

Lake McLarty Nature Reserve

Analysis of Public Submissions to the Draft Management Plan

Department of Environment and Conservation

for the

Conservation Commission of Western Australia

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INTRODUCTION

This document is an analysis of public submissions to the Lake McLarty Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan 2005.

The Lake McLarty Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan 2005 was released for public comment in January 2006 for a period of two months. Late submissions were accepted. A total of 16 public submissions were received. All submissions have been summarised and changes have been made to the plan where appropriate.

Following the release of the plan, advertisements were placed in local and Statewide newspapers advising that the draft management plan was available for comment. The draft plan was also distributed to State Government departments, tertiary institutions, recreation and conservation groups, local authorities, libraries and numerous individuals who expressed interest during the preparation of the draft.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Method of Analysis

The public submissions to the Lake McLarty Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan were analysed according to the process depicted in the flow chart overleaf. More specifically:

- The points made in each submission were collated according to the section of the draft plan they addressed.
- Each point made was assessed using the following criteria:
 1. The draft management plan *was amended* if the point:
 - (a) provided additional resource information of direct relevance to management;
 - (b) provided additional information on affected user groups of direct relevance to management;
 - (c) indicated a change in (or clarified) Government legislation, management commitment or management policy;
 - (d) proposed strategies that would better achieve management goals and objectives; or
 - (e) indicated omissions, inaccuracies or a lack of clarity.
 2. The draft management plan *was not amended* if the point:
 - (a) clearly supported the draft proposals;
 - (b) made a general or neutral statement or query and no change was sought;
 - (c) addressed issues beyond the scope of the plan;
 - (d) made statements that were already in the plan or had been considered during its preparation;
 - (e) was one amongst several widely divergent viewpoints received on the topic but the text/strategy in the draft plan was still considered the best option;
 - (f) contributed options which were not possible (generally due to some aspect of existing legislation, Government or Departmental policy);
 - (g) was unclear; or
 - (h) involved details that are not necessary or appropriate for inclusion in the plan.
- The reasons why recommendations in the draft plan were or were not changed, and the relevant criteria used, were discussed with each comment. Minor editorial changes referred to in the submissions have also been made as necessary (see Table 1).

Submissions have been assessed entirely on the cogency of points raised. No subjective weighting has been 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.

Number and Origin of Submissions

The number and place of origin of submissions are listed below.

	Number	Percentage
Individuals	8	50
Community Organisations	3	19
Private Sector Corporations	0	0
Government: Federal	1	6
State	3	19
Local	1	6
TOTAL	16	100

A list of the submitters to the Lake McLarty Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan is provided at Appendix 1.

ANALYSIS TABLE

The analysis table (Table 1) contains:

- ❖ the number of different comments made about sections of the draft plan;
- ❖ A summary of each comment made on the draft plan;
- ❖ The number of submissions making each comment;
- ❖ An indication of whether or not the comment resulted in an amendment to the final plan;
- ❖ A discussion on why the comment did not result in an amendment to the final plan, or an indication of what action was taken in the final plan; and
- ❖ The criteria by which each comment was assessed.

