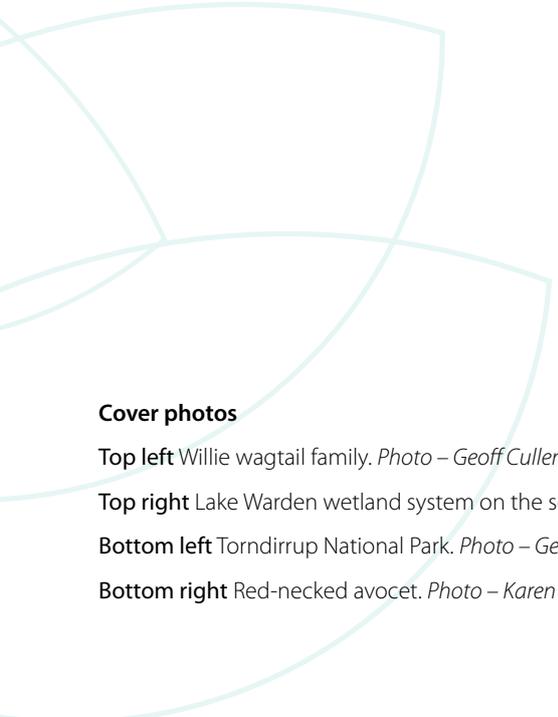




Government of **Western Australia**
Conservation and Parks Commission

Conservation and Parks Commission Annual Report 2017–18





Cover photos

Top left Willie wagtail family. *Photo – Geoff Cullen*

Top right Lake Warden wetland system on the south coast. *Photo – DBCA*

Bottom left Torndirrup National Park. *Photo – Geoff Cullen*

Bottom right Red-necked avocet. *Photo – Karen Smith/DBCA*



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Annual Report 2017–18

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TRANSMITTAL TO THE MINISTER

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Minister for Environment

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Conservation and Parks Commission for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 in accordance with section 31 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.



Marion Fulker

Chair

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OVERVIEW

Chair's report

On behalf of the Conservation and Parks Commission (the Commission), I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the period of 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

The Commission respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal persons as the traditional owners of the lands and waters vested in it.

Since its establishment in 2016, the Commission has built a strong foundation for delivering its statutory functions, with a strategic direction and strategic plan finalised in the 2017–18 financial year. The approach seeks to deliver efficient and effective services through a good governance framework with increased support services provided through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), formerly the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

This financial period saw the first change of membership of the Commission since its inception. The Commission extends its appreciation of service to former members Dr Regina Flugge, Mr Brian Middleton and Mr Kim Colero. These members had collectively gathered over 40 years of experience, with Mr Colero having been a member of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority since 2002, and Dr Flugge and Mr Middleton having served as members of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia since 2003 and 2012, respectively.

At the same time, Ms Jo Lanagan, Dr Fiona Valesini and Mr Alan Walker were appointed as new members of the Commission while Professor Ross Dowling will continue to serve as a member of the Commission until 2021. I welcome the new members and congratulate Professor Dowling on his re-appointment.

We are continuing to review the policies of our preceding entities and have updated our position statements on periodic performance assessments of the implementation of management plans, fire management and sea wrack management.

The Commission finalised its end-of-term performance assessment of the lakes and wetlands of the Perth metropolitan area, which covered five existing management plans. The findings highlighted the continual pressure our natural assets face especially in the highly populated Perth region and the importance of community involvement in achieving biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The implementation of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* continues to be a key focus of the Commission with the assessment of public nominations of old-growth forests now undertaken by DBCA. Segments of the community continued to raise concerns regarding forest management practices and the Commission finished gathering information for the mid-term performance review of the implementation of the plan due by December 2018.

Our streamlining of annual marine park key performance indicators has improved our information validation processes and reporting capacity. It has also provided a temporal and spatial overview of all marine parks asset conditions which were found to be predominantly satisfactory or greater with some specific areas of concern identified for management to focus on.

We are glad to see the finalisation of the *Albany coast parks and reserves management plan* which covers 56 existing parks and reserves totalling 32,457 hectares in and around the City of Albany and acknowledge the effort of all officers and stakeholders involved in its preparation.

Furthermore, the Commission is now working closely with DBCA to implement and maintain the prioritisation framework for management planning, a risk-based approach to planning across the marine and terrestrial conservation estate developed in response to the Office of the Auditor General's 2016 report into marine park management.

I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners to continue to act as independent and trusted community stewards and government advisors advocating for the protection of Western Australia's biodiversity and conservation estate while fostering its appreciation and sustainable use.

