



Tamala Conservation Park



Community Advisory Committee Report
for public comment

July 2011



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Department of
Planning



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Published by the
Western Australian Planning Commission
140 William Street
Perth WA 6000

Locked Bag 2506
Perth WA 6001

Published July 2011

ISBN 0 7309 9718 9

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Minister's foreword

The South West is internationally recognised as a "biodiversity hotspot" because of its unique flora and fauna. It is therefore important that, in one of the fastest growing economies in the southern hemisphere, proper planning and careful management of this region occurs so that it remains a rich natural treasure for generations to come.

The Perth metropolitan area contains more than 112,000 hectares of land reserved for parks and recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme, areas that have been specifically identified and set aside to enhance the amenity of city living by providing a range of leisure and recreation opportunities. This also ensures the protection and conservation of environmentally significant lands and waters within the metropolitan area.

The Western Australian Planning Commission plays a key role in identifying and securing these areas for long-term protection on behalf of the community. This is done through a consultative planning program and the purchase of land for reservation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

The coastal bushland between Burns Beach and Mindarie has long been recognised as a special natural area, with a combination of environmental attributes not found anywhere else within the Perth metropolitan region.

The draft Establishment Plan represents the first step in coordinated long-term management of the area, recognising its special attributes for coastal recreation and the significance of its natural environment.

The Community Advisory Committee that has developed this plan includes members from a wide cross section of State and local government agencies and community organisations. This provides the necessary professional advice and input from stakeholders including indigenous groups, local residents' and environmental interest groups, as well as representatives from major urban developments on the northern and southern boundaries of the proposed park.

I thank the members of the Community Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Group for the development of this plan.

The release of the draft plan for public comment provides an opportunity for people to have their say on the future of the proposed park and its amenities.

I encourage you to consider this report and its recommendations and to provide any suggestions or comments you have by 5pm Friday 2nd September 2011 to:

**Tamala Conservation Park Establishment
Plan, Department of Planning,
Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Minister for Planning
Mr John Day, MLA



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Summary

This report outlines the rationale for the establishment of a conservation park between Burns Beach and Mindarie as a Class A Reserve. It describes its conservation and recreation values, identifies the proposed boundaries and outlines park management options, tenure and establishment process.

The proposed park comprises around 380 hectares of high quality coastal vegetation bordered in the west by the Indian Ocean and to the east by Marmion Avenue. The subject area is entirely reserved for parks and recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS). The creation of the park will help secure the establishment of the "East-West Green Wedge" identified in the North West Corridor Structure Plan (1977 and 1992 update) and will give effect to the environmental objectives of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for the area articulated in 1998.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed to develop this draft Establishment Plan and included representatives of the local authorities, State government agencies, adjoining property developers and conservation and community interest groups. Mr Albert Jacob, MLA, Member for Ocean Reef, chaired the Committee. A technical advisory group was also established to provide technical advice and recommendations from State and local government authorities.

The terms of reference for the Community Advisory Committee in developing the Establishment Plan are as set out in the following objectives:

1. To protect the vegetation and landform that represents a single contiguous block of the physical and biological diversity of the Quindalup Dune Systems.
2. To protect the integrity, functionality and environmental value of the remaining dunal system.
3. To create an east-west bushland corridor from the coast through Neerabup National Park and beyond to conservation reserves on the Gnangara Mound.
4. To give effect to the long-standing core area recommended for conservation and regional open space in System 6 recommendations, the North-West Corridor Structure Plan and Bush Forever.

5. To provide sustainable recreational access that is conducive with the protection and management of the high environmental values of the area.

Accordingly, the Establishment Plan:

1. Defines the area to be included within the proposed park, including potential future additions that is essential to achieving objective 3 noted above.
2. Briefly describes the environmental and geophysical values of the park and makes recommendations for further essential flora and fauna studies.
3. Suggests options for tenure and associated management responsibility of the park based on environmental and recreational priorities and goals.
4. Addresses issues of the interface of the proposed park with the urban developments to the north and south and associated public access for recreational purposes.
5. Acknowledges the need to identify and describe any Aboriginal heritage issues associated with the area.
6. Seeks public comment on the proposed arrangements for the park.

Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed park in a regional context. The name "Tamala Conservation Park" is not final and has been adopted by the Community Advisory Committee for the purpose of developing the Establishment Plan. The Committee encourages members of the public to suggest alternative names for the new park. Suggestions will be considered in the review of public comments, and the preferred choice may appear in the development of the subsequent management plan.



1. Background

1.1

Areas proposed for inclusion

The area lies in within the cities of Wanneroo (northern portion) and Joondalup and comprises around 380 hectares of high quality coastal vegetation (approximately the size of King's Park). It is situated between Burns Beach and Mindarie and is bound on the west by the Indian Ocean and Marmion Avenue on the east. The entire area lies within Bush Forever site 322 and consists of around 234 hectares, owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and 147 hectares of Crown Reserves (refer figure 2).

In 1994, the Burns Beach Property Trust (BBPT) proposed an urban development of 260 hectares of land within the southern half that was zoned as rural land. This proposal was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), who conducted a Public environmental review.

The Environmental Protection Authority recommended to the Minister for the Environment that development only be permitted in a much smaller area of approximately 55 hectares outside of the Bush Forever boundary. In approving urban development for the 55 hectares, the Minister stated that future proposed use of the remaining 260 hectares could be dealt with via a Metropolitan Region Scheme amendment process, and considered by the Environmental Protection Authority under Section 48A of the Environmental Protection Act.

The Metropolitan Region Scheme (Clarkson-Butler) amendment was advertised for public comment in 1999 and proposed that 170 hectares be rezoned urban and 120 hectares be reserved for parks and recreation. The amendment was assessed by the Environmental Protection Authority which reiterated its recommendation that only 55 hectares be developed. To resolve the matter, the Minister for Environment established a review committee. The Minister for Environment and Minister for Planning decided that 146 hectares should be rezoned for urban development and the balance become park and recreation.

The Western Australian Planning Commission purchased 20 hectares from the Burns Beach Property Trust and they agreed to concede 124 hectares free

of cost in order to secure the development of the balance of their property for urban purposes.

In 2003, the Western Australian Planning Commission commenced the Negotiated Planning Solution with the Tamala Park Regional Council (TPRC), representing seven local authorities for the transfer of around 90 hectares owned by the Tamala Park Regional Council. The land was transferred to the Western Australian Planning Commission in 2008 and forms the north and west portions of the proposed park. The Negotiated Planning Solution provided for the balance of Tamala Park Regional Council land to be zoned urban and urban deferred.

