



# Matilda Bay Reserve

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Management Plan

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1992 - 2002

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MANAGEMENT PLAN No 25



Department of Conservation  
and Land Management



National Parks and Nature  
Conservation Authority

# **MATILDA BAY RESERVE**

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**1992 - 2002**

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
for the  
National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority  
Perth, Western Australia, 1992

## PREFACE

Conservation reserves in Western Australia such as national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and some other kinds of reserves are vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) and managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

The NPNCA is responsible for the preparation of management plans for all lands which are vested in it. These plans are prepared by CALM and released as drafts for public comment. After consideration of public comment, the NPNCA submits the revised plans to the Minister for the Environment for approval.

During the public consultation period the Swan River Trust provided detailed advice to CALM concerning the draft plan. This advice was considered by CALM in the preparation of the final report. The implementation of some recommendations in this plan would constitute development as defined in the Swan River Trust Act 1988 and such development will require the formal approval of the Minister for the Environment in accordance with Part 5 of the Swan River Trust Act.

The Management Plan for Matilda Bay Reserve was available as a draft for public comment from 2 November 1991 to 8 February 1992. Sixty-eight submissions were received, all of which have been considered in the preparation of the final management plan. The term of the management plan will be 10 years from the gazettal date.

*On July 31 1992, the Bush Fires Board endorsed this plan under Section 34(1) of the Bush Fires Act (1954).*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The planning team comprised Jacqueline Pontré (co-ordinator), Jim Williamson, Gordon Graham, Leon Griffiths and Matt Cavana. Richard Hammond, Robert Powell, Allan Padgett, Neville Marchant, Rae Burrows, members of Planning Branch and other CALM staff assisted the planning team. The advice provided by the Department of Marine and Harbours, the University of Western Australia and the Western Australian Museum is acknowledged. Many other interested people and groups also contributed.

CALM's Land Information Branch prepared the maps, Debbie Bowra typed the manuscript and Richard Grant edited the plan. The cover photograph was provided by Allan Padgett from CALM's Planning Branch.

# CONTENTS

	Page
<b>PREFACE</b> ... ..	i
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> ... ..	ii
<b>PART A. INTRODUCTION</b>	
1. Overview ... ..	3
2. Index of Actions ... ..	5
<b>PART B. PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS</b>	
3. Purpose and Tenure ... ..	9
4. Surrounding Waters and Adjacent Land ... ..	10
5. Policies and Goals ... ..	12
<b>PART C. RECREATION</b>	
6. Principal Recreation Directions ... ..	17
7. Visitor Use ... ..	17
8. Concept Plan ... ..	19
9. Access ... ..	24
10. Services and Utilities ... ..	26
11. Leases ... ..	28
12. Commercial Operations ... ..	31
<b>PART D. CONSERVATION</b>	
13. Principal Conservation Directions ... ..	35
14. Cultural Resources ... ..	35
15. Visual Resources ... ..	37
16. Vegetation ... ..	39
17. Erosion ... ..	43
18. Pests and Weeds ... ..	43
19. Fire ... ..	44
20. Pets ... ..	45
<b>PART E. INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION</b>	
21. Information, Interpretation and Education ... ..	49
<b>PART F. RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>	
22. Research and Monitoring ... ..	53
<b>PART G. IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
23. Priorities, Funding and Staff ... ..	57
24. Community Liaison ... ..	63
25. Term of the Plan ... ..	63
<b>REFERENCES</b> ... ..	64

									Page
<b>MAPS</b>									
Map 1.	Locality Map	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Map 2.	Reserve Map	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Map 3.	Concept Plan for Recreation...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Map 4.	Individual Leases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Map 5.	Naturally Occurring Plants...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
<b>TABLES</b>									
Table 1.	Reserve Visitors by Day Type	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Table 2.	Satisfaction With Parking Facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Table 3.	Matilda Bay Reserve Leases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Table 4.	Naturally Occurring Plants : Matilda Bay Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Table 5.	Naturally Occurring Plants : Pelican Point Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Table 6.	Matilda Bay Reserve Actions, Priority and Ease of Implementation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58

## **PART A. INTRODUCTION**

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## 1. OVERVIEW

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Matilda Bay Reserve is a thin strip of land between Hackett Drive and the Swan River's low water mark (Map 1). The Reserve extends from Mounts Bay Road just north of Cygnet Hall, south to the windsurfing ramp past Pelican Point. It is gazetted for Recreation.

The Reserve, like national parks, marine parks, nature reserves and marine nature reserves in Western Australia, is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Matilda Bay Reserve is an 'A' class reserve covering 20.6 ha. An 'A' class reserve is one which requires the consent of both Houses of Parliament for any changes to occur in either purpose or boundaries. Most of the Reserve is located within the City of Subiaco with a small part at the northern end in the City of Perth (Map 2).

During weekdays, the Reserve is mainly used by people from the University of Western Australia. On weekends and on weekday evenings, especially in summer, visitors are mainly family and social groups as well as those going to the yacht clubs..

A number of leases occur on the Reserve. These include three sailing clubs, two rowing clubs, the Pelican Point Sea Scouts, a kiosk and a restaurant. The Reserve contains two CALM offices and provides for car parking for users as well as CALM staff. Over the years students have increasingly used the Reserve for parking. A well used bicycle path/footpath traverses the Reserve, and a boat ramp is available for public use.

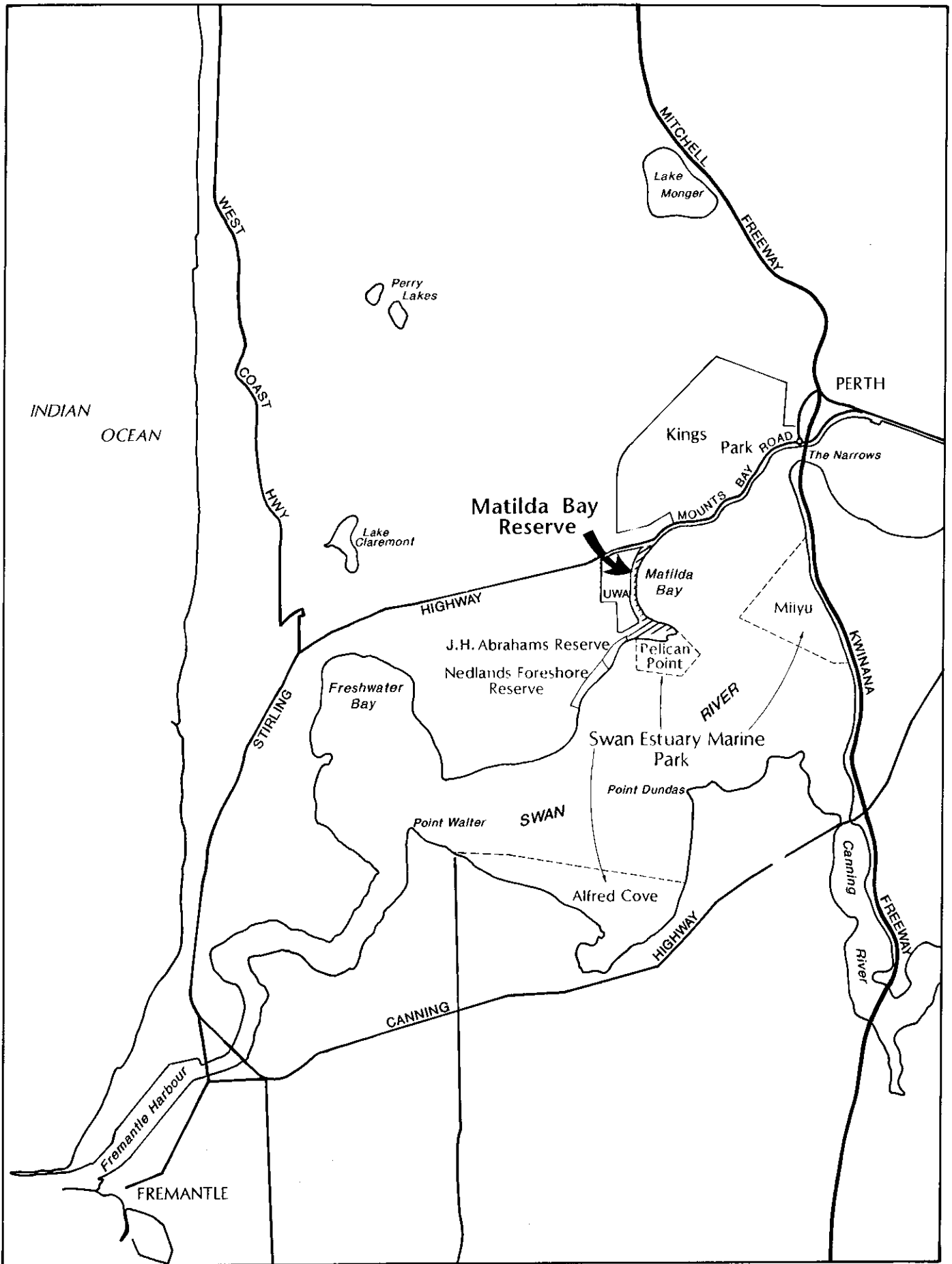
The Reserve is managed by CALM and has a full-time maintenance worker.

Matilda Bay Reserve's values include -

- a parkland setting and scenic qualities that have attracted visitors from the Perth metropolitan area, the country, interstate and overseas for nearly a century; and
- picnicking, walking, swimming and boating opportunities.

A specific characteristic of Matilda Bay Reserve is that it provides a link between the University of Western Australia and the Swan River. Together, with the yacht clubs, they form an harmonious landscape and visual resource.





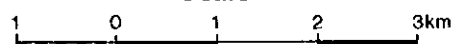
# LOCALITY MAP

MAP 1

## Matilda Bay Reserve



Scale



## 2. INDEX OF ACTIONS

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References are shown as the page number followed (in brackets) by the action number. Bold type denotes a principal reference.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REFERENCE(S)</b>
Aboriginal History	<b>36(1-4)</b>
Access	23(4, 6), 24(11, 15), <b>25(1-8)</b> , 31(7)
Australia II Drive	<b>23(4, 7)</b>
Barbecues	<b>23(9)</b>
Boat Ramp	<b>23(5)</b> , 25(7)
Commercial Operations	<b>32(1-4)</b>
Community Liaison	<b>63(1)</b>
Development	12(2), 23(1-10), 24(11-21), 36(2)
Disabled Access	<b>23(1)</b> , <b>25(2, 3)</b>
Drainage	<b>27(5)</b>
Electric Power	<b>27(1, 2)</b>
Erosion	<b>43(1, 2)</b>
European History	<b>37(1)</b>
Ferry	<b>23(8)</b>
Fire	<b>44(1)</b>
Implementation	<b>57(1-3)</b> , 63(1, 2)
Information, Interpretation and Education	36(3), 37(1), <b>50(1-9)</b>
Jetties	<b>24(14, 16)</b>
Kiosk	<b>24(11, 12)</b>
Landscape	<b>24(20)</b> , 39(2)
Leases	<b>31(1-8)</b> , 32(3)
Lighting	<b>27(3)</b>
Monitoring	<b>53(1, 2)</b>
Parking	23(5, 6), 24(11, 15), <b>25(1, 4-8)</b>
Path	<b>24(13)</b> , 27(3)
Pests	<b>44(1-3)</b>
Pets	<b>45(1)</b>

Part A. Introduction

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REFERENCE(S)</b>
Radio Antenna	27(11)
Research	53(1, 2)
Reticulation	27(6, 7)
Rubbish Disposal	27(8, 9)
Signs	50(6, 7)
Silver Gulls	44(1)
Sponsorship	57(3)
Swan River Trust	12(3), 27(5), 31(4, 8)
Telephones	27(12)
Tenure	9(1, 2)
Term of Plan	63(1, 2)
Toilets	23(1-3), 25(3), 27(4)
University of Western Australia	25(4, 5), 32(4)
Vegetation	39(1-3), 40(4, 5)
Visitor Use	18(1, 2)
Visual Resource	38(1-5)
Volunteers	53(2)
Water Authority of W.A.	27(5)
Weeds	44(2, 3)
Western Australian Tourism Commission	50(3)

**PART B. PRINCIPAL MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTIONS**

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### **3. PURPOSE AND TENURE**

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**The objective is to protect Matilda Bay Reserve's values by its gazetted purpose and its security of tenure.**

Eight categories of reserve exist under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, (CALM Act): nature reserve, national park, conservation park, marine nature reserve, marine park, State forest, timber reserve and miscellaneous reserves (those that do not fall into a specific category).

