Nature reserves

Nature reserves are established for wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study and preservation of features of archaeological, historic or scientific interest. Recreation that does not harm natural ecosystems is allowed.

The total area of the nature reserves vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2012 was 10,244,921 hectares, an increase of 4,314 hectares.

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. Within State forests, designated areas are managed for specific purposes, such as conservation or the optimum yield of exotic plantings.

The total area of State forest vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2012 was 1,304,442 hectares, the same area as in the previous reporting period.

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 total area of the timber reserves vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2012 was 123,269 hectares, the same area as in the previous reporting period.

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

Under the CALM Act, lands categorised as sections 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves are lands reserved under the *Land Act 1933* and the *Land Administration Act 1997* respectively, for which care, control and management is placed with the Conservation Commission. Unlike national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves, they are not automatically vested in the Conservation Commission.

The total area of sections 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves vested in the Conservation Commission at 30 June 2012 was 392,556 hectares, an increase of 3,048 hectares in this reporting period.

Agency performance

The decisions of the Conservation Commission, the Commissioners and the staff of the Conservation Commission are guided by the following principles:

- compliance with relevant state government policies and national and international agreements, protocols and conventions relating to ecologically sustainable development and biological diversity conservation
- the application of the precautionary principle
- intergenerational equity
- involvement of Aboriginal people, consideration of their perspectives and cultural needs in particular protecting and conserving the value of the land to their culture and heritage
- community involvement, participation, appreciation and enjoyment in relation to the natural environment
- maintaining a diverse range of values, including cultural and heritage values.

The Conservation Commission's activities and achievements during the past 12 months are detailed below under the key outcome areas of: policy, estate, management plans, forest management and performance assessment.

Policy

The Conservation Commission's main objective in relation to policy is to promote the conservation and appreciation of the natural environment of the state and fulfil its function in providing advice to the Minister for Environment.

During this reporting period, the Conservation Commission published the following position statements relating to activities within vested lands:

- *Position Statement No. 6 – Management Plans for lands vested in the Conservation Commission under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Position Statement No. 7 – The threat of Phytophthora dieback to biodiversity values on lands vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.*

As their name suggests, position statements set forth the Conservation Commission's views and considerations in relation to the management of vested lands and proposed activities that may have an impact on biodiversity values represented in the terrestrial conservation estate. All position statements are publicly available on the Conservation Commission's website.

Estate

The Conservation Commission's main objectives in relation to vested lands and strategies for delivering these are identified in Table 2.

Table 2 Objectives and strategies for vested lands

Objectives	Strategies
Identify what is required for a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Western Australia	Promote the maintenance and extension of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserves system through the strategic acquisition of key lands and innovative funding.
Consider proposed changes of purpose, or boundary of, land vested in the Conservation Commission, and	Provide advice upon request to the Minister for Environment on applications for changes in purpose or boundaries, including advice on any contentious issues or activities and proposed excision of areas that are not of value in maintaining biological diversity.
Evaluate potentially incompatible activities on vested lands with a view to maximising biological diversity.	Consult and provide advice on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and any other activities on land vested in the Conservation Commission.

Advice 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 to DEC during this reporting period. Table 3 summarises the Conservation Commission's consideration of CALM Act leases, licences and permits.

Table 3 CALM Act leases, licences and permits endorsed during 2011–2012

CALM Act leases, licences and permits	Conservation Commission endorsement
Leases	22
Licences	30
Apiary permits	92

Management plans

In an ongoing effort to improve the development and delivery of management plans, the Conservation Commission has adopted three overall principles to guide the preparation of management plans. The planning framework is based on a strategic and integrated approach and is guided by the following principles:

- **a regional approach** – planning areas should relate to a suite of reserves within a geographical area rather than individual reserves
- **more concise documents** – plans should focus on relevant site specific values, threats and management responses
- **meaningful objectives** – plan objectives and strategies should be precise, specific, achievable, realistic, time-related and measurable whilst allowing for new opportunities as they arise. Plans should also relate to higher level commitments at the state, national and international levels.