There are four existing Crown reserves along the coast between Mindarie and Burns Beach that are currently managed by the cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup for the purpose of recreation.

Councils of both cities have formally advised the Community Advisory Committee that they are prepared to continue managing these reserves wholly or in part, conditional upon State Government funding and maintaining a dual use path along the coast to connect Burns Beach and Mindarie.

The provision of facilities associated with the development of a swimming beach would occur at the northern end, on land managed by the City of Wanneroo. The City has indicated its agreement in principle subject to further engineering and environmental studies to be carried out and an agreement on funding.

1.2

Regional conservation values

The environmental significance of the Mindarie dunal systems and associated vegetation communities the subject of this proposal has been well documented in a number of studies dating back nearly thirty years. Its regional importance has been recognised in a range of planning initiatives, including the North West Corridor Structure Plan, System 6 and Bush Forever. It is mostly reserved for parks and recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS). Its physical and biological values are described in this report at 2.1.



1.3 Perth's parks system

In 1955 the Stephenson-Hepburn report proposed the establishment of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), which created a system of land use based on specific zones and reservations. Land for parks and reserves was designated as "parks and recreation" and included areas of regional conservation and recreation significance, as well as sites of high landscape value. Some areas of parks and recreation are included in existing national parks and similar areas such as nature reserves.

The Regional Open Space Concept in the *Corridor Plan for Perth* (Metropolitan Region Planning Authority 1970) and *Metroplan* (Department of Planning and Urban Development 1990) proposed the establishment of a comprehensive system of regional parks in the metropolitan region. The concept of regional open space was to provide the protection of areas of regional significance through the establishment of regional parks with three basic functions:

- to provide for recreation;
- to conserve the natural environment; and
- to conserve man-made landscapes.



Due to the high conservation values of the subject area, it is proposed that the primary management responsibility would lie with the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and be managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). The Department of Environment and Conservation have a number of categories of land management, including national parks, regional parks, nature reserves and conservation parks.

National parks are reserved for the national significance of their scenic, biological or cultural values. Conservation parks are managed for similar values but are of regional or local significance. National parks and conservation parks are created under the *Land Administration Act 1997* and offer the highest security of tenure.

Regional parks usually consist of various land tenures and management involvement by various agencies and generally include developed recreation areas and associated infrastructure.

Nature reserves are managed essentially for their conservation values and have limited or no public access.

During the Establishment Plan process, the Department of Environment and Conservation advised the Committee that it supported the protection of the bushland area the subject of this plan as an A Class reserve and considered the area would most appropriately be managed as a conservation park.

This recognises its high conservation values but permits an element of suitable managed passive recreation, such as bush walks. As a conservation park, and an A class reserve under the *Land Administration Act 1997*, it will enjoy a very high level of tenure protection, with virtually any proposed amendments requiring approval by the State Parliament. The Community Advisory Committee endorses the proposal by the Department of Environment and Conservation to manage the area under its responsibility as a conservation park.



2. Values and description of the proposed park

2.1

Physical and biological values

In its recommendation on the Burns Beach Property Trust proposal for urban development of the southern area, the Environmental Protection Authority noted: "Together with the area to the north....this area is of exceedingly high conservation value, representing a diverse area of coastal land near Perth, which conserves a range of typical and unusual coastal plants and communities. This larger area forms a bushland link between...the coastal reserves to the north and south...and the west...to Neerabup National Park. Another comparable area is not available in the Perth Metropolitan Area." (Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 880, 1998, p 15)

The entire area lies within Bush Forever Area 322 (except for a very narrow coastal strip in the north and south)¹.

2.1.1 Dunal systems

The proposed park contains Quindalup and Spearwood dunes of varying age, overlaying a layer of Tamala limestone. South Mindarie represents the most well defined remaining cusped foreland and its associated range of medium to small scale dune landforms and vegetation habitats in this coastal sector (V & C Semeniuk Research Group, 1991).

The site contains the only example of Quindalup dunes within the Perth metropolitan area that meets all six conservation criteria for such sites specified in table 3 of the Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 880, 1998.

Professor Semeniuk, an authority on coastal geomorphology, made a presentation to the Community Advisory Committee on the globally unique geo-heritage values of the coastline of South-Western Australia and the subject area in particular.

¹ Bush Forever is a State Government policy that seeks to protect at least 10 per-cent of each of the original 26 vegetation complexes in the metropolitan region of the Swan Coastal Plain. The underlying policy document is the Western Australian Planning Commission State Planning Policy 2.8, Bushland Policy for the Perth Metropolitan Region. Environmental Protection Authority approval is required for the clearing of any native vegetation under the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004).



"Cusped forelands along the coast are a system of global geoheritage significance, and Burns Beach Cusped Foreland as part of this gradation is part of a globally important system, in that it is the most southerly and best developed example of its 'stage of development'."

Large blowouts extend over a significant portion of the mid-coastal section of the proposed park. Although these are a natural feature of the coastline, human intervention, especially in the form of off-road vehicle activity, prevents natural and assisted revegetation and can result in environmentally undesirable expansion of the blowouts.

Much of the fore-dunes, particularly to the north, and those bordering the blowouts on either side, are steep and well vegetated. The exception is the various off road vehicle trails that transect the area.

There is also a significant east-west dune ridge just north of the Burns Beach development that is part of a major parabolic dune formation that crosses Marmion Avenue. They include the fore-dunes and have geophysical and cultural heritage importance.



2.1.2 Vegetation communities

Two vegetation complexes have been mapped within the park (Heddle et al, 1980). These are:

1. The Quindalup Complex of the Quindalup dunes coastal complex consisting mainly of two alliances — the strand and fore-dune alliance and the mobile and stable-dune alliance. Local variations include the low closed forest of *Melaleuca Lanceolata* – *Callitris Preissii* and the closed shrub of *Acacia rostellifera* (Heddle et al 1980, per Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 880 1998).
2. The Cottesloe Complex of the Spearwood dunes – Central and South: Mosaic of Woodland Tuart and open forest of Tuart-Jarrah-Marri closed heath on the limestone outcrops (Heddle et al 1980, op cit). The Banksia woodlands associated with this complex are of high conservation value, given the relative scarcity of Cottesloe Complex Banksia woodlands close to the coast within this region (Trudgen 1990). The vegetation communities represented on the Spearwood sands are generally species rich and provide good fauna habitat.

