



Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan



**Swan River Trust
Report No: 32
April 2001**

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

In 1988 the Government of Western Australia released the Swan River Management Strategy which has become its policy for the Swan and Canning Rivers. The Strategy contains a number of recommendations suggesting the preparation of detailed management plans for particular areas of the foreshore including South Perth.

In 1992 the City of South Perth expressed the view that development approvals in the park should occur in the context of an overall management plan which would identify acceptable levels of development and use for the area. The Trust agreed to prepare a draft report in consultation with Council officers.

In 1994 residents abutting the Sir James Mitchell Park were expressing concern at the extent to which landscaping proposals for the park would impact on their views. Following a public meeting on the matter where residents were keen to understand Council's long-term vision for this significant regional parkland, Council resolved to form a working party consisting of Councillor representatives and community members to review the development of the foreshore area from the Narrows Bridge to Ellam Street.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following people are acknowledged for their assistance and contribution towards the development of this plan.

Colin Chalmers (Swan River Trust) developed the Swan River Trust's draft plan and attended the meetings of the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee.

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The Mayors and Councillors of the City of South Perth for their input over the whole process.

The South Perth Foreshore Review Committee set up by the City of South Perth to investigate the development of the foreshore. Membership of this group consisted of Bert Wilkinson, Mark Taylor, Stanley Kailis, Ken Manolas, Clive Annear, Peter McCutcheon, Robert Linton, Sue Down, Mary Briffa (Residents), Mike Collett and Tom Tischler (Perth Zoo).

FOREWORD

Sir James Mitchell Park is the most significant parkland and passive recreation area in the City of South Perth. Prior to its development as parkland it boasted a varied history including Chinese market gardens, dairy farming and horse racing. Considerable investment in its more recent history by the local, state and federal governments has created an area of public open space of regional significance.

Although especially appreciated by residents of the City of South Perth, visitors from the wider metropolitan area also enjoy it. Approximately forty percent of its visitors travel more than ten kilometres to visit Sir James Mitchell Park, emphasising its importance as Regional Open Space. Sir James Mitchell Park is popular and caters for diverse activities including walking, jogging, cycling, picnics, barbeques, and other forms of passive recreation. On Perth Water, adjacent to the Park, water based activities such as swimming, fishing, prawning, canoeing, sailing and windsurfing provide wonderful opportunities to enjoy the river environment and foreshore. The natural and introduced plant communities and lakes along the park provide a perfect setting for the many recreational uses of the area. They also provide a counterpoint to the built environment of Perth's Central Business District.

The visual relationship between Sir James Mitchell Park, the river and the Central Business District are an important factor in its management.

Management of the Park needs to consider this relationship and balance it with the demands for increased recreational use and further development of facilities. The need to balance improved infrastructure to meet the needs of the community, enhancement and protection of the environment of the area and maintenance of its visual amenity is a challenge for the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust, in conjunction with the local community.

The City of South is proud of its ongoing commitment to Sir James Mitchell Park. The Foreshore Management Plan provides the blueprint to ensure that the best management practices are utilised to continue to enhance the Park for the benefit of the community of South Perth and for the wider community.

Julian Donaldson

CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSIONERS

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH

Geoff Totterdell

CHAIRMAN

SWAN RIVER TRUST



Part of the large audience enjoying Skyshow on the Esplanade Foreshore

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Location of the Study Area

The area now proposed to be known in its entirety as Sir James Mitchell Park occupies a thirty-hectare area of foreshore land, adjacent to the Swan River, between the Narrows Bridge and Ellam Street, South Perth. It also extends to include approximately four hectares of land to the west of the Narrows Bridge. The Park lies directly opposite the Perth Central Business District with sweeping views across Perth Water, to the city skyline and Kings Park.

1.2 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan is to guide the management of the area by the City of South Perth and Swan River Trust. The Plan identifies the most appropriate combination of land uses for the foreshore area whilst maintaining and preserving the environmental and heritage values of the area and its surrounds. It complements the regional planning approach of the Swan River Trust as well as providing for local residents, regional users, commercial development and tourism ventures.

1.3 Values of the Park

1.3.1 Environmental Values

The southern shoreline of the Swan River at South Perth encompasses a number of parks including the Esplanade, Sir James Mitchell Park, Clydesdale Park, McCallum Park and the Milyu Nature Reserve. These parks are linked to form part of an integrated system allowing the Swan and Canning Rivers and their foreshores to be managed as a single entity. The primary objective of establishing this system is to balance the competing demands for use and development with the need to conserve and enhance a functional healthy river environment (Swan River Management Strategy, 1988).

Apart from the Swan River itself, other features with conservation or amenity value in the Park include:

- The sandy beach areas, all of which require maintenance of retaining walls and replenishment with sand as a result of significant alterations to the shoreline since European settlement;
- Three artificial freshwater lakes between Coode Street and Hurlingham Road. These lakes are currently in a deteriorated state and require significant rehabilitation works to restore water quality and maintain a suitable habitat for birds;
- A significant stand of remnant native vegetation consisting of *Melaleuca raphiophylla*/*Eucalyptus rudis* at the western end of the current Park boundary;
- A *Melaleuca* grove that is currently being rehabilitated and which includes a boardwalk; and;

- A *Eucalyptus rudis* stand toward the eastern end of the Park, close to the Hurlingham Road car park.

One of the key aims of the Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan is to rehabilitate, enhance and maintain these features to add to the amenity of the foreshore and for the enjoyment of all users of the Park. These restorative works will also provide important habitat for native fauna including frogs, lizards and birds. There is also desire by the public to re-introduce Black Swans to the foreshore area.

The issue of additional tree plantings in the Park has been the cause of major public concern since the release of the first landscaping plan (Tooby, 1975). As a result, a tree-planting program has been designed to allow vistas of the river and city through broad 'view corridors'.

This layout represents a compromise between the competing needs for habitat, shade, aesthetic appeal and views to the city and the river. The program will involve a combination of tree planting and removal of dead or dying trees. It is not proposed to remove, relocate or trim trees in the Park unless this would improve the health of the tree, or for safety reasons.

1.3.2 Heritage Values

It is believed that the South Perth area was once inhabited by the Beeloo Nyungar people prior to European settlement (Collard *et al*, 1996). This Aboriginal group used the foreshore area for camping and fishing, particularly around Mill Point, and also for the extraction of honey from native *Banksia* species.

Important European heritage sites include the Old Mill, Mends Street Jetty and Coode Street Jetty. One of the recommendations in the Plan is the upgrading of a heritage trail that incorporates all of these sites.

1.3.3 Recreational Values

Sir James Mitchell Park is recognised as Parkland of both local and regional significance and is mainly used for recreational pursuits. Common activities conducted in the open grassed areas of the foreshore are walking, jogging, cycling, exercising dogs, picnicking and bird watching. This area is also used for special events such as the Australia Day Sky Show, which attracts large numbers of people, and the City of South Perth Fiesta.

Water activities include boating, water skiing, parasailing, surf cat hire, freestyle jet skiing, fishing, prawning and crabbing. Transperth operates a ferry service that is heavily used by commuters and tourists. The service operates between Coode and Mends Streets in South Perth and Barrack Street in the city. Other attractions in the vicinity of the Park include the Boatshed Café, the Bellhouse Café, restaurants in Mends Street, the Old Mill and the nearby Perth Zoo.

The primary focus of the Plan is to manage Sir James Mitchell Park as a 'passive recreational parkland' complementing and preserving the unique Swan River and city vistas, and protecting the aesthetic amenity and conservation values of the area for the

enjoyment of the community. As such, some of the key recommendations for management include:

- The enhancement and maintenance of the park to include:
 - no further development of formal parking areas;
 - ferry services to be promoted as a desirable transport option, bus/coach services be extended into Coode Street to link with the ferry service and Metrobus extend CAT services to the Park;
 - the construction of the power boat landing at Ellam Street and provision of launching facilities for jet skis west of the Narrows;
 - the expansion of existing picnic facilities to incorporate more shelter structures and shade trees. Other considerations include provision of disabled access, litterbins, water fountains, telephone facilities, lighting and standard signage and park furniture.
- The establishment of appropriate commercial enterprises along the foreshore, consistent with the Commercial Zoning Plan and Commercial Activity Policy.
- The development of a variety of recreational opportunities on and near the foreshore that minimises conflict between users, including:
 - the enforcement by the Department of Transport and Water Police of marine regulations to control the operation of jet skis and power boats; and
 - the separation of pedestrians and cyclists by retaining the existing dual use path and constructing a new pedestrian only pathway closer to the river.
- The monitoring and control of nuisance animals, in particular Silver Gulls and uncontrolled dogs.

1.4 Development of the Management Plan

In 1975, the City of South Perth commissioned Tooby Landscape Architects to prepare a landscaping plan for Sir James Mitchell Park in order to rehabilitate the foreshore area, which had become a local waste dump. However, due to public concern in relation to tree planting issues (and the potential loss of river and city views) the Plan was not implemented. The Tooby Plan was revised in 1987, reducing the number of proposed plantings to approximately one third. Attempts to implement the revised plan met with vandalism of the plantings and continued public concern, which halted the project.

Between 1994 and 1996 several draft plans were prepared for the foreshore, released for public comment and revised. A survey of park users and local residents was also conducted. However, due to differing opinions on landscaping and other uses, the development of the foreshore remained unresolved.

Continued public debate and concern, primarily associated with the recommended removal of existing trees and additional tree planting, but also relating to wetlands, recreation activities and public facilities resulted in a Special Meeting being held by Council in January 1997 and an Electors Special Meeting in February 1997 at Sir James Mitchell Park. The overwhelming sentiment of residents was to create more shade in the park and to retain existing trees. As a result of the meetings, Council resolved a final list of recommendations for development and management in February 1997.

In June 1998 work recommenced on finalising a management plan for the foreshore. The additional information included in the Plan which consolidates the work of previous draft plans, is:

- a Commercial Activity Policy, under which all future development proposals will be assessed;
- a Commercial Zoning Plan that designates activity areas in the Park;
- recommendations on the implementation of landscaping proposals in order to accommodate the range of public concerns expressed in previous plans; and
- details of the 'Community Advisory Group' that is to be established to provide advice and comment to the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust on implementation of this Plan and future development proposals for Sir James Mitchell Park

The list of recommendations as resolved by Council in February 1997 remains unchanged apart from some minor updates in the issues identified above. The final recommendation of the Plan is that it should be reviewed after five years, or when changing circumstances create an environment that would compromise the integrity of the Plan.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

The South Perth foreshore area between the eastern end of South Perth Esplanade and Ellam Street is known as Sir James Mitchell Park ('the Park'). This area has had a varied history since European settlement including use as Chinese market gardens in 1888, a racecourse and polo club in 1890 and dairy farms in the early 1900s. The foreshore has been greatly altered, primarily in order to reduce mosquito breeding areas and the incidence of flooding, to which this area was prone, as adjacent land was progressively developed for residential purposes. The construction of the Narrows Bridge and filling of Miller's Pond were significant changes to the foreshore area near Mill Point.

The foreshore area was given the name 'Sir James Mitchell Park' in August 1950 by the South Perth Road Board, who decided to re-develop the area as playing fields for sporting groups. This decision coincided with the eviction of the Chinese market gardeners, who had supplied fresh produce to local residents.

The name commemorates the former Premier of Western Australia, Sir James Mitchell, who assumed the office of Governor of Western Australia on 5 October 1948. No documentary evidence of the reason for naming the area in his honour is available. However, the reclamation project that created this area was funded and initiated under the Mitchell government. Sir James Mitchell wrote to the Chairman of the South Perth Roads Board thanking the Board for choosing to name the area in his honour and giving his approval for it. The name appears in the Lands Department Metro Street Directory of 1968 but was not officially approved by the Minister for Lands until 5 April 1995.

