

Guniyan Binba Conservation Park

Summary of public submissions

to the

draft joint management plan 2019

Yawuru Registered Native Title Body Corporate (Yawuru RNTBC)
Shire of Broome
Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

OVERVIEW

This document is an analysis of stakeholder submissions to the *Guniyan Binba Conservation Park draft joint management plan* (draft plan) (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2019). It presents key issues and themes that arose from the submissions and explains how these issues have been addressed in the final plan.

The plan was released for public comment by the Yawuru RNTBC, the Shire of Broome and the Conservation and Parks Commission on 26 March 2019 and open for comment for a period of 13 weeks closing on 28 June 2019. It was available in hardcopy and as a pdf on the internet. A survey on the Survey Monkey website enabled online submissions to the draft plan.

The draft plan was publicised and distributed using several different methods:

- A notice of the draft plan's release published in the *Government Gazette* on 26 March 2019*.
- Newspaper advertisements placed in the West Australian newspaper on 3 April and 1 May and in the Broome Advertiser on 11 April and 9 May 2014*.
- A notice and a PDF copy of the draft plan was on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (the department) website (dbca.wa.gov.au/haveyoursay), the Nyamba Buru Yawuru website: yawuru.com and the Shire of Broome website: broome.wa.gov.au, with a link to the survey on Survey Monkey.
- Letters and emails were sent to 96 stakeholders, including State and Federal government departments, non-government organisations, community groups, local businesses, and individuals.
- Hard copies were available from Parks and Wildlife Service Head Office, Kensington, Parks and Wildlife Service Broome Work Centre, Nyamba Buru Yawuru Office, Broome, and the Shire of Broome Office.
- Information about the draft plan and how to make a submission was shared on the Parks and Wildlife Kimberley Facebook page.
- A public information session was held at the Nyamba Buru Yawuru Office on 21 May 2019, where the public could collect copies of the draft plan and submission forms and discuss the draft plan further with Yawuru Environmental Services and department staff.

* requirement under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

All submissions were collated for analysis. The comments made in each submission were collated according to the major headings of the draft plan they addressed. Comments were summarised based on the main point of the comment.

METHODOLOGY

The draft plan was reviewed in the light of submissions received, according to the criteria outlined below.

The draft plan was amended if a submission:

- provided additional information of direct relevance to management
- provided additional information on affected user groups of direct relevance to management
- indicated a change in (or clarified) government legislation, management commitment or management policy
- proposed strategies that would better achieve management objectives or
- indicated omissions, inaccuracies, or a lack of clarity.

The draft plan *was not* amended if a submission:

- clearly supported proposals in the draft plan
- made general statements and sought no change
- made statements already in the draft plan or that were considered during the draft plan preparation
- addressed issues beyond the scope of the draft plan
- was one amongst several widely divergent viewpoints received on the topic but the text/strategies in the draft plan were still considered the preferred option
- contributed options that were not feasible (generally due to conflict with existing legislation, government policy, lack of resource capacity or lack of research knowledge to make decisions)
- was based on unclear/factually incorrect information
- provided details that are not appropriate or necessary for inclusion in a document aimed at providing management direction over the long term.

Comments made in submissions were assessed entirely on the cogency of points raised. No subjective weighting was given to any submission for reasons of its origin or any other factor that would give cause to elevate the importance of any submission above another.

ABOUT THE SUBMITTERS

Fifteen submissions were received on the draft plan. Two submissions were received from the general public. The remainder were from submitters representing groups, mostly State Government departments (Figure 1). Most submitters (60%) were from Perth (Figure 2).