A series of significant species have been recorded, including four listed as “priority 3 taxa”². These are *Jacksonia sericea*, *Conostylis pauciflora* subsp. *euryrhipis*, *Hibbertia spicata* subsp. *leptotheca* and *Stylidium maritima*. A species of particular interest is *Sonchus megalocarpa*, a native thistle that occurs on the ridgelines of large blowouts and is the first record on the mainland in the Perth to Bunbury region. (Keighery, 1991)

Over 70 per-cent of the vegetation has been assessed as excellent to pristine condition by Bush Forever 2000. 168 native taxa have been identified in the park (Keighery, 1991).

2 Under the Wildlife Conservation Act, the Minister for the Environment may declare species of protected flora to be rare flora if they are considered to be in danger of extinction, rare or otherwise in need of special protection. Such species are referred to as threatened flora, and receive special management attention.

Priority 3 - poorly known: taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as ‘rare flora’, but are in need of further survey.

The Tamala Park Regional Council commissioned Syrinx Environmental Pty Ltd (May 2009) to undertake a search for Declared Rare (DRF) and Priority Flora on the land on the western side of Marmion Avenue, ceded by them to the Western Australian Planning Commission, with the results made available to the Community Advisory Council.

Overall, the Syrinx report noted that the vegetation condition in the area surveyed was variable and dependent on the width of the bushland, soil type and vegetation covering the area. Bushland that was found to be in excellent condition was limited to small pockets in the centre and dense thickets of *Banksia sessilis*. The report noted however that the general bushland condition had deteriorated significantly since the Mattiske survey of 2000.

A variety of weeds were recorded, the most prolific being Geraldton Carnation weed (*Euphorbia terracina*). Species such as Rose geranium (*Pelargonium capitatum*), veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) and garden weeds such as yucca plants and agave were also recorded bordering vehicle tracks where rubbish dumping had occurred.

No declared rare flora were found but the Priority 2 species of moss *Fabronia hampeana* was found growing on nine different *Zamia* palms (*Macrozamia riedlei*).

2.1.3 Terrestrial fauna

The park will form part of an important wildlife refuge and corridor linkage from the coast to Neerabup National Park and beyond to the State forest areas on the Gnangara Mound. According to the Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 880. The proposed park contains:

“a vegetated transition between the Quindalup and Spearwood dunes that provides particularly important feeding habitat for a range of fauna due to seasonal diversity of flowering times, necessary to sustain populations of resident nectivorous pollinators.

In zoogeographic terms, the Quindalup/Spearwood dune system has a richer bird and reptile fauna than other dune systems on the Swan Coastal Plain.”



The natural distribution of birds such as the Variegated and White-winged fairy-wrens is restricted to the Quindalup/Spearwood dune system (J Dell, personal communication, Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 971, March 2000).

A limited survey has identified 54 bird species in the area, three native mammal species, and 23 different types of reptiles (Kinhill Stearns 1983).

During the Syrinx survey referred to above, evidence of feral animals such as rabbits and foxes were discovered. Kangaroos have been sighted as recently as 2010. The Western Brush Wallaby was recorded within the site some years ago and the bushland has been identified by the Environmental Protection Authority as potential habitat for the Honey Possum (Noolbenger).

The same survey also noted a flock of around 350 Carnaby Cockatoos feeding on *Banksia sessilis* to the south of the site. These Cockatoos are listed as a threatened species both at a State and National level and use coastal plain vegetation such as present at this site for foraging and roosting.

Much of the study area contains plant species such as *Melaleuca systena* and *Lomandra maritima*, the latter being identified habitat species for the graceful sun moth (*Synemon gratiosa*). Officers of the Department of Environment and Conservation reported sightings of the moth at this location in early 2010³.

The Community Advisory Committee recommends that funding for comprehensive weed mapping and flora and fauna surveys be provided as a matter of priority for interim management of the area.

³ The graceful sun moth is a small day-flying moth found only on the Swan Coastal Plain and is specially protected fauna under the *WA Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, as it is rare or likely to become extinct. It is listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Prior to the commencement of the graceful sun moth project in 2009, there were few known populations between Quinns Rocks and Mandurah, none of which were in formal State-managed conservation areas, and almost all known populations were on small isolated bushland remnants. The first year of survey was very successful with new populations located as far north as Leeman. Several of these populations are within conservation reserves providing valuable protection for this species, although other new populations were found in areas of habitat that are proposed for clearing. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) will continue to survey the graceful sun moth and its habitat. This survey will seek to further clarify the distribution of the graceful sun moth in existing and proposed conservation reserves, and will provide information on how much threat continued clearing on the Swan Coastal Plain poses to the species' conservation.

2.2 Cultural heritage

The name Mindarie is a Nyoongar word meaning either "ceremonial place" or "green water" and was originally applied to Lake Mindarie, further inland, which was first reported by Alexander Forrest in 1874. The Mooro group of Nyoongar people (one of four groups of the Whadjuk peoples who populated the Perth bioregion of the Swan Coastal Plain), led by Yellagonga, were said to be familiar with the area and local land features are referred to in their stories and legends. Waukolup Hill ("place of the Waugul") is a landmark feature of the dunal system in this location visible from a considerable distance inland and is connected with the creation serpent, the Waugul.

After European settlement, the area was very lightly populated until the 1980s, when Mindarie Keys was proposed and the Tamala Park refuse site was announced. The first residents moved in to Mindarie Keys in 1987 with the remainder of the suburb being developed in the early 2000s. Mindarie is situated in the City of Wanneroo.

The land at Burns Beach was originally owned by the Midland Railway Company which had been given large land grants along much of its track from Midland to Walkaway that extended all the way to the coast. In 1908 the Wanneroo Roads Board successfully applied for a 20 hectare reserve for camping and a health resort.

By the 1920s, the area was well used by locals and was referred to as "Burns' Beach" after a farmer who ran sheep in the area. It was mainly accessed by boat or a rough dirt track.

For many years tourism and fishing were the main occupations and it was not until after the Second World War that it was connected by road to Wanneroo Road. Perth's rapidly expanding urban growth reached the area in the early 1990s and the suburb is now located in the City of Joondalup.

There is a caravan park, popular seaside cafe and restaurant adjacent to the carpark at the end of Ocean parade and infrastructure supporting a small local beach.

2.3 Recreation values

In 1992, the City of Wanneroo and the then Department of Planning and Urban Development (DPUD) commissioned the Coastal Planning Study – Burns Beach to Jindalee Report (Hames Sharley Australia, 1992). The stated goal of the study was "...to achieve a balance between the protection of environmental quality and provision for the recreational needs of the people who will use the area."