Matilda Bay Reserve is an A class reserve (17375) covering 20.6 ha, and is gazetted for Recreation. This designated purpose will be retained.

While the Reserve has been known for years as the Matilda Bay Reserve, it has never been formally named.

The existing purpose of Matilda Bay Reserve reflects its present use. It attracts about 400 000 visitors each year, mainly by people engaged in a wide range of active or passive recreation activities.

Being close to the city, Matilda Bay Reserve is accessible to residents of Perth and tourists. These features, together with its visual qualities and its harmony with the grounds of the adjacent University of Western Australia and the adjoining Swan River, are the Reserve's essential values.

A number of commercial developments are located on the Reserve, including a restaurant and three yacht clubs. No further major developments are expected.

#### **ACTIONS**

- 1. Formally name the Reserve "Matilda Bay Reserve".*
- 2. Retain the existing character of Matilda Bay Reserve.*
- 3. Ensure that further development on Matilda Bay Reserve is kept to a minimum and aimed at improving facilities.*

## **4. SURROUNDING WATERS AND ADJACENT LAND**

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**The objective is to integrate the management of Matilda Bay Reserve with the management of surrounding waters and adjacent land.**

Matilda Bay Reserve adjoins or is adjacent to the University of Western Australia, the Swan River, Pelican Point nature reserve, part of the Swan Estuary Marine Park, J H Abrahams Reserve and the Nedlands Foreshore Reserve (Maps 1 and 2). Management actions for the Matilda Bay Reserve must be compatible with the uses of these adjoining lands and waters.

### **The University of Western Australia**

The Crawley campus is a classified reserve open to the public. The University considers the river foreshore as a natural extension to its landscaped grounds, an understanding shared and respected by CALM. CALM's objective is to maintain visual harmony between the University of Western Australia and the Reserve.

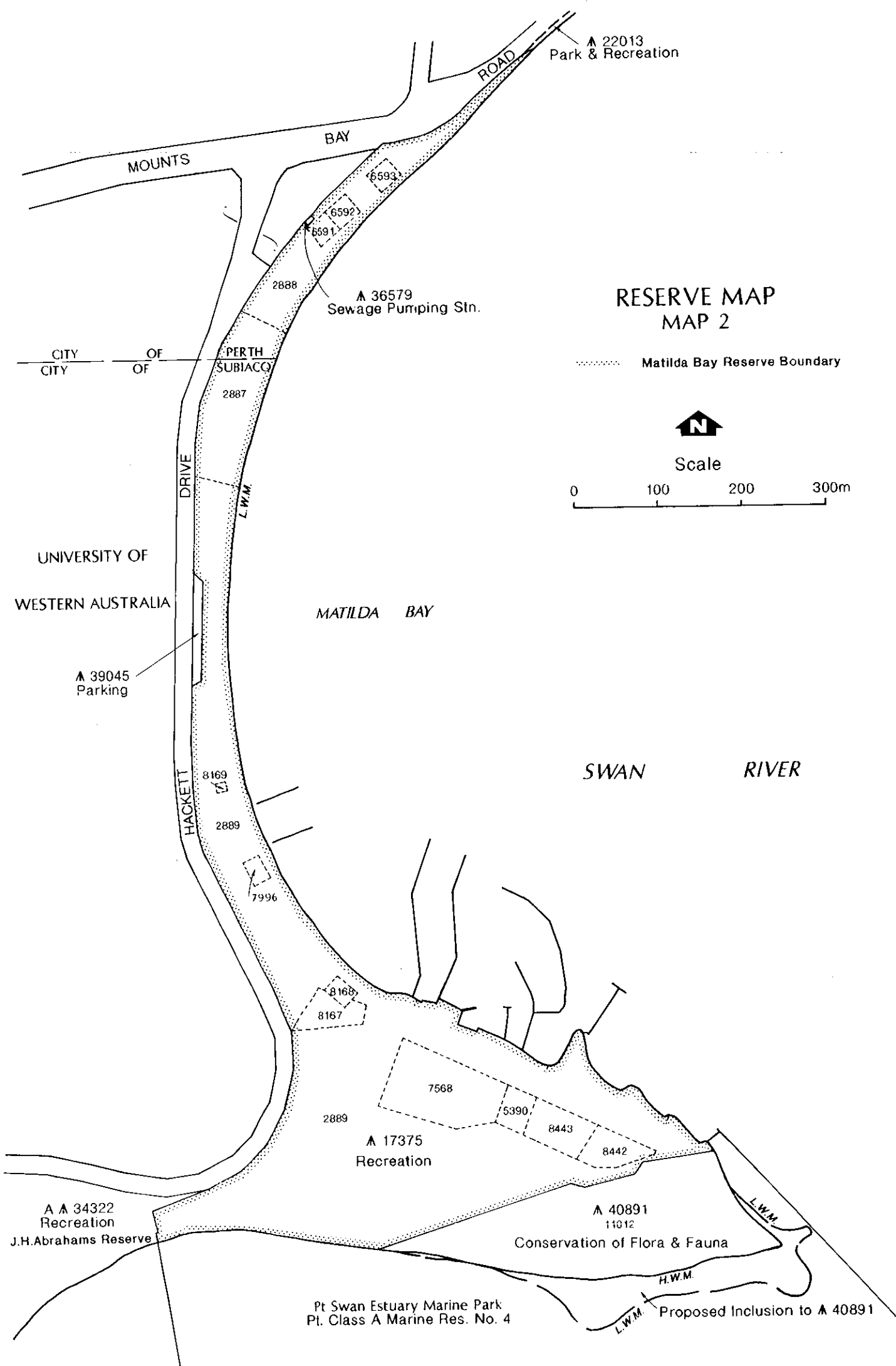
### **The Swan River**

The Swan River Trust was set up on 1 March 1989 under the Swan River Trust Act 1988. It is responsible to plan, manage and protect the Swan River Trust Management Area, which includes the waters of the Swan-Canning River system and adjoining Metropolitan Region Scheme Parks and Recreation Reservations. The Swan River Trust is responsible to the Minister for the Environment.

Matilda Bay Reserve falls wholly within the Swan River Trust Management Area. This means that any developments, including a change of use within the Trust's area, must be approved by the Minister for the Environment under Part V of the Swan River Trust Act. The Swan River Trust assesses such applications and makes recommendations to the Minister who determines the application.

The Swan River Trust may advertise any significant developments that fall within its management area. CALM has a responsibility to advertise draft management plans, proposed changes to approved management plans and to create new reserves. It may be possible to combine these advertising periods.

CALM will be able to implement this management plan, subject to clearing of design details with the Swan River Trust. If the Swan River Trust considers that CALM's implementation proposals differ from the intention of the management plan, then the Trust would treat this as a separate development application requiring public comment. CALM and the Swan River Trust are currently preparing a "Memorandum of Understanding" outlining how the two organisations will work together to streamline consideration of development applications. The memorandum will include advertising of significant developments, liaison between CALM field staff and Swan River Trust inspectors, and the implementation of CALM management plans.

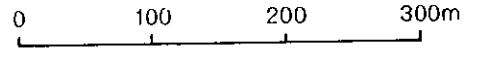


**RESERVE MAP  
MAP 2**

..... Matilda Bay Reserve Boundary



Scale



### **The Nature Reserve and Marine Park**

The Pelican Point Nature Reserve and part of the Swan Estuary Marine Park, which adjoins the south end of the Reserve (Map 1), are not addressed in detail in this management plan. The Swan Estuary Marine Park also encompasses mudflats adjacent to the Alfred Cove Nature Reserve and Milyu Nature Reserve in South Perth. The Marine Park, including the adjacent nature reserves, will be the subject of a separate management plan.

### **Abrahams Park**

Abrahams Park is adjacent to the Pelican Point windsurfers' ramp and is managed by the City of Subiaco. Abrahams Park is managed in a similar way to Matilda Bay with minimum commercial concessions (City of Subiaco, pers. comm., 1991). The Park is used mainly for group picnics and as a take off point by windsurfers.

### **Nedlands Foreshore Reserve**

The Nedlands Foreshore Reserve runs along the River just past Abrahams Park to the Jetty Restaurant, and incorporates the Nedlands Yacht Club and the Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club. This foreshore area is very popular with cyclists, picnickers, and kite flyers.

## **ACTIONS**

- 1. Integrate management of the Reserve with management of adjoining lands and waters.*
- 2. Ensure that modifications to existing developments are in harmony with the character of the Reserve and the surrounding settings.*
- 3. Where appropriate, combine the public comment periods required by CALM and the Swan River Trust.*

## **5. POLICIES AND GOALS**

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### **NPNCA AND CALM MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

This plan is based on current NPNCA and CALM policies (May, 1992). These policies derive from legislation, principally the CALM Act (1984) and the Wildlife Conservation Act (1950), and associated regulations. Policies are published and distributed throughout CALM as policy statements. They are available to the public on request. These policies, as they relate to this Reserve, cover aspects of the promotion of recreation, conservation and education.



## **MANAGEMENT GOALS FOR MATILDA BAY RESERVE**

The following management goals for Matilda Bay Reserve are based on those applicable to lands managed by CALM throughout Western Australia and on concerns specific to the Reserve.

### **Recreation**

Provide the public with recreation opportunities and facilities that are consistent with management objectives and minimises conflict between users.

### **Conservation**

Protect and conserve the Reserve's physical, cultural and scenic resources.

### **Information, Interpretation and Education**

Promote an understanding of the Reserve's history and natural environment, and an awareness and appreciation of its values.

### **Research and Monitoring**

Promote and undertake studies on the Reserve's social values and natural processes, and monitor the impacts of visitor use and management.

Management objectives for specific issues are provided throughout the plan.

## **PART C. RECREATION**

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## 6. PRINCIPAL RECREATION DIRECTIONS

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### RECREATION GOAL

Provide the public with recreation opportunities and facilities that are consistent with management objectives and minimise conflict between users.

The objectives are to:

- Ensure recreation is in accordance with the CALM recreation policy and guidelines.
- Promote recreational experiences for the public use areas of the Reserve which are:
  - based on enjoyment and appreciation of the Reserve
  - equitable
  - non-disruptive
  - consistent with the natural settings of the Reserve.
- Integrate recreation experiences with interpretation and education programs.
- Continue the traditional uses of the Reserve.

### RECREATION STRATEGY

The strategy for recreation management is to encourage non-disruptive use of the Reserve, based on the special qualities of Matilda Bay. Activities which result in conflict between users will be discouraged.

A concept plan for improved recreational facilities has been developed based on consultation with leaseholders, the public, data obtained from a visitor survey, submissions received for this plan and CALM policies. The plan includes picnic areas, barbecue areas and upgraded toilet facilities (Section 8. Concept Plan).