FIGURE 1. ANALYSIS PROCESS

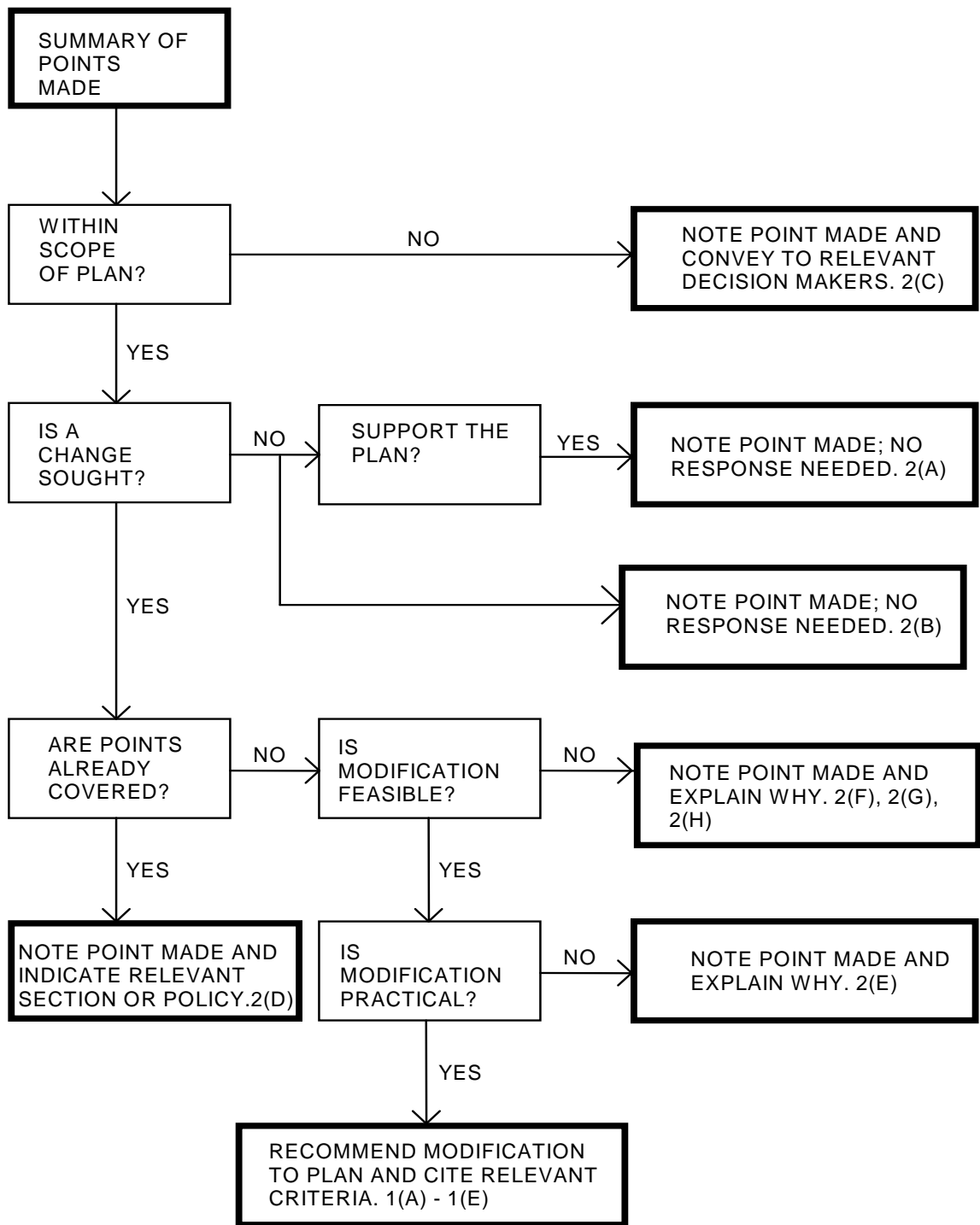


TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
1	1	General	The plan addresses the access to, grazing and recreational use of the area and outlines strategies to manage this use, which are compatible with maintenance of the natural properties.	Supports the Draft Management Plan (DMP).	No	2(a)
2	1	General	In consideration of the changing roles between the Department of Environment and the Department of Water in regard to managing groundwater and water quality, it is recommended that the DoE Mandurah regional office is contacted for clarification prior to finalisation of the draft management plan.	The plan has been amended as necessary with regard to recent changes with Government departments and the amalgamation of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the Department of Environment, and the formation of the Department of Water.	Yes	1(c)
3	1	General	Lake McLarty should be recognised for its international significance as a wetland refuge for both migratory waders and local waterbirds, where natural and other values are protected.	Lake McLarty's inclusion on the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), as part of the Peel-Yalgorup System, is mentioned in the management plan on a number of occasions, as is an explanation of Ramsar.	No	2(d)
4	1	General	An initial assessment (by the Department of the Environment and Heritage) of the draft management plan against the Australian Ramsar Management Principles reveals that it meets many of the principles, particularly describing the ecological character of the site, identification of threats and conservation mechanisms - further specific/detailed comments/advice provided in attachments.	Comment noted. Supports the DMP.	No	2(b)
5	1	General	Has a copy of the plan been sent to the Department of the Environment and Heritage in Canberra?	Yes, as one of the key stakeholders, the former Department of the Environment and Heritage (now Department of the Environment and Water Resources) were sent a copy of the draft management plan and have submitted comments to the plan.	No	2(b)
6	1	General, 9	If, through management of a site, change (or likely change) in ecological character is identified (e.g. through monitoring of KPIs), then this should be reported to the Department of the Environment and Heritage as per Article 3.2 of the Convention.	This is already stated in the DMP (page 9).	No	2(d)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
7	1	Introduction	It is recommended that the "Introduction" also includes reference to the identification of Lake McLarty as nationally significant in <i>A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia</i> (Commonwealth Dept Environment and Heritage).	Text to this affect has been added to the plan.	Yes	1(e)
8	2	Introduction	Lake McLarty should be nominated as a Ramsar site and managed in its own right as such.	Lake McLarty, due to it's inclusion in the Ramsar listing for the Peel-Yalgorup System, is afforded the same protection as if it were listed in its own right. In terms of on-ground management, the Nature Reserve is managed in its own right by the Department of Environment and Conservation (the Department, DEC), and the development of a management plan is an indication of this.	No	2(d)
9	2	5	The Vision should include a provision for the improvement and restoration of the values of Lake McLarty.	The word "improve" has been added to the Vision statement so it now reads "...habitats will be managed in partnership with the community to maintain and <i>improve</i> the lake's Ramsar and other natural values."	Yes	1(c)
10	3	5	The Vision of Lake McLarty reserve is supported.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
11	2	5	The principle objective of this reserve's management should be to maintain (or if possible, improve) this outstanding world class habitat.	The word "improve" has been added to the Vision statement so it now reads "...habitats will be managed in partnership with the community to maintain and <i>improve</i> the lake's Ramsar and other natural values."	Yes	1(c)
12	1	6	<p>Addition of the road reserve to the conservation estate is not supported, particularly where it is adjacent to my property. There is vegetation right on, hanging over or falling on my fence. This is a fire hazard and should the fence fall over I am not sure how I would get my cattle out of the reserve. The road reserve should remain so that the area can be maintained as a fire break and therefore protect my fence and property.</p> <p>I am led to believe that if CALM takes over the reserve I will not be able to touch any vegetation and CALM is not required to put in firebreaks to protect my fence and property.</p>	<p>The fence adjacent to the property in question is currently the responsibility of the Shire of Murray. Nevertheless, the Department will take the concerns raised into consideration and, in accordance with its <i>Good Neighbour Policy</i> (DEC 2007), will continue to liaise with neighbouring landholders to address such concerns.</p> <p>A firebreak around the lake, and essentially the nature reserve, is unnecessary due to the large expanse of water, and the fact that there is alternative access through paddocks.</p>	No	2(e)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
13	3	6	Addition to the reserve of the road reserve on the Eastern side, and if possible the additional lots 240 and 229 should be a top priority. The Mandurah bypass will further increase land values in the area and once residential building starts the land will be harder to secure. The land on the Eastern side will act as a buffer zone, stop nutrients running into the reserve and protect plant communities along that boundary. Extending the buffer zone on the Eastern side will provide wildlife with a retreat to a quiet zone away from the increasing development pressures present on the western side.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
14	3	6	The road reserve should be added to the conservation estate and would ensure that access to the fragile area by the public is limited.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
15	2	6	Support for providing a larger buffer zone around the lake through acquisition of adjacent land.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
16	1	6	Wetland buffers and setbacks should be determined from the geomorphic wetland boundary, as delineated in the <i>Geomorphic Wetlands Swan Coastal Plain</i> dataset. The high water mark of a wetland varies with time, however, the geomorphic wetland boundary has been determined based on characteristics of soils, hydrology and vegetation and provides a more accurate representation of the wetland boundary.	The text of the management plan has been amended accordingly to reflect this information.	Yes	1(a)
17	1	6	Support for acquisition of the remnant vegetation on the eastern side of the lake (p16).	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
18	1	6	A large buffer zone should be established all around the lake, by purchasing land on the reserve's boundary.	The wording in the DMP (page 16) that remnant vegetation on the eastern margin should be <i>acquired</i> , has been amended to say that adjoining remnant vegetation should be <i>included</i> in the nature reserve as it becomes available. The plan also states that, subject to reaching agreement with the owners, consideration should be given to acquiring these vegetated areas by direct purchase, or as a conservation offset if the current agricultural land is subdivided in future.	Yes	1(d)
19	3	6	Support for procurement and incorporation into the existing reserve of the gazetted road reserve along the eastern boundary.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
20	2	6	The document should specify minimum water storage tank size (re development controls on nearby subdivisions)	92 000 L is the standard requirement by the DPI for water storage. Such specifics will not be included in the management plan as they are addressed through the local government/DPI planning processes, and are outside the scope of this Department's management planning process. The Department does, however, comment on statutory referrals and liaises with DPI and the Shire regarding subdivision proposals, and would make recommendations through this process.	No	2(c)
21	2	6	The Council requires that the Draft Management Plan be amended to stipulate that large on-site water storage capacity is required for any new developments.	The management plan already states this (page 5).	No	2(d)
22	1	6	It is recommended that additional environmental conditions are included, such as requirements to undertake rehabilitation, and incorporation of best management practices by adjacent landowners (e.g. to reduce nutrient export or weed invasion).	This is addressed in the DMP through the recommendations outlined on page 5, but it is outside the scope of the management plan to include such specifics. The Department comments on statutory referrals and liaises with DPI and the Shire regarding subdivision proposals, and would recommend such conditions be put in place through this process.	No	2(c)
23	1	6	Support for negotiating conservation offsets.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
24	1	6	The environmental conditions listed on pp 5-6 are generally supported.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
25	1	6	Agree with strict land tenure regulation.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
26	1	6	The western side of the reserve should be fenced where it borders a sub-division and have vegetation planted as a screen.	Fencing already exists on the western boundary of the reserve, as stated on page 26 of the DMP. Revegetation along this boundary has already been undertaken and will be on-going.	No	2(d)
27	1	6	Continued residential development and subsequent groundwater extraction and nutrients will place further pressure on Lake McLarty and should be strictly limited.	Comment noted. However the issue is addressed through external planning processes and is outside the scope of this management plan.	No	2(c)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
28	1	6	Lake McLarty is currently considered under threat and various methods to maintain its present status should be actively pursued.	Comment noted. The management plan contains strategies to this affect.	No	2(a)
29	1	6	The Council requires that the Draft Management Plan be amended to stipulate that setbacks are a (minimum) of 25m from high water mark for any development.	The Department's position remains to recommend minimum setbacks of 100m for any development. Therefore the plan has not been amended in this instance.	No	2(e)
30	3	6	Support for the provision of a 100m setback - although the plan should also acknowledge that this distance may need to be increased.	Supports the DMP. The 100m setback mentioned in the plan is the <u>minimum</u> of what the Department will recommend. Actual setbacks will be determined on a case-by-case basis through external planning processes.	No	2(a)
31	1	6, 12	The Council requires that the Draft Management Plan be amended to stipulate that bore facilities are to be allowed on adjacent properties.	The management plan states that the Department will provide advice to the Department of Water on extraction rates. Other detail regarding this is outside the scope of the area management plan.	No	2(c)
32	1	6, 13	The Council requires that the Draft Management Plan be amended to stipulate that there must be retention or acquisition of native vegetation on private property contiguous with the reserve boundary.	This is outside the jurisdiction of the Department and the scope of the management plan. However, the Department does make recommendations and provide advice seeking same.	No	2(c)
33	1	6, 23	The Council requires that the Draft Management Plan be amended to stipulate that road access to the reserve should be provided through CALM land.	Existing road access within the reserve is provided through Departmental land. However, the nature reserve is surrounded by private property and hence access to the reserve through DEC land is not possible. The management plan proposes no new access roads.	No	2(f)
34	1	6, 23	The Council requires that the Draft Management Plan be amended to stipulate that there should be no public access to the lake unless via designated entrances or pathways.	The management plan already states this (page 32).	No	2(d)
35	1	6, 7	Recommended that in light of the residential development in the area, that specific identification of the requirements under the EPBC Act be included.	This is already included in the management plan on page 6.	No	2(d)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
36	1	7	Environmental Protection policies are developed under Part III of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> . It is therefore recommended that discussion of the <i>Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992</i> is included as a sub-heading under the heading <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .	The discussion of the <i>Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992</i> has been moved and is now included as a sub-heading under the heading <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .	Yes	1(e)
37	1	7	The plan should include discussion of the <i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i> , which identifies Conservation category wetlands and a 50 metre buffer as environmentally sensitive areas. Vegetation can not be cleared in these areas and exemptions under the <i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i> do not apply.	Text to this affect has been added to the management plan.	Yes	1(c)
38	1	7	It should be noted that the Wetlands Coordinating Committee was established to coordinate the implementation of the <i>Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia 1997</i> and the activities of relevant agencies with respect to wetlands.	Text to this affect has been added to the management plan.	Yes	1(c)
39	1	7	The reference to EPA (2004) should be amended to EPA (1992). The <i>Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992</i> is currently under review - the status of the <i>Revised Draft Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands) Policy and Regulations 2004</i> should be clarified within the management plan.	The <i>Revised Draft Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Wetlands) Policy and Regulations 2004</i> was not approved by the Government and therefore the <i>Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992</i> remains in force. The management plan has been amended to reflect this change.	Yes	1(c)
40	2	8, 14	It is suggested in the draft plan that the lake only holds some 20 000 out of the larger system's 150,000 waterbirds. Comments such as these dilute the individual significance of this freshwater, late drying lake (e.g. with an irreplaceable place in the mosaic of south west WA wetlands) and could be used by developers to argue that the lake's values are not significant enough to justify rejection of development proposals. Why not get the additional protection by declaring Lake McLarty (singly) for Ramsar nomination, even at this late stage? If this cannot be done then this should trigger a review of policy in terms of "lumping" wetlands together for nomination in the future.	Page 20 of the draft management plan refers to numbers of birds just over 39000 at Lake McLarty. This is still significant numbers of birds, as reflected in the lake's inclusion in national and international agreements. The paragraph in the DMP on pages 8 and 9 that mentions both 20 000 and 150000 waterbirds is referring to the entire Ramsar site and not just Lake McLarty. The significance of Lake McLarty cannot be ignored in the process for development approvals. Furthermore, Lake McLarty, due to it's inclusion in the Ramsar listing for the Peel-Yalgorup System, is afforded the same	No	2(f)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