The Coastal Planning Study identified four key strategic objectives:

- to safeguard the natural resources of the area from excessive use;
- to facilitate public access to the beach in a sustainable manner;
- to provide facilities that will enhance the recreational values of the coast; and
- to monitor the condition of the coastal reserve and to manage it accordingly.

The coastline of the proposed park includes a variety of beach forms ranging from rocky headlands to clean sandy beaches. The latter have been identified as being generally safe for coastal recreation. Many members of the local and regional community have expressed a desire over a number of years for recreational access to the area, including the beaches and bushland.

The Burns Beach Property Trust is developing beachside recreational access along a 1.2 kilometre stretch of coast in the south west corner of the reserve under a Foreshore Management Plan, as a condition of the development of the adjoining urban area. This area, which will connect with the existing beachfront infrastructure further south, would be expected to be transferred to the management of the City of Joondalup (provisionally two years after the completion of works), and forms part of the main reserve. The Burns Beach Foreshore Management Plan states: "The FMP has been prepared in a manner so as to integrate sustainable community use of the coastal area with the conservation of the coastline and associated natural features" (Cardno BSD, 2004).

The Foreshore Management Plan does not include a suitable recreational swimming beach. However, the concept plan indicated an access road further north to the beach with a possible associated surf

lifeguarding facility. A location has been identified by a Department of Planning coastal engineering study⁴ at the northern end of the proposed park (locally referred to as Clayton's and Rambo's Beaches, shown below).



These extend approximately two kilometres south along the coast from Alexandria View. The remainder of the coast south of here is considered unsuitable for swimming as it is heavily perched, although some locals swim at the Burns Beach end, where there is a small swimming area with car park and change rooms. This beach is only able to accommodate local users.

The Burns Beach plan includes a shared path for walking and cycling, which offers the potential for extension north towards Mindarie. There is strong local community expectation for such a path.

In early 2008, The City of Wanneroo received two petitions requesting Council's consideration of the construction of a shared path and the development of a management plan to protect the environmental values of the area. Similarly, the City of Joondalup received a petition of over 2500 signatures making the same request. There has been increasing demand for the shared path as the area experiences an increase in population.

⁴ Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Technical Report No 475, October 2008



In July 2008, the Wanneroo Council resolved to approach the State Government to amalgamate all of the parks and recreation parcels of land between Mindarie and Burns Beach for the creation of a regional park, incorporating a shared pathway. The Wanneroo Council also sought the support of the City of Joondalup, whose Council resolved to support this request in November 2008.

In December 2008, the City of Wanneroo wrote to the Minister for Planning with the request. The Minister advised the council that the Western Australian Planning Commission had established a Community Advisory Committee, with nominated representatives from both the City of Joondalup and City of Wanneroo. He also stated that this was for the purpose of producing an establishment plan to guide the long-term management of the area and that the provision of a shared path would form part of the Committee's considerations. The Committee first met on the 20 January 2009.

The matter of the shared path was addressed early in the Community Advisory Council's deliberations, particularly in regard to alignment, with a strong feeling that the preferred route should be as close to the coast as possible. The matter was referred to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) constituted to provide specialist advice to the Community Advisory Council.

Taking into account the high environmental values of the fore-dunes, the dynamic nature of the coastline, particularly at the blowouts, and the steeply undulating topography, the Technical Advisory Group considered that the construction of a path through the near coastal area could be prohibitively expensive and have adverse environmental impacts. There were also concerns regarding the relative isolation of such a path for the personal safety of users, particularly in the event of a fire.

Due to the regional nature of the shared path facility, both city councils have advised the Community Advisory Committee that their continued management of the foreshore reserves is partly conditional. This includes any shared path not being built on land they manage and on funding being provided by the Western Australian Planning Commission or the State Government. This would require the path to be built through the conservation park, proposed to be managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation, who would have to accept responsibility for its management and maintenance. The Department would have to obtain

funding approval for any capital works as part of the development of its management plan for the proposed park and for ongoing management.

Any clearing of vegetation would have to meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 and approvals under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. With confirmation of the presence of the Graceful Sun Moth, any development proposals would also have to comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Accordingly, the Community Advisory Committee recommends as a matter of priority that the City of Wanneroo, the City of Joondalup and the Western Australian Planning Commission consider joint funding for the appropriate studies to be undertaken to determine the optimal alignment and cost of a shared path from Burns Beach to Mindarie. At least two options should be outlined, one of which is that the alignment be as close to the coast as possible; and an alternative route(s) that may be lower in cost but still close to the foreshore reserve.

It is also essential that public access to the coast is managed in a way that protects the environmental values of the proposed park. An issue already identified is the uncontrolled access of off-road vehicles, which is having an increasingly detrimental effect on the area.

The Community Advisory Committee has identified perimeter security as a priority management requirement.

3. Establishment and management

3.1 Park management

The park may be described as having three broad zones of usage:

- conservation and protection
- natural environment uses
- recreational uses.

Conservation and protection constitute the majority area of the park, recognising the high environmental and landscape values it contains. The primary management objective here is to avoid further disturbance to the bushland, so public access is either excluded or limited to dedicated walk trails. Given conservation and protection comprises the majority of the proposed park, the Community Advisory Council believes that the Department of Environment and Conservation should be the end manager of this area.

Natural environment uses refers to those sections of the park that consist of bushland with some level of developed amenity and public access, such as sealed paths for access to recreational facilities or for use by walkers and cyclists. Such access is controlled through the use of fencing and other measures. These areas are usually (but not exclusively) managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Recreation areas are identified and set aside specifically for public use, such as swimming and fishing beaches, and associated infrastructure. Decisions still have to be made regarding the development of facilities and infrastructure for a larger swimming beach. Such matters would need to be addressed and agreed upon in the development of a management plan for the greater park area. The Community Advisory Committee recommends that any swimming beaches, their access and associated infrastructure should be managed by the relevant local government authorities.

Until recently, vehicle access to the area has been poorly managed. As a result, the area is crossed by numerous tracks and paths, created mainly by various kinds of off road vehicles. Although the blowouts in the coastal centre of the reservation are



a part of the dynamics of the coast, regular vehicle access severely impedes any naturally occurring revegetation. Some of the existing tracks might be retained and utilised as management tracks for various purposes, such as fire management, but public vehicular access (other than outlined above) must be excluded.

The Community Advisory Committee endorsed the provision of a hard-stand interface with the proposed park by means of roads on the boundaries of the northern and southern residential developments. Both of these interfaces will be accompanied by measures (fencing and/or grade separation) to prevent vehicle access other than that deemed necessary for management purposes or controlled access to the beaches.