Between the 1950s and 1970s a number of proposals were put forward for the area, none of which were successful. During this time the foreshore deteriorated, the land became infested with weeds and was used as a local waste dump. It wasn't until 1975 that City of South Perth commissioned a site plan and landscape proposal for the Park.

Since this time, the area has been the focus of much debate between the City of South Perth, residents abutting the foreshore, the broader local community and government agencies. Tree planting proposals, subsequent interference and the potential loss of views to Perth City and the Swan River were the main issues of concern. Other issues included the type of commercial activities that should be allowed, the provision of public facilities, transport and access to the Park and the control of nuisance animals and domestic pets.

A series of studies have been undertaken, some of which are based on survey information of Park users, in an attempt to resolve these issues. A history of events is outlined in Section 1.2 below.

The remainder of the study area, from the west of the Esplanade car park to west of the Narrows Bridge, forms an integral part of the recreational opportunities and landscape amenity of the southern shoreline of Perth Water within the City of South Perth. While it has not received the attention focused on the area east of the Esplanade car park (the historical limit of Sir James Mitchell Park), it has the same management issues and it is sensible to consider the area as a whole for the purposes of management. Doing so also reinforces the

regional significance of this area of the Swan River foreshore.

2.2 History of Events

A landscaping plan was developed for the foreshore area by P & M Tooby Landscape Architects (1975). The plan was revised as a result of public comment and accepted by Council in December 1978. Funding was then sought from the State and Federal Governments to implement the landscape plan, and approval granted in 1985. A Commonwealth Employment Program grant of \$1.9 million was awarded to complete the project.

Subsequent efforts to implement the Tooby Plan (1975) by the City of South Perth were met with severe criticism by residents, mainly in regards to the interference with City and river views from residences abutting the Park. Vandalism of the tree planting caused a halt to the project. In November 1987, the City of South Perth planned to reduce the number of tree plantings from 3160 to 1142 in order to resolve the issue. The Tooby's then prepared a revised landscape plan in 1987.

The issue of tree planting remained contentious, even after the release of the revised Tooby Plan (1987), resulting in the formation of the South Perth Foreshore Assessment Group in 1987. This Group comprised local residents abutting the foreshore between Mends Street and Ellam Street.

The Swan River Trust carried out a comprehensive survey of Park users in 1990 in order to determine the type of activities that were commonly undertaken in Sir James Mitchell Park. The results of this survey have been used in the preparation of subsequent reports.

In 1994, the Swan River Trust and the City of South Perth prepared the 'Draft South Perth Foreshore Management Plan' (Swan River Trust Report No.21) incorporating Sir James Mitchell Park, the reserve around Mill Point and associated waters of the Swan River. The purpose of this Draft Plan (1994) was to integrate the regional recreational use of the Park and foreshore with local management issues and to make specific recommendations on the future management of the foreshore area.

Ten submissions were received from the public in response to the Plan, including a petition, which contained some 1,030 signatures concerned about the enforcement of any further restrictions on dog exercise areas. Many of the submissions generally approved of more facilities like toilets and kiosks, although opinion was divided on extension of car parking. In addition, comment was made that much of the problem experienced with the feeding of Silver Gulls was due to visitors and tourists rather than the local community.

Following a public meeting on the matter in February 1994, Council resolved that a review of planting details for the Park be conducted by Councillors, residents and the Swan River Trust and that consultation be carried out with relevant community groups. Council's resolution also required that this review be conducted within the following parameters:

1. The provision of safety and amenity requirements for Park users;
2. Where possible without compromising the views of local residents; and
3. Taking note of the agreed Tooby 1987 landscaping plan.

As a result of the differing opinions relating to landscaping plans and other uses of Sir James Mitchell Park, it was resolved by Council to form the 'South Perth Foreshore Review Committee'. The purpose of establishing the Committee was to investigate the development of the foreshore area from the Narrows Bridge to Ellam Street, including the creation of a 'vision' for the Park and the development of plans and programs necessary to achieve the vision. The Committee was formed later in 1994 and included representatives from the City of South Perth Works Division, the Swan River Trust, Perth Zoo and community members.

Around the time of this review, a resident's assessment group commissioned Baranowski Rayment Landscape Architects to prepare a report titled 'Swan River, South Perth Foreshore Management' (1995). This report outlined a vision for the enhancement and development of Sir James Mitchell Park with minimal tree planting. The report was never formally received nor adopted by the Review Committee or Council.

Another user survey was commissioned in June 1995 prior to developing specific proposals for the second draft of the foreshore management plan. Marketing consultants 'The Marketing Centre' were engaged to survey 200 Park users and 200 local residents as to their opinions on the existing and future use of the park. The results of this survey were used by the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee to formulate a set of 27 recommendations for the management of Sir James Mitchell Park that were incorporated into the 'South Perth Foreshore Draft Plan' (June 1996).

The South Perth Foreshore Second Draft Report was released by the City of South Perth in July 1996. Further amendments were made to the Plan as a result of presentation to Council and the subsequent amended draft (August 1996) was made available for public comment. This Plan received a total of 891 submissions, mostly from local residents and again mainly concerning the proposed landscaping works. The large number of comments received highlighted to the City of South Perth the importance of Sir James Mitchell Park to the local community.

In November 1996, a Special Report of the then Executive Manager, Works Division listing a number of proposed amendments was submitted to Council for consideration and comment. The Report concluded that there appeared to be strong opposition by the public to any proposal to introduce wetlands and that a large percentage of people disagreed with the removal or relocation of tree planting within the Park. The South Perth Foreshore Review Committee had emphasised that the Parkland should be used for passive recreational activities only. While it was believed that the occasional 'one-off' organised active recreational pursuit was acceptable, formal organised regular sporting fixtures at any level, either junior or senior, was considered totally unacceptable.

As a result of the public submissions received, a revised Draft Plan was released in December 1996. Reference to the removal or relocation of trees from the Park resulted in a Special meeting of Council in January 1997 followed by an Elector's Special Meeting in February 1997. Four hundred and twenty seven electors were present at the Elector's meeting, again highlighting the level of interest in the proposals for the Park. A majority of the electors favoured further planting as per the numbers outlined in the Revised Tooby Plan.

As a result of this meeting, further amendments were made to the recommendations in the Draft Plan. Council resolved the final list of recommendations on 26 February 1997.

In June 1998 work commenced on finalising a management plan for the foreshore. The plan that has been produced now applies to the foreshore from Ellam Street to the western side of the Narrows and will assist in the management of the area proposed to be known as Sir James Mitchell Park.

The additional information to be included into this Plan, which has been updated from previous drafts, is:

- a Commercial Activity Policy, under which all future development plans will be assessed;
- a Commercial Zoning Plan that designates activity areas in the Park;
- recommendations on the implementation of landscaping proposals in order to accommodate the range of public concerns expressed in previous plans; and
- details of the 'Community Advisory Group' that is to be established to provide advice and comment to the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust on the future maintenance and development issues of the Park.

2.3 Relevant Studies

Previous studies relevant to the Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan are listed below:

Landscaping and Planning Reports

- Mends Street Precinct Streetscape Plan, which provides for the enhancement of Mends Street between Mends Street and the river (Tract Consultants, 1990).
- Sir James Mitchell Park Report on Site Planning and Landscape Design (P & M Tooby Pty Ltd Landscape Architects, 1975).
- Sir James Mitchell Park Landscape Plan (P & M Tooby Pty Ltd Landscape Architects, 1987). This plan makes provision for the landscaping and development of the Park over a period of several years.
- Mends Street and Perth Zoo Precinct Study (Oldham Boas Ednie Brown, 1988). This plan provides for the enhancement of the area between Mends Street and the river.
- Kwinana Freeway Plan (Landscape Architectural Services, 1990). This plan provides for the landscaping of the Freeway and the adjoining foreshore reserves.
- Tree Planting Review Sir James Mitchell Park (Special Report of the Executive Manager, Works Division City of South Perth, 1996). Presented to Council.
- Swan River System Landscape Description Report No. 28. (Swan River Trust, 1997).

Swan River Studies

- Inquiry into the Effects of Vessels on the Swan and Canning Rivers (Swan River Trust, 1996).
- Swan River Management Strategy (Management Strategy Task Force, 1988). This strategy provides a framework to ensure the maintenance and improvement of the river environment.
- Swan River Estuary Marine Park & Adjacent Nature Reserves Draft Management Plan (CALM, NPNCA, 1996).

Marketing Studies

- South Perth Foreshore Market Research Study (The Marketing Centre, prepared for the City of South Perth, 1995).
- A comparison of market research studies for South Perth Foreshore: A Summary Report (The Marketing Centre, prepared for the City of South Perth, 1995).

Foreshore Management Plans

- Western Foreshore Management Plan (City of South Perth, 1993). This plan relates to the Milyu Reserve to the west of the Sir James Mitchell Park.
- Draft South Perth Foreshore Management Plan (Swan River Trust and City of South Perth, 1994). Swan River Trust Report No. 21.
- South Perth Foreshore Management Plan (City of South Perth, 1996).
- Proposed Amendments to the South Perth Foreshore Management Plan (South Perth Foreshore Review Committee, 1996). Unpublished.

3 PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan is to guide the management of the area. The Plan identifies the most appropriate combination of uses for the foreshore area whilst maintaining and preserving the environmental and heritage values of the area and its surrounds. It complements the regional planning approach of the Swan River as well as providing for local residents, regional users, commercial development and tourism ventures.

This Plan provides the framework under which all future development proposals for the Park will be assessed. As a framework document, it should be recognised that further detailed studies may be required to investigate particular issues in order to provide the City of South Perth with adequate information to decide on appropriate development options. This includes, for example, studies into the re-instatement of the water enclave and rehabilitation options for the artificial wetlands.

Another function of the Plan is to provide a clear indication to persons interested in conducting a commercial activity in the Park as to what activities would be considered consistent with the objectives of the Plan. The Commercial Activity Policy outlined in Section 5.3 (and contained in Appendix 1) and the accompanying Activity Zoning Plan (Figure 5) will assist the City of South Perth, the Swan River Trust and other regulatory agencies in assessing any such submissions.

3.2 Management Objectives

The City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust have adopted the vision statement, mission statement, key objectives and most of the recommendations for the management of Sir James Mitchell Park as established by the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee in 1996. Modifications have been made by the City of South Perth to update the objectives where necessary. The Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan has been prepared with these statements, objectives and recommendations forming its central theme, and are outlined below:

(i) Vision statement:

Sir James Mitchell Park shall be parkland of regional significance.

(ii) Mission statement:

Sir James Mitchell Park shall be a passive recreational parkland complementing and preserving the unique Swan River and city vistas, and protecting the aesthetic, amenity and conservation values of the area for the enjoyment of the community.

(iii) Key objectives

- Ensure development of the parkland and facilities is undertaken to preserve and conserve valued vistas and landscapes and is sensitive to and in empathy with the surrounding areas including Perth City, Kings Park and Heirisson Island.
- Develop and enhance existing parklands, flora and fauna to recreate the original natural environs of the Swan River foreshore where appropriate.
- To provide facilities that preserve and promote valued cultural environments and historically significant locations and events associated with the Park.
- In recognition of the regional significance of the Park, ensure all funding sources are investigated and incorporated into the financial management development plan for the Park ensuring that the financial impact on the ratepayers of the City of South Perth are minimised.
- Ensure that proposals for enhancement and development recognise the recurring cost of Park maintenance with a view to minimising any adverse impact on the ratepayers of the City of South Perth.
- Ensure that the promotion of the Park recognises its unique value and the contribution made by the citizens of the City of South Perth.
- To monitor the implementation and progress of the Plan. The outcomes to be presented in the annual reports of the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust.
- To review the Plan at a minimum of five years, or when changing circumstances create an environment that would compromise the integrity of the plan, identifying which objectives and recommendations have been achieved and any reasons for facets of the Plan not being implemented.