				protection as if it were listed in its own right.		
41	1	8	The Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for this site has recently been updated, and whilst this is yet to be formally accepted by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, it is recommended that the information within the updated RIS be used when describing the Ramsar criteria.	The information included in the DMP is from the updated RIS.	No	2(d)
42	1	8	The plan addresses the importance of the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar site as a whole and Lake McLarty individually.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
43	1	9	The KPIs should be independently audited (e.g. by the Australian Wader Study Group). There is sufficient baseline data available from previous studies to enable such actions to be carried out and monitored.	All Departmental management plans are audited by the Conservation Commission of Western Australia using the KPIs. The Commission is an independent body in which all of Western Australia's national and conservation parks, nature reserves, state forests and timber reserves are vested. The Commission has responsibilities under the CALM Act 1984 to assess and audit the Department in complying with management plans.	No	2(f)
44	2	9	Performance assessment needs to be more frequent in some areas (e.g. water levels, pests, weeds need closer monitoring and annual reporting). All KPIs should be measured at least six monthly.	Measuring KPIs six-monthly is too frequent to gain an adequate indication of long-term environmental changes. The Department measures environmental conditions such as water levels and quality on a regular basis and the management plan states that these will be reported on as necessary (page 10).	No	2(f)
45	1	9	Use of local residents and volunteers can help overcome resource and technical impediments in measuring KPIs.	The Department welcomes the assistance of volunteers (page 35) in the planning and management of lands, including undertaking monitoring. However, under Section 19(1)(g) of the CALM Act 1984, the Conservation Commission of WA has the responsibility of assessing and auditing the Department in complying with management plans.	No	2(b)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
46	1	9	A.W Storey <i>et al</i> 1997 provides some general guidance on monitoring Ramsar sites. There are also attempts nationally to establish protocols for monitoring ecological character of Ramsar sites - recommended that the WA representative of the Wetlands and Waterbirds Taskforce be contacted for further information.	Comment noted. As yet, there are no nationally accepted protocols for monitoring the ecological character of wetlands. A national wetland indicator project is underway to develop protocols for nationally accepted wetland condition indicators, but this is at least six months away (at time of writing). In the absence of such protocols, the Department monitors Lake McLarty in accordance with the management plan.	No	2(b)
47	1	9	The Department of the Environment and Heritage recommends the KPIs include changes in seasonal patterns of water levels and regimes.	Already in the DMP (Summary Table, page 42).	No	2(d)
48	2	9	The KPIs are not spelled out - need to be more specific in relation to how frequently some KPIs are to be monitored i.e. some management factors e.g. water levels, pests, weeds, need closer monitoring and annual reporting.	It is the position of the Department and the Conservation Commission that the KPIs are appropriate, and that the reporting requirements reflect the monitoring that is undertaken by Departmental officers or the Commission.	No	2(e)
49	1	9	KPIs should be measured at clearly stipulated and agreed intervals.	The plan outlines the reporting requirements, and hence monitoring requirements of the KPIs. The timeframes are clearly stipulated and have been agreed upon by the Department and the Conservation Commission.	No	2(e)
50	1	10	It should be noted that the Peel-Yalgorup System is recognised as an internationally significant 'wetland system' in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion.	This is already stated in the DMP (page 11).	No	2(d)
51	2	11	Development should be restricted in consideration of acid sulphate soils (e.g. well set back building envelopes and restriction of development on Eastern side of the reserve).	This consideration is dealt with through statutory planning processes and is outside the scope of this management plan.	No	2(c)
52	1	11	Discussion of acid sulphate soil classifications should refer to the most recent mapping dataset and accordingly, reference to the Department of Environmental Protection (2003 & 2004) should be amended to: Department of Environment 2004, <i>Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map for the Swan Coastal Plain</i> dataset.	The management plan has been changed accordingly and updated to reflect the most recent dataset at the time of writing.	Yes	1(a)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
53	1	11, 12	While wetlands listed under Ramsar and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage's 'Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia' are classified using alternative criteria to the Geomorphic Wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain dataset, the management plan for Lake McLarty should also acknowledge its identification as a Conservation category wetland in Wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain dataset.	The management plan has been amended to include reference to the lake as a conservation category wetland.	Yes	1(a)(e)
54	1	12	The draft gives the impression that this lake dries out every year, it does not. This year may well be one of those.	The management plan has been amended to reflect this.	Yes	1(e)
55	1	12	I would like the Draft to spell out precisely who is to be responsible for monitoring the overall hydrology of the lake's catchment area and any groundwater extraction - the timing of the lake's drying out is critical for migratory waders in particular and alterations to the current prevailing conditions could have an extreme impact on the welfare of the lake's wildlife/ waterbirds.	<p>The management plan has been amended to reflect recent changes in Government departments and their respective roles in relation to hydrology management and monitoring at Lake McLarty.</p> <p>The draft plan already states in the text and strategies (e.g. pages 15 and 42) the roles of the former Department of Environment (now Department of Water (DoW) and Department of Environment and Conservation).</p> <p>Management of groundwater extraction is the responsibility of the DoW, which issues the licences for extraction activities. However DEC liaises with DoW on matters affecting Lake McLarty.</p>	Yes	1(c)
56	1	12	Water monitoring should occur on a monthly basis.	As stated in the DMP on page 13, monitoring of water levels is undertaken on a monthly basis by the Peel Preservation Group. Also, the Department does monitoring in September and November each year.	No	2(d)
57	1	12	Agree that nutrient run-off must be controlled.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
58	1	12	The restriction on keeping stock on the west side should be closely monitored 3-4 times a year. This should be applied to the east side as well.	Monitoring of stock is the responsibility of the local government, and is therefore outside the scope of this management plan. However, the plan does include provision for the monitoring of native vegetation and fauna, including waterbirds, and so will monitor impacts of stock in this way.	No	2(c)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
59	1	12	Submitter encourages the maintenance and improvement of fringing vegetation.	Supports what is already written in the DMP.	No	2(a)
60	1	12	An increase in residential development adjacent to Lake McLarty also has the potential to impact the water quality through the introduction of pollutants (eg pesticides and herbicides) - the restoration of a vegetated buffer is of benefit in regard to maintaining and improving water quality.	The management plan states the importance of a vegetated buffer for maintaining water quality in the lake (page 16), and includes a strategy for continuing to re-establish a vegetated buffer around the lake (page 43).	No	2(d)
61	1	12	Development and bores should be restricted to address water quality issues.	Comment noted. This issue is addressed through external planning processes, which the Department comments on, and is outside the scope of this management plan.	No	2(c)
62	1	12	A groundwater extraction plan should be implemented to ensure that the lake's water levels are not adversely affected.	Management of groundwater is the responsibility of the Department of Water. Whilst a groundwater extraction plan as such is outside the scope of this management plan, the Department liaises with the Department of Water with regards to management issues that may affect the lake.	No	2(c)
63	1	12	Average rainfall for Lake McLarty is quoted at 880mm. Our rain gauge showed as follows: 2003 1044mm; 2004 969mm; 2005 1233mm. (Average 1082mm)	The rainfall amount stated in the plan is that for the Peel-Harvey catchment. The plan has been amended to include local rainfall figures as quoted in this submission.	Yes	1(e)
64	2	12	Controls on nearby developments (e.g. restrictions on groundwater use) are necessary to address concerns about decreasing water levels.	Comment noted. This issue is addressed through external planning processes, which the Department comments on, and is outside the scope of this management plan.	No	2(c)
65	3	12	The plan should include a specific schedule for water monitoring.	The management plan doesn't include such level of detail. Instead it will be included in the works program for the Department's district that is responsible for the day-to-day management of the reserve.	No	2(h)
66	1	13	The draft only mentions two species of native orchid, when at least six species have been identified in the reserve (Greenhood, Snail, Migonette, Cowslip, Pink Fairy and Spider Orchids).	The plan has been amended to include this information.	Yes	1(e)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
67	1	13	Additions to the reserve on the east side will help protect orchid stands along the eastern boundary.	Comment noted. The management plan states that adjoining land should be included in the nature reserve as it becomes available.	No	2(b)
68	1	13	<i>Agonis linearifolia</i> is currently listed as <i>Taxandria linearifolia</i> on Florabase - the correct species name should be confirmed with the Western Australian Herbarium.	<i>Taxandria linearifolia</i> is the current name. It is a manuscript name (awaiting publication). The plan has been updated accordingly.	Yes	1(e)
69	1	13	It is appropriate that revegetation continues. Why did plantings near the gateway die?	Supports the DMP. The plantings near the gateway didn't survive due to water inundation.	No	2(a)
70	1	14	Some of the bird species claimed do not feature highly (or at all) at Lake McLarty eg Caspian Tern, Fairy Tern. Neither is it a major breeding area for Cormorants - some ambiguity seems to have occurred here - my records show 4 pairs bred there one year of eleven.	The mention of Caspian Tern and Fairy Tern in the draft plan (page 9) refers to the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar site and not specifically Lake McLarty. The reference to it being a major breeding area for cormorants has been deleted from the plan.	Yes	1(e)
71	1	14	Even a slight reduction (1-2%) in their normal capabilities can impact on the success of a 10000km flight - how can the use of herbicides be promoted or countenanced?	The evaluation of other management options, including limited herbicide use, to maintain habitat will include assessment of their impacts on waterbirds.	No	2(b)
72	1	14	The use of cattle to graze the grasslands is not compatible with herbicide use. The possibility of cattle eating contaminated grass will prevent these animals being used for beef production.	Comment noted. The management plan is only proposing <i>limited</i> use of herbicides, should they be required at all.	No	2(b)
73	2	14	Agree that it is essential to monitor the lake because the abundance of invertebrates is dependent on good water quality.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
74	2	14	A regular accurate invertebrate study should be done to provide a means of monitoring water quality and waterbird (wader) food sources.	The Department, as part of its South West Wetlands Monitoring Program, began monitoring invertebrates at Lake McLarty on a six-monthly basis in November 2006. DEC has funding to continue such monitoring for at least the next 18 months. The aim of this program is to establish baseline data for wetlands for comparisons with future data collected.	No	2(b)
75	2	14	Agree that more extensive studies of the invertebrates in the lake are required. The regular sampling could be	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
			carried out by volunteer groups and delivered to appropriate bases for testing.			
76	1	14	A sea eagle recently found by a local resident and delivered to the authorities in Perth subsequently died, with an autopsy finding the cause of death to be heavy metal poisoning - this is a concern if the bird was poisoned by the lake itself.	Comment noted. The source of the heavy metal is unknown. There is no evidence of heavy metals in Lake McLarty.	No	2(b)
77	2	14	Herbicides should not be used near waterways/in a wetland.	The DMP states that most herbicides should not be used near waterways. The plan has been amended to say that <i>limited</i> herbicide application may be considered for weed control as an alternative to grazing.	Yes	1(e)
78	1	14 and 16	Does not support the proposal to replace grazing by alternatives such as slashing/mowing of emergent vegetation or by the application of herbicides. The fact that KPIs have been set and audited should mean that the control of the lake's current ecosystem never requires such extreme measures.	The intent of the management plan is to continue to use cattle for maintenance of habitat for waterbirds, but to investigate, over the life of the plan, how the cattle-waterbird habitat system works to enable better management of waterbird habitats. Comment regarding KPIs has been noted.	No	2(b)
79	1	2, 14	The Ramsar Information Sheet for this site lists five species of waterbird occurring at internationally significant numbers, including the Red-necked Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Avocet and Red-capped Plover - the draft management plan refers to six species.	According to one of the submitters, who is a member of Birds Australia and regularly conducts waterbird surveys at Lake McLarty, there are now actually <u>seven</u> species of international importance under the Ramsar definition (i.e. a site that regularly supports 1% or more of the individuals in a population of one species or sub-species of shorebird) that have been recorded at Lake McLarty. The management plan has been amended to reflect this updated information.	Yes	1(a)(e)
80	1	14 and 25	The substrate of the lake is not uniform. The northern end substrate has a much higher clay/mud fraction and as such is the preferred habitat of certain wader species eg Black-tailed Godwit. Since this species also prefers "open water" habitat it will probably be "lost" should the Draft plan's proposed lake revegetation be implemented.	It is not the intention to revegetate the entire lake bed. The plan does not propose to do this, or to even revegetate large areas of the lake.	No	2(b)
81	1	14, 25	An inner fence is often under water and the swans etc are unable to get to shore.	Comment noted. When this area is inundated the gates are open. The gates have been open since there have been no cattle in the Nature	No	2(b)