Pedestrian access will be similarly managed at appropriate locations under agreement between the developers and the relevant land manager.

The Community Advisory Committee recommends some form of fenced hard-stand public road access from Long Beach Promenade through the reserve to the beach, and that this should be given further detailed investigation. There should be no vehicular access beyond the hard-stand onto the beach, other than for management purposes.



3.2 Land vestings

The area proposed for management by the Department of Environment and Conservation would be transferred to State ownership and a management order under the *Land Administration Act 1997* issued to the Conservation Commission of Western Australia for management by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup currently manage all of the foreshore areas as “C” class reserves for recreation (refer Figure 3). They have indicated their agreement to continue management of coastal sections of the park, with amended boundaries, subject to the conditions referred to earlier in respect of the proposed shared path.

In the City of Joondalup, the management order of Reserve 38526 would be given up for inclusion in the conservation area for management by the Department of Environment and Conservation. In the City of Wanneroo, the boundaries of both reserves would be reviewed, with the Department of Environment and Conservation managing the majority of Reserve 35890. Management of the northern portion of this reserve may remain with the



City of Wanneroo, dependent on decisions by Council regarding responsibility for the swimming beach access and associated infrastructure.

The Tamala Park Regional Council has expressed a strong interest in road access from the western boundary of its proposed subdivision along Long Beach Promenade to the beach to the west. At a minimum, this would require suitable car parking and other infrastructure associated with a swimming beach.

The Department of Environment and Conservation has advised the Community Advisory Committee that any such access and infrastructure would not be provided by nor managed by them as a priority management objective and that these facilities should be managed by the City of Wanneroo.

As stated earlier, the Community Advisory Committee strongly supports the provision of controlled vehicle access to the beach, particularly at the Mindarie end, and recommends that discussions to facilitate this should occur between the City of Wanneroo, Tamala Park Regional Council and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

3.3 Potential future additions

The System 6 Report and the Environmental Protection Authority (Public Environmental Review, MRS Amendment 992/33, Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 880 Bulletin 880 of 1998) both refer to the importance of the “green wedges” or environmental linkages of the coastal area east to Neerabup National Park and the State Forests. These include corridors of parks and recreation reservation north and south of the Mindarie Regional Council waste management facility and east through Neerabup National Park. It would be appropriate if these areas were all managed in the longer term by the Department of Environment and Conservation. They could be managed either as part of Neerabup National Park or as an addition to the coastal reserve. In any event, the Community Advisory Committee recommends that a planning study be undertaken as part of the development of the Department of Environment and Conservation’s Management Plan to consider issues and identify action to maintain and enhance the east-west ecological and open space link from the coast through Tamala Park to Neerabup National Park.

3.4 Community involvement

There has been a long history of involvement and commitment by community based groups in planning for the use and management of the area that is the subject of this plan. This community involvement is reflected in the membership of the Community Advisory Committee, whose representatives have made substantial contributions to the plan's development.

As part of its Burns Beach subdivision, the Burns Beach Property Trust and its Manager, Peet Ltd, is implementing a Foreshore Management Plan that has involved rehabilitation of fore-dune vegetation, provision of managed access to the beach at various locations from a shared path and associated public infrastructure, including parking and barbecue areas. The Community Advisory Committee commends the Burns Beach Property Trust/Peet Ltd on its contribution to managed community access to the beach at the southern end of the proposed park.

Continuing community participation will be encouraged through the opportunity to comment on this report and further Department of Environment and Conservation consultation with the community as part of the development of its management plan for the area. Additionally, the Department of Environment and Conservation has ongoing engagement with "Friends of" groups in the operational management of its various parks and reserves.



4. Summary of issues and recommendations

Land vesting arrangements/shared path

Both the City of Wanneroo and the City of Joondalup have made continued management of foreshore areas contingent upon the Western Australian Planning Commission or the State Government funding and managing the proposed shared path. The Commission can only contribute to funding for such projects on land that it owns or manages.

Current identifiable sources of State Government funding would be through the Department of Environment and Conservation in the development of the management plan and subject to approval through the Consolidated Account Budget Process, or the Bikewest Unit within the Department of Transport.

Any part of the subject area not managed by either the City of Wanneroo or the City of Joondalup, will be managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation primarily for conservation purposes.

Recommendation:

That as a matter of priority, the City of Wanneroo, the City of Joondalup and the Western Australian Planning Commission consider jointly funding appropriate studies for a shared path from Burns Beach to Mindarie.

Management tenure

The Department of Environment and Conservation has stated that it will manage the area vested to the Conservation Commission of Western Australia as a conservation park. This will provide a very high level of protection.

Recommendation:

The Community Advisory Committee endorses the proposal by the Department of Environment and Conservation to manage the area to be under its responsibility as a conservation park.

Given the increased demand from the community for access to safe swimming areas adjacent to Mindarie and the future Tamala Park project, the Committee has considered that planning should be undertaken by the local government to identify a public recreational swimming area off Long Beach Promenade. This area should include a hard-stand access road, public parking toilets and potential surf lifesaving facilities.

Recommendation:

That a fenced hard-stand public road access, with appropriately located facilities such as car parking, toilets and potential surf-life-saving facilities, be the subject of further investigation. There should be no vehicular access beyond the hard-stand area other than for management purposes.

Conservation and heritage values

The area has very high environmental and geophysical values that require appropriate protection and management.

Recommendation:

That funding for comprehensive weed mapping and flora and fauna surveys be provided as a matter of priority for interim management of the area.

The Community Advisory Committee acknowledges the importance of the ecological linkages of the proposed park with other conservation areas further inland.

Recommendation:

That a planning study be undertaken as part of the development of the Department of Environment and Conservation's Management Plan to consider issues and identify action to maintain and enhance the east-west ecological and open space link from the coast through Tamala Park to Neerabup National Park.

Aboriginal heritage

An ethnographic and archeological survey of the area has been commissioned by the Western Australian Planning Commission and certain recommendations have been made.

Recommendation:

That the findings and recommendations of the Aboriginal Heritage Survey of the subject area commissioned by the Western Australian Planning Commission be incorporated into the Management Plan to be prepared by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Unauthorised vehicle access

A matter of some concern has been the intrusion of vehicles in to the area, with associated rubbish dumping, the spreading of weeds and damage to vegetation.

Recommendation:

That the perimeter of the proposed park be appropriately secured to minimise/prevent unauthorised vehicle access to the area.

Naming the park

Tamala Conservation Park is an interim name adopted by the Committee for the development of the Establishment Plan.