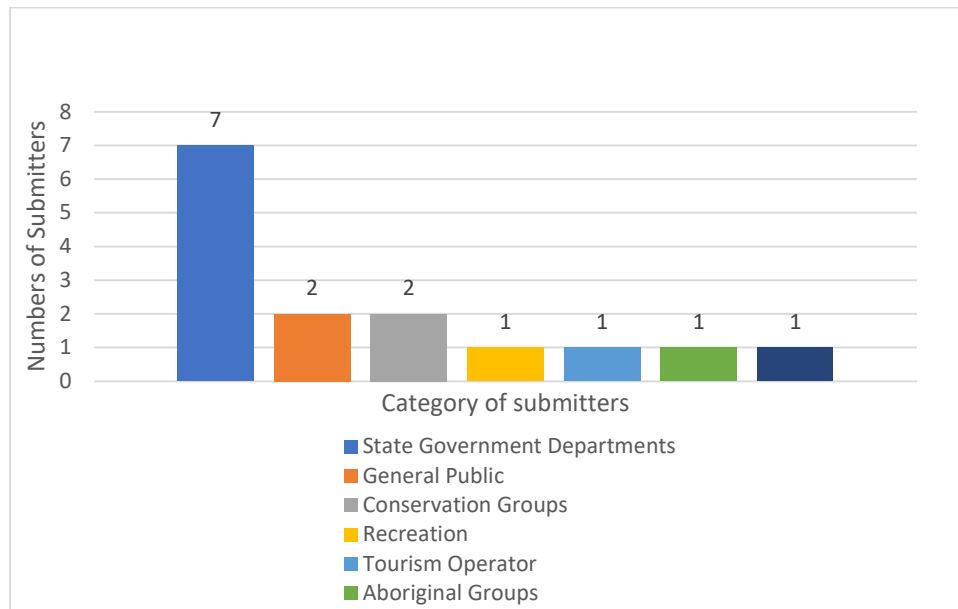


Figure 1: Type of submitter

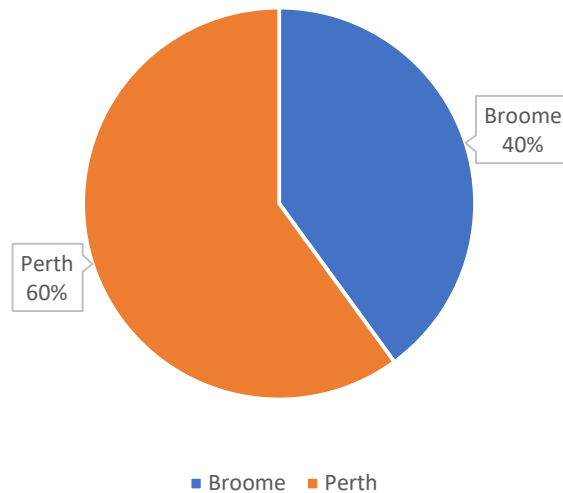


Figure 2: Location of submitters

Three submitters provided submissions on the Survey Monkey website. This survey also asked submitters about how they heard about the plan and whether it was easy to understand. Two of the submitters thought it was easy to obtain a copy of the plan, but the third submitter thought it was not. Submitters heard about the plan from the department's, the Shire of Broome's or the Nyamba Buru Yawuru's webpage, being notified via letter or email, from the newspaper advertisements or via word of mouth. One submitter thought the draft plan was easy to understand and another thought it was neither easy nor difficult to understand.

KEY ISSUES AND THEMES

The fifteen submissions to the draft plan translated to 88 comments and addressed all chapters. The greatest number of comments were made about the ecological values chapter. Figure 3 shows the breakdown of comments according to the chapter in the draft plan.

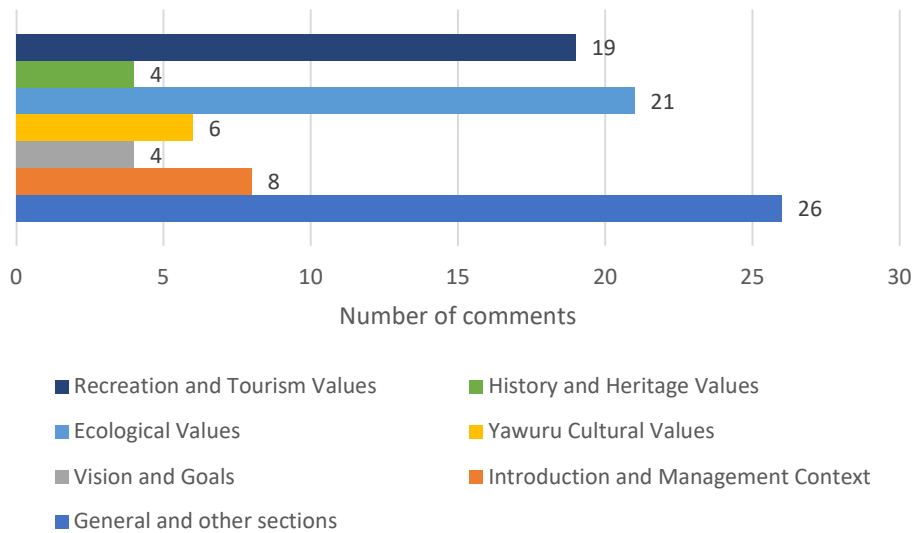


Figure 3: Number of comments by chapter

Forty percent of comments resulted in a change to the final plan (Figure 4). Twenty-three percent of comments were either supportive of the plan or were general and did not seek a change to the plan.