The Conservation Commission ensures the implementation of this planning framework through the recommendations provided by its Management Planning Review Committee (MPRC).

The MPRC facilitates liaison with DEC with the committee's major functions; being 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 the MPRC held seven meetings and provided recommendations to the Conservation Commission to ensure consistency with the Commission's management planning principles.

On advice from the Conservation Commission, the Minister for Environment released the following draft management plans for a period of public comment during the year 2011–12:

- *Tuart Forest National Park draft management plan 2011*
- *Barrow group nature reserves draft management plan 2011.*

The Minister for Environment released the following final management plans during the year 2011–12:

- *Lane Poole Reserve and proposed additions final management plan 2011*
- *Millstream Chichester National Park and Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve final management plan 2011*
- *Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux national parks final management plan 2012*
- *Perup final management plan 2012*
- *Shark Bay terrestrial reserves and proposed additions final management plan 2012*
- *Dryandra Woodland final management plan 2011.*

The following plan was amended in accordance with section 61 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*:

- *Fitzgerald River National Park management plan 2011.*

Summary of management plan progress

The following table provides an indication of progress of draft and final management plans at the end of the reporting period.

Table 4a Summary of draft management plans

Management plan area	Date plan commenced	Status
Albany Coastal Reserves	September 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2009 – Conservation Commission approved preparation of draft plan and plan area
Esperance and Recherche Parks and Reserves	March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2011 – the Conservation Commission endorsed the draft management plan
Kalbarri National Park	1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2010 – Conservation Commission approved preparation of draft plan and plan area
Northern Yilgarn	February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2011 – the Conservation Commission endorsed the draft management plan
Swan Coastal Plain South	March 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2011 – Conservation Commission endorsed changes to the planning area

Table 4b Summary of final management plans (in progress and released)

Management plan area	Date plan commenced	Status
Barrow Island	October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2011 – Minister for Environment released the Barrow group nature reserves draft management plan 2011 for a period of public comment • October 2011 – public comment period closed • Analysis of public submissions and final plan in preparation by DEC
Blackwood Plateau	April 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of management plan on hold pending release of Leeuwin Naturaliste Capes Area and Tuart Forest National Park final management plans

Dryandra Woodland	August 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2011 – Minister for Environment released the final <i>Dryandra Woodland management plan</i>
Fitzgerald River National Park	2010 (amendment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 December 2011 – Minister for Environment released the amended <i>Fitzgerald River National Park management plan</i>
Lane Poole	January 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2011 – Minister for Environment released the <i>Lane Poole Reserve and proposed additions final management plan</i>
Millstream–Chichester	January 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2011 – Minister for Environment released the <i>Millstream Chichester National Park and Mungaroon Range Nature Reserve final management plan</i>
Ord River and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserves	March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2012 – Conservation Commission endorsed the management plan
Perup	July 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2012 – Minister for Environment released the <i>Perup final management plan 2012</i>
Shannon-D'Entrecasteaux National Park	January 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2012 – Minister for Environment released the <i>Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux national parks final management plan</i>
Shark Bay reserves	May 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 2012 – Minister for Environment released the <i>Shark Bay terrestrial reserves and proposed additions final management plan 2012</i>
Tuart Forest National Park	April 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2011 – <i>Tuart Forest National Park draft management plan</i> released for public comment 23 December 2011 – public comment period closed Analysis of public submissions has been completed Final plan in preparation by DEC
Yanchep Neerabup	August 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 August 2012 – Notice in the Government Gazette advising of the availability of the <i>Parks and Reserves of Yanchep and Neerabup Final Management Plan</i>
Yoorrooyang Dawang Conservation Parks	June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final plan in preparation by DEC

Forest management

The Conservation Commission's objective in relation to forest management is to have the State forest and timber reserves that are vested in the Conservation Commission managed on an ecologically sustainable basis and apply those principles in the management of forest produce throughout Western Australia.