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				Reserve. The fence will be removed once the vegetation is established.		
82	2	15, 16	Cattle should be allowed to roam into and across the entire lake area from adjoining pasture areas (see comment 103). However, this would make weed control unfeasible. The priority in this conflict of interests should be given to maintaining the presence of cattle. Cattle do, or at least did until the rushes and sedges were eradicated from some areas, roam over the entire lake area, not merely the southern and eastern sectors (as the Draft suggests).	The intent of the management plan is to continue to use cattle for maintenance of habitat for waterbirds, and to investigate, over the life of the plan, how the cattle-waterbird habitat system works to enable better management of waterbird habitats. The area of the lake to be grazed will be determined through negotiations with potential lessees and based on the suitability/viability for them to graze certain sections of the lake.	Yes	1(e)
83	2	15, 16	Selected cattle grazing provides the best solution in keeping the grass down. Agistment of cattle will also provide CALM with an income stream.	Comment noted.	No	2(b)
84	1	15	Agree that the spread of weeds should be carefully monitored.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
85	2	15	Particular concerns about the spread of <i>Typha orientalis</i> .	Comment noted. The control of <i>Typha orientalis</i> is outlined in the management plan (p. 47).	No	2(b)
86	1	13, 15	Weeds need to be controlled.	Comment noted. Weed control is outlined in the draft plan.	No	2(b)
87	1	16	My experience of over 12 years with this lake indicates that the cattle herd grazing there varied from 10 to 20 individuals. This was obviously sufficient to maintain and develop the open water system. Their lower numbers and less frequent occurrence in the last 3 years has coincided with re-development and expansion of <i>Typha</i> beds along the lake's eastern margin - particularly at the south eastern corner. The lake bed area has for the last 2-3 years, been extensively covered by low opening grasses - this factor already appearing to have prevented the breeding of red-capped dotterel. Thus it would appear that the recent limitation of cattle from the lake bed area is already giving rise to a reversion to its earlier vegetative state. The reinstatement of grazing should be carried out without delay.	Comment noted and supports the proposals in the DMP. The Department is looking to reinstate cattle to the reserve as soon as possible.	No	2(a)(b)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
88	1	16	Agree pest animals should continue to be monitored, especially feral cats and foxes.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
89	1	16	Pest animal monitoring should occur every year prior to nesting.	Monitoring of pest animals will occur in conjunction with each baiting program that is undertaken.	No	2(a)
90	3	16	Pets should be controlled.	Pets (domestic animals) are not permitted in the Nature Reserve at any time.	No	2(b)
91	1	16	Local dogs etc which are either contained within local residents' properties or fully under control whilst being walked are not a problem.	Comment noted. However, under the CALM Act 1984 and associated Regulations, dogs are not permitted in the Nature Reserve at any time.	No	2(b)
92	1	16	Pet cats should be licensed and wear a collar and possibly have a curfew.	DEC would support any such initiative should it be undertaken by the Shire of Murray.	No	2(b)
93	1	16	Volunteer groups can be trained to do pest animal surveys if resources at CALM are stretched.	Comment noted. Volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to assist with the implementation of the management plan. This would be coordinated through the local DEC office responsible for the day-to-day management of the reserve.	No	2(b)(d)
94	1	16	Whilst the immediate cessation of cattle grazing may create additional adverse impacts, and the implementation of a formal leasing arrangement will assist in reducing impacts - it is recommended that a strategy for the reduction of cattle grazing within the reserve be considered a priority.	It is the intent of the Department to continue to graze cattle in the reserve, at least in the short-term, and at the same time, determine if any alternative management options are suitable. It is the intention of the Department to restrict the cattle to certain areas of the reserve.	No	2(e)
95	1	16	Support for fencing to keep dogs out of the reserve.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
96	1	16	With increases in population in the area it is likely that irresponsible individuals will damage the fences and allow dogs to enter the reserve - the re-establishment of fringing vegetation may make the lake less attractive to dogs.	It is already stated in the management plan (p. 33) that the reserve has been revegetated along the western boundary to deter domestic animal intrusion, particularly from future subdivisions.	No	2(d)
97	3	16	Agree that fox baiting programs in surrounding reserves and agricultural land would be appropriate. Fox baiting should be done on a regular basis - to restore tortoise populations and to help prevent predation of nesting	Fox baiting commenced in the nature reserve at the end of 2006, and it will continue on a monthly basis for at least the next 5 years, until the end of 2011.	Yes	1(c)