(iv) Recommendations

The recommendations of the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee as amended by Council in January 1997 have been incorporated into Section 6 of this Plan with some minor modifications.

3.3 Policies and Guidelines for Development of the Plan

The Swan River Management Strategy was prepared in 1988 by the Government of Western Australia with the primary objective of balancing competing demands for use and development with the need to conserve and enhance the functional healthy river environment for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Management Strategy is a broadly based document, which brings together all aspects of river management and provides an integrated plan for action by identifying the roles and responsibilities of various agencies. The document outlines an overall vision for the river environment (including foreshore areas) and also gives specific recommendations in relation

to land use and river planning, conservation and environmental protection, recreation and tourism, navigation and boating safety, fishing, public participation and management.

One of the key recommendations of the Strategy is that the Swan and Canning Rivers and their foreshores be treated as a single entity because of their value, and that government agencies adopt a regional approach to planning and management of the waters and foreshores. This should be achieved by adopting an integrated system of Regional Parks, Parks and Recreation Reserves, conservation areas, recreational nodes and linking linear Parks. Overall management and development plans for river foreshore areas were recommended to be prepared in each municipality.

Sir James Mitchell Park falls within the area covered by the recently gazetted *Environmental Protection (Swan and Canning Rivers) Policy*, 1998. As such, its management must be consistent with achieving its environmental quality objectives. These include restoring and maintaining water quality, riparian and adjacent vegetation, wildlife habitat and diversity, landscape amenity, recreational elements as well as management of drainage and wastewater. The policy makes provision for the setting of environmental quality objectives and a program for achieving these objectives, both of which have yet to be fully developed.

3.4 Administering the Plan

The location of Sir James Mitchell Park as part of the ‘river environment’ of the Swan River estuary has implications for the planning and management of the area. The Swan River Trust therefore has a central role to ensure that these regional concerns and planning strategies are met.

The City of South Perth is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Park area. Government agencies assist it with planning and management of these areas to ensure a balance of regional and local interests in the development and management of the river environment.

An organisational chart showing the relationship between the main waterways bodies, the City of South Perth and other government agencies is outlined in Figure 1. A brief outline of the responsibilities of some of the main organizations is given below.

3.4.1 Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust is constituted under the *Swan River Trust Act* (1988). The Trust has overall planning, protection and management responsibility for the Swan and Canning Rivers. Specifically the functions of the trust are to:

- Manage and protect the ‘Swan River Trust Management Area’ and also to work with local government and other bodies to provide facilities around the river.

Waterways management responsibilities

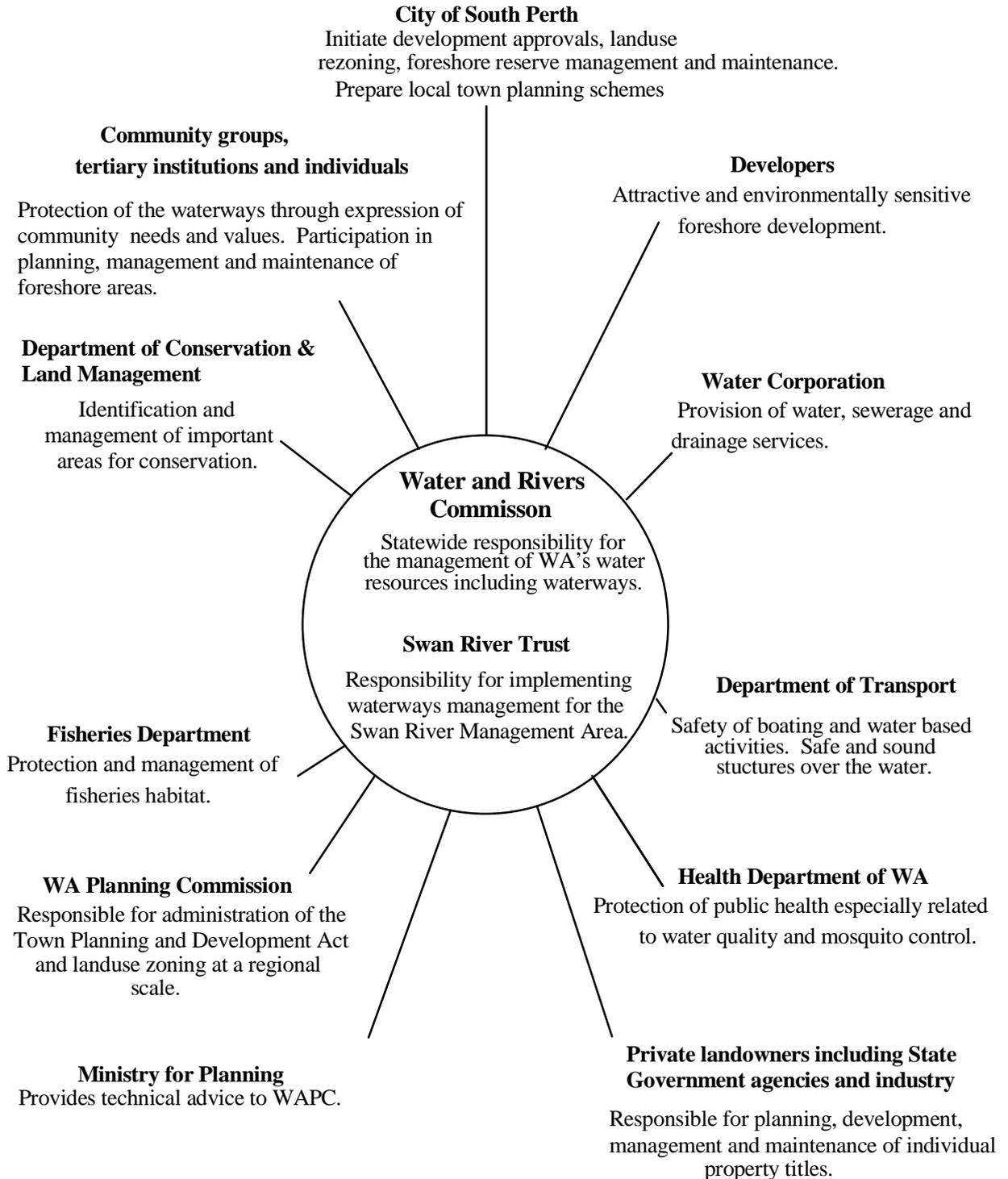


FIGURE 1. The waterways management role of the Swan River Trust and City of South Perth in relation to other organisations and groups in waterways planning and management.

- Advise the Minister responsible for the administration of the Swan River Trust Act about development proposals within the management area and advise the Ministry for Planning about developments on adjoining areas.
- Control and prevent pollution of the rivers and keep them clear of rubbish.
- Assist and advise other state and local government authorities with regard to their responsibilities.
- Advise on local authorities town planning schemes around the rivers.
- Monitor and control erosion of riverbanks.

The Swan River Trust Management Area comprises the waters of the Swan-Canning River system upstream of the Stirling Bridge and adjoining parks and recreation reserves, including Sir James Mitchell Park.

3.4.2 Water and Rivers Commission

The role of the Water and Rivers Commission is to manage the State's surface and ground water resources including rivers and estuaries. Its focus is on the protection of environmental values and allocating water for a wide range of uses to support the State's development in a sustainable manner.

Key relevant Water and Rivers Commission initiatives and program areas include:

- public water supply,
- surface water and drainage control,
- water sensitive urban design,
- groundwater quality protection,
- groundwater allocation,
- estuary, river and wetland management and protection, and
- floodplain management.

3.4.3 City of South Perth

Local governments are responsible for planning and development control in accordance with the local town-planning scheme. Additional responsibilities include the provision of recreation facilities and the management and routine maintenance of reserves under their control.

Provisions of the ‘Town Planning and Development Act’ (1928-1986) confer several important powers upon local government authorities, which have a direct effect on the management of river environments. These are to:

- prepare and initiate changes to the town planning scheme in order to control development,
- approve and supervise residential and commercial development,
- provide advice to the Ministry for Planning concerning the subdivision and amalgamation of land.

The City of South Perth is responsible for the collection of rubbish, general repairs and the maintenance of reserves and facilities provided. The Swan River Trust arranges activities such as beach clean-ups and sand replenishment. Repairs to river retaining walls are generally carried out on a cost share basis.

The City of South Perth carries out a monthly water quality monitoring program for the artificial lakes, including the testing of temperature, pH and nutrient levels. A photographic record is also kept to visually monitor the condition of the lakes.

3.4.4 Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)

The Western Australian Planning Commission is the regional planning authority for the State. It is the agency responsible for land use zoning at a regional scale, the approval of town planning schemes, and the administration of the ‘Metropolitan Region Scheme’ and the ‘Town Planning and Development Act’ (1928).

3.4.5 Ministry for Planning (MFP)

While the WAPC is the statutory authority responsible for planning, the Ministry for Planning is responsible for developing, reviewing and implementing the land use planning system in Western Australia.

3.4.6 Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM)

The primary responsibility of The Department of Conservation and Land Management is to conserve Western Australia’s wildlife and manage public lands and waters entrusted to the Department for the benefit of present and future generations.

CALM manages state forest, timber reserves, national Parks, nature reserves and other land vested in the Lands and Forests Commission and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority. CALM is responsible for the adjoining Swan River Estuary Marine Reserve which includes areas of the water body adjacent to Milyu Reserve, Alfred Cove and Pelican Point.

3.4.7 Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department is responsible for the conservation and management of professional and recreational fisheries - through the gazettal of Fisheries Regulations and

Notices and their enforcement by Fisheries inspectors. A primary focus of the Department is to preserve and enhance the state of aquatic animal and plant life in the Swan River estuary.

3.4.8 Department of Transport (DOT)

The Department of Transport is responsible for marine safety and navigation in and on the water as well as administering a range of legislation pertaining to the:

- safe operation of vessels,
- gazettal of swimming and water-ski areas and other areas for designated boating activities,
- use of public jetties,
- control of moorings,
- closure of navigable water for safety or in case of an emergency.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1 Location and Site Description

The area now proposed to be known in its entirety as Sir James Mitchell Park occupies the foreshore area of the Swan River in South Perth between the Narrows Bridge and Ellam Street. It also includes approximately 4 ha of land to the west of the Narrows Bridge (Figure 2). It lies opposite the Perth Central Business District and occupies a total area of 30 hectares. The width of the foreshore varies from 250 m at Ellam Street to about 20 m near Point Belches.

The area has been described as follows:

‘The South Perth foreshore has reticulated lawn and gardens. There are few trees adjacent to the South Perth Esplanade and there are a number of rose beds. Sir James Mitchell Park has been extensively re-landscaped to incorporate the original paperbark swamps and the open playing ground areas. There are several man-made lakes and various facilities to encourage several recreational pursuits. The area adjacent to the foreshore reserve is high-density housing with several multistorey townhouses and units dominating the landscape. The overall appearance of the river landscape in this precinct is of an ordered and controlled environment. This is due to the maintained lawn and gardens, the retaining wall separating the water and land and the neat residential areas.’ The Swan River Trust (1997).

4.2 Land Ownership

The study area is comprised of a number of reserves, and a small area of vacant Crown land together with freehold land owned by the City of South Perth. The details relating to this land are shown in Table 1 with the location of the various parcels of land indicated on Figures 3 and 4.