## 7. VISITOR USE

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Matilda Bay Reserve provides for a range of recreational opportunities, including sightseeing, picnicking, windsurfing, swimming, prawning and boating. Natural features, such as the parkland setting and safe swimming areas, along with city and river views, attract people to Matilda Bay.

An estimated 400 000 people visit the Reserve each year. This figure includes people who visit the restaurant (approximately 50 000 a year), the yacht clubs (approximately 250 000 a year) as well as visitors using the Reserve for passive recreation (approximately 100 000 a year). Peak days for visiting the Reserve are Australia Day, Easter Sunday, Mother's Day and

## Part C. Recreation

Boxing Day. Other public holidays in the summer and autumn months are also very busy when 1 000 - 2 000 people visit the Reserve. The Reserve becomes a focus for special events such as the 96FM skyshow and regattas. In addition, it is estimated that more than four million people drive along the edge of the Reserve annually.

A visitor survey assessed visitor use, obtained visitors' attitudes towards facilities and sought opinions on how the Reserve could be improved (Pontré and Cavana, 1992). The survey was conducted over a four week period during April and May, 1991.

Two hundred and sixty-seven visitors were surveyed during school holidays, weekends and normal week days. As shown in Table 1 the weekday visitor pattern is significantly different from the weekend pattern. On weekdays during a University of Western Australia term, 67% of the visitors are associated with the University compared with 16% on the weekend. When school holidays coincide with University term 60% of visitors are associated with the University.

**TABLE 1. RESERVE VISITORS BY DAY TYPE**

	WEEKDAY % (No.)	WEEKEND % (No.)	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS % (No.)	TOTAL (No.)
Associated with University	67.3 (33)	16.0 (15)	60.0 (74)	122
Not associated with University	32.7 (16)	84.0 (79)	40.0 (50)	145
TOTAL	100 (49)	100 (94)	100 (124)	267

In summer, the Reserve is also used by corporate organisations for parties varying in size up to 300 people. Organisers of sporting events, such as marathons, occasionally use the Reserve as a stop point.

Most visitors to Matilda Bay are from the Perth metropolitan area, but a substantial number come from country areas and interstate. Five percent of visitors are from overseas. The Reserve is a valuable tourist asset for the State and the facilities provided need to be of a corresponding standard.

## ACTIONS

- 1. Provide and maintain satisfactory facilities and services to cater for visitors.*
- 2. Maintain the booking system for organised groups to use the Reserve and, where appropriate, set a fee.*

## 8. CONCEPT PLAN

---

**The objective is to develop a concept plan to facilitate recreational opportunities and reduce conflicts and issues that currently exist on the Reserve.**

A Concept Plan was developed following consultation with Reserve users, leaseholders, the University of Western Australia, CALM, local government authorities (Perth and Subiaco) and the Swan River Trust. This consultation, together with results from the visitor survey, revealed that attention is expected to be given to:

- toilet facilities
- parking
- Hackett Drive traffic and transport alternatives
- barbecues and picnic facilities
- visual impact of kiosk
- services
- erosion (see Section 17)
- pedestrian circulation.

The resolution of these problems forms the essential thrust of the concept plan. It should be stressed that the following proposals are at a conceptual stage. At the time of implementation, site plans will be developed in consultation with all relevant bodies.

### **Toilet facilities**

Toilet facilities on the Reserve are inadequate and not in accordance with either the expectations of users or CALM standards. Two separate toilet facilities are currently located on the Reserve. One is located at the southern end between the restaurant and the kiosk. Male and female facilities are in separate buildings. These toilets are frequently used. The other is located halfway between the University Boat Club and the kiosk and is not frequently used. Toilet facilities are lacking in the northern end of the Reserve and neither toilet block caters for disabled people.

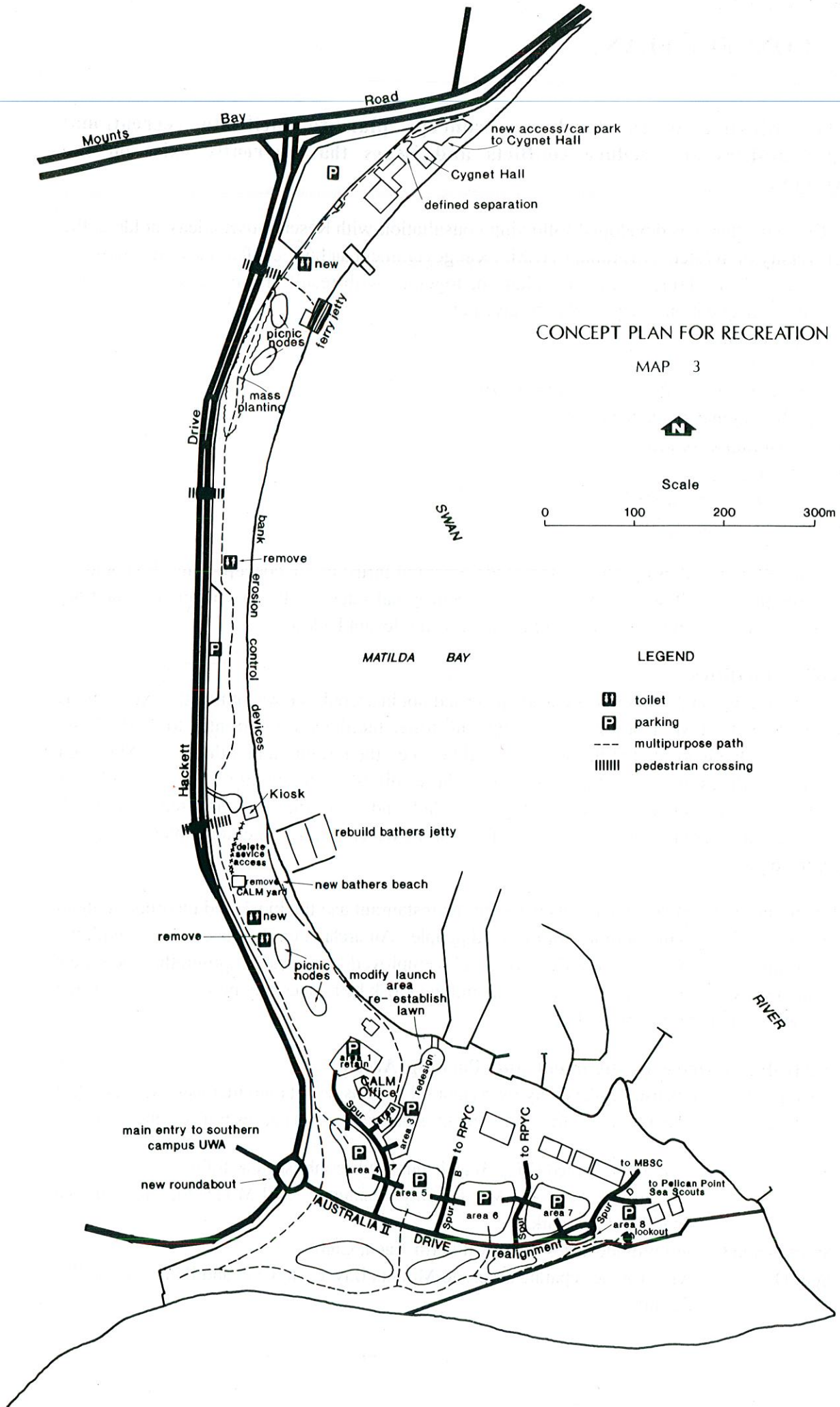
It is proposed to replace the toilets between the restaurant and the kiosk and incorporate them into one building with facilities for disabled people. An architectural style consistent with the environment and history of the Reserve will be employed. It is also proposed that the toilets located between the University Boat Club and the kiosk be replaced by new facilities near the northern end of the Reserve (Map 3).

### **Australia II Drive Realignment and Parking Areas**

Australia II Drive is used extensively by restaurant patrons, yacht club members, CALM staff and University students. The current alignment is dangerous and causes traffic congestion.

Australia II Drive will be realigned (Map 3) and spur roads established as follows:

- Spur A - will provide access to Matilda Bay Restaurant, CALM Headquarters and the boat launch/carpark.
- Spurs B and C - will provide access to Royal Perth Yacht Club.
- Spur D - will provide separate access to Mounts Bay Yacht Club and Pelican Point Sea Scouts.



CONCEPT PLAN FOR RECREATION

MAP 3



Scale



LEGEND

- toilet
- parking
- multipurpose path
- pedestrian crossing

## Part C. Recreation

Parking is a major problem on the Reserve, particularly during University terms when there is conflict between Reserve users and University students. CALM has had to take interim measures in an attempt to resolve the parking problems by introducing parking meters on the Reserve (see Section 9. Access). CALM will continue to liaise with the major stakeholders and University of Western Australia on this issue. Parking on the grassed area and on the Reserve's road verge will be permitted during peak periods only, and a sign will be erected at the entrance to Australia II Drive warning people that parking is restricted on the Reserve to the designated parking areas. These interim arrangements will continue until the eight proposed parking areas as shown in Map 3 are established. They are:

- Area 1 - Matilda Bay Restaurant (Reserved Area)
- Area 2 - CALM Headquarters (Restricted)
- Area 3 - Boat launch (Public and CALM)
- Area 4 - Public area
- Area 5 - Public area and yacht club overflow
- Area 6 - Public area and yacht club overflow
- Area 7 - Public area and yacht club overflow
- Area 8 - Terminus bays and bird observatory.

Parking fees will be paid in these areas.

### **Hackett Drive traffic and transport alternatives**

Hackett Drive has a marked effect on Reserve management and visitor satisfaction. It is intensively used and, running as it does alongside the western edge of the Reserve, it disrupts access and breaks the visual continuity between the University grounds and the Reserve. Two alternatives were canvassed with the public during the preparation of this plan. The first alternative was to close Hackett Drive. While some people supported this option, the majority who contributed a submission were against it. CALM will not, therefore, pursue this option with the relevant authorities.

More support was forthcoming for the the second alternative which was to implement slowing devices along Hackett Drive, thus changing its purpose from a through route to a scenic drive. CALM does not have jurisdiction over Hackett Drive and will continue to negotiate with the responsible authorities, particularly the City of Subiaco, with regard to the following proposals about Hackett Drive:

- implement three major pedestrian crossing points with zebra markings
- narrow the road in favour of a wider median strip with suitable tree plantings
- introduce a 40 kph zone
- remove all parallel parking bays on the Matilda Bay side but retaining the perpendicular 'view' bays
- construct a roundabout junction at Australia II Drive incorporating a new southern access point to the University.

A roundabout junction at the beginning of Australia II Drive would make entry and exit to the Drive safer. This proposal will be fully investigated with the Main Roads Department and has the support of the City of Subiaco.

To alleviate traffic problems as well as to enhance vehicle-free access to the Reserve, CALM would support construction of a commercially viable ferry jetty and terminal on the foreshore

## Part C. Recreation

near the University Boat Club. This would allow river access to the Reserve and would be an alternative means of transport for students.

### **Barbeque and picnic facilities**

At present only one barbeque is located on the Reserve. The public has sought more barbeques and for more picnic facilities, such as benches and tables.

Two separate picnic areas are proposed, one in the north of the Reserve and one in the south. As shown on Map 3 each area will have provision for barbeques, picnic tables, toilet facilities and bin clusters.

Subject to cost and feasibility a beach may be developed at each area.

In the southern area it is proposed to repair the existing jetties for use by swimmers.

### **Kiosk**

The service access road to the kiosk is not suitably located and is not a formalised access. The present service access road will be removed and a new road will be located at a safe junction point. Two parking bays for kiosk staff will be provided.

The visual impact of the kiosk, which is out of character with the Reserve and its University backdrop, has been widely criticised. Subject to availability of funds, it would be desirable to redevelop the kiosk in a style consistent with its surroundings and the history of the Reserve.