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			waterbirds - such as Red-capped plover that nest on the open mud.			
98	1	16	<p>Regarding the statement on p26 that the baiting program at Lake Mealup has had limited success, a bi-monthly fox baiting program at Lake Mealup has now been running for several years and the 'take' of baits has been good, although the impact on local fauna has not been assessed.</p> <p>Rather than say that the program there has been of limited success, the plan could say that at present the outcomes of the program are unquantified.</p> <p>CALM's attention is also drawn to the successful baiting program at Goodale Sanctuary near Nine Mile Reserve, which has sustained a quenda population in a private bush reserve of only 38 ha for about 10 years.</p>	This comment has been noted, and the plan amended to this affect.	Yes	1(a)
99	1	16	Mosquito spraying not supported - it is important to maintain water quality.	As stated on page 28 of the draft plan, the Department and the Conservation Commission opposes, in principle, mosquito spraying. However in extreme circumstances it may be required, particularly adjacent to residential areas. Any spraying program would be subject to stringent controls designed to protect water quality.	No	2(e)
100	1	16	There should be strong encouragement for the Birchmont community to be cat and dog free.	DEC would support any such initiative should it be undertaken by the Shire of Murray.	No	2(c)
101	1	16	During our 5 and a half years at Birchmont, there have been about six times when during the evening our windows were black with midges (also come through flywire).	Comment noted.	No	2(b)
102	1	8	Lake McLarty has been modified from a lake having some 80% of its area covered with emergent vegetation to one which is currently "open water" with only a few stands of <i>Typha</i> and essentially no sedges remaining. This transformation has resulted in the creation of a habitat ideally suited for the requirements of waterbirds, to the extent that the lake has, in its own right, qualified as being a wetland of international significance.	The Department has received comment from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage advising that "overall, the management plan addresses most of Australia's obligations under the Convention on Wetlands and the provisions of the Australian Ramsar Management Principles".	No	2(d)