4.3 Surrounding Land Use

The southern shoreline of the Swan River at South Perth encompasses a number of parks including The Esplanade, Sir James Mitchell Park and Clydesdale Park. Other important regional assets in the vicinity of Sir James Mitchell Park include Perth Zoo, Milyu Nature Reserve, McCallum Park and Royal Perth Golf Club.

The foreshore area is bordered to the south by land zoned Urban under the Metropolitan Region Scheme and largely residential under the City of South Perth Town Planning Scheme. It consists of high-density housing, hotels and cafes. There is a small area zoned Special Zone at Mends Street and a section of controlled access highway at Mill Point.

The Milyu Nature Reserve lies at the western end of the study area. The reserve is part of the Swan Estuary Marine Park and is covered by the Western Foreshore Management Plan (1993). It consists of tidal flats with sedge land and reed vegetation and is one of the only three significant wading bird habitats remaining on the Swan River. The area is recognised as an important feeding and nesting ground for trans-equatorial migratory birds.

4.4 Regional Significance

The river and its foreshore is recognised as having significant recreation and conservation values on a regional scale and its promotion as such is important (Swan River Management Strategy, 1988).

The survey undertaken by the Marketing Centre (1995) indicated that over half the users of Sir James Mitchell Park reside outside the South Perth district. At the time of the survey, approximately 40% of Park users travelled in excess of 10km to get to the Park. The Park is well positioned to take advantage of the distributor road network allowing vehicles to easily access the area via Mill Point Road and Coode Street. The foreshore area is also extensively used by residents of the City of South Perth, with 36% of the population using the foreshore once or more per week (Fenton, 1992).

The foreshore area is an important recreational cycling area and is part of the Perth bicycle network for commuting cyclists. Other common uses of the area are walking, jogging, exercising dogs, picnics/barbecues, private functions, use of playground equipment and other water based activities. In addition, several areas in the Park are used periodically for concerts and other forms of entertainment that attract large crowds of visitors to the Park. The City of South Perth Fiesta is growing in popularity and the largest event is the annual Skyshow.

The views offered by the Park are unique, with sweeping vistas of Perth Water, the city skyline and Kings Park, including significant areas of remnant vegetation and water features.

Other attractions for visitors to the area are the Old Mill, Heritage House and the Perth Zoo. The Old Mill is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) and is listed on the Register of Heritage Places. The ongoing re-development of the Perth Zoo is bringing increased numbers of people to the area. Many of these visitors use the ferry services or park in the vicinity of the Zoo. Developments of cafes and restaurants in Mends Street as well as the Boatshed Café and the Bellhouse Café are also providing further attractions for visitors to the area.

FIGURE 3. SOUTH PERTH FORESHORE WEST - LAND OWNERSHIP

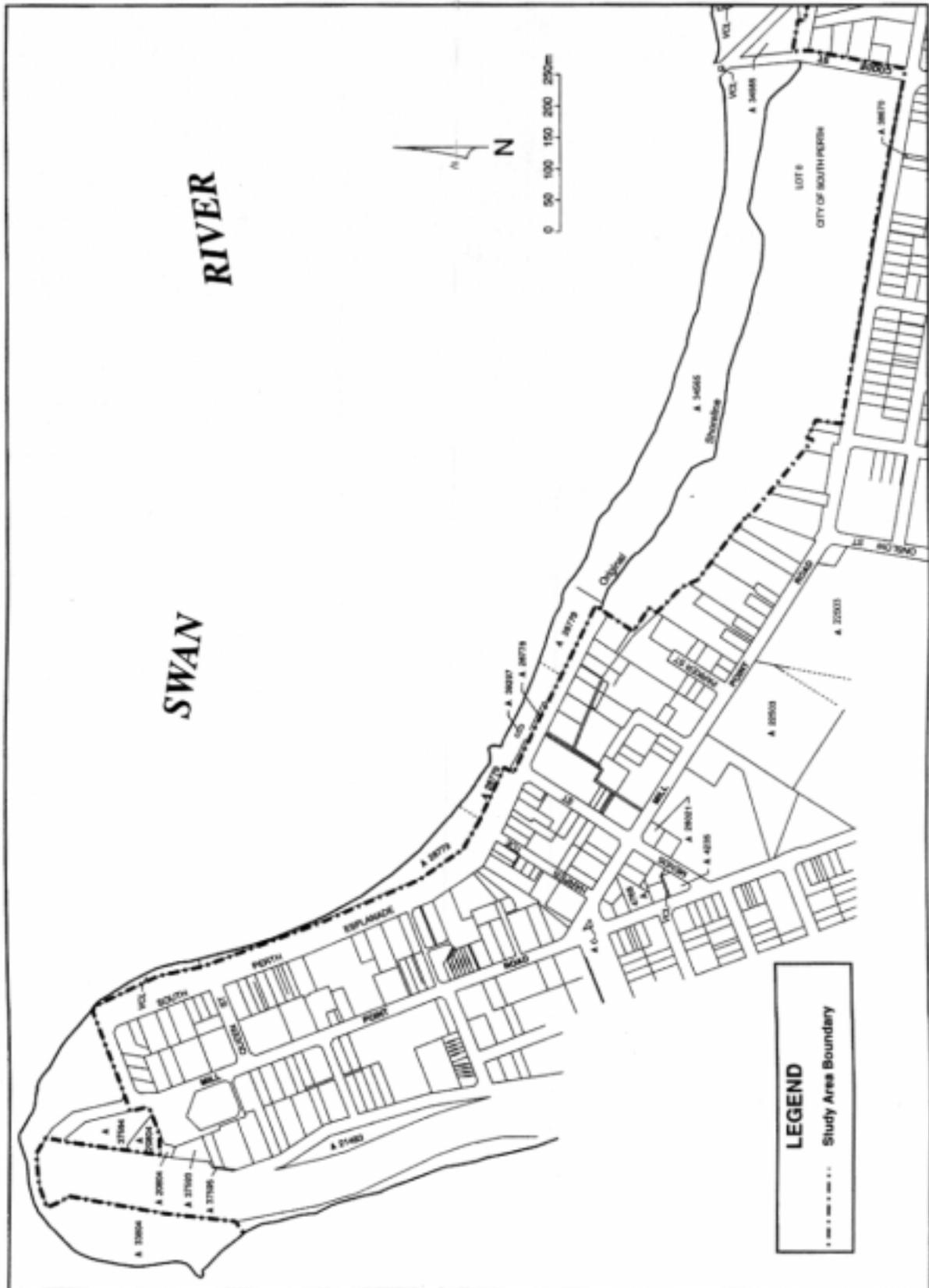


FIGURE 4. SOUTH PERTH FORESHORE EAST - LAND OWNERSHIP

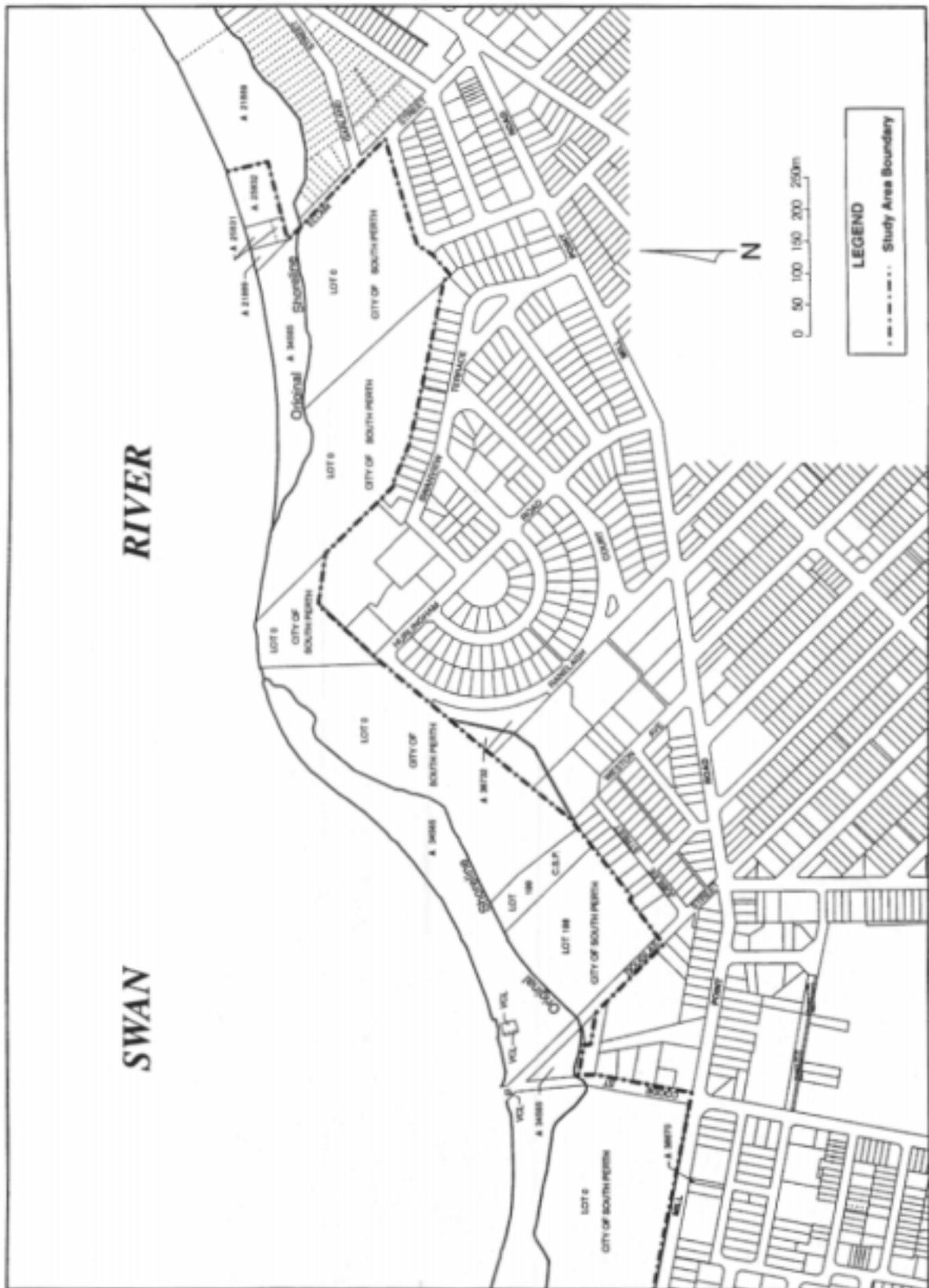


TABLE 1
SOUTH PERTH FORESHORE LAND OWNERSHIP

Reserve Number	Area (ha)	Purpose	Vesting body
33804	4.40	Recreation	City of South Perth
37594	0.50	Park and recreation	City of South Perth
20804	0.24	Public recreation	National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority
37593	0.15	Park and recreation	City of South Perth
37595	0.01	Public access way	City of South Perth
28779	1.98	Public recreation	City of South Perth
39297	0.01	Sewage pump station	Water Corporation
28778	0.05	Parking	City of South Perth
34565	14.03	Recreation	City of South Perth
24112	0.17	Recreation	City of South Perth
21889	8.05	Recreation	City of South Perth
25831	0.22	Requirements Dept Fisheries	Minister for Works
25823	0.59	Govt requirements	Minister for Works
Lot O	various	Freehold land	City of South Perth
Lot 198	3.38	Freehold land	City of South Perth
Lot 199	0.87	Freehold land	City of South Perth

Note: Portions of Reserve 33804 are located outside the study area.

5 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE VALUES

5.1 Physical Environment

5.1.1 Geological Processes

The geological formations of the South Perth precinct are made up of Quaternary deposits of partly lithified or unconsolidated sediments which are related to erosion and deposition processes during the Pleistocene and Holocene.