Marion Fulker
Chair

Operational structure

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

- (i) State forest, timber reserves and marine reserves;
- (ii) unless section CALM Act 8B(2)(f) applies, national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves, either solely or jointly with an Aboriginal body corporate; and
- (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 and includes advising the Minister on the development of policies; to prepare and deal with proposed management plans for land and waters vested in or under the care, control and management of the Commission, whether solely or jointly with an associated body; and periodic assessments of the implementation of management plans by those responsible for implementing them including the 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.

The members of the Commission are:

Marion Fulker – Chair



Marion Fulker is the Chair of the Commission. Marion accepted the position in May 2016, having notable experience in senior executive and board roles.

Currently, Marion is also the CEO of the Committee for Perth, and an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. Previously, Marion has been the Executive Director of the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) WA Division, the Chair of the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Director of

Rugby WA. Marion's education includes an MBA from Curtin Graduate School of Business. In 2015 Marion was recognised as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence, in 2016 was the winner of a WA Telstra Businesswoman of the Year Award and in 2017 was a finalist in the Western Australian of the Year Awards. Her opinions on Perth's future are regularly sought by government, industry and the media.

Professor Chris Doepel, PSM – Deputy Chair



Chris Doepel is a part-time Professor at the University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle, where he chairs the University's Program and Course Accreditation Committee and undertakes policy work within the Division of Academic Affairs. 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 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 Ingrid Cumming – Member



Ingrid Cumming is a Whadjuk Noongar woman from Fremantle, Western Australia. A graduate of Murdoch University and Melbourne Business School, during her career she has presented and published an article with the United Nations Women Leaders Collective in Israel; represented Indigenous Australian Business at the Supply Diversity forum in San Antonio, Texas; presented at TedXPerth, 2014; been a keynote speaker at various conferences and leadership forums about Indigenous knowledge, leadership and reconciliation; and won Indigenous Business of the Year at the Belmont Small Business Awards in 2014. In 2010, Mrs Cumming founded and became CEO of Kart Koort Wiern (Head Heart and Spirit), a Perth-based indigenous consultancy that also offers additional training and workshops across Australia while promoting reconciliation and increasing awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strengths and strategy. She is currently the Community Engagement Specialist at the City of Canning, embedding engagement frameworks and strategies and volunteers her time to many organisations including Starlight Australia.

Professor Ross Dowling OAM – Member



Professor Ross Dowling is Foundation Professor of Tourism in the School of Business at Edith Cowan University. Professor Dowling is an environmental scientist conducting international research, training and development of tourism in natural areas. His principal teaching, research and consultancy interests lie in ecotourism, geotourism and cruise ship tourism. He co-founded Ecotourism Australia and is a former Chair of the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism (FACET) in Western Australia. Professor Dowling is a geotourism advisor for UNESCO Global Geoparks and founder of the Global Geotourism Conferences. Prior to moving to Australia, Professor Dowling worked in New Zealand where he was a Foundation Advisory Officer with the Ministry for the Environment and was awarded a Nature Conservation Council

Foundation Citation for his efforts in conservation education. Professor Dowling brings to the Commission knowledge and experience in relation to conservation and tourism development.

Dr Regina Flugge – Member (membership ceased 6 May 2018)



Dr Regina Flugge has more than 25 years of experience in environment, climate change and sustainable development and has worked in the education, government, not-for-profit and corporate sectors. Dr Flugge's career includes substantial experience in the resources industry with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy and Rio Tinto, especially in the Pilbara region. Dr Flugge is the Chair of Rangelands NRM WA and was a member of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. Her past associations include non-executive Director of the Sustainable Energy Association of Australia; member of the Air Quality Coordinating Committee; Coastal Planning and Coordination Council; Governing Council of the West Pilbara College of TAFE; and the Rangelands Regional Assessment Panel for the Natural Heritage Trust. Dr Flugge has a Bachelor of Applied Science; Master of Science; Master of Business Administration; Master of Management; and is a Doctor of Business Administration. Dr Flugge maintains a keen interest in the biodiversity and ecosystems of the Pilbara region.

Mr Brian Middleton – Member (membership ceased 6 May 2018)



Brian Middleton has an accounting practice in Margaret River. He has been President of Rotary; President of Margaret River High School P&C Association; Treasurer of Friends of the Cape to Cape Track; Chair of the Business Enterprise Centre; Chair of the Margaret River Education Campus Board; Chair of the Shire's Sustainability Advisory Committee; and has served six years as a shire councillor. Mr Middleton's special interests are business and community development, education and preserving significant natural heritage areas. He is a passionate bushwalker who believes preservation of wild spaces is vital in enabling and encouraging people to enjoy the wonders of nature.