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			A major obligation of the partners/signatories of the international agreements is to maintain the relevant wetland areas in the conditions under which they achieved their qualifying status. The proposals contained in the management plan will not meet Australia's obligations under such agreements. The lake should, at all costs, be maintained in its current state/condition.			
103	1	16 and 25	In order to maintain the lake's conditions under which it achieved its Ramsar listing, cattle should be grazed across the <u>entire</u> lake bed area, together with its immediate environs - since this was the regime that modified the typha/sedge filled lake of the 1980s, which did not fulfil any of the requirements of those international qualifying standards, into one which now does so.	The area of the lake to be grazed will be determined through negotiations with potential lessees and based on the suitability/viability for them to graze certain sections of the lake.	Yes	1(c)
104		16 and 25	Any attempt to reinstate/revegetate Lake McLarty to its earlier condition should be actively resisted as this would have a highly detrimental effect on the numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl utilising the lake, and certainly destroy its ability to maintain its international status.	It is not the intention to revegetate the entire lake bed. The plan does not propose to do this, or to even revegetate large areas of the lake, but rather the degraded, cleared areas not used greatly by cattle.	No	2(b)
105	1	16 and 25	The draft plan appears to harbour some confusion with respect to the manner in which cattle have utilised the lake area in recent years. The cattle have never been solely confined to the lake bed area. Rather they have always been allowed to roam into and out of the lake area from adjacent grazing areas to the east and south of the lake - this by means of 'gaps' in the melaleuca fringe (particularly those at the southeast and southwest corners). As such, closing these gaps by fencing them off to permit revegetation will prevent the normal grazing activity, which would completely undermine the whole concept of grazing as a means of keeping the 'open water' habitat.	It is not the intention of the Department to exclude cattle from the lakebed or fringing vegetation, but rather to exclude them from areas not normally utilised by them, such as the narrow upland area on the southern boundary eastern corner of the reserve. The plan has been amended to clarify the Department's position.	Yes	1(c)
106	1	16 and 25	Attempts to restrict cattle from certain areas of the lake bed by fencing off sections should not be contemplated. It is grazing by cattle that has transformed the lake bed area into the current "open water" habitat. There can be no doubt that prevention of grazing will result in the re-establishment of a "closed water" system (most probably one choked by dense stands of <i>Typha</i>) thus reducing (maybe even eventually eliminating) the areas of suitable shore-land habitat. In consequence, shorebird numbers	The area of the lake to be grazed will be determined through negotiations with potential lessees and based on the suitability/viability for them to graze certain sections of the lake.	Yes	1(c)

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			will inevitably be greatly decreased - a factor which is surely in direct contravention of the CAMBA/JAMBA of maintaining the lake in the condition that enabled it to qualify as a wetland of international significance.			
107	1	16 and 25	Comments given in the Draft (section 16, p27) indicate that the whole approach towards restricting cattle access (fencing across the lakebed) is one of experimentation. A world class reserve should not be impaired/destroyed for experimentation, and these actions would lead to an abrogation of Australia's duty of care/responsibility under the various Conventions/Agreements to which they are a signatory.	Comment noted. The DMP does not mention fencing across the lakebed, but rather in the southern and south eastern sections of the reserve. As mentioned previously, it is not the intention to revegetate the entire lake bed, or even large areas of the lake but rather the degraded, cleared areas not used greatly by cattle.	Yes	1(c)
108	2	16, 26	Local residents should be informed of how important controlling their pets is to the survival of the diverse bird life and other animals, such as turtles, at Lake McLarty.	This information will be included in the proposed communication plan for Lake McLarty.	No	2(b)
109	1	16, Summary Table - Fire	Support for proposal to ensure that access for fire protection purposes are considered when any subdivisions are proposed.	Supports the DMP	No	2(a)
110	1	16, Summary Table - Introduced & Other Problem Animals	Do not support spraying for mosquitoes and midges as the spray might have a detrimental effect on the invertebrates in the lake and on the birds feeding in the lake	As stated on page 28 of the draft plan, the Department and the Conservation Commission opposes, in principle, mosquito spraying. However in extreme circumstances it may be required, particularly adjacent to residential areas. Any spraying program would be subject to stringent controls designed to protect water quality.	No	2(d)
111	1	17	Dieback survey needs to be done on all adjoining areas as prevention/management will affect future land use.	As stated on pages 28 and 29 of the DMP, a dieback survey has been undertaken at both Lake McLarty NR and McLarty NR, and a disease survey is proposed to be done at McLarty NR.	No	2(d)
112	1	18	Some years ago the water tank pumps were stolen - suggest use of "Yankee" fittings and connection of pumps when required to avoid theft (this has been previously suggested to Coolup Fire Brigade).	Comment noted.	No	2(c)