The major part of the South Perth precinct is made up of sandy plains, which have peaty podzols in the swampy areas known as the Bassendean Soil Unit (McArthur and Bettenay, 1974). The South Perth peninsula is made up of:

- (i) aeolian deposits of the Karrakatta Soil unit (deep yellow sands over limestone); and
- (ii) marine deposits of the Vasse unit consisting of mixed layers of recent estuarine deposits are present along the southern Perth Water foreshore.

The early settlers found the soil consisted of excessively drained deep yellow sands, except for the northern shore where the land was sandy loam.

5.1.2 Topography

South Perth is part of the Bassendean Dune System, which consists of a series of low hills (Balla, 1994). Apart from the central hill, the land in South Perth is below 15m AHD and was originally subject to frequent flooding. The present day foreshore topography is between 2m and 4m AHD, however this would have been much lower before reclamation took place. The foreshore now consists of relatively flat land, which is only broken by a small rise adjacent to Parker Street.

5.1.3 Hydrological Processes

Water Features

The existing foreshore area was reclaimed in 1939 at Miller's Pool and again in 1966, which extended the foreshore 50m into the river. Further changes to the foreshore were made with the construction of the Narrows Bridge and Kwinana Freeway, which involved re-aligning the Melville Water Foreshore and removing 60m from Point Belches.

There are three artificial lakes located on the eastern side of Sir James Mitchell Park. These receive urban stormwater, which is drained into the river and also used for reticulating the Park. An artesian bore, located near Lake Tondut in Clydesdale Park, is also utilised to maintain water levels in the lakes and to provide the bulk of the irrigation requirements. Several freshwater springs were known in the area, however these are no longer active.

Bathymetry

The riverbed is rocky and stable and varies in depth between 0.6 and 1.5m. There are two banks of shallow clayey mud flats which stretch in two north south oriented bars in the Perth Water. There are several navigation channels, which range between 1m and 1.5m below low water mark. The South Perth section of the channel originally had a large shelly fossil bed, which was excavated by the Public Works Department for reclamation at Coode Street. The river foreshore contains several underground aquifers up to 1,000m deep, which are refilled by rainwater, although extensive bore construction has reduced the amount of low salinity water in these formations.

To the west of the Causeway, the river is estuarine in character. The physio-chemical composition of the river is dependent on the high winter rainfall received in the catchment. This results in a salt-water wedge forming in the deeper basins, such as Melville Water. In the more shallow Perth Water, the stratification is less pronounced due to the agitation of the different saline layers by wind. Hydrological change also varies due to tidal influence, which ranges between 0.15 and 1m AHD (Swan River Trust, 1994).

Flooding

In 1862, severe flooding of the South Perth river flats occurred, with these floods causing Miller's Pool to become filled with sediment. In 1929, Perth received an unusual climatic sequence of strong westerly winds and very heavy rains in the hinterlands. Floodwaters inundated all of Mill Point and the South Perth Esplanade including the Chinese market gardens adjacent to Mill Point Road. Flooding has been reduced by reclaiming the low lying land and the construction of a limestone retaining wall.

Erosion and Accretion

The degree of erosion along the South Perth foreshore has been markedly reduced due to the retaining wall, which was constructed along most of the foreshore. Little erosion occurs along the shelly banks of the non-walled foreshore near Coode Street. At Milyu there is offshore deposition and erosion of fluvial sediments on the mud banks.

5.2 Vegetation Communities

5.2.1 Pre-European

Three floristic complexes are recognised in the study area: the Vasse Complex, Karrakatta Complex and the Bassendean Complex. These native communities are poorly represented on the foreshore as a result of clearing for development since European settlement. The original composition of these communities has been pieced together from historical documentation of the area and botanical surveys of other local riverine environments. A brief description of these floristic communities is given below:

(i) Vasse Complex

The flora of the Vasse Complex would have been the original vegetation at Point Belches and along a narrow line east of the Coode Street Jetty (DCE, 1980). It

consisted of a mixture of closed Melaleuca scrub to fringing woodland of flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) and Melaleuca species. It would have also included an open forest of tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) on the higher land. Wetlands would have originally supported swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*), stout paperbark (*Melaleuca preissiana*) and saltwater paperbark (*Melaleuca cuticularis*), salt sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*), christmas tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*), robin redbreast bush (*Melaleuca lateritia*) and coojong (*Acacia saligna*).

(ii) Karrakatta Complex

A small section of Point Belches originally supported the flora identified as being the Karrakatta Complex. This complex is predominantly tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*). The understorey consisted of slender banksia (*Banksia attenuata*), firewood banksia (*Banksia menziesii*) and bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*). In addition, sheoak (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*) and peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) are found.

(iii) Bassendean Complex

The tip of Point Belches was predominantly part of the Bassendean Complex. The vegetation ranges from woodland of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), sheoak (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*), and various banksia species (*Banksia* spp.) to sedge lands on the moister and lower sites.

Sir Charles Fraser, who was a botanist on the 1827 Stirling exploratory party, described Point Belches as having banksias, eucalypts and the shrubs consisted of a ‘beautiful Isopogon, a species of *Acacia* and a *Jacksonia* with crimson flowers’. Early residents of South Perth recall that there were abundant swanberries (*Rhagodia baccata*), a native berry that was very sweet and popular with both locals and goannas. They also recall that between Mends Street and the Causeway there was a belt of rivergum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), salt sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*), paperbark (*Melaleuca* spp.), reeds and rushes (Gothard, 1988). The hinterland was described as undulating with jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and banksia (*Banksia* spp.) (Crowley, 1962).

5.2.2 Post-European

Settlement of the area by Europeans has resulted in the introduction of exotic plants with few examples of remnant native vegetation remaining. The foreshore along Sir James Mitchell Park, Point Belches and McCallum Park consist of a lawn of couch (*Cynodon dactylon*) along with Kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*). The man-made lakes have some fringing rushes (*Typha* and *Baumea*), large Willows (*Salix babylonica*) and Cotton Palms (*Washingtonia* spp.) on the islands. Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and pine seedlings (*Araucaria* spp.) are prominent exotics along the Kwinana Freeway. At Milyu Nature Reserve pigface (*Carpobrotus aquilaterus*) can be found, along with wild oats (*Avena fatua*), bearded oats (*Avena barbata*), cats tail (*Lagurus ovatus*) and couch (*Cynodon dactylon*).

5.3 Fauna

The study area provides habitat for a variety of animals including birds, reptiles and mammals. These are described below.

(i) Birds

The artificial lakes located on the foreshore attract a wide variety of birds, many of which have had their normal habitat reduced. These include: White Faced Heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenegrosa*), Purple Swampphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), the Black Pacific Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*), and Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) (Birds Australia, 1997).

Waterbirds feed on invertebrate fauna, algae and other aquatic plants in the artificial lakes. Some bird species are also known to nest in the fringing reeds. Bird movement has been documented between the lakes on the foreshore and those in the nearby Perth Zoo.

In Perth Water, the most common birds noted are the Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*), Darter (*Aninga melanogaster*), Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) and Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). All of these species forage for fish. Silver Gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*) are very common all over the estuary and around the lakes and foreshore. These scavenger feeders are nuisance birds when fed by humans.

Woodland birds familiar to the Park include the Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), the Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*), Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and the Singing Honeyeater (*Melithreptus lunatus*). Introduced species such as the Spotted and Laughing Turtle Doves (*Streptopelia* species) are also commonly seen at the Park.

(ii) Reptiles, amphibians and mammals

A detailed fauna survey was not undertaken for this Plan, however the following inferences have been made based on the habitat present.

Frogs likely to occur within the study area include *Crinea georgiana*, *Litoria moorii* and *Heleioporus eyrei*. Lizards such as the Bobtail (*Tiliqua rugosa*), and Grey's skink (*Menetia greyii*) have been reported by locals. It is likely that the Common Brush-tail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) and the Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*) may be still present in the Parkland, although there little remaining remnant vegetation on-site able to provide sufficient habitat to support a significant population.

(iii) Invertebrates

No formal invertebrate study has been undertaken in the study area.

(iv) Feral animals and domestic pets

Feral animals such as the House mouse (*Mus domesticus*), Black rat (*Rattus rattus*), Feral cat (*Felis catus*), Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) may occur within Sir James Mitchell Park. The fox and cat pose a major threat to native wildlife due to their predatory behaviour, while rabbits can affect efforts to revegetate areas as they feed on new plant growth. Dogs can disturb nesting birds if not controlled on a leash.

5.4 Aquatic Environment

5.4.1 Vegetation

Seagrasses do not occur in Perth Water, however there are numerous species of algae, the occurrence and distribution of which is determined by the seasonal hydrology. Populations are most dense in autumn when waters are most saline (Thurlow *et al.* 1986, Allendale, 1981). While the macro algae are considered to play a relatively minor part in the estuarine food web, phytoplankton are clearly very important (Hillman, 1984). Aquatic vegetation is a vital part of the estuarine ecology and its survival depends on maintenance of the water quality of the estuary.

5.4.2 Invertebrates

Estuaries are known for their high biological productivity with aquatic fauna abundant in areas supporting aquatic vegetation, i.e. where complex food webs are established. The sandy, shallow riverbed alongside the Park foreshore provides a favourable habitat for invertebrate fauna. Planktonic invertebrate fauna generally feed on phytoplankton or smaller zooplankton, while benthic species are often detritivores. These invertebrates in turn are an important food source for estuarine fish and wading birds. Some of the larger crustaceans such as the King prawns (*Penaeus latisulcatus*), school prawns (*Melapenaeus dalli*) and the blue manna crabs are particularly abundant in the Swan River during summer. Another notable invertebrate is the gastropod *Coxiella striatula* that has a high conservation value.

5.4.3 Fish

The majority of fish in Perth Water are carnivorous and live in the water column, for example Herring, Mullet and Whiting, as opposed to being bottom feeding (Cobbler and Bream). The Swan River has an unusually high number of individuals and species (Thurlow *et al.* 1986, Chubb, 1979). The greatest population and diversity of estuarine fish usually occurs when salinity is high. The Yellow-eyed Mullet (*Aldrichella forster*), Sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), Herring (*Nematolosa vlaminghi*), Common Blowfish (*Torquigener pleurogramma*) and Cobbler (*Cnigoglonis macrocephalus*) are all common in the river.

5.5 Historical Land Use

5.5.1 Pre-European

It is believed by Lyon (in Collard *et al*, 1996) that the South Perth area was the country of Beeloo Nyungars or river people. The key Nyungar figure at the time of colonisation was Munday. Nyungars who used this area were known as *Gareen* and their place was *Gareenup* (Vinnicombe, 1989). An important camping and fishing area was situated between the present-day Richardson Park and Mill Point (*Gareenup*) and this area was referred to as *Booryulup* or the place of the *booryul* or magic people (Collard *et al*, 1996). Part of this area is located in the Milyu Nature Reserve and the Kwinana Freeway has since covered some.

The South Perth foreshore side of the river is known by Nyungars as *Gaboodjoolup* or 'the place of the shore'. Further east is *Joorolup* or 'place of the jarrahs' (Collard *et al*, 1996). It is recorded (Bates, 1992) that Nyungars would camp in the South Perth area when the *beere* or banksias were flowering and extract honey from the blossom.

During the 1850s, there were violent confrontations between Nyungars and the very small white population in the area. After this time, a camp near the present day Causeway was established and occasionally Nyungars would use the South Perth area (Florey, 1995). During the 1930s and 40s the Parfitt and Pickett families lived here and other families visited the area to catch prawns, bees, fish and crabs (O'Connor *et al*, 1989).