### **Multi-purpose Path**

The path running through the Reserve is used by pedestrians and cyclists, and is often a cause of conflict, especially in the northern end of the Reserve near Cygnet Hall.

It is proposed that the path at the northern end be relocated to a safer place, and that the path through the Reserve be widened to three metres, a width recommended by both Bikewest and the Ministry of Sport and Recreation. This will resolve conflict between pedestrians and cyclists, and allow access by management vehicles without damaging the lawn (Section 10. Services and Utilities).

### **New Access to Cygnet Hall**

At present a single road provides access to Cygnet Hall and Perth Dinghy Sailing Club. Cygnet Hall houses CALM's Corporate Relations Division and Hale School Boat Club. Vehicle congestion occurs here especially between October and April, when Hale School uses the shed twice on weekdays and on Saturday mornings.

It is proposed to modify the current access to alleviate vehicle congestion and to provide new parking facilities at the northern end of Cygnet Hall.

### **Pelican Point Sea Scouts Jetty**

The jetty located within the lease boundaries of the Pelican Point Sea Scouts is in a poor state of repair and is a potential danger to those using it. The jetty will need to be either repaired or removed.



### **Overall Theme**

An overall theme will be adopted for the Reserve. The building materials, architectural style and colours chosen for any development should have a common theme and be in harmony with the adjoining lands and buildings. Along Hackett Drive it is proposed that a theme consistent with the University be adopted. A marine theme, consistent with yacht clubs, could be adopted along Australia II Drive. This would include fencing, signs, and barrier treatment, such as logs and bollards. Facilities, including path surfacing, tables, bins and benches, will be consistent throughout the Reserve. The theme in the southern end will be developed in consultation with the yacht clubs.

### **Landscape Development Plan**

A landscape plan, including a tree management plan, that encompasses the overall theme of the Reserve will be developed. The tree management plan will include a strategy for management of all vegetation on the Reserve and will be prepared by a select committee including CALM landscape architects and interested individuals.

### **Site Development Plans**

Site development plans and construction plans will be formulated for each work program as the plan is implemented. This will be done in consultation with relevant bodies such as stakeholders and/or leaseholders on the Reserve.

## **ACTIONS**

1. *Redevelop toilets in an architectural design which is in harmony with the environment, and which include facilities for disabled people.*
2. *Demolish existing toilets between the restaurant and kiosk and replace by one new structure.*
3. *Demolish the toilet block currently situated midway between the kiosk and the University Boat Club, and build a toilet in the northern section of the Reserve.*
4. *Realign Australia II Drive and develop spur roads to lease areas and CALM Headquarters.*
5. *Redesign parking areas and boat ramp.*
6. *Negotiate with relevant authorities regarding installation of vehicle slowing devices on Hackett Drive.*
7. *Consider a roundabout junction at Australia II Drive.*
8. *Consider building a ferry jetty on the Reserve.*
9. *Create two picnic areas with provision for barbeques and other picnic facilities.*
10. *Consider creating a beach for swimmers at each picnic area.*

Part C. Recreation

11. *Relocate access road to kiosk and provide two parking bays for kiosk staff.*
12. *Consider redevelopment of kiosk in consultation with the lessee.*
13. *In consultation with Bikewest, widen the multi-purpose path to three metres and relocate northern section of path to ensure safe cycling and walking.*
14. *Repair the two swimming jetties.*
15. *Modify the access to Cygnet Hall, and provide additional parking.*
16. *Require Pelican Point Sea Scouts to either repair or remove their jetty.*
17. *Develop an overall theme for the Reserve.*
18. *Provide adequate furniture and maintain it to a high standard.*
19. *Replace existing galvanised iron fence with a unified barrier system.*
20. *Develop a landscape plan for the Reserve involving a committee of interested people.*
21. *Develop site and construction plans for each work program on the Reserve in consultation with relevant bodies.*

## **9. ACCESS**

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**The objective is to provide parking facilities and access to the Reserve to meet the needs of visitors, including disabled people, and to improve the access between the Reserve and the University of Western Australia.**

### **Parking**

A survey of visitors to the Reserve (Pontré and Cavana, 1992) showed that 60% came by car, 30% walked and 7% rode a bicycle. The survey also showed that visitors to the Reserve who were not associated with the University were dissatisfied with parking facilities, especially during weekdays and school holidays. As shown in Table 2, 53% of weekday visitors are dissatisfied with parking facilities compared with 25% during the weekend.

A major contributing factor to the parking problem is the use of facilities by University of Western Australia students. The problem is exacerbated on public holidays not observed by the University, and when school holidays do not coincide with University holidays. In consultation with the City of Subiaco and the University of Western Australia, CALM has introduced parking meters on the Reserve.

**TABLE 2. SATISFACTION WITH PARKING FACILITIES  
(Visitors NOT associated with University of W.A.)**

	WEEKDAYS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (%)	WEEKENDS (%)
Dissatisfied	52.6	25.0
Satisfied	20.3	33.8
Neutral	27.1	41.2

**Disabled Access**

Disabled people, including organised groups, currently use the Reserve for picnics and for water activities, such as remote control sailing. At present access to the foreshore and toilets is limited.

**ACTIONS**

1. *Ensure parking is available to visitors of the Reserve, leaseholders and CALM staff.*
2. *Consider extending disabled access where feasible, including foreshore access along paths to major facilities.*
3. *Redevelop toilet facilities to enable use by disabled people.*
4. *Encourage public use of car parking facilities at University of Western Australia on weekends and during holidays.*
5. *Consult the University of Western Australia and other relevant bodies, including local government authorities and lessees, when decisions concerning parking need to be made.*
6. *Establish a car parking committee.*
7. *Charge for use of the boat ramp if pressure of use requires management.*
8. *Allow parking on the grassed area and on the road verge of Australia II Drive during peak periods only.*

## **10. SERVICES AND UTILITIES**

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**The objective is to provide cost efficient, effective and safe services and utilities to the Reserve.**

### **Power Lines**

Currently, overhead power lines service the Reserve. Not all lease holders on the Reserve have individual electricity meters, which has often led to confusion over power bills. Overhead power lines are considered dangerous on the Reserve because of the presence of the yacht clubs which generate heavy use by trailers and boats, which increases the danger of boat masts hitting overhead power lines. Power lines also degrade the visual amenity of the Reserve.

Lighting on the Reserve is not considered to be adequate particularly along the multi-purpose path.

### **Effluent Disposal and Drainage**

The toilets and restaurant are at present serviced by a septic tank effluent pumping system. According to the Water Authority of Western Australia this system is not the most effective way of dealing with wastewater and its life span is limited. A medium term objective would be to connect the Reserve to the main sewerage system.

A problem exists with drainage along Australia II Drive and in the carpark which are often flooded during wet weather. This problem will need to be addressed in consultation with the Water Authority of Western Australia.

### **Lawn Care**

At present the garden is maintained by CALM and mowed under contract by the Building Management Authority. The watering is done via an on-site bore controlled by an automatic timing system. No fertilisers are used. The reticulation system is old and in need of upgrading. Concern has been expressed about the safety of the control cubicle which has rusted over the years. Another concern is the apparent conflict between care of the lawn and the current rubbish disposal system which is damaging the lawn.

### **Rubbish Disposal**

The large number of visitors to the Reserve generates a substantial amount of rubbish, especially during summer. Rubbish largely results from picnic material brought into the Reserve and from the purchase of goods from the kiosk. While the number of bins provided is substantial, the bins sometimes overflow during busy times.

The bins are the standard green plastic type on wheels, and are secured to trees and posts by chains and padlocks. This detracts from the aesthetic qualities of the Reserve. The bins are placed along the grassed area and are emptied by a service vehicle driving through the Reserve, causing some damage to the grassed area, and possibly to reticulation.

Rubbish bins could be placed close to the path or road to facilitate access by service vehicles. The public could be encouraged to take their rubbish to these areas. This strategy would reduce littering in the Reserve and would protect the grassed area.

With regard to prawning activities, it is the Swan River Trust's policy that prawners should return the by-products of their catch back to the river, ensuring that fish are still alive. Prawnners are not allowed to leave rubbish behind.

### **Radio Antenna**

A radio antenna used by the Royal Perth Yacht Club is located in the southern part of the Reserve south of Australia II Drive. It may be more appropriate for the antenna to be moved into the Royal Perth Yacht Club's leased area.

### **Telephones**

Public telephones are situated on Australia II Drive and near the kiosk. Installing public telephone facilities in the northern part of the Reserve should be considered.

## **ACTIONS**

- 1. Investigate installing master electricity meters for all Reserve lease holders.*
- 2. Replace overhead power lines with underground power, as resources allow, to improve the safety and aesthetics of the Reserve.*
- 3. Consider providing improved lighting on the Reserve, particularly along the multi-purpose path.*
- 4. Consider connecting the public, restaurant and kiosk toilets to mains sewerage.*
- 5. Review the drainage system in consultation with the Water Authority of Western Australia and the Swan River Trust.*
- 6. Replace the reticulation pump control cubicle.*
- 7. Upgrade and maintain the reticulation system.*
- 8. Consider providing additional bins, making more frequent rubbish collections and promoting "take it home" education.*
- 9. Place bins in clusters close to paths so that service vehicles do not need to drive along the grassed area.*
- 10. Consider providing drinking fountains where appropriate.*
- 11. Negotiate with Royal Perth Yacht Club to relocate the radio antenna situated in the southern part of the Reserve.*
- 12. Investigate the possibility of installing public telephone facilities in the northern part of the Reserve.*

## **11. LEASES**

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**The objective is to manage and develop leases in a manner compatible with the character of Matilda Bay Reserve.**

There are seven leases on the Reserve. Table 3 presents a summary of the lease areas and terms in order from north to south (Map 4).

### **Cygnets Hall**

Cygnets Hall was built in 1956 by the Governors of Hale School as the base for the school's rowing club and to house its rowing shells.

### **Perth Dinghy Sailing Club**

Perth Dinghy Sailing Club was established in 1903 and was located near the Barrack Street Jetty before moving to Matilda Bay in 1960. The club provides small dinghy sailing and its membership is principally family orientated, with a predominance of junior sailors.

### **University Boat Club**

The University Boat Club was opened in July 1929. The original design was by the same architects (Rodney Alsop and Conrad Sayce) who designed Winthrop Hall, and showed a two-storey pitched roof building with verandahs at the river end. Owing to limited funds this structure was not developed and instead a single storey boat storage and preparation shed was built with a viewing platform on top. At a later stage, the upper level was boxed in to become the mainly flat roofed building which stands today. The Guild of Undergraduates holds the lease for the Boat Club.

### **Matilda Bay Restaurant and Kiosk**

The Matilda Bay Restaurant was built in 1968. It was designed by John White who is now a lecturer in architecture at the University of Western Australia. The restaurant underwent major refurbishment in 1984, and in 1987 the upstairs facilities of the restaurant were redeveloped. The kiosk is a sub-lease of the restaurant.

### **Royal Perth Yacht Club**

Royal Perth Yacht Club was established in 1865 and was located near the Barrack Street jetty until 1953 when the club moved to Matilda Bay. The marina and club house were built by club members. In 1979 the club organised the Parmelia race from Plymouth to Fremantle to commemorate the 150th anniversary of British settlement on the Swan River. In 1983 the club won the America's Cup, and mounted an unsuccessful Cup defence in 1987.