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113	1	19	The lack of recorded Aboriginal Heritage sites may be due to a comprehensive heritage survey not having been conducted in this area.	Comment noted.	No	2(b)
114	1	19	Development plans should be modified as necessary to avoid damaging or altering any cultural heritage site. If this is not possible in order to avoid a breach of the Act, the land owner should submit a Notice in writing under Section 18 of the Act to the APMC, seeking the Minister for Indigenous Affairs' prior written consent to use the land.	Comment noted. Words to this effect are already in the DMP (page 30).	No	2(d)
115	1	19, 21	It is recommended that an archaeological and ethnographic survey by suitably qualified consultants be conducted prior to any works or management activities occurring at the reserve so that no site is damaged or altered. This should ensure that all Aboriginal interest groups are consulted.	Comment noted. Words to this effect are already in the DMP (page 30).	No	2(d)
116	1	20	Should the "Birchmont Homestead" become available for addition to the nature reserve it should be acquired for use as a local field office and for its heritage values.	Birchmont Homestead is listed on the Shire of Murray's Municipal Heritage Inventory, which gives recognition to its heritage importance to the community. The homestead is protected by the planning scheme zoning. Lake McLarty is managed from the Department's District office at Mandurah, so DEC would not use the homestead as a field office.	No	2(c)
117	2	21	The mounting of a 'closed circuit' web cam/camera system to monitor bird activity and relay to a web site would allow people to enjoy the environment without causing damage. The cost of a web cam would not be excessive and would allow appreciation of the site without vast visitor numbers.	The number of visitors to Lake McLarty is minimal and, at this time, impacts from visitors are not an issue.	No	2(b)
118	2	21	More information/photos etc on a web site to decrease actual visits.	As stated previously, the number of visitors to Lake McLarty is minimal. Details of information and photos will be included in the communication plan to be developed for the reserve (page 34 of the DMP) rather than in the management plan itself.	No	2(b)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
119	2	21	Support for the plan of access to specific viewing areas only.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
120	1	22	Because of the lake's size and drying out periods, bird watchers need almost lake wide access to enable them to observe waders etc at the water's edge. To be limited to footpaths that could either be flooded or too far away from the lake margin is not practicable and create difficulties in identifying birds. I have not yet met/seen a bird watcher there who has not behaved in a responsible manner.	The text has been amended on page 32 of the draft plan to state that "Other provisions, such as defined access points, are required to ensure the wetland ecosystem is not adversely impacted upon by <i>visitors</i> ", instead of <i>birdwatchers</i> . The plan does not propose the installation of footpaths, but instead to manage impacts of access by provision of defined trails. Access trails are a way of controlling and guiding visitor access so as to reduce potential impacts on natural values by visitors and to minimise visitor risk.	Yes	1(e)
121	3	22	A hide located on the western (rather than southern) side of the lake would allow development of a less expensive, shorter board walk out from the water tank and provide views to the south and north.	The text has been amended to reflect this and state that the proposed viewing platform should be located on the western side of the lake.	Yes	1(b)(d)
122	1	22	Suggestion that a bird hide be built at the gate as a focal point for visitors. It is important to have a focal point to ensure that access to the remainder of the lake is limited.	As above.	Yes	1(b)(d)
123	2	22	The proposed bird hide location would be problematic as it would face into the sun, and when the lake dries out the last/deeper pools would be too far away and not conducive to bird viewing identification.	The text has been amended to reflect this and state that the proposed viewing platform should be located on the western side of the lake.	Yes	1(b)(d)
124	5	22	Support the construction of a bird hide.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
125	1	22	Support for proposals referred to in this section.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
126	1	22	The implications of fire and vandalism need to be taken into consideration in the construction of a bird hide. Forrestdale Lake lost its boardwalk (pine construction) to fire recently as it was built in <i>Typha</i> and wasn't kept clear of fire fuel.	Comment noted.	No	2(b)
127	1	22	We trust that the restriction placed on canoeing is a necessary and carefully considered restriction rather than some automatic application of a 'rule for all nature reserves'?	The restriction on canoeing is based on the protection of waterbirds, which, under the CALM Act, is part of the purpose of Nature Reserves.	No	2(b)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
128	1	23	Installing defined pathways (p32) will increase the risk of access by dogs. Even though dogs are not permitted in CALM reserves, CALM does not have the resources to police this.	Access to the reserve will be limited to designated entrances. The plan is not proposing to install pathways.	No	2(b)
129	1	23	The available land between the nature reserve's fence line and the water's edge does not leave much free space for pathways and will inevitably bring the path close to the water's edge.	No new pathways are proposed in the plan for Lake McLarty. Access will continue to be on existing pathway and management tracks.	No	2(b)
130	1	23	A footpath along the boundary outside the fence line would provide ample and close views of the lake	Comment noted. This would be the role of the Shire of Murray as it is outside of the reserve and the jurisdiction of the Department.	No	2(b)
131	1	23	Support for designated pathways.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
132	1	24	Support suggestions in this section.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
133	1	24	Encourage interest by properly supervised / co-ordinated research and education groups.	The plan states (p 35) that the community is encouraged to be involved in the management of the reserve and that volunteer activities are encouraged and supported by the Department.	No	2(d)
134	1	25	Fencing presents a significant hazard to birdlife. Existing fencing at the reserve has already been the cause of several bird deaths. Birds can easily be herded into fence line barriers (e.g. by Swamp Harriers, White-bellied Sea Eagles and foxes) causing them to be more readily caught or injured.	Comment noted. Some fencing is necessary for stock control, to restrict access by dogs and to delineate the boundary.	No	2(b)
135	1	25	It is important to plant the correct species in the appropriate places. Plantings by the access gate have died because they should have been put higher on the dry sand ridge (they were inundated by the rise in the water table this past winter and spring) where they would have provided a barrier for the birds. As it is, birds are frightened away when birdwatchers park near the gate.	Comment noted. The DMP states (p 33) that any rehabilitation in the reserve should only use local native plant species.	No	2(d)
136	1	25	The western side of the Reserve alongside the subdivision should be fenced and more screening vegetation planted there.	As stated in the DMP on page 33, the western side of the lake was rehabilitated in 2003, with the aim of reconnecting the existing native fringing vegetation in the south with that in the north. This area was fenced at that time to restrict dogs and cattle.	No	2(d)

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137	1	25	Good job fencing out the foxes but why have all this fence when, by the water tank, foxes could easily go under the gate (which consists of two parallel pine poles)	The fence is not a vermin-proof one and therefore not intended to stop foxes, but instead to control dogs and cattle.	No	2(b)
138	1	26	The final plan should include a full bird list (waterbirds and bush birds). Inclusion of this in the plan booklet would be extremely helpful and useful for visitors. Getting hold of a reference is often difficult at short notice.	The plan is written, under the CALM Act, as a management document, to guide the Department in managing the reserve for the next 10 years. It is not written as a resource document and as such, bird lists and other similar resources will not be included, but will instead be available from other sources e.g. as a flyer from the local DEC office, on the NatureBase webpage etc.	No	2(h)
139	1	26	Upgrading and increasing interpretation signage and information by CALM, including explanation of Ramsar convention, should also be undertaken.	This is already stated in the plan (p 34)	No	2(d)
140	3	26, 27	Community involvement and education is important. The Shorebird Conservation Project (NHT & WWF) should help with awareness, understanding the values of the reserve etc.	Agree. The Shorebird Conservation Project is a great initiative for Lake McLarty.	No	2(b)
141	3	27	Support for the involvement of local community groups and individuals in rehabilitation and other beneficial activities.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
142	3	27	Important to involve locals by increasing their knowledge (i.e. pamphlets, orientation sessions). With encouragement, locals could participate in reporting flora rehabilitation with a sense of 'ownership' of 'their' lake.	This is already included in the plan (p 35).	No	2(d)
143	1	27	A 'Friends' of Lake McLarty Group could be formed in due course to help manage the lake and help implement the plan.	Comment noted. Several community groups are already involved in the management of the reserve, including the Peel Preservation Group and the Coolup Land Conservation District Committee. Additionally, school and Landcare groups are also involved, as well as members from Birds Australia. Therefore these provide an avenue to potential volunteers to become involved in the management of Lake McLarty.	No	2(b)