5.5.2 Post-European Settlement

The Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh first sighted the area in 1697. In 1801, the French exploratory party lead by Francois Heirisson was stranded at the muddy flats now known as the Causeway and the islands were named 'Iles Heirisson'. Stirling's exploratory party mapped the Swan and named Point Belches after Peter Belches, 3rd Lieut. of HMS Success.

The early colony was planned from 1829 and the South Perth peninsula was identified for suburban extension of Perth. In the early years there was little need for a suburb extending from Perth and as a consequence the area was quite slow to grow due to its inaccessibility and lack of land suitable for productive agriculture.

In 1833, the first land grant in the "Suburb of Perth" was allocated to William Shenton and the following year he opened his mill. Later in 1834, the mill was attacked by Aborigines of the Murray River people who took the flour and equipment. In a second incident, the mill was burnt down and needed to be rebuilt. It ceased operation in 1854.

Miller's Pool at the tip of Point Belches was a popular boating spot, however with the approval of the South Perth Roads Board, the government filled in the pool. This was done to stop foreshore erosion, reduce river flooding, improve transport and fill in the algae collecting bays between Richardson Street and Mends Street. There was great opposition to the project, however it was justified by the Road Board due to the plan to bridge Perth Water by islands or a punt ferry. In 1840, the problem of accessing South Perth was overcome by the construction of the first Causeway over Heirisson Island.

Early plans for a railway from Fremantle to Guildford through South Perth were never implemented.

South Perth suburban lots were offered for sale in 1834 and these were bought by a number of families and by 1859 a total of 65 people lived in the area.

All along the South Perth foreshore between the Causeway and Point Belches were Chinese market gardens, recorded from 1888 (Crowley, 1962). The land on the foreshore was owned by a number of white families who allowed the market gardeners to cultivate the rich loam and the area became known as 'Yellow Hill'. The area had springs and the gardeners built several drains to water the gardens, which were filled with minnows and goldfish. As the government refused to grant miners leases to the Chinese population and they were not allowed to become naturalised, many of the Chinese migrants settled in South Perth. In 1903, conditions became so crowded that bubonic plague broke out. However the market gardens were a popular feature of South Perth and the local people boasted that the produce was the best in the State. They remained until the 1950s when the City of South Perth took over the foreshore.

The Mends Street and Coode Street Jetties were built in 1894 and 1896 respectively. Previously, the first vessels used on the South Perth run were the two small side paddle steamers Princess and Empress run by the South Perth Ferry Company. These transported passengers between Barrack Street, Perth, and Queen Street, South Perth.

Subdivision and estate developments began in Como in 1905 and within less than ten years, the adjoining area, including South Perth, had been rapidly developed. A tram service was in place between 1922 and 1952, linking the ferry ports to the growing suburbs.

Reclamation work began in 1939 and was subsequently completed in 1966. A plan to construct a bridge across the Narrows water began in 1954 and involved taking 60 metres off Point Belches and reclaiming a significant part of Perth Water. The Narrows Bridge was opened in 1959 and the Kwinana Freeway built.

High-rise development began along the foreshore in the 1960s associated with a dramatic population boom in Perth. The 32 hectares of reclaimed land was used as a golf driving range up until the late 80s when it was re-landscaped into artificial lakes and a general recreation area.

6 CURRENT USES AND ZONING FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Activities

6.1.1 Recreation

The open grassed areas along the foreshore are popular for activities such as picnics, barbecues, walking, exercising dogs, bird watching, painting, reading and playing. Water based activities include water skiing, sailing (largely surf cats), wind surfing, freestyle jet skiing, parasailing, fishing, swimming, canoeing and crabbing. On land, jogging, walking, rollerblading and cycling are active pursuits.

In addition, the foreshore and river provide a venue for special events like the Australia Day Sky Show. Large numbers of people gather on the foreshore for such special events.

Most recreational activities occur downstream from Hurlingham Road, with Mends Street particularly busy because of its association with the Perth Zoo and the ferry service. These activities consist of:

- Cycling on the dual use path, the length of the foreshore with two loops toward the southern boundary.
- Water skiing, which is restricted to specific zones on the Swan River. These are adjacent to Pt Belches and between Hurlingham Road and Heirisson Island.
- Sailing Surf cats, which are hired from facilities at Coode Street between September and May.
- Parasailing, which is provided by a private operator based at Point Belches.
- Line fishing, prawning and crabbing, which occurs mainly at Mill Point.
- Freestyle jet skiing, which occurs in a section of the waterway designated for this purpose adjacent to the extreme western area of the park.
- Rowing, which occurs adjacent the Narrows Bridge, and near the Wesley College Boatshed.

6.1.2 Commercial Enterprises

As the South Perth foreshore is heavily used by the public for recreation purposes it is also attractive to a variety of commercial operators.

There are two operators licensed to hire out surf cats at Coode Street. Both companies have 18 boats. In addition, a water ski hire business and a parasailing hire business operate from the foreshore at Point Belches. There are also a number of itinerant vendors operating in the area.

Transperth operates a passenger ferry service between Coode Street and Mends Street in South Perth and Barrack Street in Perth. Commuters and tourists heavily use the service.

The Boatshed Café is located on the foreshore at Coode Street and the Bellhouse Café is located on the Mends Street Jetty. A kiosk is located to the west of the Narrows Bridge at Mill Point. The structure is totally self-contained with water supply and effluent disposal by way of bulk reservoirs that are serviced regularly.

6.2 Proposed Activities

Since development of the park there have been a large number of proposals for commercial operations. These have ranged from flower selling to sky diving onto the park and bungy jumping from towers. Although well intentioned these proposals have highlighted the potential conflict between recreational uses of the park and commercial and non-commercial uses. Zoning and introduction of a policy provide a basis on which to consider proposals for commercial operations and to protect the values of the park.

6.3 Commercial Activity Policy and Zoning Plan

6.3.1 Policy Statement

It is recognised that the area known as Sir James Mitchell Park has been created primarily as a regional passive recreation area that contains significant environmental, conservation and public amenity areas. It is important that these values together with the integrity and amenity of the area are not compromised.

The City of South Perth recognises that limited commercial activity is necessary for the benefit of users, however any such activity should be in harmony with the values of the Park.

To ensure that these values are not compromised the use of a Commercial Activity Policy will enable an approved commercial activity to be provided and maintained without adversely affecting the Park.

The policy establishes guidelines that will form the basis for consideration of proposals for any commercial activity. Applications for a commercial activity will be assessed against the requirements of the policy as set out in Appendix 1.

6.3.2 Zones

To ensure orderly development of the Park, a Zoning Plan (Figure 5) has been created for:

- 1 Recreation, Play Areas;
- 2 Parkland Activities;
- 3 Environmental/Conservation areas;
- 4 Service Areas, Parking & Public Facilities;
- 5 Public Event / Mixed Use Areas.
- 6 Commercial activities;

7 KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT

7.1 Identification of Issues

A list of recommendations for the management and future development of Sir James Mitchell Park was formulated by the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee and was subsequently reviewed and modified by the City of South Perth prior to acceptance by Council in February 1997. These recommendations have been further revised and updated in this Plan by the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust where there has been implementation of, or changes to, a particular issue and/or in order to comply with current government agency guidelines, management strategies and City of South Perth local laws.

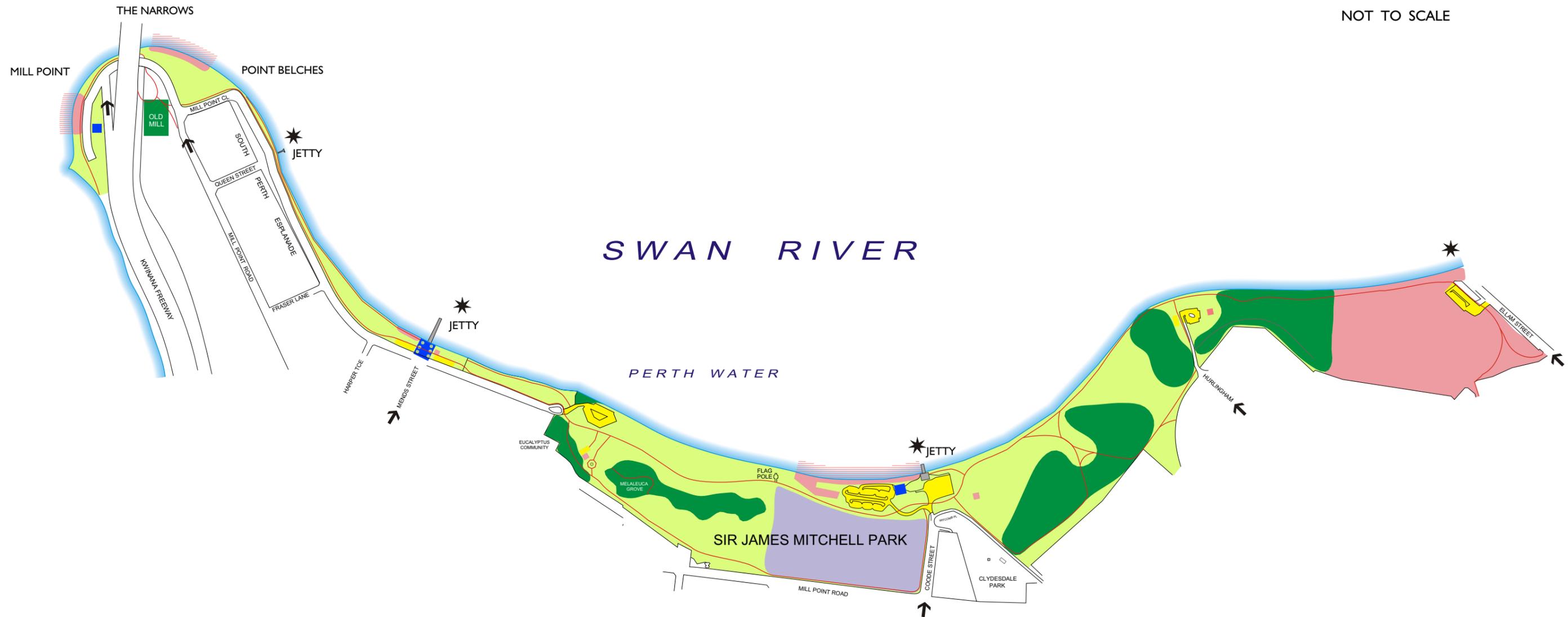
The recommendations have been grouped into the following key areas, including:

- Gazettal of Sir James Mitchell Park
- Commercial development
- Recreation
- Public facilities/transport
- Heritage
- Plant communities and tree planting
- Artificial wetlands
- Beaches and retaining walls
- Nuisance animals
- Public awareness and education
- Review of the Plan

For each of these issues a set of management principles have been developed by the City of South Perth and Swan River Trust. These principles are highlighted in a box beneath each heading. A discussion is then given of each issue prior to stating the recommendations for future management. Agencies responsible for the implementation of each recommendation are identified in Table 2 (Section 7).

FIGURE 5:
 Sir James Mitchell Park
 Foreshore Management Plan

Activity Zoning Plan
 NOT TO SCALE



LEGEND	LEVEL OF PUBLIC ACCESS	COMMENT
Recreation, Play Areas	HIGH	Yachting, Boating, Games, Playground
Parkland Activities	HIGH	Picnic, BBQ, Walking, Informal Play, Leisure
Environmental / Conservation Areas	LOW	Habitat
Service Areas, Parking & Public Facilities	HIGH	Carpark, Toilets, Telephone, Boat Launch
Public Event Areas / Mixed Use	HIGH	Exhibitions, Public Functions
Commercial Activities	HIGH	Kiosk, Cafe
Transport Node		
Major Links		

7.2 Gazettal of Sir James Mitchell Park

Principle

To provide integrated management and confirmation of the regional significance of the South Perth foreshore.

