

# PLAN FOR OUR PARKS

SECURING 5 MILLION HECTARES OVER 5 YEARS



## Frequently asked questions

### What is Plan for Our Parks?

The State Government has announced a plan to create five million hectares of new national and marine parks and reserves across Western Australia over the next five years, increasing the conservation estate by 20 per cent.

It will see new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across WA's Midwest and Goldfields, through areas from Perth to Bunbury, to the South West forests and a potential new marine park on the southern coastline. Areas that have been identified in the plan have high conservation and cultural heritage values, and pave the way for enhanced tourism and Aboriginal joint management.

Plan for Our Parks is a whole of government initiative overseen by a multiagency Directors General Steering Group and approved by the Ministers for Environment, Aboriginal Affairs and Mines and Petroleum. The establishment of new marine parks will also require approval by the Minister for Fisheries.

### How were opportunities for new parks and reserves determined?

The opportunities for new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves under Plan for Our Parks will contribute to the National Reserve System and the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Western Australia.

Plan for Our Parks addresses the findings and recommendations of previous enquiries into the establishment and management of marine parks and reserves and former pastoral leases. This includes the 1994 report on *A Representative Marine Reserve System for Western Australia* and 2016 Auditor General's report into the *Management of Marine Parks and Reserves* which identified the



Top: Ningaloo Coast. Photo – Tourism WA

Above: Yawuru rangers collecting benthic samples in the Kimberley. Photo - DBCA

south coast as a gap in the marine reserve network and the 2010 Economics and Industry Standing Committee inquiry into the management of former pastoral leases. These pastoral leases were purchased by the State Government for conservation over the past two decades but remained unreserved. Plan for Our Parks also builds on decades of relationships with Aboriginal people and approaches to the Government from traditional owner groups with aspirations for the creation, joint vesting and joint management of new parks and reserves.

Plan for Our Parks considers biodiversity and other values, native title and mineral prospectivity of the areas to be reserved and the practicalities for long-term management. Plan for Our Parks brings all of this together at a state-wide scale.

### How flexible is Plan for Our Parks and can additional areas be included?

Plan for Our Parks includes election commitments, Government strategic priorities and reservation commitments for rangelands properties.



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The State Government is aware that there may be other areas that have been previously identified or warrant possible inclusion to the conservation estate. There is flexibility in the design of a detailed Plan for Our Parks, and accordingly other areas may be added.

### How will the management of the parks be funded?

The State Government has already committed funding towards delivery of some proposals and will further invest into the joint management of other proposals under Plan for Our Parks. This will enable more focussed management of the new conservation areas, including the provision of jobs and tourism infrastructure.

### How will the Government work with traditional owners to implement Plan for Our Parks?

The State Government will work together with traditional owners and other stakeholders to develop a detailed Plan for Our Parks.

The reservation of marine and national parks generally requires the consent of Native Title holders by way of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in accordance with the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. The State Government will pursue successful resolution of outstanding relevant native title consent as a key element for finalisation of additions to the conservation estate.

### How will Plan for Our Parks support Aboriginal employment?

Plan for Our Parks will provide long-term employment, and joint management outcomes supporting Aboriginal peoples' desire to manage country and respond to the growing demand for on-country jobs for Aboriginal rangers. It is designed to complement other initiatives, such as the successful Aboriginal Ranger Program, which was established in 2017 to protect the environment and leverage the social and economic benefits that employment provides in regional and remote Western Australia.

### Will the new parks and reserves have any impact on mining and exploration, fishing and forestry?

Plan for Our Parks will have regard for relevant industry and resource-related matters including commercial and recreational fishing and other industries that support regional growth and employment. The Government will consult extensively across the

resource and industry sectors, including legal interest holders, to address potential impacts.

All park proposals will be assessed by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) for mineral and petroleum prospectivity and all relevant mining tenement and petroleum title holders will be contacted by DMIRS for comment (both applicants and granted titles).

The establishment of a marine park on the South Coast will include consultation with the representative fishing sector bodies to ensure fishing interests are recognised and considered, and that opportunities for a marine park are identified that enables continued recreational and commercial uses. Fishing interests will be considered along with conservation interests and other uses in determining the marine reserve boundaries and internal zoning schemes.

### What is the expected timeline for Plan for Our Parks?

An initial consultation process is underway with traditional owners, key stakeholders and interest holders. A detailed Plan for Our Parks is expected to be developed by late 2019, after which time the Government will commence the process of negotiating ILUAs with traditional owners. The reservation of new parks and reserves will be completed by 2024, after ILUA negotiations, management planning and joint management arrangements have been completed.



Top right: Sea lions at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. Photo – DBCA. Above: Danggou Geikie Gorge National Park. Photos – DBCA

**More information: Web [www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/plan-our-parks](http://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/plan-our-parks).  
Email [planforourparks@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:planforourparks@dbca.wa.gov.au).**

This information is current at April 2019. This publication is available in alternative formats on request.