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144	1	27	Department of the Environment and Heritage's Assessment of the draft plan against the Australian Ramsar Management Principles noted that there is no recognised formal committee for community stakeholder involvement in the development, implementation and monitoring of the management plan.	<p>Although there is no recognised formal committee for community stakeholder involvement, several community groups are heavily involved in the management of the reserve, including having input into the development of the management plan. These include the Peel Preservation Group and the Coolup Land Conservation District Committee. Additionally, school and Landcare groups are involved, as well as members from Birds Australia.</p> <p>Development of the plan involved much public participation, including presentations to the local community and meetings with key stakeholders.</p>	No	2(b)
145	1	12, 26, 27	The Department of the Environment and Heritage recommends the actions for maintaining water quality include a communication and awareness raising program targeting the surrounding community. This should specifically provide information on preventing 'nutrient runoff from surrounding residential and rural land'.	The DMP states (page 34) that a communication plan will be developed for the reserve, which will include such information. The plan also states that one of the aims of the current Shorebird Conservation Project is to "increase the awareness, understanding and involvement by communities in conservation of shorebird habitat and where possible enable communities to conserve and wisely manage important shorebird sites".	No	2(d)
146	1	Part H	The Department of the Environment and Heritage requests an annual report on the implementation of the management plan and the status of the site to assist the Australian Government in meeting its Ramsar Convention obligations.	The Department is in the process of developing procedures for a three year cycle of reporting on condition of ecological values at Ramsar sites.	No	2(h)
147	1	References	References to Environment Australia and the Department of the Environment and Heritage require clarification. It is understood that Environment Australia became the Department of Environment and Heritage in 2002. However it is noted that references to Department names and dates are inconsistent. For example, p2 includes a reference to Environment Australia (2001, 2005) and p3 includes a reference to Department of the Environment and Heritage (2000).	The Department of the Environment and Heritage became known as Environment Australia in 1998 though was formally titled the Department of the Environment and Heritage. The name 'Environment Australia' ceased to be used in 2002 and from that time the Department has only been known as 'the Department of the Environment and Heritage'. (Note, in early 2007 the Department of the Environment and Heritage had another name	Yes	1(e)

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				change and is now known as the Department of the Environment and Water Resources). The References have been amended and corrected as necessary, both in the Reference section and in the text of the plan.		
148	1	References	It is noted that the reference provided for the description of the hydrology of Lake McLarty has been obtained from <i>Inner Peel Region Structure Plan</i> (WAPC 1997). It is recommended that the original references, in regard to the wetland characteristics of Lake McLarty, are provided.	The reference section includes only those used during the development of the management plan.	No	2(h)
149	1	References	In the references please add: Barrett, G., Silcock, A, Barry, S., Cunningham, R. and Poulter R (2003) "New Atlas of Australia Birds". Birds Australia, Melbourne - this is an important source of information on ongoing bird surveys.	The Reference section of the management plan only includes those that were sourced and referred to in writing the management plan. It is not a Bibliography of references as such.	No	2(h)
		Summary Table				
150	1	Environmental Weeds	Supports control of new satellite clumps of <i>T. orientalis</i> .	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
151	1	Environmental Weeds	Strategy 2 - How and who would do this? (enquiry only)	The Department does this using aerial photographs.	No	2(b)
152	1	Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Heritage	The objective to protect the reserve's cultural heritage is noted. However, as the strategies appear to be limited only to "registered heritage sites" - of which there are currently none identified in the reserve - it would appear that this key objective and strategy is not relevant.	Cultural heritage extends beyond indigenous heritage and includes non-indigenous sites also. This strategy will be applied should sites be identified in the future.	No	2(e)
153	1	Introduced & Other Problem Animals	Support for reinforcing the vegetation buffer around the lake to negate potential problems with midges and mosquitoes, as PPG does not support spraying for these pests due to potential detrimental effects on invertebrates and birds using the lake.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)

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154	1	Managing Water Levels	P 42 Great that the Department of Environment will establish at least two more water monitoring bores in the area surrounding the lake.	Supports what is written in the DMP. However, after recent changes to Government department's this is now the responsibility of the Department of Water. Hence the text has been amended to this affect.	No	2(a)
155	1	Managing Water Levels	P 43 Schools have not been able to join in the monitoring due to funding issues.	Comment noted. The plan has been amended to reflect this. However, as stated in the plan (page 35), schools are encouraged to be involved in the management of Lake McLarty Nature Reserve.	Yes	1(e)
156	1	Managing Water Levels	It is recommended that groundwater levels are reported more frequently than every five years - a more frequent reporting requirement will allow management measures to be determined and implemented before significant impacts to the wetland become irreversible.	The five years refers to the reporting requirements only. Monitoring occurs more frequently than this.	No	2(e)
157	1	Managing Water Levels	Support for strategies. It is important that monitoring programs are consistent and maintained over the longer term in order to detect patterns and trends as indicated on p15.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
158	1	Managing Water Quality	Local residents or groups such as the Peel Preservation Group could perhaps be trained to carry out water quality monitoring.	Comment noted. This is already stated in the management plan (p 35) in section 27 Working with the Community.	No	2(d)
159	1	Managing Water Quality	Support for strategies. It is important that monitoring programs are consistent and maintained over the longer term in order to detect patterns and trends as indicated on p15.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)
160	1	Native Animals and Habitats	Strategy 2 - It is important to realise that the bittern record does not relate to a breeding record and must not negate the need for control of <i>Typha</i> infestations that occur periodically.	Comment noted. The bittern is not the driver of <i>Typha</i> control. <i>Typha</i> control will still be undertaken in the reserve as a high priority, as stated in the DMP.	No	2(d)
161	1	Rehabilitation	There is a need for more rehabilitation to be carried out on the western side of the lake as some of the plants right at the entrance gate have not survived.	Revegetation on the western side of the lake is and will continue to be, ongoing. Text to this effect has been added to the plan.	Yes	1(c)
162	1	Visitor Access	Support for Strategy 2 regarding installation of signage at each of the access points.	Supports the DMP.	No	2(a)

Comment Number	Number of Submissions	Section of Plan	Summary of Comment	Discussion / Action Taken	Plan Amended	Criteria
163	3	Visitor Use and Opportunities	Objective 2 - Suggest a hide on the western side should also be considered.	The text has been amended to state that the bird hide should be located on the western side of the lake.	Yes	1(d)
164	1	Map 1	The freeway extension is incorrectly located on the map accompanying the booklet and should be amended. The location of the freeway extension is included in the Peel Regional Scheme and available from DPI.	Map 1 has been amended to reflect this.	Yes	1(e)

REFERENCE

DEC (2007) *Good Neighbour Policy*. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.

APPENDIX 1. SUBMITTERS TO THE PLAN

Individuals

J Darnell
J Colum
M Singor
S Joiner
D James
Mr and Mrs Telford
G Matthews
W Rutherford

Community Organisations

Peel Preservation Group
Lake Mealup Preservation Society
Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc.

Commonwealth Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

State Government

Department of Environment
Department of Indigenous Affairs
Main Roads WA

Local Government

Shire of Murray