The Sir James Mitchell Park and the remainder of the study area to the west form an integral part of the recreational opportunities and landscape amenity of the southern shoreline of Perth Water within the City of South Perth. There are common management issues that are best addressed in the overall context of this area. Doing so also reinforces the regional significance of this area of the Swan River foreshore.

Action 1:

The foreshore parkland from the second groyne adjacent to the Kwinana Freeway on the western foreshore, to Ellam Street, be gazetted as Sir James Mitchell Park.

7.3 Commercial Development

Principle

To provide for the establishment of appropriate commercial enterprises along the foreshore. Such operations should be consistent with the passive recreational focus of the foreshore and the City of South Perth's policy for Commercial Activity on Sir James Mitchell Park.

The Swan River Management Strategy recommended provision of tearoom/kiosk facilities at appropriate locations to service foreshore users including pedestrians and cyclists (see Section 5.2.5 and Recommendation A83 of the Strategy).

The Boatshed Café and the Bellhouse Café are located on the foreshore at Coode Street and on the Mends Street Jetty respectively and there is a kiosk located to the west of the Narrows Bridge at Mill Point.

Parasailing and water-ski hire operators located at Point Belches have no requirement for additional infrastructure or services.

The surf cat hire operators operate from mobile facilities that are removed from the foreshore when not in use. However development of car parking, landscaping and increased recreational use of the foreshore makes removal of these facilities in the evening difficult. Their replacement by permanent facilities that complement the adjacent café would be appropriate provided they were unobtrusive. Details of the design, tenure arrangements,

responsibility and operation of these facilities would be determined by the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust.

The City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust recognise that limited commercial activity is necessary for the benefit of users, however any such activity should be in harmony with the values of the Park. To ensure that these values are not compromised, the City of South Perth has developed a policy for Commercial Activity on Sir James Mitchell Park set out in Appendix 1 to enable approved commercial activities to be provided and maintained without adversely affecting the Park. The policy establishes guidelines for considering proposals for any commercial activity. Applications for a commercial activity will be assessed against the requirements of the policy.

7.3.1 Special Events

The market survey (Marketing Centre, 1995) indicated that approximately 80% of respondents were in favour of special events consisting of concerts, open-air theatre/opera and music of varying types. This outcome is in accordance with The City of South Perth's current practices and a more comprehensive programme of events should be considered for the future. The South Perth Foreshore Review Committee were in favour of these types of events and noted that children's events and kite flying also received a favourable response from approximately 23% of those surveyed.

The Committee also believed that organised commercial events such as the Circus or Caravan Show that were traditionally staged on McCallum Park should not be encouraged onto Sir James Mitchell Park. However the policy for Commercial Activity on Sir James Mitchell Park allows approval for such events provided they are limited to less than 21 days duration.

Action 2.

Commercial developments and special events should only be permitted in suitable locations which are chosen after careful consideration of social, environmental and physical planning criteria, in the context of the City of South Perth's policy for Commercial Activity on Sir James Mitchell Park.

Action 3.

Mobile surf cat hire facilities be replaced by permanent facilities that are unobtrusive and complement the adjacent cafe under arrangements determined by the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust.

7.4 Recreation

Principle

Maintain a variety of recreational opportunities on and near the foreshore and minimise conflict between users.

The diversity of recreational activity that occurs within the Park may result in conflict between foreshore users and adjoining landowners unless activity is properly planned and managed. Noisy and disruptive activities may not be consistent with picnicking, relaxing and the residential use of neighbouring land.

7.4.1 Water Sports

At present, shoreline recreation is generally associated with water-based activities including sailing, rowing and other forms of boating. It may be necessary to discourage new activities in the future if the existing amenity is to be retained.

The use of personal water craft (otherwise referred to by the trade name ‘Jet Ski’) in Perth Water has been the subject of inquiry and debate, mainly with regard to safety and noise produced when they are operated at high speeds and for freestyling. The City of South Perth has consistently opposed the use of personal watercraft on Perth Water.

A ‘Strategy for the Management of Personal Water Craft’ (1996) was prepared by the Department of Transport in order to designate personal watercraft areas and define the limitations for use.

Personal watercraft are allowed to operate in Perth Water but as is the case for all other vessels they are restricted to an 8 knot speed limit outside of the navigation channel along the northern side of Perth Water. Freestyling activities are prohibited.

The Department of Transport has allocated an area of the Swan River for these activities in the area immediately to the west (downstream) of the Narrows Bridge and up to 150m from the boundary of Milyu Reserve. This area is also used for parasailing, which is operated under a commercial activity licence.

Land based facilities to support the use of this area for personal watercraft are inadequate and concern exists over the effect of personal watercraft using the area adjacent to Milyu Nature Reserve. On 17 December 1997 Council resolved:

“That the Department of Transport be advised that this Council is not prepared to enter into any agreement to allow Personal Powered Water Craft to utilise the Narrows Water Ski Area”.

Action 4.

Improve enforcement by the Department of Transport and Water Police of existing marine regulations to control the speed of personal watercraft and other powerboats on Perth Water.

Action 5.

Ensure any new water based activity likely to increase crowding on the foreshore be consistent with the infrastructure required to support the activity.

7.4.2 Land Based Activities

The City of South Perth has developed a system of dual use paths to meet the needs of cyclists, joggers and walkers. As in similar locations around the river there may be conflict between commuting and recreational cyclists who travel at relatively high speeds, and other path users.

Encouraging high-speed cyclists to use the road system or providing separate paths can reduce this difficulty. Alternatively the shared paths could be widened to 3 metres and marked with a line to provide space for both pedestrians and cyclists. It may also be appropriate to impose speed limits for cyclists in the area.

There are two areas that could accommodate a higher level of activity. The first is the large area of open space west of Coode Street and the second is at Ellam Street. The land near Ellam Street is the most appropriate for junior sports, although effective subsoil drainage will need to be installed before the turf becomes suitable for winter use. This area also adjoins residential land and activities should be planned to avoid disturbance.

Action 6.

The City of South Perth prepare a report on the demand for additional areas for junior sports and on the work required to establish suitable grounds in the area of the Park in the vicinity of Ellam St.

Action 7.

As a general principle, pedestrians and cyclists should be separated.

Action 8.

The existing dual use path should be retained and a new pedestrian only footpath be constructed.

Action 9.

The new footpath route should be constructed of suitable material generally located closer to the river.

Action 10.

Cycle paths within the Park should be designed and constructed primarily for low speed commuter and recreational cycling.

Action 11.

Cycle access points to the foreshore area should be better promoted and signed.

Action 12.

Bicycle parking facilities should be extended to ensure coverage at toilets, picnic areas and special features.

Action 13.

The City of South Perth advise Bikewest of the need to develop and promote a comprehensive education program for cyclists, highlighting their responsibilities to lower their speeds when using recreational facilities in the vicinity of other Park users.

Action 14.

The City of South Perth to consider all avenues to restrict speeding cyclists or cyclists riding in a manner considered dangerous to others.

7.5 Public Facilities/Transport

Principle

To encourage a variety of compatible uses along the foreshore while maintaining the natural and social values of the area.

7.5.1 Access

Motor vehicle

Sir James Mitchell Park is a regional facility with over half the users residing outside the South Perth district; approximately 40% of Park users travel in excess of 10km to get to the Park (Marketing Centre, 1995). While it was recognised that private vehicles would continue to be the dominant mode of transport to the Park in the foreseeable future, the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee was of the opinion that additional formal parking facilities should not be developed in the Park.

The Park is well positioned to take advantage of the distributor road network allowing vehicles to easily access the area via Mill Point Road and Coode Street. It is recommended that Coode Street should form the principle entry point to the Park with a major upgrade recommended for Coode Street north of Mill Point Road.

Action 15:

Coode Street north of Mill Point Road should be the principal entry point to the Park.

Action 16:

Coode Street north of Mill Point Road should be upgraded to incorporate a central island landscaped and beautified.

Action 17.

There should be no development of additional formal parking areas within the Park.

Action 18.

Parking in the form of embayment on-road facilities should be provided on the approach roads as the preferred means of accommodating additional parking needs.

Action 19.

Overflow parking on the grassed areas should continue to be provided for special events.

Pedestrian

Pedestrian access to the Park is mainly from Mends Street. There is also a high volume of use at the Mill Point Road and Coode Street junction, adjacent to Wesley College, where pedestrians cross to access the Park.

Action 20.

Pedestrian and vehicle traffic within the Park and surrounding area be monitored and recommendations about future development of pedestrian access be developed as and when required.

Action 21.

The City of South Perth seek Main Roads Western Australia approval for the inclusion of a walk phase at the Mill Point Road/ Coode Street traffic signals.

Ferry and bus

Apart from the ferry service that services both Mends Street and Coode Street jetties there is no other direct public transport to the Park. The nearest public bus route to service the site is along Mill Point Road. While there are regular services along this route on weekdays there are no services on weekends.

The availability of public transport was not addressed by the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee however it is believed that because of the regional significance and tourism potential of the site that facilities at the Coode Street area should allow for access of both public buses and tourist coaches.

It is recognised that increased use of private vehicles to access the Park would undoubtedly lead to a number of undesirable impacts associated with the increased level of traffic and increased need for parking. As a result, ferry and bus services are seen as desirable transport options for the Park.

Action 22.

The City of South Perth promote ferry and bus services as a desirable transport option to the Park.

Action 23.

Public bus and tourist coach drop-off/pick-up facilities be incorporated into the Coode Street access area.

Action 24.

The City of South Perth request Metrobus to provide a more comprehensive bus service on weekends and extend the CAT service to include Sir James Mitchell Park within its route.

7.5.2 Launching Ramps

The boat-launching ramp between the Boatshed Café and the Wesley College boat shed is the only facility of its type along this section of the foreshore. This ramp can become congested during periods of peak use when the adjacent parking area is also heavily used by patrons of the Café and users of the nearby parkland in general. Development of further parking at this location is inappropriate. An 8-knot speed limit now applies to Perth Water outside of the navigation channel. This reduces the attraction of the location for launching jet skis and powerboats. However, launching sites are required to service the water ski area adjacent to Heirison Island and the jet ski area west of the Narrows. This would also relieve congestion during periods of peak use, as the existing launching ramp would primarily be used for small powered dinghies, canoes and sailing vessels. Its utility could be further improved by the creation of a small beach immediately west of the ramp. This would enable boat owners to park their craft on the beach after launching and before retrieval. Such a beach could also provide for the launching and retrieval by hand of sailing dinghies and canoes.

Works associated with the duplication of the Narrows Bridge and car parking associated with the redevelopment of the depot on the foreshore at Ellam Street within the Town of Victoria Park may provide opportunities to minimise the cost of providing new facilities.

Action 25.

Additional boat launching ramps should be provided in the vicinity of the western side of the Narrows Bridge.

Action 26.

The potential for increasing the area of beach adjacent to the existing launching ramp should be assessed.

7.5.3 Park Rangers/Service Providers

The future development of the Park is aimed at providing a recreational facility that will attract and be enjoyed by large numbers of people. That enjoyment needs to be supported by facilities that are always well maintained to meet customer expectations. Any constraints imposed on Park users such as those associated with parking, dogs, security and Park users must be well policed.

Action 27.

Ensure a consistent high standard of facilities maintenance and ranger services for the Park.

7.5.4 General Facilities

To cope with the pressure from increasing numbers of visitors to foreshore areas, available space must be carefully allocated to particular uses and appropriate facilities provided. Management strategies to reduce the problems associated with visitor numbers should include:

- establishing zones for particular uses along the foreshore.
- providing facilities required by different uses at appropriate locations within the Park.