### **Mounts Bay Sailing Club**

Mounts Bay Sailing Club was founded in 1897 and built its first club house in 1939. During World War II the building was used by the United States Navy which operated a Catalina flying boat base at Matilda Bay. The present premises were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

### **Pelican Point Sea Scouts**

The 1st Pelican Point Sea Scouts was originally known as the 1st WA Sea Scouts and was established in Albany in 1913. In the 1920s the troop moved to Perth and was located briefly

in Irwin Street, before moving to floating headquarters 'Dolphin', a wooden coastal steamer moored near the location of the present University Boat Club. In 1926 the group moved to its present area located at the end of a very narrow spit of land known then as Point Currie. New scouts buildings were commenced in 1957 on land filled in from pre-war dredging of Matilda Bay.

**TABLE 3. MATILDA BAY RESERVE LEASES**

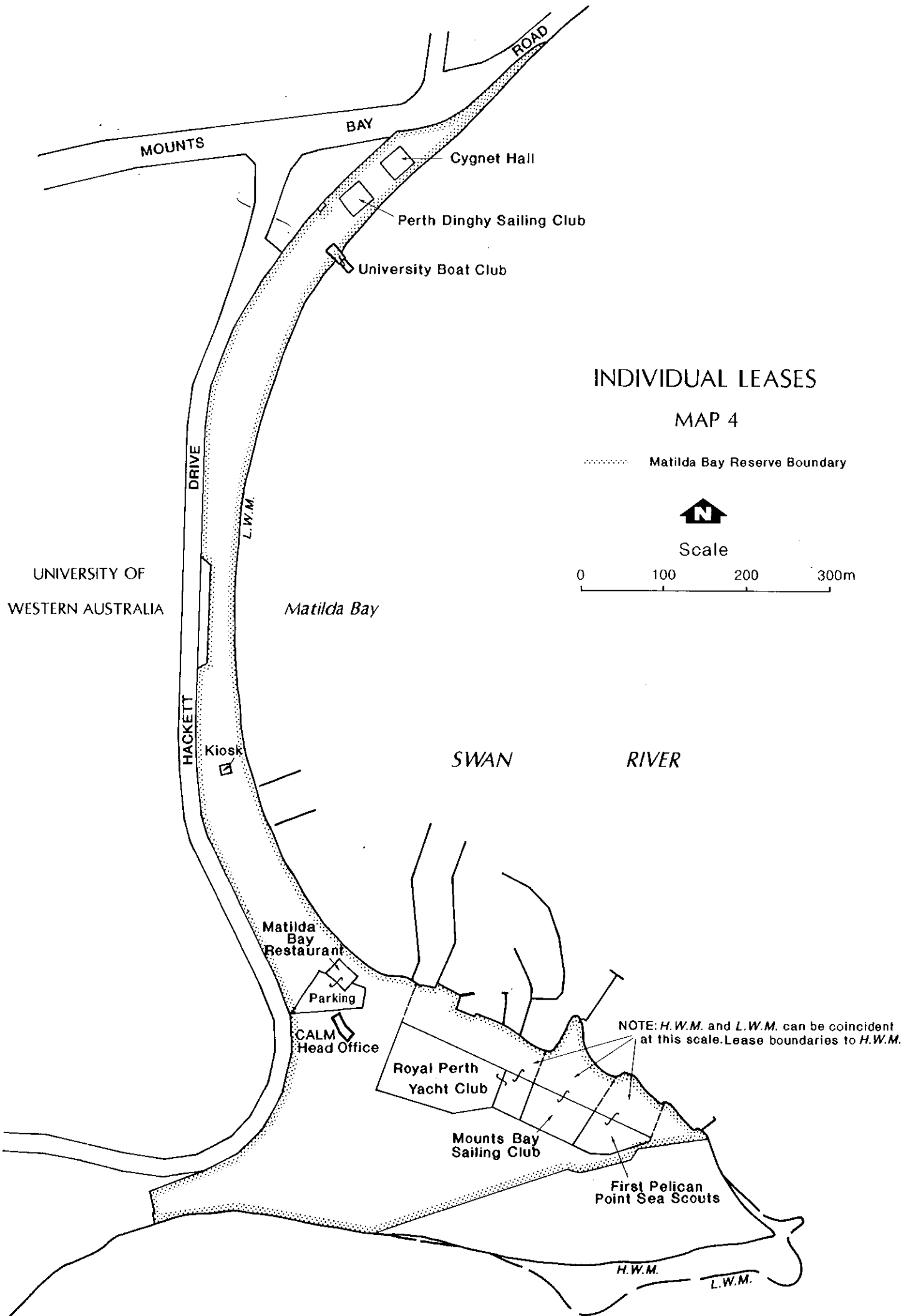
LEASE	AREA (ha)	TERM	EXPIRY DATE
Cygnets Hall	0.1	18 years	16.11.1994
Perth Dinghy Sailing Club	0.5	21 years	30.06.2002
University Boat Club	0.2	21 years	31.08.2005
Matilda Bay Restaurant and Kiosk	0.4	20 years	18.10.2005
Royal Perth Yacht Club	2.0	21 years	30.06.2004
Mounts Bay Sailing Club	0.8	21 years	30.06.1995
Pelican Point Sea Scouts	0.5	21 years	30.06.1999

## DISCUSSION

The leases represent major levels of use of the Reserve and provide recreational opportunities for local, interstate and international visitors, which number over 250 000 a year. The three yacht clubs on the Reserve have a membership of approximately 3 000 people. Restaurant patronage is over 50 000 people a year, 40% of whom are from interstate and overseas.

A problem exists with public access to the foreshore because of the security requirements of the leases. Although most users, apart from visitors to lease areas, visit the central parts of the Reserve, it is essential that access along the length of the Reserve be provided according to the Swan River Management Strategy (Management Strategy Task Force, 1988). Nevertheless, the leases have a need for security, especially at night.

The leases on the Reserve are widely accepted by the public. However, it is probable that further major developments would be opposed.





## **ACTIONS**

1. *Further leases should not be allowed.*
2. *Minimise changes to existing lease areas, and follow the principle that any additional area provided to lease holders be compensated by the equivalent release of land for public use.*
3. *Minimise changes within the lease areas, but allow changes if they are necessary for the more efficient functioning of the lease.*
4. *Changes to buildings must be approved by the NPNCA and the Swan River Trust.*
5. *Progressively implement an overall architectural theme on the Reserve as opportunities for building changes arise.*
6. *Standardise, where possible, the principles guiding the conditions of club leases.*
7. *Continue public access to the foreshore during daylight hours.*
8. *Swan River Trust and the Department of Marine and Harbours to refer to CALM all extensions or changes to sea bed leases and private moorings.*

## **12. COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

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**The objective is to ensure that commercial operations allowed on the Reserve do not adversely affect the environment or the use of the Reserve by the public and, as far as possible, assist in peoples' enjoyment of the Reserve.**

Commercial concessions may be granted on CALM lands or waters to provide appropriate facilities and services for visitors. Proposals are carefully considered by CALM and require approval by the NPNCA and the Minister. Concessions must be consistent with the purpose of the Reserve and protect its values. Facilities or services which exist or can be developed elsewhere to adequately meet visitor needs should not be provided on lands and waters managed by CALM. Commercial concessions, if excessive, can detract from the conservation values of the Reserve, while limited concessions can enhance public access and enjoyment.

Apart from the restaurant and kiosk (Section 11. Leases), only one concessionaire currently operates on Matilda Bay Reserve, providing a recreational activity in the form of pedal water craft. It may be possible to allow other commercial operators on the Reserve. Any new operations will require approval from the NPNCA and the Swan River Trust. The Department of Marine and Harbours is responsible to issue licenses for marine activities.

## **ACTIONS**

- 1. Establish and manage commercial operations in accordance with CALM Policy Statement No 18, Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services. Concessions on the Reserve may be provided if they are consistent with the purpose of the Reserve and its conservation values, and with the Swan River Strategy.*
- 2. Ensure that concession holders fulfil the concession's conditions.*
- 3. Only consider commercial concessions on leases that are consistent with the objectives of this management plan, values of the adjoining nature reserve and marine park and the conditions of the lease.*
- 4. Liaise with the University of Western Australia and the Cities of Perth and Subiaco to ensure that, as far as possible, commercial operations on their land do not conflict with the objectives for the Reserve.*

## **PART D. CONSERVATION**

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## 13. PRINCIPAL CONSERVATION DIRECTIONS

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### CONSERVATION GOAL

Protect and conserve the Reserve's physical, cultural and scenic resources.

**The objective is to protect the Reserve's values, restore degraded areas and promote a conservation ethic for Matilda Bay.**

### CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The strategy for conservation management of Matilda Bay Reserve is to minimise conflict between recreational use and conservation values (Sections 6 - 20), rehabilitate degraded areas (Section 16), control erosion (Section 17) and control pest species (Section 18).

## 14. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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### 14.1 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

**The objective is to protect Aboriginal cultural features in Matilda Bay Reserve.**

Matilda Bay was an important riverine and estuarine area for Aboriginal people for thousands of years. The Bay was known as Godroo, Gurndandalup or Goodamioorup.

The Bay was a favoured area because of its abundance of fish (Corrie Bodney, pers. comm., 1991), and water holes were located in the Pelican Point area, including in the current nature reserve. Hot water springs were located where the University of Western Australia now stands. Aboriginal people also used that area as a battle ground.

The Aboriginal traditional custodians were the Ballaruk who inhabited the area around the Swan River.

At the time of British settlement the area around the Swan-Avon streams was divided into well-recognised hunting grounds (Williams, 1980). The largest of these hunting grounds extended along the north bank of the Swan River to approximately 25 km south of Moore River. It included the Matilda Bay area. The tribe which used this area was the Mooro and it is believed that Yellagonga was their leader (Green, 1984).

All Aboriginal sites are covered by the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80 regardless of whether they are or are not known to the Western Australian Museum. Section 17 of this Act makes it an offence to alter in any way an Aboriginal site without written permission from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

#### Part D. Conservation

A search of the Aboriginal Sites Register was conducted in April 1991 by the Western Australian Museum for Matilda Bay Reserve. The search indicated one known Aboriginal site, although its exact extent has not been defined, and possibly a second site located on the Reserve.

A comprehensive study of Matilda Bay Reserve is necessary to determine if other sites exist. Such a study should include Aboriginal representatives.

#### **ACTIONS**

- 1. Ensure that CALM's obligations are fulfilled according to relevant legislation if any proposed activities in the Reserve involve development.*
- 2. Conduct an Aboriginal site study of the Reserve as a matter of priority. Include Aboriginal representatives in the study group.*
- 3. Incorporate information on the Aboriginal history of the Reserve into interpretive material.*
- 4. Continue dialogue with Aboriginal people on their association with Matilda Bay.*

#### **14.2 EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**The objective is to protect European historical features of Matilda Bay Reserve.**

Matilda Bay is unofficially named after Matilda Bennett, whose husband was Sir John Septimus Roe, the first Surveyor-General of Western Australia. Previous names for the Reserve included Eliza Bay, Currie's Bay and Crawley Bay.

Matilda Bay Reserve was part of a block of 32 acres taken up in 1829 by Captain Mark Currie, Fremantle's first harbourmaster. In 1875, the Crawley Estate passed to Sir George Shenton, a Member of the Legislative Council and Mayor of Perth, who lived on the estate until his death in 1909.

In 1910, the State Government resumed the property for public recreation, turning the foreshore into a camping ground. This was served by a tram line from the city which hugged the river's edge all the way to Nedlands Baths. The University of Western Australia acquired the bulk of the land in 1914.

The river landscape changed dramatically in the 1930s and 1940s due to public works programs. Extensive dredging of the shallows adjacent to Pelican Point's north side resulted in considerable landfill on the Point's south side, and increased the land area by four or five-fold with the loss of previously existing wetlands. The larger part of the current land of Pelican Point was originally lagoon or river shallows.