Mr Kim Colero – Member (membership ceased 6 May 2018)



Kim Colero was a Member of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) from 2002 until the establishment of the Commission in 2016. Kim is Managing Director of JK Colero Enterprises P/L, an Australian fishing company, focusing on the Western Rock Lobster Industry. He has a history of involvement in the commercial fishing industry and is past President of the Dongara Professional Fisherman's Association Inc, past member of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Rock Lobster Sub-committee, past committee member of the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme and past member

of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee (RLIAC). He was appointed to the Board of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) in January 2007 and was Chair of WAFIC 2009–11. Kim has been Chair of the Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC) since 2015.

Mrs Jo Lanagan – Member (from 7 May 2018)



Jo Lanagan is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Central Desert Native Title Services. Jo has held senior roles in the State and Commonwealth Governments including Director of Heritage and Culture at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Director of Claims Management for the Office of Native Title. 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 the creation of a 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.

Dr Fiona Valesini – Member (from 7 May 2018)



Fiona Valesini is a coastal and estuarine ecologist with a particular interest in fish and invertebrate faunas, their relationships with environmental drivers and their future sustainability. She has 25 years of experience as a research scientist and, since 2012, has worked as a Senior Research Fellow in Estuarine Health at Murdoch University. Prior to this, Fiona was a Lecturer in Marine Ecology at Murdoch, where she also completed her PhD in 2004. Much of her research has focussed on coastal and estuarine systems throughout south-western Australia, and mainly those in urbanised areas where the balance between supporting healthy waterways and the needs of fast-growing populations is particularly challenging. She is currently the Lead Chief Investigator of an Australian Research Council Linkage Project, focussed on optimising trade-offs between estuarine and societal health in the Peel region, which draws together nine collaborating agencies across the research, government and community sectors in Australia and the UK. Her other research projects also have a strong applied focus, supported by partnerships with government and community-based organisations in the environmental and natural resource sectors across WA. Fiona is also a member of several advisory groups, including the Peel-Yalgorup Technical Advisory Group, Vasse-Wonnerup Science Advisory Group and the Western Australian Marine Sciences Institution Estuaries Working Group.

Mr Alan Walker – Member (from 7 May 2018)



Alan Walker worked for more than 45 years in the management of parks, reserves and State forests in Western Australia. Since retirement from the public sector he has also worked in the private sector in the field of bushfire management. For 10 years he was the Director of Regional Services in the former Department of Environment and Conservation. He was the leader of the State's involvement in the development of the first Regional Forest Agreement that prescribed outcomes in forest and biodiversity conservation, timber production and the protection of cultural and heritage values. He was the co-author of several forest and national park management plans. Mr Walker was awarded an Honours Degree in Science (Forestry) from the Australian National University. He is a volunteer guide and committee member with the Rottneest Voluntary Guides Association. He was a former President in Rotary and the leader of a Rotary Group Study Exchange team to South Wales. He is a keen bushwalker and he has an interest in nature-based tourism.

Mrs Marion Fulker, Prof Chris Doepel and Mrs Ingrid Cumming serve for a three-year period from 7 May 2016 until 6 May 2019; Prof Ross Dowling and Mrs Jo Lanagan serve a three-year period from 7 May 2018 until 6 May 2021; and Dr Fiona Valesini and Mr Alan Walker serve a two-year period from 7 May 2018 until 6 May 2020.

Committee

The Commission operated a Management Planning Review Committee (MPRC) during the reporting period. During the reporting period, the MPRC included the following members of the Commission: Prof Chris Doepel (Chair), Dr Regina Flugge and Mr Brian Middleton and staff from the Office of the Commission, and the DBCA.

The terms of reference for the MPRC includes consultation with the DBCA in relation to the preparation of management plans. The membership and operational environment of the committee were under review with new membership and changes to the service delivery model.

Executive support

The Office of the Commission had the following staff at 30 June 2018:

Director	Roland Mau, BAppSc (Hons) GradCertBus AdvDipPM DipGov (Inv) DipQA
Principal Environmental Officer	Tom Hughson, BForSc
Policy Advisor	Wildaliz De Jesús, BEnvSc MSEL JD

Operational systems support was provided to the Commission by the DBCA under the Operational Agreement reviewed in August 2016 that was superseded by a new Memorandum of Understanding between DBCA and the Commission for service delivery effective as of 28 March 2018.

Key legislation impacting the Commission’s activities

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Forest Products Act 2000*
- *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*
- *Land Act 1933*
- *Land Administration Act 1997*
- *Mining Act 1978*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1984*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)*

Performance management framework

The Commission supports government goals with more specific desired outcomes achieved through the DBCA government-funded services.

During the year, the Commission contributed to whole-of-government reform initiatives including Machinery of Government changes and efficiency and other targeted savings measures.