In order to achieve that objective, the Conservation Commission has the following strategies in place:

- prepare, through the agency of DEC acting jointly with the FPC and any relevant water utility, and with appropriate research and consultation, a ten-year forest management plan (FMP)
- monitor, assess and audit existing and new FMPs
- provide advice on principles of ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM) with respect to the State forest and timber reserves and forest produce and forest products throughout the state
- provide advice to the Minister for Environment on the production and harvesting of forest products and forest produce to maintain a sustained yield, including areas not covered by the FMPs.

During 2011–12, substantial work was undertaken by the Commission and staff in relation to forest management. The Conservation Commission prepared an end-of-term audit of the *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013*, and was also involved in a range of ESFM and forest management issues (see below). However, a key focus was on the preparation of a draft forest management plan for the new plan period of 2014–2023. This work included interaction with key stakeholders, including the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), who have a statutory role in assessing and providing advice to the Minister on the proposed management plan, providing advice to DEC on ESFM and forest management issues, and submission of an Environmental Scoping Document to the EPA (under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*) for the draft forest management plan.

Old-growth forests

Through the FMP, approximately 331,370 hectares of old-growth forest have been set aside from timber harvesting in formal and informal reserves.

Detailed results including aerial maps of all old-growth assessments can be easily accessed via the Conservation Commission's website at www.conservation.wa.gov.au.

During the reporting period the Conservation Commission undertook and published the following assessments of old-growth forest:

Summary of assessment of reclassified old-growth forest review areas

During the reporting period, approximately 1,136 hectares, in 28 forest blocks, were subject to reclassification work that was completed and endorsed by the Conservation Commission. Of the 1,136 hectares, the reclassification to old-growth was confirmed for 13 hectares. The remainder of the areas assessed were determined to be non old-growth forest.

A report including maps for each of those areas assessed has been published and can be found on the Conservation Commission website.

Table 5 Summary of old-growth assessment carried out during the reporting period

Blocks assessed	Area classified as old-growth (ha)	Area classified as non old-growth (ha)	Total area under review (ha)
28	13	1,123	1,136

Public nomination of old-growth

As required in the FMP, and further detailed in the Conservation Commission's paper *Assessment criteria and process for the Conservation Commission review of old-growth amendments*, there is a public nomination process for persons to request the Conservation Commission to assess whether areas should be classified as old-growth forest in DEC's corporate database. During the reporting period the Conservation Commission received three such requests, for Warrup, Meribup and Arcadia forest blocks. Reports have been published for these nominations.

Warrup compartments 02 and 08

Warrup forest block contains predominantly jarrah forest. Both remote and field assessments were conducted in an area of approximately 719 hectares. Canopy sampling was undertaken and stump data was collected by DEC and Conservation Commission audit staff within the nominated area. A total of 219 hectares was determined to meet the criteria for minimally disturbed old-growth forest.

Meribup compartment 03

Meribup forest block contains predominantly jarrah forest. Both remote and field assessments were conducted in an area of approximately 720 hectares. Canopy sampling was undertaken and stump data was collected by DEC and Conservation Commission audit staff within the nominated area. A total of 125 hectares was determined to meet the criteria for minimally disturbed old-growth forest.

Arcadia compartment 03

Arcadia forest block contains predominantly jarrah forest. Both remote and field assessments were conducted in an area of approximately 41 hectares. Canopy sampling was undertaken and stump data was collected by Conservation Commission audit staff within the nominated area. A total of 10 hectares was determined to meet the criteria for minimally disturbed old-growth forest.