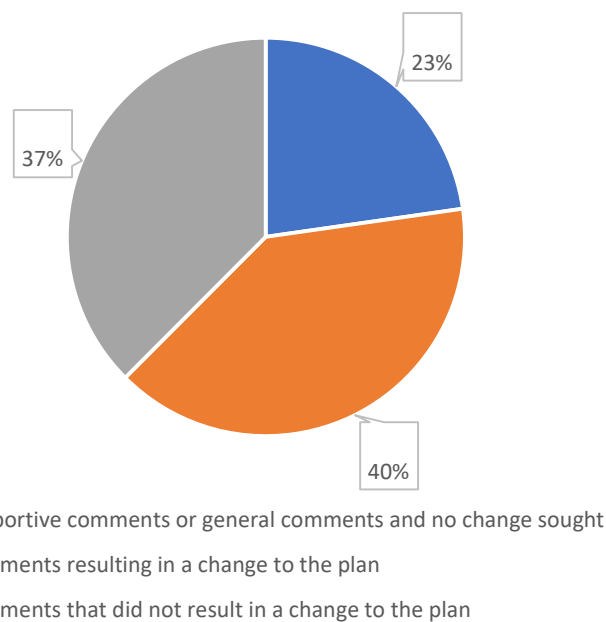


Figure 4: Types of comments and changes to the plan

The key issues and themes raised by submitters are outlined below, as well as how these comments were considered when amending the plan.

Introduction

Comments made about the Introduction were minor corrections or clarification of the text.

Guniyan Binba Conservation Park Yawuru cultural values

One submitter commented that information about Yawuru cultural values and sites within the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park should be included. A paragraph about these important locations was added to *5.1 Living cultural landscape*.

Another submitter noted that the name Guniyan Binba Conservation Park was not officially recognised. A strategy was added to this section to progress the formal naming of the conservation park.

There was a comment in relation to the statement, “*Although Yawuru country extends more than a hundred kilometres inland, Yawuru people consider themselves to be saltwater people as they would travel and live along the coast, exploiting the resources of nagulagun buru – their sea country – according to seasons*” and the suggestion that there was confusion between inland Southern Tradition and the Saltwater Northern Tradition. The original text was considered the most appropriate and is consistent with the *Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park Joint Management Plan 2016* and the *Yawuru Nagulagun/Roebuck Bay Marine Park Joint Management Plan 2016*.

Guniyan Binba Conservation Park ecological values

This chapter received the most comments of all chapters in the draft plan. Several submitters provided a considerable amount of information about the importance of the park for seabirds and shorebirds, including some migratory species, and the variety of habitats used by these birds. Information was added to the plan about the importance of the beaches and associated tidal flats as nesting, roosting and feeding habitat for seabirds. In response to these submissions, the heading of section *6.3 Wirrjinmirr/Willie Creek wetland system* was changed to *6.3 Wetlands*, with a subsection discussing Wirrjinmirr/Willie Creek wetlands system and its associated mangroves and salt flats. Background text about the bird species that use the mangroves was added or corrected. The importance of conservation significant shorebird species was recognised in the management strategies and key performance indicators.

A submitter also provided information about the Nimalaica/*Nimalarragun* wetland, which lies mostly in the adjacent Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park, but parts of the inundation zone lie within the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park. The submitter considered that this wetland and overflow system to be one of the most significant freshwater wetland systems in the local Broome region. Consequently, a subsection outlining the values of this wetland was added to the plan. This submitter also suggested that the values of the *Ngunungurrukum/Coconut Wells* lagoon should be included so information about this was also added to the wetlands section. Some general background about the ecological and cultural importance of wetlands in the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park was also added.

Several submitters referred to the presence of weeds and pest animals (feral horse and cattle) in the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park. These are a threat to the wetland ecosystems, so detail was added to the plan about their impacts and management. Additional management strategies were added in relation to the preparation of introduced animal and weed control plans, engaging with the community and landowners in relation to introduced animals and considering the need to exclude introduced fauna from sensitive sites. A key performance indicator relating to weed management was also added.

Guniyan Binba Conservation Park history and heritage values

A submitter referred to potential maritime archaeological values in the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park, specifically the presence of the undiscovered wrecked pearling lugger *Tommy* in the intertidal area and other artefacts from the pearling era. This information was added to the plan as well as

reference to the Commonwealth *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* and the State *Maritime Archaeology Act 1973*.

Guniyan Binba Conservation Park recreation and tourism values

There were several comments in relation to the high levels of recreation use in the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park during the tourist season and the conflict that can arise between vehicles accessing the beach, visitors on foot and dogs. There was the suggestion that the plan was not robust enough to deal with this level of use and the potential for conflict between users. The management strategies outlined focus on educating visitors about appropriate behaviour and responsible driving, designating areas for particular uses (driving on the beach, dog walking and horse riding), monitoring the impacts of visitor use and adapting management if necessary. Therefore, it was considered that these strategies will provide a robust but flexible framework for managing visitor use, supported by enforcement and patrol. Therefore, no changes were made to this chapter of the plan.

Comments were also submitted in relation to access to the Guniyan Binba Conservation Park, the proliferation of access tracks in the vicinity of *Ngunungurrukum/Coconut Wells* lagoon and the need for all weather access. These comments applied to the adjacent Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park, so no additional changes were made to the draft plan. However, a holistic approach to planning visitor access and recreation site design will be implemented across all the Yawuru conservation estate, in consultation with the community, to address this issue.