The performance management framework was reviewed and updated to incorporate new government goals and desired outcomes.

Table 1 below shows the relationship between the Commission’s desired outcomes and services delivered to meet the appropriate government goal.

Table 1. Support of government goals

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services
Better Places: A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions.	Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions on vested lands and waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vesting of land and waters for conservation either solely or jointly with an Aboriginal body corporate. • Provide policy advice to the Minister of Environment on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. • Ensure the preparation and implementation of effective management plans for lands and waters vested.
	Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science.	
	Sustainable use of forest resources.	

AGENCY PERFORMANCE

Strategic directions

As part of the broader Machinery of Government process, an external review of the Office of the Commission was initiated. The terms of reference considered statutory obligations, roles and responsibilities, efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, impact of outputs (outcomes of operations) and financial sustainability of the current operation model.

The review informed the development of a new strategic plan for the Commission which considered a more expansive service delivery agreement with DBCA and the retention of an independent secretariat to support the functions of the Commission.

A Memorandum of Understanding was prepared to establish terms for the working relationship between DBCA and the Commission including governance arrangements, service provisions and indicative resource requirements. At the same time, the Commission endorsed its new *Strategic Plan 2018–21*.

Good governance

The Commission's Charter was reviewed to reflect updated governance arrangements and clarify procedural matters. Furthermore, the *Code of Conduct* was refined to include new value statements aligned with the *Strategic Plan 2018–21*. The Commission's *Code of Conduct* translates the principles of the Public Sector Commissioner's *Instruction No 7 – Code of Ethics* into the commitment each member makes in understanding their role as part of the Commission's Charter.

Under section 26AA of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) the Commission may, by instrument, delegate the performance of any of its functions, except the power of delegation. The Instrument of Delegation was reviewed and the Director of the Office of the Commission provided monthly reports on items considered under delegation with no issues or concerns arising regarding delegation of the existing functions.

The Commission's *Conflict of Interest Policy* and associated documents form part of the suite of good governance processes adopted by the Commission since its inception. The *Conflict of Interest Policy* was reviewed with no material changes and all Commissioners declared any conflicts of interests (including potential) in the register.

The Commission finalised its risk management policy, risk appetite statement and risk framework. The *Risk Management Policy* confirms the Commission's commitment to identify, assess and manage risks which may prevent the achievement of its strategic goals and objectives.

The *Statement of Risk Appetite* specifies the amount of risk the Commission is willing to tolerate or accept in meeting its statutory obligations and in pursuit of its strategic objectives. The Commission's *Risk Management Framework* provides a disciplined and structured process that integrates risk management activities into the corporate operational life cycle.

In accordance with the Commission's *Risk Management Policy* and *Risk Management Framework*, the Commission conducted a risk assessment workshop. The

Commission accepted its risks and its mitigating strategies while committing to regular reviews to evaluate changes to risks as a result of improvements in controls. This mechanism has been adopted to increase visibility of risks and assist good decision-making.

Policy development and advice

Position statements

The Commission's position statements are developed in connection with the performance of its functions which include its advisory role to the Minister for Environment and its preparation of management plans for land and waters vested in or under the control and management, whether solely or jointly with a joint responsible body. All of the Commission's position statements are developed to inform the Commission's functions under section 19 of the CALM Act.

Once finalised, position statements are made publicly available through the Commission's website conservation.wa.gov.au.

Seawrack and Aquarium Collection

The Commission reviewed the former Marine Parks and Reserves Authorities (MPRA) Position Statement on Sea Wrack Management (April 2012) and the Position on the Marine Aquarium Specimen Collectors Association of WA (April 2004). The Commission considered the preferential position of no removal of sea wrack in marine reserves to be relevant and adequate. The former MPRA Position on Marine Aquarium Specimen Collectors Association of WA enunciated a position that was no longer considered relevant and the statement was rescinded.

Periodic Performance Assessment

The Commission finalised its position statement on the periodic performance assessment of the implementation of management plans. The Commission considers performance assessment to be a vital component of good governance and to be effective, performance assessment should occur on a periodic or cyclical basis to enable the condition of the conservation estate and the effectiveness of management actions to be measured over time.

The goals of the periodic assessment will be aligned with the DBCA' *Strategic Directions 2018–21*. Similar consideration will need to be given to other bodies' strategic plans and objectives such as the FPC for State forests and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for marine reserves.

It was the practice of the former Marine Parks and Reserves Authority at the end-of-term plan periodic assessment stage to selectively sample specific groups of stakeholders with regard to views on the implementation of a management plan. The Commission's *Guideline for the Periodic Assessment of Management Plans: Marine Reserves* was amended to incorporate this practice.