#### Part D. Conservation

During World War II, the Commonwealth Government requisitioned the foreshore reserve for defence purposes (Spillman, 1985). The American Navy established a base at Matilda Bay for its Catalina flying-boats, where Mounts Bay Sailing Club and the Royal Perth Yacht Club now stand. The Royal Perth Yacht Club launching ramp was built to launch the Catalinas with the hangars being on the boat servicing area. The world's longest rescue mission was mounted from Matilda Bay. Other foreshore buildings, including the University boatshed, were also used by the Navy during the war. Some of the University's nearby buildings were occupied by servicemen. Numerous existing features, such as the ablution blocks, owe their location to the military pipelines, sewerage and power systems.

Since World War II, the change rooms, swimming jetties, restaurant and kiosk have been constructed and numerous trees planted. In 1987, the Royal Perth Yacht Club played host to the America's Cup, won from the New York Yacht Club in 1983.

Today, Matilda Bay Reserve is a favourite spot for family picnics, University staff and students, and visitors to Perth.

#### **ACTION**

1. *Formalise the naming of Matilda Bay Reserve.*
2. *Incorporate information on the European history of the Reserve into interpretive material.*

## **15. VISUAL RESOURCES**

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**The objective is to protect the Reserve's visual resources, and ensure future development is compatible with the Reserve's landscape and the University and yacht club buildings.**

One of the main values of Matilda Bay Reserve is its setting on a protected bay that offers views across the Swan River to the city.

As discussed in Section 4, the University of Western Australia considers the Matilda Bay foreshore as a natural extension to its landscaped grounds and has identified some key visual corridors (Ferguson and Associates, 1990). Similarly the yacht clubs provide another character to the Reserve.

Landscape management - or visual resource management as it is also termed - is the scientific discipline concerned with the management of land, vegetation and water resources so as to maintain or improve their visual quality. Its prime goal is to ensure that all uses and activities are planned and implemented so as to complement, rather than detract from, the inherent visual qualities of the environments in which they occur. Visual Resource Management is a positive and integral component of land-use planning and management processes. It should not be regarded as a cosmetic exercise in which the results of careless planning and development are hidden from view, or superficially treated to make them more palatable to the viewing public.

## Part D. Conservation

Matilda Bay Reserve has high scenic qualities from within the Reserve, the adjoining lands and from the Swan River. Its parkland settings with its varied vegetation, the sheltered bay, the landform and the view of Perth city are some of the factors that contribute to the high scenic quality of the Reserve. The areas which offer these views include:

- the Reserve itself
- the yacht clubs and other buildings
- Hackett Drive and Mounts Bay Road
- the University of Western Australia
- the Swan River.

Visual resource management in Matilda Bay Reserve involves protecting the landscape (including landform, vegetation and waterform), and locating and planning land-use developments so as not to obstruct views in any way.

Both positive and negative visual elements occur on the Reserve. The negative elements include:

- toilet blocks
- fences of galvanised pipe
- rubbish bins chained to trees
- water bore pump and pipes
- Marine and Harbours signs (these are old and not in harmony with CALM signs)
- cement bollards
- the kiosk
- erosion
- power lines
- the radio antenna located in the southern part near the nature reserve.

The positive elements include:

- bird observatory
- jetties
- parkland setting
- city views
- boats
- trees
- sheltered bay.

## **ACTIONS**

- 1. Develop a landscape management plan for the Reserve.*
- 2. Protect the visual qualities and natural landscape of the Reserve.*
- 3. Retain and enhance existing positive elements of the Reserve.*
- 4. Reduce existing negative visual impacts of the Reserve.*
- 5. Seek advice on visual management of the Reserve, as required, from CALM landscape architects.*

## 16. VEGETATION

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**The objective is to manage vegetation of the Reserve by recognising its aesthetic value to visitors.**

The Reserve's vegetation can be divided into two separate areas - the Matilda Bay area north of Australia II Drive and the Pelican Point area south of Australia II Drive (Map 5).

The Reserve's remnant plants were surveyed in April 1991. The name, location and contour interval of naturally occurring (that is local) plants were recorded<sup>1</sup> (Tables 4 and 5). Very few local plants remain in the Matilda Bay area; approximately 95% of the flora is not natural to the site. These non-local species include Ti-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus* sp.), Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and London Plane Tree (*Plantanus X acerifolia*) which provide shade during summer. These plants represent a substantial period of tending as specimen trees in a standard horticultural tradition. While some of the non-local species should remain, others could be replaced by local species when they die or become diseased. This could be done while maintaining visual harmony with the University of Western Australia, Matilda Bay and the Swan River.

In the Pelican Point area of the Reserve, non-local species are less common but are of greater concern, particularly the Coastal Ti-tree and the salt sheoak *Casuarina glauca*. Both perform as weeds and detract from the value of this area (Keighery, in press). The area should be rehabilitated and local species grown to create ecological and visual continuity with the adjoining nature reserve.

The Pelican Point area of the Reserve has degraded due to rubbish dumping and burning, but it can be rehabilitated with local species.

The Reserve is used for tree-planting events such as Arbor Day. Both local and non-local species will be planted in the Matilda Bay area. Local species only will be planted in the Pelican Point area.

Concern has been expressed about a number of trees on the Reserve which have dropped limbs and caused damage, and which remain a safety hazard to visitors and property.

### ACTIONS

1. *Prepare a tree management plan as part of a comprehensive landscape plan which provides for long-term planting, being mindful of the historic value of existing non-local species.*
2. *In the Pelican Point area adjacent to the nature reserve create a transition to a more indigenous landscape including replacing non-local trees as they die or become diseased with indigenous species (as per the landscape plan).*

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted by Robert Powell, author of *Leaf and Branch: Trees and Tall Shrubs of Perth* (1990), and Jacqueline Pontré.



Part D. Conservation

3. *Promote and protect indigenous plant communities in the Pelican Point area.*
4. *Assess each tree on the Reserve and take appropriate action if a threat to life or property exists.*
5. *Protect trees of special significance on the Reserve, for example, those planted on special occasions.*

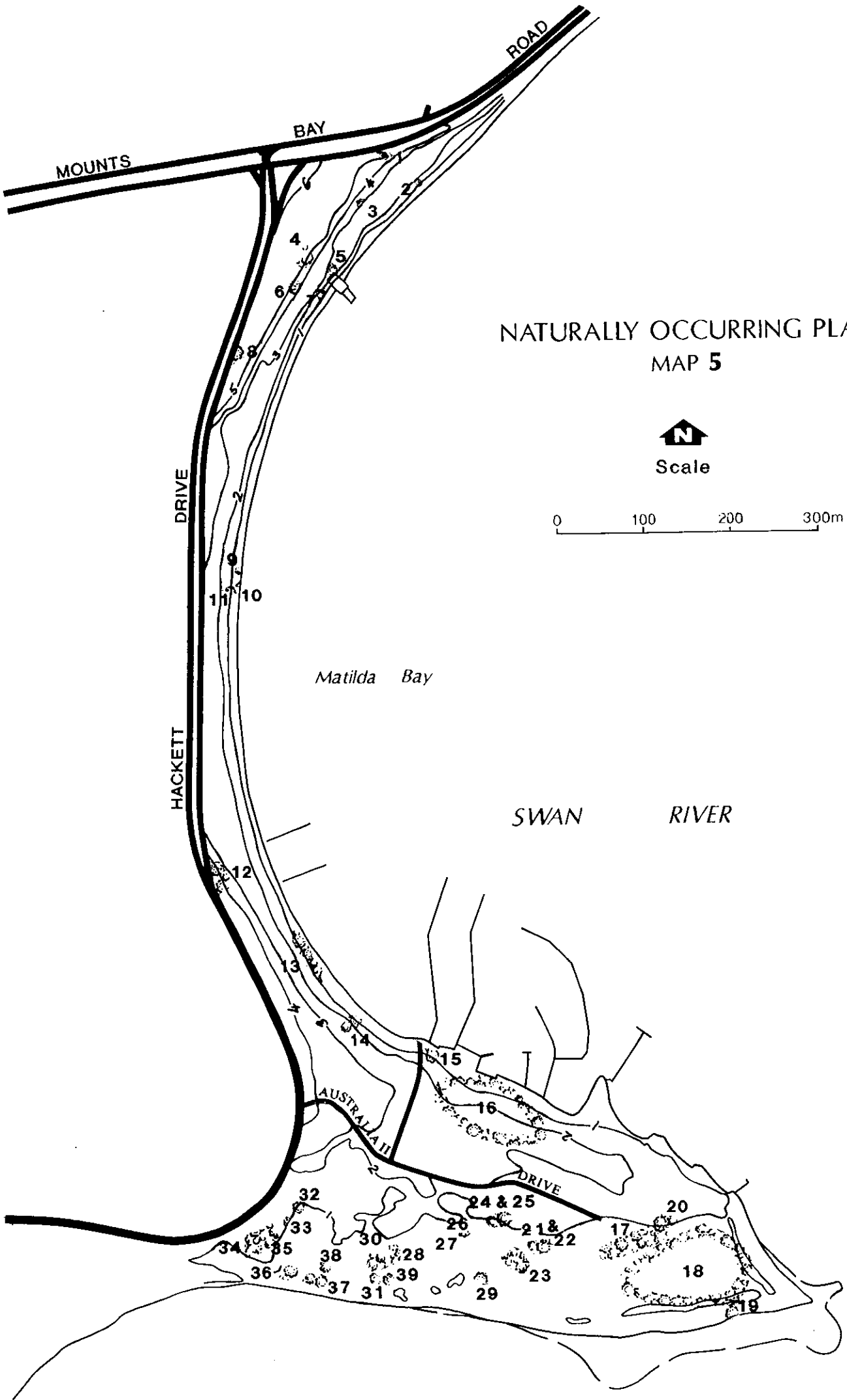
**TABLE 4. NATURALLY OCCURRING PLANTS IN THE MATILDA BAY AREA**

Ref No	Common Name	Botanical Name	Quantity	Contour Interval
1	Zamia	<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>	1	5m
2	Coojong	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	2	2
3	Jarra	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>	2	3-4
4	Jarra	<i>E. marginata</i>	1	5
5	Flooded gum	<i>E. rudis</i>	1	2-3
6.	Jarra	<i>E. marginata</i>	1	4-5
7.	Salt sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	1	1
8.	Tuart hybrid*	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> X <i>E. sp.</i>	1	5-6
9.	Coojong	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	1	1-2
10.	Rush	(Unknown sp.)	1	0
11.	Flooded gum	<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>	1	1
12.	Marri	<i>E. calophylla</i>	12	4
13.	Flooded gum	<i>E. rudis</i>	3	0-1
14.	Flooded gum	<i>E. rudis</i>	3	1-3
15.	Coojong	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	1	0-1
16.	Flooded gum	<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>	6+	1-2

\* A chance hybrid between tuart and another eucalypt, presumably an eastern Australian species. The tree is probably unique.