Recommendation:

That members of the public be invited to submit suggestions for naming the park to the Community Advisory Committee as a part of the public comment process.



5. References

Note: The majority of these references are quoted in the text as extracts from the EPA Public Environmental Review Report 19.

Department of Conservation and Environment (1983). Conservation Reserves for Western Australia. The Darling System - System 6. Parts 1&2. Report 13.

Gibson, N., Keighery, B.J., Keighery, G.J., Burbidge, A.H. and Lyons, M.N. (1994). A Floristic Survey of the Southern Swan Coastal Plain. Unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission prepared by Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc.).

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Royal Society of Western Australia. Vol 71 Pt 2&3 p23-47.

Trudgen, M.E. (1990). A report on the flora and vegetation of an area at Burns Beach and conservation issues affecting it. Unpublished report, Halpern Glick Maunsell, Perth WA.

Trudgen, M. (1996). An assessment of the conservation values of the remnant vegetation in the City of Wanneroo with recommendations for appropriate reserves for the City. An unpublished report for the City of Wanneroo.

V&C Semeniuk Research Group (1992). Environmental and landscape audit of the southwest, northwest and northeast corridors of Perth metropolitan area. Stage 1 Interim report: The Northeast corridor study. An unpublished report for Department of Planning and Urban Development (available for viewing at Ministry for Planning Library).

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Membership of the Community Advisory Committee

Name	Organisation
Mr Albert Jacob MLA (Chair)	Member for Ocean Reef
Mr Ross Parker	Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
Ms Jacqui Maguire	Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC)
Mr Daniel Garlett	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC)
Mr Tony Arias (Succeeded Mr Rod Constantine)	Tamala Park Regional Council
Mr Ian Barker (Succeeded Ms Colleen Murphy)	City of Wanneroo
Ms Tracey Roberts	Councillor, City of Wanneroo
Mr Nelson Hinchcliff	Peet Limited
Mr Jamie Parry (Succeeded Ms Glenda Blake)	City of Joondalup
Cr Kerry Hollywood	Councillor, City of Joondalup
Mr Mike Norman	Chair, Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum
Mr David Wake	Quinns Rock Environment Group
Mr Hugh Reason	Community representative
Ms Judy Gudsell	Burns Beach Resident's Association



Appendix 2: Membership of the Technical Advisory Committee

Name	Organisation
City of Joondalup	
Mr Martyn Glover	Director Infrastructure Services
Mr Tony Pyke	Assett Management
Mr Mark Tucek	Environmental Co-ordinator
Mr Keith Armstrong	Conservation Co-ordinator
City of Wanneroo	
Ms Colleen Murphy	Co-ordinator Environmental Planning
Mr Chris Round	Co-ordinator Conservation Maintenance
Department of Planning	
Mr David Carter	Senior Planner
Mr Ross Duckham	Senior Project Planner
Department of Environment and Conservation	
Ms Jacqui Maguire	Senior Land Use Planner
Perth Region NRM	
Ms Kate Sputore	North Metro Coastcare Officer
Western Australian Planning Commission	
Mr Ross Parker	Policy and Project Officer