Fire management

Since the development of the former Conservation Commission's initial fire policy, significant changes had occurred in the knowledge base of and approach to fire management at a national and state level following several severe bushfire events

and associated formal inquiries that triggered broader agency collaboration and focussed research.

Fire management entails both bushfire suppression and prescribed burning activities. Prescribed burning forms part of bushfire mitigation strategies across the Australian landscape in order to reduce risk to communities and ecological health.

The Commission reviewed its policy on fire management and replaced it with a specific [position statement on prescribed burning](#) which reflects nationally agreed principles endorsed by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council in 2016.

The purpose of the position statement on 'prescribed burning on vested lands' was to present principles for the development and implementation of prescribed burning policies and programs on lands vested in the Commission that are aligned with the national best practice framework.

Review of State Planning Policy 2.9 – Water Resources

The Commission provided comments on the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's *Review of State Planning Policy 2.9 - Water Resources* (SPP 2.9). In relation to SPP 2.9, the Commission has statutory functions that include the provision of advice to the Minister for Environment for the preservation of the natural environment of the State, and the provision of advice on the development of policies for the conservation and management of biodiversity and biodiversity components throughout the State.

The Commission noted that a comprehensive assessment of waterways and wetlands had not been undertaken in many parts of Western Australia and consequently, it is possible that many potential Conservation Category Wetlands and possible high value waterways are not recognised in specific datasets. The Commission supported an update of wetland mapping and buffer determinants to inform planning projects.

Given the issue of dewatering practices and the cumulative impact on existing drainage networks in urban and regional areas, the Commission supported a stronger role of relevant agencies in regulating water flows post development (e.g. through water management plans).

Furthermore, the Commission supported a review and clarification of stakeholders and State agencies with statutory responsibilities for wetlands governance and responsibility for wetlands and advice.

Periodic assessment

The Commission engaged with the DBCA and FPC to deliver the Commission's periodic performance assessment program.

Mid-term Performance Review of the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023

Management Activity 130 of the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023 (FMP) requires the Commission to prepare a mid-term performance review by 31 December 2018.

The Office of the Commission has worked with DBCA in the preparation of draft documents for consideration by the Commission. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has advised the Commission that there was no formal requirement for the Commission to submit the mid-term performance review to the EPA for assessment.

The Commission has initiated consultation with Aboriginal representatives through the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council in early 2018. In September to October 2018, prior to finalisation of the mid-term performance review, the Commission will seek public comment.

FMP 2014–2023 - Barrabup old-growth forest assessment

Following the transfer of responsibility for the assessment of public nominations of old-growth forests, the DBCA briefed the Commission on its Barrabup old-growth forest assessment.

An assessment of the nominated area undertaken by the department had found 12 patches, around 43 hectares in total, of old-growth forest. Several segments of constructed tracks had impacted some of the patches of previously unmapped old-growth forest. The FPC was responsible for identifying old-growth forest in the harvest planning stage and for excluding these areas from disturbance operations.

The FPC reported to DBCA on the circumstances that led to the failure to identify the minimally disturbed patches of old-growth forest prior to roading and to identify improvements to minimise the risk of future occurrences. The Commission was satisfied with the response.

Compliance with forest management guidelines

The Commission received a formal complaint and request for an audit of harvesting activities in Lewin, Graphite and Channybearup forest blocks near Manjimup, believed to be in breach of management guidelines.

The Commission sought further information on the alleged incidents from the DBCA and FPC and met with the complainants.

The mid-term performance review of the FMP implementation will consider the effectiveness of the current FMP in meeting its objective of managing the south-west forest in an ecologically sustainable manner and will include recommendations to improve performance.

Marine park key performance indicator (KPI) status reporting

The Commission received the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's annual performance assessment reports for marine reserves and attended the annual marine park performance assessment workshop. The annual performance assessment reports for each vested marine reserve provided the

Commission with quantitative and qualitative information on the condition, pressure and response measures of key ecological assets and key social values. These documents continued to be well supported by internal reporting.

Since its 2016–17 annual report, the Commission has finalised its system and process for online data entry and developed key reporting capacity through a series of dashboards based upon the KPI information. Important to this advancement was putting in place metrics in consultation with DBCA to clarify the decision-making process while at the same time providing for transparency and accountability.

The DBCA' assessment of the KPIs across all marine parks identified asset condition to be predominantly satisfactory or greater. There was a downward trend in the assessed condition of KPI for little penguins in Shoalwater Marine Park and that some reserves continue to experience pressure on their natural assets primarily as a consequence of the 2010–11 marine heating event such as loss of seagrass meadows and coral bleaching.