**TABLE 5. NATURALLY OCCURRING PLANTS IN THE PELICAN POINT AREA**

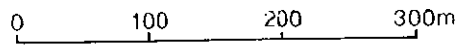
Ref No	Common Name	Botanical Name	Quantity	Contour Interval
17.	Saltwater paperbark	<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	100+	0-1m
18.	Rushes	Unknown spp	numerous	0-1
19.	Salt sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	1	0-1
20.	Freshwater paperbark	<i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i>	3	0-1
21.	Salt sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	4	0-1
22.	Saltwater paperbark	<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	1	0-1
23.	Coojong	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	50+	0-1
24.	Salt sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	1	1
25.	Coojong	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	1	1
26.	Christmas tree	<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i>	1	0-1
27.	Grey stinkwood	<i>Jacksonia furcellata</i>	numerous	0-1
28.	Saltwater paperbark	<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	50+	0-1
29.	Flooded gum	<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>	1	0-1
30.	Coojong	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	20	0-1
31.	Red-eyed wattle	<i>A. cyclops</i>	1	0-1
32.	Coojong	<i>A. saligna</i>	6	1
33.	Red-eyed wattle	<i>A. cyclops</i>	1	1
34.	Flooded gum	<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>	50	1
35.	Swamp tea-tree	<i>Pericalymma ellipticum</i>	1	1
36.	Freshwater paperbark	<i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i>	3	0-1
37.	Red-eyed wattle	<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	2	0-1
38.	Coojong	<i>A. saligna</i>	4	0-1
39.	White-stemmed wattle	<i>A. xanthina</i>	1	0-1



NATURALLY OCCURRING PLANTS  
MAP 5



Scale



## 17. EROSION

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**The objective is to control erosion.**

Erosion occurs naturally on the banks of any river. Localised erosion can occur at the surface in tidal waters from wave action, being either wind induced or in heavily trafficked waters, from boat wash and foreshore use. In Matilda Bay erosion is quite severe, caused primarily by non-natural causes.

Various options exist to control erosion. The Department of Marine and Harbours (1990) strategies include:

- Increase the beach area so that the slope is more gradual
- Plant trees, rushes and other vegetation to enhance natural protection
- Construct walls, usually of logs or ungrouted rock.

### ACTIONS

1. *Implement measures to deal with erosion by modifying the beach area and plant appropriate vegetation that is consistent with landscape values.*
2. *Construct suitable bank protection if other measures fail to relieve erosion.*

## 18. PESTS AND WEEDS

---

**The objective is to control pests, eradicate weeds if possible, and minimise any adverse effects from control measures.**

Silver Gulls are an indigenous species whose numbers may be reaching pest proportions (CALM, 1990). Gull population growth is related to urban development and the increased availability of food.

Control of Silver Gull populations is possible on a local basis either by reducing breeding success at colonies or by reducing the amount of food available on the Reserve. The former is considered difficult; controlling the availability of food is considered more practical. Visitors using the Reserve often feed the gulls.

Rabbits have been a nuisance in the Reserve area for a number of years. In 1979, the Agriculture Protection Board seeded the area with the European Rabbit Flea to control rabbit numbers in the area. In recent years, numbers appear to have been reduced.

The Rainbow Lorikeet appears to be spreading rapidly and increasing in numbers throughout the metropolitan area. Their wide range of habitat and food preferences, and their likely competition with other hole nesters are of concern. The founder population is resident in the

#### Part D. Conservation

adjacent University of Western Australia grounds (Agriculture Protection Board, pers. comm., 1992).

Other pests on the Reserve include cats, foxes, mosquitoes and European bees. The impact of cats and foxes is of great concern in the southern part of the Reserve because of the potential danger to the flora and fauna of the neighbouring nature reserve.

Onchunga weed (*Soliva pterosperma*) has been recorded in the Reserve. Other weeds of concern on the Reserve include kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), buffalo grass (*Stenotaphum secundatum*), and morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*). Where possible, spraying will be conducted on intensely used areas.

#### **ACTIONS**

1. *Inform the local community and visitors to the Reserve of the Silver Gull problem through an appropriate education program, emphasising that gulls should not be fed.*
2. *Liaise with the Agriculture Protection Board, leaseholders and local authorities regarding pest and weed control in the Reserve.*
3. *When resources allow, annually spray Onchunga in limited areas.*

#### **19. FIRE**

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**The objective is to protect people, property and the conservation values of Matilda Bay Reserve.**

No wild fires have been recorded on Matilda Bay Reserve, however, fire could threaten life, and damage facilities. The major fire risk area is the southern part of the Reserve near the Pelican Point nature reserve especially during summer when the vegetation is driest. The Western Australian Fire Brigade is primarily responsible for fire suppression on the Reserve. CALM will assist the Brigade in this task.

#### **ACTION**

1. *Develop a fire suppression plan with the WA Fire Brigade.*

## **20. PETS**

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**The objective is to protect the Reserve's conservation and recreational values.**

Dogs are allowed in the adjacent Abrahams Reserves and the Nedlands Foreshore Reserve is vested as a dogs' exercise area (see Map 1). Given the high level of use of Matilda Bay Reserve for family-type outings it is considered inappropriate for dogs to be allowed on the majority of the Reserve.

Domestic pets, including dogs and especially cats, pose threats to wildlife. This is especially important near the nature reserve because of the presence of small perching birds that are prone to predation.

### **ACTION**

*1. Allow for dogs on a leash along the multi-purpose path and around the boat ramp only.*

**PART E. INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION  
AND EDUCATION**

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## 21. INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

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### INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION GOAL

Promote an understanding of the Reserve's history and natural environment, and an awareness and appreciation of its values.

**The objective is to enhance visitors' appreciation and understanding of the Reserve's natural and cultural values.**

Any visit to Matilda Bay Reserve would be improved if its features and values were understood. As discussed in Section 14. Cultural Resources and Section 3. Purpose and Tenure, Matilda Bay Reserve contains a variety of cultural resources, and has special values. Visitors value information, and its provision is an important aspect of management.

The information process has three parts:

Information - providing details about facilities, activities and regulations.

Interpretation - explaining cultural and natural features.

Education - providing detailed materials and programs designed to educate groups at all levels.

At present the Reserve does not have an information and interpretation plan. According to the regional interpretation plan the following themes would form the basis for information and interpretive activities in the Reserve:

- cultural history
- the riverine vegetation
- appropriate use
- promotion of CALM activities.

#### **Information**

Services provided should include displays, self-guided walks and signs.

#### *Displays*

Displays are an important means of informing visitors of the Reserve's features, facilities and regulations. This could be set up in information centres and shelters in the Reserve.

#### *Self-guided activities*

Self-guided activities are a successful way of helping visitors learn about the Reserve at their own time and pace. Activities could be based on a vegetation theme and historical themes.

#### *Signs*

Signs are an important element of visitor facilities, providing guidance, advice and information on the Reserve's features and activities. Careful attention to accuracy is required, and signs must be designed and sited to harmonise with the appearance of the Reserve.

#### **Interpretation and Education**

Organised activities such as community education programs and holiday activity programs can be developed, possibly with the help of a 'friends' group.



## **ACTIONS**

- 1. Prepare an Interpretation Plan for the Reserve to promote public awareness and appreciation of the Reserve, including its natural and cultural history.*
- 2. Develop an interpretation walk through the Reserve.*
- 3. Liaise with the Western Australian Tourism Commission to promote visitor use of the Reserve.*
- 4. Install and maintain appropriate information on the Reserve in accordance with the Interpretation Plan.*
- 5. Encourage school and group activities on the Reserve for educational purposes.*
- 6. Provide appropriate directional, warning and feature signs in accordance with the CALM Sign Manual.*
- 7. Liaise with other departments and agencies such as the Department of Marine and Harbours and the City of Subiaco to ensure conformity of signs on, and adjacent to, the Reserve.*
- 8. Establish an Arbor Day interpretation program.*
- 9. Use Matilda Bay Reserve to promote CALM's activities elsewhere in the State.*

## **PART F. RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

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## 22. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

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### RESEARCH AND MONITORING GOAL

Promote and undertake studies on the Reserve's social values and natural processes, and monitor the impacts of visitor use and management.

**The objective is to develop and maintain knowledge regarding the social values and natural processes of the Reserve.**

Recreation is the Reserve's principal value.

Social monitoring that determines visitor satisfaction and impacts is receiving increasing attention from park management agencies throughout Australia. The impact of recreation on the natural environment also needs to be monitored so management actions can be evaluated.

It would be appropriate that research projects and monitoring programs involve as wide a range of people as possible. The involvement of volunteers, educational institutions and individual researchers can reduce research and monitoring costs, and assist to provide information to the broader community.

CALM currently coordinates and promotes research undertaken within the Reserve.

### ACTIONS

- 1. Implement an integrated program of survey, research and monitoring (including social monitoring) based on the actions in relevant sections of this plan.*
- 2. Encourage the participation of volunteers, educational institutions and other organisations in research projects within the Reserve, and promote research programs and findings that address key issues.*

## **PART G. IMPLEMENTATION**

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## **23. PRIORITIES, FUNDING AND STAFF**

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**The objective is to maintain and improve Matilda Bay's unique character.**

Matilda Bay Reserve is managed from existing CALM resources.

Many actions are outlined in this management plan. While some are guidelines, others are prescriptions for specific actions. This management plan will be implemented by CALM within the framework of available resources, according to priorities within the plan and CALM regional and statewide priorities. A budget will be needed during the first two to three years of this plan for major works.

As mentioned in Section 8, the Reserve is used extensively by private corporations. It also has a high public profile generally. Accordingly, it is possible that private corporations may see value in providing sponsorship to upgrade the Reserve. It is proposed that CALM approaches a range of organisations for this purpose.

### **ACTIONS**

- 1. Prepare a 10 year implementation plan, taking into account the priorities outlined in Table 6. Review the implementation plan annually and prepare an annual progress report.*
- 2. Subject to Departmental priorities and funding, provide adequate staff to implement the Matilda Bay Reserve Management Plan and to protect and maintain the Reserve.*
- 3. Consider seeking corporate sponsorship for Matilda Bay Reserve.*

**Table 6. MATILDA BAY RESERVE ACTIONS, PRIORITY AND EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION**

SECTION	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION*
<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>		
3. Purpose and Tenure	2. Retain the existing character of Matilda Bay Reserve.	E2
	3. Ensure that further development on Matilda Bay Reserve is kept to a minimum and aimed at improving facilities.	E1
4. Surrounding Waters and Adjacent Land	1. Integrate management of the Reserve with management of adjoining lands and waters.	E2
	2. Ensure that modifications to existing developments are in harmony with the character of the Reserve and the surrounding settings.	E3
	3. Where appropriate, combine the public comment periods required by CALM and the Swan River Trust.	E1
7. Visitor Use	1. Provide and maintain satisfactory facilities and services to cater for visitors.	E2
	2. Maintain the booking system for organised groups to use the Reserve and, where appropriate, set a fee.	E1
8. Concept Plan	1. Redevelop toilets in an architectural design which is in harmony with the environment, and which include facilities for disabled people.	E3
	2. Demolish existing toilets between the restaurant and kiosk and replace by one new structure.	E3
	5. Redesign parking areas and boat ramp.	E2
	9. Create two picnic areas with provision for barbecues and other picnic facilities.	E2
	11. Relocate access road to kiosk and provide two parking bays for kiosk staff.	E3
	12. Consider redevelopment of kiosk in consultation with the lessee.	E3
	15. Modify the access to Cygnet Hall and provide additional parking.	E3
	16. Require Pelican Point Sea Scouts to either repair or remove their jetty.	E3
	17. Develop an overall theme for the Reserve.	E3
	18. Provide adequate furniture and maintain it to a high standard.	E2
	19. Replace existing galvanised iron fence with a unified barrier system.	E2
9. Access	20. Develop a landscape plan for the Reserve involving a committee of interested people.	E1
	21. Develop site and construction plans for each work program on the Reserve in consultation with relevant bodies.	E1
	1. Ensure parking is available to visitors of the Reserve, leaseholders and CALM staff.	E3
	2. Consider extending disabled access, where feasible, including foreshore access along paths to major facilities.	E2
	3. Redevelop toilet facilities to enable use by disabled people.	E2
	5. Consult the University of Western Australia and other relevant bodies, including local government authorities and lessees, when decisions concerning parking need to be made.	E1