Tamala



Conservation Park

Figure 2: Aerial photograph showing proposed park boundary

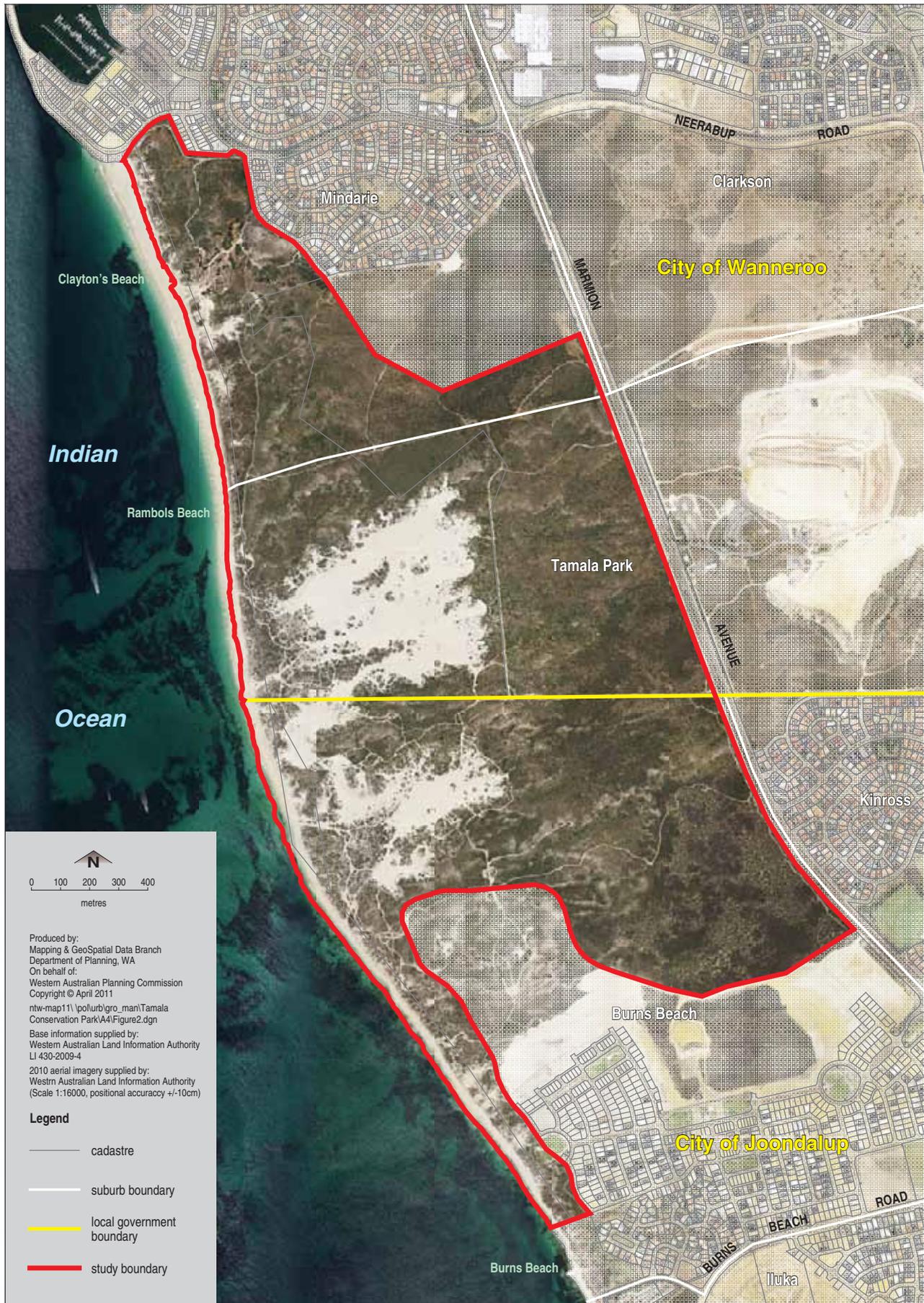
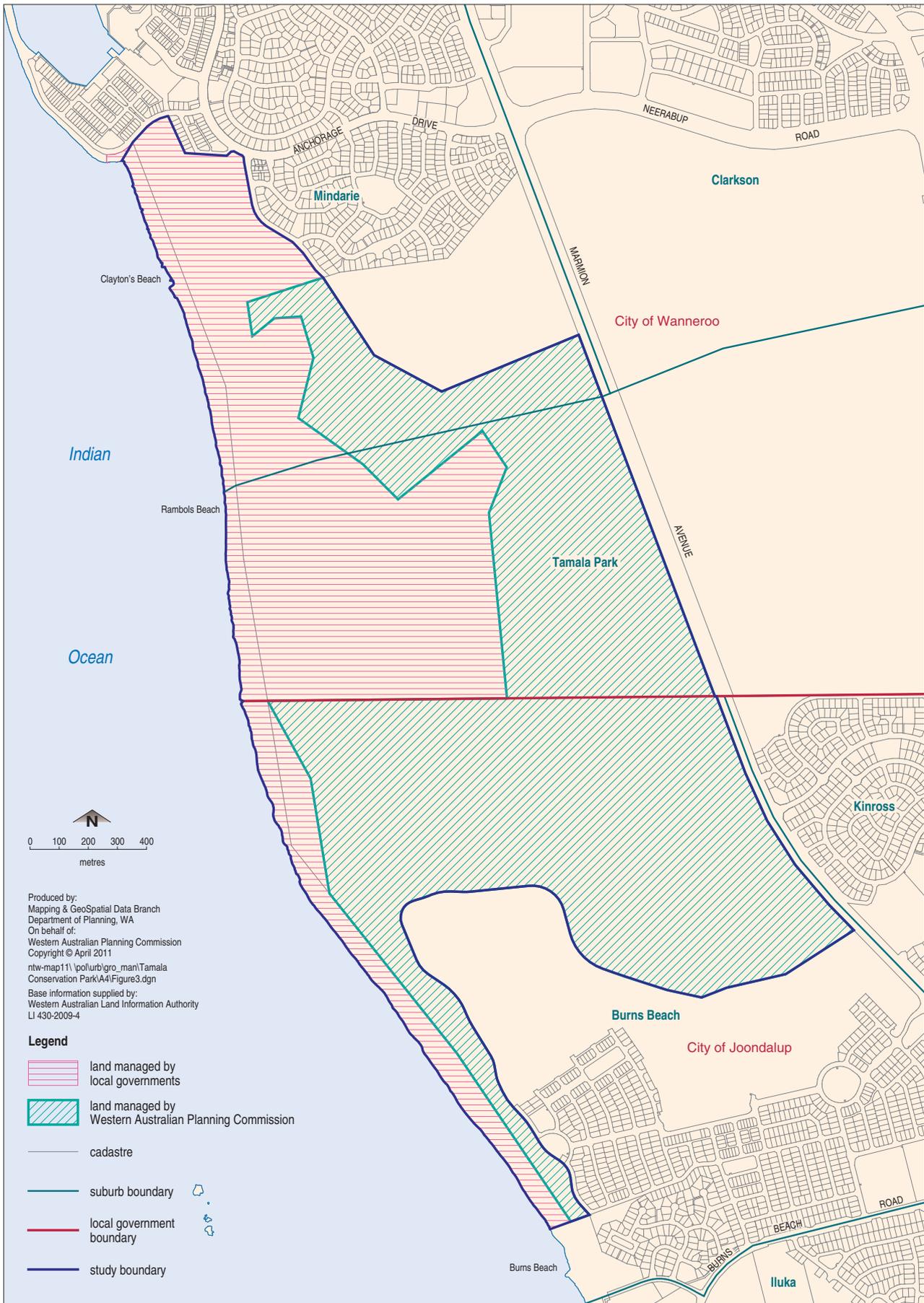