There were some important achievements in progressing joint management arrangements in the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Management Plan, and the joint management plans for the Yawaru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay and North Kimberley marine parks.

End-of-term periodic assessment

The Lakes and Wetlands of the Perth metropolitan area periodic assessment report was published in this financial period and includes five management plans. Some of the planning areas have regional park plans (plans that include lands vested in bodies other than the Commission). The plans that were assessed are as follows:

- *Herdsmen Lake Regional Park Management Plan 2004–2013*
- *Yellagonga Regional Park Management Plan 2003–2013*
- *Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan 2006*
- *Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve Management Plan 2005*
- *Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve Management Plan 2006*

The report included key findings in relation to the key values of the lakes and management of threatening processes. Key findings focused on water quality, weeds (both aquatic and terrestrial), pollutants, avian fauna and Ramsar listings, water supplementation, community involvement (volunteers), and animal pests. The Commission made recommendations to address the issues identified in the performance assessment report.

Estate planning

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

Ten CALM Act management plans were in preparation by the DBCA during 2017–18.

During this reporting period, the Commission submitted the following plans to the Minister for Environment for his approval in accordance with the CALM Act:

- Final
 - [Albany coast parks and reserves management plan 2017](#)
- Final amendment
 - [Ngari Capes Marine Park management plan 2013-2023](#)
 - [Montebello/Barrow Islands Marine Conservation Reserves management plan 2007-2017](#)

The *Ngari Capes Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2018* enabling the marine park zoning schemes specified in the management plan was approved by the Minister for Environment under section 62(1a) of the CALM Act.

Albany coastal parks and reserves management plan

The *Albany coast parks and reserves management plan* covers 56 terrestrial parks and reserves totalling 32,457 hectares. The lands covered by this management plan, are mainly located in the City of Albany local government authority area, as well as southern parts of the shires of Plantagenet and Jerramungup.

Three statutory management plans apply to parts of the planning area:

1. *South Coast Regional Management Plan 1992–2002*
2. *Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve Management Plan 1995–2005*
3. *West Cape Howe National Park Management Plan 1995–2005*.

This management plan replaces these plans as the statutory management plan for the parks and reserves within the planning area (including any proposed reserves that become vested in the Commission).

Prioritisation framework for management planning priorities

In response to the Office of the Auditor General's report into marine park management (Report 14: June 2016), a recommendation included the development of a risk assessment on the priorities for management planning.

A prioritisation framework was prepared that identified four main areas for risk assessment, including consideration of:

1. values of the planning area in terms of representation of significant species, habitat value, cultural significance, tourism, recreation and commercial opportunities
2. pressure susceptibility, anticipated increase in pressures and impact of those pressures on the KPIs
3. socio-political context, e.g. if the existing plan is outcome-based; been identified by the Commission or Office of the Auditor General as a priority for review; if the current management arrangements are adequate; and any Government priority for review
4. consequences of not developing or renewing a plan, e.g. ecological, cultural, social and/or political consequence.

Expansion of Yalgorup National Park

In July 2017, the government supported the creation of Class A conservation reserves over government-managed land as an immediate priority. To achieve this outcome freehold land was added to Yalgorup National Park (Class A, Reserve No 11710). Seven distinct lots were added to Yalgorup National Park, with an area of 1,001 hectares. The land was already held in the name of the State of WA, having been purchased by the DBCA in 2016.

Estate management

Advice on matters relating to leases, licences, permits, mining tenements and other activities such as utility infrastructure proposed on land and waters vested in the Commission was provided to the DBCA during this reporting period. Table 3 summarises the Commission's consideration of CALM Act leases, licences and permits during this reporting period.

Table 3. CALM Act leases, licences and authorities endorsed during this reporting period

Commercial operations licences	10
Apiary authorities	748
Other leases and licences	42

**Supplied by the DBCA, 2018*

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 consideration of consent to mining activities within 'other than Class A' nature reserves.

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

In 2017–18, the Commission supported license applications for low risk exploration activities in:

- Bullock Holes Timber Reserve (19825)
- Dundas Nature Reserve (36957)
- Jilbadji Nature Reserve (24049)
- Twenty-Five Mile Rocks Nature Reserve (8029)

The Commission has requested periodic compliance reports from the DBCA in relation to licensed activities on vested lands.

Dedicated mine access and haulage route within Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve

JAB Industries proposed to mine basalt in a previously abandoned quarry at Pivot Hill in Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve on proposed Mining Lease application area M 80/637. In December 2014, the then Minister for Environment requested that the proposal be referred to the EPA for possible assessment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. In May 2015, the EPA advertised its decision to not assess the proposal.

JAB Industries applied to the DBCA for the granting of a lease pursuant to section 100 of the CALM Act for the purpose of establishing a dedicated mine access and haulage route to its proposed basalt mining lease area near Pivot Hill within Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.

Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve was reclassified to Class A. This has the effect of limiting the scale of mining, and also to allow for a dedicated mine access and haulage route to avoid impacts on and users of the Old Halls Creek Road, which is a tourist route.

The Commission endorsed the granting of a lease pursuant to section 100 of the CALM Act to JAB Industries for the purpose of a dedicated mine access and a mining haulage route in Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve, subject to proposed mining lease M 80/637 being granted.

Extraction of road base material from the Cane River Conservation Park

The Commission received a request for sourcing road base material from Cane River Conservation Park. Upgrades to Onslow Road in the Pilbara required basecourse material for the upper layer of the pavement which undertakes the majority of stresses and strains when loaded by vehicles on the road.

The Commission was advised that Main Roads WA's search of available and accessible material sources and previously (approved) investigated areas had confirmed that there were no suitable materials available for this project outside of the Cane River Conservation Park.

Main Roads WA requested approval from the Commission to access, and, commence material extraction from two pits totalling 102 hectares in area. Main Roads acknowledged the environmental values of Cane River Conservation Park and committed to manage the environmental impacts of the proposed pits by:

- developing a Construction Environmental Management Plan (incorporating a Vegetation management Plan and Environment Management Plan), Pit Management Plan, Communication Management Plan, Revegetation Management Plan and Program of Works; and
- rehabilitating other disused pits within the park identified by the DBCA as requiring rehabilitation as well as rehabilitating the proposed pits (after utilisation).

The Commission considered the request for consistency with its Position Statement no 12: *Basic Raw Materials: State government and local government access to lands vested in the Commission* and endorsed the item with a request to Main Roads to conduct further investigations on options for future staged works.

Vested lands and waters.

Table 4 provides a summary of lands and waters vested in Commission during the financial year.

Table 4. Lands and waters vested in the Commission*

Land classification	Area as at 30 June 2018 (ha)	Area as at 30 June 2017 (ha)
National parks	6,259,241	6,267,602
Conservation parks	1,085,561	1,084,346
Nature reserves	10,271,781	10,267,826
State forests	1,307,589	1,309,755
Timber reserves	123,174	123,139
CALM Act section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h)	1,097,606	1,097,606
Marine park	4,424,612	4,307,613
Marine nature reserve	132,000	132,000
Marine management area	143,385	143,385
Total	24,844,949	24,733,272

* Supplied by the DBCA, 2018

Changing the name of Bramley National Park to Wooditjup National Park

Bramley National Park was created in 2000 and named after a former forest block. The Shire of Augusta–Margaret River proposed that the name of the national park be changed to Margaret River Wooditjup National Park.

The *Policies and Standards for Geographical Naming in Western Australia* does not recommend dual naming of places. The DBCA' naming guidelines supports the use of Aboriginal names. The South West Boojarah working party was subsequently consulted and recommended naming the park Wooditjup National Park.

The following information was provided to explain the name.

“Wooditjup is the place of Wooditj in the traditional Wadandi name of Margaret River. Wooditj was a local Wadandi Noongar of the Dwordenup people in what is now called the Margaret River area. In the Dwordenup people story/history, Wooditj made the river (Margaret River), by using his “bulya kuttuk booner- magic stick” to create it. This area has always been known to Dwordenup people as “wooditjup - place of Wooditj”, just as the Margaret River has always been “wooditjbilyup – bilya/ beelya” meaning “river” in the Dwordenup people’s language.”

The Commission supported the name change from Bramley National Park to Wooditjup National Park.

Register Cape Peron K Battery Complex

The Cape Peron K Battery Complex is located within Rockingham Lakes Regional Park which is managed by the DBCA in partnership with the City of Rockingham. Rockingham Lakes Regional Park is renowned for both its natural and cultural history and the K Battery Complex forms a unique part of this history. The *Rockingham Lakes Regional Park Management Plan* (2010) supports the listing of the Cape Peron K Battery Complex as a place of heritage significance.

The Heritage Council's Register Committee resolved that the Cape Peron K Battery Complex is of cultural heritage significance in terms of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* and sought the Commission's feedback on the proposal to register the site. The Commission supported the listing of the Cape Peron K Battery Complex on the State Register of Heritage Places.

Communication

The Commission has commenced implementation of Horizon 1 of its strategic plan 2018–21 roadmap. The first stage of the strategy focused on strengthening relationships across broad stakeholder groupings. The Commission's communication strategy outlines a framework to ensure meaningful and timely communication and engagement through appropriate means can occur with all relevant stakeholders. The communication strategy is intended for internal use by the Commission. It is expected that specific communication plans will be prepared for projects such as the FMP 2014–2023 mid-term performance review and for individual management plans as required.