Part G. Implementation

SECTION	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION*
<b>HIGH PRIORITY (Cont)</b>		
	6. Establish a car parking committee.	E1
	7. Change for use of the boat ramp is pressure of use requires management.	E2
	8. Allow parking on the grassed area and on the road verge of Australia II Drive during peak periods only.	E1
10. Services and Utilities	2. Replace overhead power lines with underground power, as resources allow, to improve the safety and aesthetics of the Reserve.	E3
	4. Consider connecting the public, restaurant and kiosk toilets to mains sewerage.	E3
	7. Upgrade and maintain the reticulation system.	E3
	11. Negotiate with Royal Perth Yacht Club to relocate the radio antenna situated in the southern part of the Reserve.	E2
11. Leases	1. Further leases should not be allowed.	E1
	2. Minimise changes to existing lease areas and follow the principle that any additional area provided to lease holders be compensated by the equivalent release of land for public use.	E2
	3. Minimise changes within the lease areas, but allow changes if they are necessary for the more efficient functioning of the lease.	E2
	4. Changes to buildings must be approved by the NPNC and the Swan River Trust.	E2
	5. Progressively implement an overall architectural theme on the Reserve as opportunities for building changes arise.	E2
	6. Standardise, where possible, the principles guiding the conditions of club leases.	E2
	7. Continue public access to the foreshore during daylight hours in accordance with Swan River Management Strategy.	E1
	8. The Swan River Trust and the Department of Marine and Harbours to refer to CALM all extensions or changes to sea bed leases and private moorings.	E1
12. Commercial Operations	1. Establish and manage commercial operations in accordance with CALM Policy Statement No 18, Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services. Concessions on the Reserve may be provided if they are consistent with the purpose of the Reserve and its conservation values, and with the Swan River Strategy.	E2
	2. Ensure that concession holders fulfil the concession's conditions.	E2
	3. Only consider commercial concessions on leases that are consistent with the objectives of this management plan, values of the adjoining nature reserve and marine park and the conditions of the lease.	E1
14.1 Aboriginal History	1. Ensure that CALM's obligations are fulfilled according to relevant legislation if any proposed activities on the Reserve involve development.	E2
	2. Conduct an Aboriginal site study of the Reserve as a matter of priority. Include Aboriginal representatives in the study group.	E2
	3. Incorporate information on the Aboriginal history of the Reserve into interpretive material.	E1

Part G. Implementation

SECTION	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION*
<b>HIGH PRIORITY (Cont)</b>		
	4. Continue dialogue with Aboriginal people on their association with Matilda Bay.	E1
14.2 European History	1. Incorporate information on the European history of the Reserve into interpretive material.	E1
15. Visual Resources	1. Develop a landscape management plan for the Reserve.	E1
	2. Protect the visual qualities and natural landscape of the Reserve.	E1
	4. Reduce existing negative visual impacts of the Reserve.	E1
16. Vegetation	3. Promote and protect indigenous plant communities in the Pelican Point area.	E2
	4. Assess each tree on the Reserve and take appropriate action if a threat to life or property exists.	E2
17. Erosion	1. Implement measures to deal with erosion by modifying the beach area and planting appropriate vegetation that is consistent with landscape values.	E2
	2. Construct suitable bank protection if other measures fail to relieve erosion.	E3
19. Fire	1. Develop a fire suppression plan with the WA Fire Brigade.	E1
20. Pets	1. Allow for dogs on a leash along the multi-purpose path and around the boat ramp only.	E2
21. Information, Interpretation and Education	1. Prepare an Interpretation Plan for the Reserve to promote public awareness and appreciation of the Reserve, including its natural and cultural history.	E1
	2. Develop an interpretation walk through the Reserve.	E1
	3. Liaise with the Western Australian Tourism Commission to promote visitor use of the Reserve.	E1
	5. Encourage school and group activities on the Reserve for educational purposes.	E1
	6. Provide appropriate directional, warning and feature signs in accordance with the CALM Sign Manual.	E1
	9. Use Matilda Bay Reserve to promote CALM's activities elsewhere in the State.	E1
23. Priorities, Funding and Staff	1. Prepare a 10 year implementation plan, taking into account the priorities outlined in Table 6. Review the implementation plan annually, and prepare an annual progress report.	E2
	2. Subject to Departmental priorities and funding, provide adequate staff to implement the Matilda Bay Reserve Management Plan and to protect and maintain the Reserve.	E3
24. Community Liaison	1. Consider the role the public can play in implementing this plan.	E2



SECTION	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION*
25. Term of this Plan	1. Review the implementation of the plan annually, prior to preparing the works program for the following year. The review should identify which recommendations have been achieved and to what degree, and any new information which may affect management.	E2
	2. Review the plan within 10 years from the date of gazettal of the final management plan. This review should identify the extent to which the objectives have been achieved and recommendations implemented, the reason for lack of achievement or implementation, and a summary of information which may effect future management.	E2
<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>		
8. Concept Plan	3. Demolish the toilet block currently situated midway between the kiosk and University Boat Club, and build a toilet in the northern section of the Reserve.	E3
	4. Realign Australia II Drive and develop spur roads to lease areas and CALM Headquarters.	E3
	6. Negotiate with relevant authorities regarding installation of vehicle slowing devices on Hackett Drive.	E2
	7. Consider a roundabout junction at Australia II Drive.	E2
	8. Consider building a ferry jetty on the Reserve.	E3
	10. Consider creating a beach for swimmers at each picnic area.	E2
	13. In consultation with Bikewest, widen the multi-purpose path to three metres and relocate northern section of path to ensure safe cycling and walking.	E3
9. Access	14. Repair the two swimming jetties.	E3
	4. Encourage public use of car parking facilities at UWA on weekends and during holidays.	E2
10. Services and Utilities	1. Investigate installing master electricity meters for all Reserve lease holders.	E2
	3. Consider providing improved lighting on the Reserve, particularly along the multi-purpose path.	E2
	5. Review the drainage system in consultation with the Water Authority of Western Australia and the Swan River Trust.	E2
	6. Replace the reticulation pump control cubicle.	E1
	8. Consider providing additional bins, making more frequent rubbish collections and promoting "take it home" education.	E1
	9. Place bins in clusters close to paths so that service vehicles do not need to drive along the grassed area.	E2
	10. Consider providing drinking fountains where appropriate.	E2
12. Commercial Operations	12. Investigate the possibility of installing public telephone facilities in the northern part of the Reserve.	E2
	4. Liaise with the University of Western Australia and the Cities of Perth and Subiaco to ensure that, as far as possible, commercial operations on their land do not conflict with the objectives of the Reserve.	E1

Part G. Implementation

SECTION	ACTION	IMPLEMENTATION*
<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY (Cont)</b>		
15. Visual Resource	3. Retain and enhance existing positive elements of the Reserve.	E3
	5. Seek advice on visual management of the Reserve, as required, from CALM landscape architects.	E1
16. Vegetation	1. Prepare a tree management plan as part of a comprehensive landscape plan which provides for long-term planting, being mindful of the historic value of existing non-local tree species.	E2
	2. In the Pelican Point area adjacent to the nature reserve create a transition to a more indigenous landscape including replacing non-local trees as they die or become diseased with indigenous species (as per the landscape plan).	E2
	5. Protect trees of special significance on the Reserve, for example, those planted on special occasions.	E1
18. Pests and Weeds	1. Inform the local community and visitors to the Reserve of the Silver Gull problem through an appropriate education program, emphasising that gulls should not be fed.	E1
	2. Liaise with the Agriculture Protection Board, leaseholders and local authorities regarding pest and weed control in the Reserve.	E2
	3. When resources allow, annually spray Onchunga in limited areas.	E2
21. Information, Interpretation and Education	4. Install and maintain appropriate information on the Reserve in accordance with the Interpretation Plan.	E1
	7. Liaise with other departments and agencies such as the Department of Marine and Harbours and the City of Subiaco to ensure conformity of signs on, and adjacent to, the Reserve.	E1
	8. Establish an Arbor Day Interpretation program.	E1
22. Research and Monitoring	1. Implement an integrated program of survey, research and monitoring (including social monitoring) based on the actions in relevant sections of this plan.	E2
	2. Encourage the participation of volunteers, educational institutions and other organisations in research projects within the Reserve, and promote research programs and findings that address key issues.	E2
23. Priorities, Funding and Staff	3. Consider seeking corporate sponsorship for Matilda Bay Reserve.	E2
<b>LOW PRIORITY</b>		
3. Purpose and Tenure	1. Formally name the Reserve "Matilda Bay Reserve".	E1
14.2 European History	1. Formalise the naming of Matilda Bay Reserve.	E1

- \* E1 - Easy to implement  
 E2 - Moderately difficult to implement  
 E3 - Difficult to implement

NOTE: This refers to a combination of technical difficulty and availability of staff and finances.

## 24. COMMUNITY LIAISON

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**The objective is to provide the public and organisations with the opportunity to be involved in the Reserve's management and planning.**

On-going liaison with local community groups and associations is essential, as is liaison with interests further afield. This has been achieved by day-to-day contact between CALM staff and members of the public. The community has also been made aware of the preparation of this management plan through radio and newspaper advertising. A public display was held during the two months public review period to give the community an opportunity to provide comments on the future development of the Reserve.

Liaison between CALM, leaseholders and other Government agencies has also taken place and is discussed in Section 4. Surrounding Waters and Adjacent Land.

The public could become involved in the implementation of this plan through the setting up of an advisory committee, which would include members from the general public appointed by the Executive Director. Any such committee would be chaired by CALM.

### **ACTION**

- 1. Consider the role the public can play in implementing this plan.*

## 25. TERM OF THIS PLAN

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The term of this plan will be 10 years.

### **ACTIONS**

- 1. Review the implementation of the plan annually prior to preparing the works program for the following year. The review should identify which recommendations have been achieved and to what degree, and any new information which may affect management.*
- 2. Review the plan within 10 years from the date of gazettal of the final management plan. This review should identify the extent to which the objectives have been achieved and recommendations implemented, the reason for lack of achievement or implementation, and a summary of information which may affect future management.*

Section 61 of the CALM Act provides for the plan to be amended as required. If major changes to the plan are proposed, the revised plan will be released for public comment.

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## ***Background***

The Australian American Catalina Memorial Foundation Inc. has put forward a proposal to place a Catalina Museum on the southern part of the Matilda Bay Reserve. The proposal will house a Catalina flying boat that, together with the information displayed, will be an historical reminder of the part that Perth played in World War II.

During World War II this was the exact site of a flying base where Catalina flying boats and other float planes of the Australian, American, British and Dutch air forces were stationed. Many of Perth's residents will remember the roar of the engines of the Catalina flying boats as they took off and landed along this part of the Swan River – a clear indication that the war was on Perth's doorstep.

The proposal will also involve the construction of a new roundabout and entrance to Australia II Drive, as proposed in the existing management plan, together with parking facilities to service the area. The roundabout will replace the existing unsatisfactory entrance to Australia II Drive.

The existing management plan for Matilda Bay Reserve came into force in 1992 and at that time the need for such a development was not envisioned. The management plan therefore has to be amended, which is the purpose of this current exercise, and must also comply with section 61 of the CALM Act dealing with amendments to a management plan.

### ***Proposed alterations to the existing management plan***

The proposed alterations to the plan, that will allow the proposal to be considered, are shown below, with **additions shown in bold** and ~~deletions shown with a line through~~.

On page 31 of the existing management plan actions 1 and 5 will become:

- 3 Further leases should not be allowed. **Any exceptions must have strong relevance to the historical or cultural aspects of the Reserve.**
- 5 Progressively ~~implement an overall architectural theme~~ **improve the architecture** on the Reserve as opportunities for building changes arise.

On page 37 of the existing management plan a third actions is to be added:

- 3 **Consider the development of a Catalina Museum on the Reserve.**