Table 6 Summary of public nominations carried out during the reporting period

Block name	Area found to be old-growth (ha)	Area found to be non old-growth (ha)	Total area assessed under nomination (ha)
Warrup	219	500	719
Meribup	125	595	720
Arcadia	10	31	41
Total area	354	1,126	1,480

Performance assessment

The following performance assessment was published in the reporting period 2011–12:

- *Protection of significant flora and understory species*

This report focuses on the protection of flora values, specifically areas of high flora species richness, centres of endemic flora, centres of relictual flora, centres of disjunct flora, threatened ecological communities, and declared rare flora.

A number of other performance assessments are at various stages of completion. This includes the *Parks of the Perth Hills* performance assessment and *Biodiversity outcomes of prescribed burning in the southern forests*. These assessment reports will be finalised and

published in the next reporting year. Other performance assessments currently active include *Parks of the Fitzgerald Regional Planning Area* performance assessment and an issues-based assessment on Wheatbelt salinity.

Significant work has also been undertaken into an internal review of old-growth forest assessments undertaken by Conservation Commission audit staff.

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 collaboratively with DEC and other environmental bodies including the EPA and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. It also liaises with local government authorities and government agencies such as the FPC, Department of Mines and Petroleum, Tourism WA, Western Australian Museum, Department of Indigenous Affairs, Rottnest Island Authority, Main Roads, Water Corporation, Department of Water, Office of Native Title, Swan River Trust, and Office of the Auditor General for Western Australia.

One of the Conservation Commission's key functions is to promote and facilitate community involvement in the conservation of Western Australia's environment. Outside the public sector, the Conservation Commission works with a range of community, conservation and industry stakeholders, as well as Aboriginal representatives to ensure that policies and plans meet the balanced needs of the wider community. This includes regular interactions with the Conservation Council of Western Australia and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Participation on external committees

Members of the Conservation Commission also independently participated in the following external committees:

Mr Brian Easton	Chair Zoological Parks Authority (Perth Zoo) Chair Brunswick River Restoration Group
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Mr Bill Mitchell AM	Chair Rangelands NRM WA
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Ms Regina Flugge	Member Coastal Planning and Coordination Council Non-Executive Director Rangelands NRM WA Air Quality Coordinating Committee
Professor Ross Dowling	Advisor UNESCO Global Network of National Geoparks Advisor Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Deputy Chair Australian Geoparks National Committee Board Member Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation Director Cruise Research Society Director Ecotourism Australia Board Member Australia's Coral Coast Advisor Cruise Down Under Australia Chairperson Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism (FACET) Council Member Royal Automobile Club Western Australia Member Editorial Board Journal of Ecotourism Member Editorial Board International Journal of Tourism Research Honorary Advisory Hong Kong Global Geopark Advisor Geoheritage Institute of Iran
Dr David Newsome	Member Editorial Board <i>Tourism in Marine Environments</i> Member Editorial Board <i>Journal of Ecotourism</i> Member of the Queensland Horse Trails Scientific Advisory Committee Member IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Honorary Advisory Committee member Hong Kong Geopark Guide System Advisor Geoheritage Institute of Iran
Ms Vanessa Davies	Board Member State Training Board Board Member Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee Board Member – Swan River Trust Chairperson – Marr Mooditj Training

Dr Steve Harvey

CSIRO representative on the John de Laeter Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis

CSIRO representative on the Australian Centre for Geomechanics Board of Management

CSIRO representative on the iVEC Board of Management

Australian Resources Research Centre Advisory Committee

CSIRO representative on the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) Liaison Committee

Significant issues impacting the agency

The most significant issue impacting the Conservation Commission during this reporting period has been the allocation of resources required for the preparation of the draft *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.

The *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* will continue to be a priority into the next reporting period.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

Funding for the activities of the Conservation Commission is provided for by DEC with administrative arrangements being handled by that agency. The reporting and audit of expenditure is undertaken by DEC and, as required, is incorporated into DEC's annual report.

The total expenditure by the Conservation Commission, and the associated support unit, was \$1,080,329.51 as identified in DEC's 2011–2012 annual report.