Figure 3: Current land tenure and management



Tamala

Conservation Park



Figure 4: Suggested land tenure and management

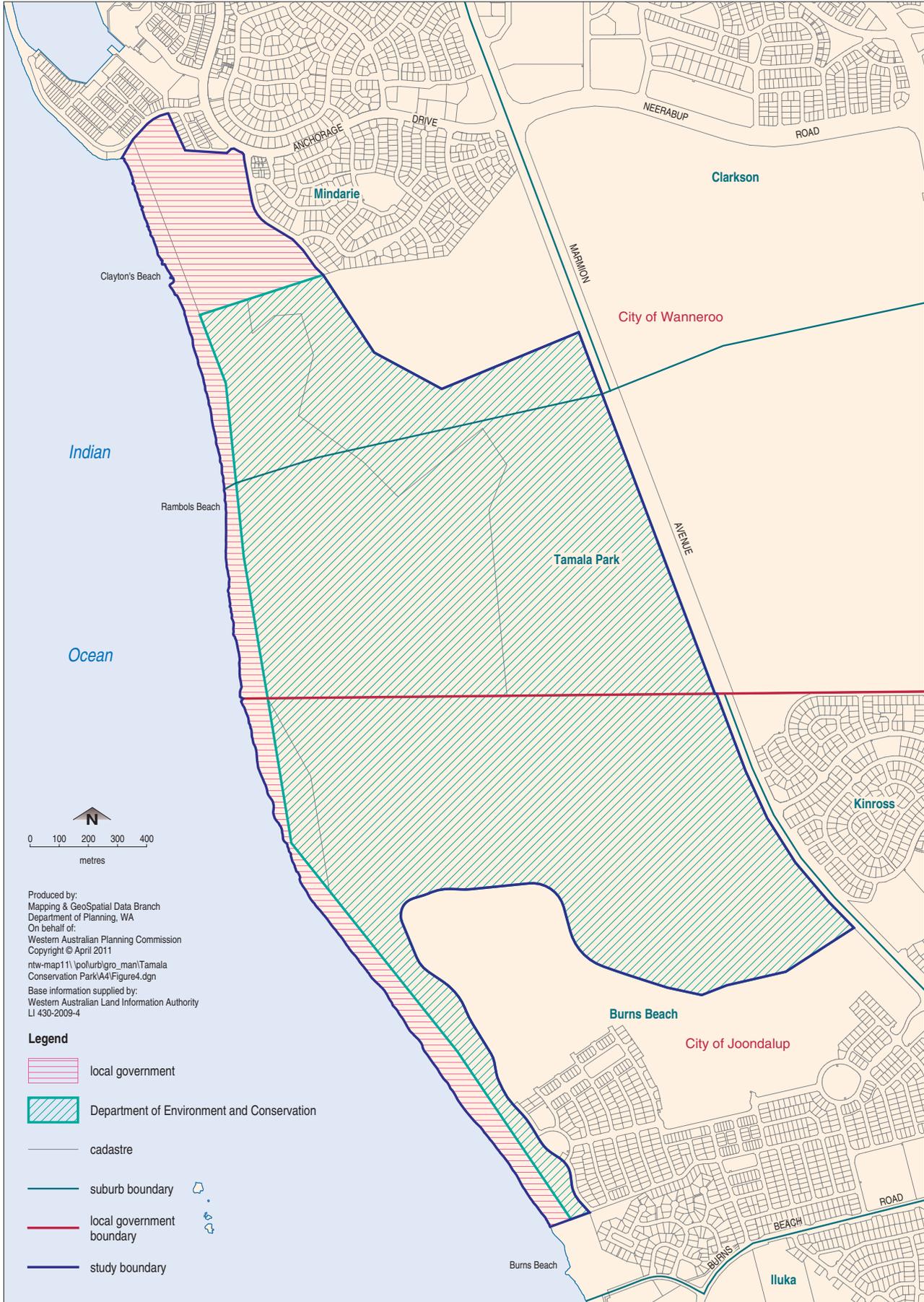


Figure 5: Tamala Park Conservation Park Establishment Plan chronology

Year	Event
6,000 years ago+	Aboriginal people inhabiting northern Swan Coastal Plain
1626 (approx)	European discovery of west coast of Australia
1829	Swan River Colony established, start of British exploration and occupation of land around Perth
1834	Explorer John Butler led first excursion into Wanneroo area, followed by George Grey in 1838
1866	Area surveyed by Government Surveyor Robert Quin
1890s	Pastoral leases issued in the area
1908	Reserve created for camping and health resort – origins of the Burns Beach settlement
1969	Lot 2 Burns Beach acquired by investment syndicate, the Burns Beach Property Trust
1977	North West Corridor structure plan proposed east-west regional open space area between the coast and Neerabup National Park
1981	Cities of Perth and Stirling and Shire of Wanneroo acquired Lot 17 Mindarie for waste disposal site, extended from coastal reserve north of Lot 2 Burns Beach to Neerabup National Park
1983	System 6 Red Book published, Department of Conservation and Environment recommendations for conservation reserves in Perth region, identifies part of Lot 2 Burns Beach and Lot 17 Mindarie as potential conservation reserves including link from coast to Neerabup National Park
1983	Environmental review of proposed waste disposal facility at Lot 17 Mindarie released for public comment, generated public opposition
1991	Rubbish tip at Tamala Park opens despite long running community opposition, managed by Mindarie Regional Council for the Cities of Perth, Stirling and Wanneroo
1991	North West Corridor environmental audit for the Department of Planning and Urban Development highlights dune system between Burns Beach and Mindarie as significant feature
1994	Burns Beach Property Trust proposed urban development of 252ha of Pt Lot 2 Burns Beach, EPA decided proposal requires formal environmental assessment, level of assessment raised after appeal by conservation groups, start of campaign to protect bushland north of Burns Beach townsite
1995	Public Environmental Review for Lot 2 Burns Beach development open for comment, proposes urban development of 252ha of the 290ha lot, 143 submissions were made to the EPA
1998	State Government released Perth Bushplan for public comment, reports on a regional conservation assessment and recommend bushland for protection including part of Lot 2 Burns Beach and Lot 17 Mindarie
1998	EPA reported on development proposal for Pt Lot 2 Burns Beach, found that 55ha of Pt Lot 2 could be developed, balance of lot has regional conservation value and development would be environmentally unacceptable
1999	WAPC initiated MRS Amendment 992/33 that proposed urban zoning of 170ha of Pt Lot 2 Burns Beach and inclusion of 120ha of Lot 2 and part of western portion of Lot 17 in parks and recreation reserve
2000	State Government released Bush Forever report, that followed the Bushplan study, identified bushland on part of Lot 2 and Lot 17 for conservation
2000	EPA reported on MRS Amendment 992/33, found that 55ha of Pt Lot 2 could be developed, balance of lot has regional conservation value and development would be environmentally unacceptable
2002	Environment Minister established Committee to review appeals against EPA report on urban development of Pt Lot 2 Burns Beach, committee reported to Minister



Year	Event
2003	Environment and Planning Ministers agreed on resolution of appeals regarding MRS Amendment 992/33 – 146ha Pt Lot 2 rezoned urban, 144ha reserved for parks and recreation
2003	WAPC and local councils that own Lot 17 Mindarie agreed on area to be set aside for conservation – negotiated planning solution under Bush Forever initiative
2009	Local structure plan prepared for Tamala Park development covering 180ha (Tamala Park Regional Council)
2009	WAPC established advisory committee to progress establishment plan for proposed conservation reserve between Burns Beach and Mindarie (including pt former Lot 2 and Lot 17)

Tamala Conservation Park



Community Advisory Committee Report
for public comment

Public submission form

The Department of Planning is seeking public comment on the Tamala Conservation Park Community Advisory Committee Report. All comments received will be considered by the DoP before the final document is released.

All submissions will be treated in the strictest confidence.

When making a submission, it is very helpful to:

- clearly state your opinion and the reasons for your opinion;
- if possible, outline possible alternatives or solutions to your area of interest;
- if possible, include the section or page number which relates to your area of interest; and
- provide any additional information to support your comments.

If you prefer to make a comment in an alternative format, please remember to include the relevant details as outlined on the submission form.

The closing date for submissions is 5pm Friday 2nd September 2011.

If you would like more information on making a submission, please contact:

Ross Parker

Tel: 08 655 19046

Email: corporate@planning.wa.gov.au

Web: www.planning.wa.gov.au

Submissions can be made either electronically at www.planning.wa.gov.au or written submissions can be forwarded to:

Tamala Conservation Park Establishment Plan

Department of Planning

Locked Bag 2506

Perth WA 6001

We look forward to receiving your submission