The Commission Chair presented at the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-Tourism (FACET) *Celebrating Our Parks* conference at Government House in October 2017. The conference promoted reconnecting people with parks, celebrating Aboriginal culture, joint management programs and explored ways to engage communities, visitors and business with WA's parks and wildlife. The conference provided an opportunity for the Commission to share its vision and promote the vested estate and its management responsibilities. Positive feedback was received from attendees and the conference organisers.

The Deputy Chair gave a keynote presentation at the Western Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) Kimberley Marine Research Program Conference held in November 2017. The keynote address emphasised the importance of effectively communicating science to all stakeholders. The Commission has received positive feedback regarding the presentation sending a clear message about the information needs of decision-makers from science.

The Deputy Chair gave a presentation at the Environmental Consultants Association (ECA)/Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) *Flora and Vegetation in Environmental Impact Assessment* Symposium. The presentation provided an overview of the role of the Commission and the expectation of those seeking access to the conservation estate. The Commission has received positive feedback from the symposium organisers in relation to information shared with attendees.

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 the DBCA. Expenditure is managed and administered by the Commission and the reporting and audit of expenditure is undertaken by the DBCA.

Total expenditure for the Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 was \$805,372.

Ministerial directives

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

Other financial disclosures

Employment and industrial relations

Table 5. Staff profile at 30 June 2018

	Head count	FTE
Full-time permanent	3	2.84
Part-time permanent	0	0
Secondment	0	0
Total	3	2.84

Governance disclosures

At the date of reporting, no Commissioners or officers, or firms of which Commissioners or officers are members, or entities in which Commissioners 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.

Board and committee remuneration

The Commission operates in accordance with Part III of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, and its Charter, Code of Conduct and other policies. The Commissioners remuneration is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Commissioners remuneration

Position	Name	Gross/actual remuneration	Period of membership
Chair	Marion Fulker	\$ 40,570	1/7/2017 to 30/6/2018
Deputy Chair	Chris Doepel	\$ 25,538	1/7/2017 to 30/6/2018
Member	Ingrid Cumming	\$ 19,427	1/7/2017 to 30/6/2018
Member	Ross Dowling	\$ 19,427	1/7/2017 to 30/6/2018
Member	Regina Flugge	\$ 16,438	1/7/2017 to 6/5/2018
Member	Brian Middleton	\$ 16,438	1/7/2017 to 6/5/2018
Member	Kim Colero	\$ 16,438	1/7/2017 to 6/5/2018
Member	Jo Lanagan	\$ 2,914	7/5/2018 to 30/6/2018
Member	Fiona Valesini	\$ 2,914	7/5/2018 to 30/6/2018
Member	Alan Walker	\$ 2,914	7/5/2018 to 30/6/2018

The Commission met 11 times during the reporting period. Attendance for the total number of eligible meetings for each member are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Commissioner meeting attendance

Position	Name	Attendance	Eligibility
Chair	Marion Fulker	9	11
Deputy Chair	Chris Doepel	10	11
Member	Ingrid Cumming	6	11
Member	Ross Dowling	9	11
Member	Kim Colero	8	9
Member	Regina Flugge	9	9
Member	Brian Middleton	9	9
Member	Jo Lanagan	2	2
Member	Fiona Valesini	2	2
Member	Alan Walker	1	2

Other legal requirements

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

The Commission has adopted the DBCA' *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2015–20*.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Commission staff are employees of the DBCA. The DBCA provided the framework for human resource management within the Commission through an Operational Relationship Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding.

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.

There was one grievance lodged under the *Code of Conduct* during the reporting period which was resolved.

Recordkeeping plans

The Commission prepared and finalised its *Record Keeping Plan 2016* in accordance with Section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*. The purpose of this plan is to set out the matters about which records are to be created by the Commission of Western Australia and how it is to keep its records.

The State Records Commission has endorsed the Commission *Record Keeping Plan 2016*. Training in record management was undertaken by all staff members of the office of Commission.

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

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

Information on the Department's progress towards achievement in implementing the policy framework can be found in the *DBCA Annual Report 2017–18*.

Occupational safety, health and injury management

The 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.

No workers' compensation claims were recorded during the reporting period.

The Commission works to the policy identified by the DBCA.

No workers' compensation claims were recorded during the reporting period. The performance of the Commission OSH and injury management is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Performance reporting: Occupational safety, health and injury management

Measure	Actual result	Results against target	
	Reporting period 2017	Target	Comment on result
Number of fatalities	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	0	0	Achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:			
(i) within 6 weeks	0	0	Achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	100%	100%	Achieved