Other legal requirements

Advertising

(*Electoral Act 1907*, section 175ZE)

In accordance with the reporting requirements of section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Conservation Commission of Western Australia incurred an expenditure of \$1,067.00 in

advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising during this reporting period.

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

(Disability Services Act 1993, amended 2004, section 29)

Under its operational relationship agreement with DEC that agency's policy relating to disability access and inclusion is adopted.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

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

DEC undertakes human resource management for the Conservation Commission under an operational relationship agreement.

In the administration of the Conservation Commission, the Director has complied with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management, the Western Australian Public Sector 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.

Recordkeeping plans

A Record Keeping Plan Review Report was submitted to the State Records Office in 2008 in compliance with the *State Records Act 2003* and was then reviewed with the updated document submitted to the State Records Office.

As part of the Conservation Commission's employee induction program, all staff receive basic training in recordkeeping. This is conducted using DEC's online Record Keeping Awareness program. This addresses employee roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the recordkeeping plan.

As the recordkeeping training program is provided by DEC, the review of its efficiency and effectiveness is conducted by DEC.

Ministerial directives

In the reporting period there have been no instances under the CALM Act section 24 where the Minister 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 under section 19(10) and the Minister has decided to act otherwise than in accordance with the recommendation.

Government policy requirements

Corruption prevention

(Premier's Circular 2005/02: Corruption Prevention)

The Conservation Commission operates under an Operational Relationship Agreement with DEC which includes adoption of DEC's Code of Conduct.

All new staff are inducted according to DEC'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 DEC's administrative policies and procedures as they relate to corruption prevention issues such as the use of credit cards.

Substantive equality

(Premier's Circular 2009/23: Implementation of the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality)

The Conservation Commission operates under an Operational Relationship Agreement with DEC which includes departmental representation on the Strategic Management Council. Information on DEC progress achieved in implementing the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality can be found in the Annual Report of DEC.

Occupational safety and health management

(Premier's Circular 2007/12: Code of Practice: Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector)

The Conservation Commission operates under an Operational Relationship Agreement with DEC which includes provision of occupational safety and health management and the adoption of Occupational Health and Safety policy and guidelines set forth by DEC.

Table 7 ***Summary of occupational safety and health incidences***

Indicator	Target 2011–12
Number of fatalities	Zero (0)
Lost time injury/diseases (LTI/D) incidence rate	Zero (0)
Lost time injury severity rate	Zero (0)

Information provided by DEC's Risk Management Section.

Appendix 1

Functions of the Conservation Commission

See section 19 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

Policy

- To develop policies:
 - for the preservation of the natural environment of the State and the provision of facilities for the enjoyment of that environment by the community
 - for promoting the appreciation of flora and fauna and the natural environment
 - to achieve or promote the objectives of management plans in accordance with the CALM Act
 - to advise the Minister on the development of policies for the conservation and management of biodiversity and biodiversity components throughout the State
 - 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 the CALM Act section 5(1)(h) placed with it.
- To consider any cancellation or change of purpose, or boundary alteration of land vested in or under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body.
- To be consulted on matters relating to the granting of licences, leases, permits and mining tenement applications on land vested in the Conservation Commission.

Management plans.

- In accordance with Part V of the CALM Act, to prepare and deal with proposed management plans for land vested in or under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body.
- To submit proposed management plans to the Minister for approval.

- In relation to management plans for land vested in or under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body:
 - to develop guidelines for monitoring; and
 - to set performance criteria for evaluating; and
 - to conduct periodic assessments of,the implementation of the management plans by those responsible for implementing them, including the CEO and, if the land is State forest or a timber reserve, the Forest Products Commission.

Advice

- 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.
- To inquire into and after relevant consultation, to advise the Minister on any matter on which the Minister requests advice.
- Upon request, to provide advice on matters relating to lands vested in or under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body, to any body or person, if to do so is in the public interest and it is practicable for the Conservation Commission to provide it.