The Marketing Centre survey (July 1995) indicated that approximately 20% of activities undertaken at the Park are associated with picnicking and barbecuing. These activities are largely seasonal and increase in frequency over the summer months. The provision of an adequate number of barbecues and associated facilities such as shade areas, drinking taps, telephones, seating, toilets, children's play equipment and litter bins at picnic sites is considered an important means of meeting the Park's objectives.

The demand for these facilities is largely focused at six locations namely Mill Point, Mends Street, the eastern end of the Esplanade, Hurlingham Road, Coode Street and Ellam Street. Existing facilities at Mill Point and Mends Street are crowded because of the lack of facilities in other areas along the foreshore.

It is evident that some design work needs to be undertaken by the City of South Perth in order to upgrade some of these facilities and improve disabled access and public telephone availability. Picnic sites are regarded as appropriate locations for the placement of shade trees so that picnickers have the opportunity of accessing shelter via either the formal structures or treed areas. It was also noted that apart from extending existing picnic facilities at the Esplanade, Coode Street and Hurlingham Road, that similar areas should be created in the vicinity of Ellam Street and near the Narrows Bridge.

There should be sufficient rubbish bins along the foreshore to cope with the quantity of refuse disposed of within the Park. Bins should be placed where they are readily accessible and designed to protect the contents from wind and rain, and prevent access by Ibis, Ravens and Silver Gulls.

As the foreshore is developed the need for street and general lighting within the area will increase. Lighting should be provided around parking areas, jetties, kiosks, toilet facilities and along pathways.

The location of these facilities should be in accordance with the Zoning Plan for the Park (Figure 5).

The Wesley College Boatshed should be retained as it services the school's use of the river for rowing training. This activity is complementary to the passive recreation activities of the Park. However, the appearance of the Boatshed is inconsistent with the standard of the nearby Café and the City of South Perth needs to ensure the Boatshed is upgraded.

Action 28.

- Existing picnic sites be expanded to match user demand with new facilities being constructed in the vicinity of Ellam Street and the Narrows Bridge;
- Shelter structures be provided at picnic sites along with shade trees to provide adequate shelter from the weather; and
- Consideration be given to the provision of disabled access, water, litter bins and telephone facilities at all picnic sites.

Action 29.

The Wesley boat shed be upgraded to reflect the standard of buildings now in the Coode Street area. Upgrading should be restricted to the extent and dimensions of the existing facility.

7.6 Signage

The South Perth Foreshore Review Committee suggested that the matter of signage be addressed by the City of South Perth noting the following overall philosophy, that:

- there should be a minimum number of signs;
- signs should be combined where possible;
- any sign should relate to only the area it is located in;
- the location of signs should be in high use areas and close to car parks;
- there should be a standardisation of signage (i.e. materials, lettering, colour, etc);

- international lettering and symbols to be used where possible;
- the signs should be of good quality, appropriate and conspicuous.

Action 30.

Standard signage and furniture be developed for the Sir James Mitchell Park area.

Action 31.

The wording and location of signage be the subject of further investigation.

7.7 Heritage

There is an existing heritage trail along the foreshore of Sir James Mitchell Park. The trail was established for the 1988 Bicentenary. The existing trail requires some upgrading, extending it through the remainder of the study area and linking with plaques installed at other historical places in South Perth.

Memorable events and sites that may be included, as part of the heritage trail would include:

- Millers Pond - Pt Belches
- Hadden Hall - South Perth Esplanade
- Mends Street Jetty
- Chinese Market Gardens
- Coode Street Jetty
- Racecourse and Polo grounds.

Should the City of South Perth want to proceed with this proposal further detailed work would need to be undertaken to outline the form of the commemoration at each of the nominated sites.

Action 32.

Consideration be given to upgrade the existing heritage trail

.

7.8 Plant Communities and Tree Planting

Principle

To maintain and enhance the landscape, amenity and natural values provided by the vegetation of the foreshore.

Vegetation along the foreshore improves the amenity and aesthetic appeal of the area. Existing and enhanced planting of species endemic to the area are likely to support a wider range of insects, bird life and other fauna than exotic species. Such local species also tend to be better adapted to the local environment.

The Tooby Landscape Plan (1975) proposed that a total of 3160 trees be planted in Sir James Mitchell Park. Following widespread vandalism of trees planted and further consultation with the public, the Council revised these numbers to 1142 trees (64% reduction) in 1987. Attempts at implementing the plan since that time have met with varying success. Vandalism of trees is still a significant problem on the foreshore.

Vegetation communities located on the foreshore area consist of:

- Flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) grove at the eastern end of the Park, close to the Hurlingham Road car park. There are small clumps of swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) located near this grove and adjacent to Ellam Street;
- *Melaleuca* groves located between Coode St and the escarpment. Most of this area has been filled with the exception of one grove containing a boardwalk. This site is generally known as the *Melaleuca* Grove. This is currently being rehabilitated with local native shrubs and rushes and a volunteer group has been formed for its care;
- Flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) community near the escarpment. This is the most significant stand of remnant vegetation in the park, with several very old trees. For ease of recognition, this area will be referred to as the Eucalyptus Community;
- Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) grove on the western side of the Narrows Bridge. Some of these trees have been lost with the construction of a second bridge;

There are other significant trees located sporadically throughout the park, including flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and salt sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*).

Other significant relatively new plantings within the park include:

- Flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*), marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*), willow peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), salt sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*) and common sheoak (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*) planted along
- Ellam Street, along the foreshore and through the park up to the escarpment;

- Several clumps of river sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) located near the river;
- Coral tree (*Erythrina indica*), river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Hill's ficus (*Ficus microcarpa* var. 'Hillii'), Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), Washingtonia spp., Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*), weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*), Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and several other exotic species.
- There are very few trees along the Esplanade section that is to be included in Sir James Mitchell Park. Notable pockets of vegetation include:
 - Six large Plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) that line the ferry terminal entrance at Mends St.
 - There are several Lombardy poplar trees (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) near the car park at Mends St.
 - The park located close to the Narrows Bridge has a number of local native and exotic species, as does the foreshore on the western side of the narrows Bridge. Plans for these areas were developed by the Main Roads Department in 1989 and revised in 1993. The City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust approved these plans. A new landscape plan will be developed during construction of the second bridge.

There are a number of garden beds established throughout the park, mostly located near car parks. The planting theme for these beds was developed in the original Tooby Plan (1975). Local or Australian native shrubs and groundcovers were originally planted, though there has been a divergence from that theme in several garden beds in recent years. Several rose beds have been planted on the Esplanade to provide some relief from the expanse of turf.

The Scented Garden located toward the escarpment consists of exotic species, many with perfumed flowers. It is set within low retaining walls with a paved seating area and is currently undergoing redevelopment with a proposed water wall.

The issue of tree planting was a significant factor in the development of the foreshore management plan. It has caused concern for some sectors of the community and was the subject of significant discussion for the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee and the City of South Perth. The Marketing Centre survey (July 1995) was carried out involving 200 park users and 200 local residents in order to provide some direction to the City of South Perth as to how to resolve this issue. While some of the results were contradictory, the major findings were:

- Approximately 10% of Park users and 15% of residents thought that there should be more trees and flowers;
- Approximately 80% of Park users indicated that shady areas were one of the principal attractive features of the park;
- The provision of trees for shade was ranked as 'relatively important' by a large proportion of users, ahead of open space/grassed areas;
- Approximately 48% of Park users indicated that the gardens, trees and greenery of the

Park was the physical attribute most appealing to them;

- Approximately 86% of park users and 70% of residents indicated that the city vista was a very attractive feature of the park; while
- 50% of respondent users and 38% of residents indicated that the view was the most appealing aspect of the park;

Landscaping issues within the Park were reviewed by the South Perth Foreshore Review Committee and recommendations presented to Council to provide direction in relation to the planting scheme. The major recommendations include:

- The need to provide shade trees, particularly in and around the picnic areas.
- The need to structure the planting layout in a grouped 'finger' style design that will aid in the provision of vistas at certain locations.
- The removal of self seeded trees as appropriate.
- Groundcover plantings to be less than one metre in height
- Removing and suppressing weeds in the Melaleuca Grove as part of the ongoing rehabilitation work.

These recommendations were accepted with some minor modifications. The proposed 'finger' layout of tree and shrub plantings is designed to allow vistas of the river and city through broad 'view corridors'. This layout represents a compromise between the need for habitat, shade, aesthetic appeal and views across the river (see Figure 6).

The following definitions were established for groundcover, shrub and tree plantings:

- Groundcover – plants which when fully grown will not exceed one metre in height;
- Shrub – plants which when fully grown are not expected to exceed three metres in height;
- Tree – plants which when fully grown are expected to exceed three metres in height.

The planting strategy for the park will maximise user safety, views aesthetic appeal and provide shade cover by the appropriate mix of groundcover, shrub and tree planting.

The South Perth Foreshore Assessment Group (1995) suggested that the existing stand of flooded gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*) at the base of the escarpment be progressively replaced. The Swan River Trust and City of South Perth consider it inappropriate to remove, relocate or trim any trees unless they are introduced/weed species, senescent, present a risk to public safety or such action would improve the health of the tree. In particular, the flooded gums should be retained wherever possible in the park for the following reasons:

- The flooded gum is widely distributed in the southwest corner of WA and shows significant genetic variations between populations throughout the metropolitan region.

These locally occurring specimens have great value as a source of provenance seed stock. Further plantings in the park should be from seed stock of trees in the park.

- The flooded gum hosts a large variety of insects and bird life as opposed to species such as river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), which are not endemic to this area (Powell and Emberson, 1996).

Progressive replacement of introduced/weed species should be implemented to decrease problems with suckering or high seed dispersal ability associated with some species. In particular this applies to species such as *Salix babylonica*, *Populus nigra* 'Italica' and *Washingtonia* spp. The river red gum also presents a risk of hybridisation with the local flooded gum and should also be removed to protect the integrity of provenance seed stocks.

Action 33.

The City of South Perth accepts the 'Revised Tooby Plan – 1987' in respect of the number of trees in the area covered by that Plan.

Action 34.

Trees planted in the area covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan – 1987' be positioned so that they are generally planted in approximate elliptical groves whose major axis is oriented generally perpendicular to the river at the locations and to achieve the total number of existing and additional trees, as shown in the Planting Plan (Figure 6).

Action 35.

The Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group consult residents whose views may be affected and advise Council on the placement of trees in the area covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan – 1987'.

Action 36.

A landscape plan to be developed in areas not covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan- 1987' to give maximum benefit to Park users in those areas and, to the extent consistent with this objective, minimise obstruction of views.

Action 37.

The Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group consult residents whose views may be affected and advise Council on the implementation of the landscape plan for areas not covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan- 1987'.

Action 38.

*Local provenance *Eucalyptus rudis* and other endemic trees be planted within the Park except in areas whose character is currently defined by other species or landscape elements.*

Action 39.

Trees of endemic species be planted as an entry statement in Coode Street, and to provide shade in car parks and roadside parking areas.

Action 40.

The Melaleuca raphiophylla/Eucalyptus rudis Community and the Melaleuca raphiophylla Grove be reinforced and maintained with suitable endemic trees. Any senescent and diseased trees or trees which compromise the safety of the public or health of other trees shall be managed through treatment, or removal and replacement with endemic species.

Action 41.

A weed management strategy to be developed for the Melaleuca raphiophylla groves.

Action 42.

The Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group advise Council on the removal of self seeded trees that are inappropriately located in garden beds and roadside reserves or are undesirable species.

Action 43.

Future self-seeded trees within the Park be removed with the exception generally of trees within the Eucalyptus Community and Melaleuca Grove.

Action 44.

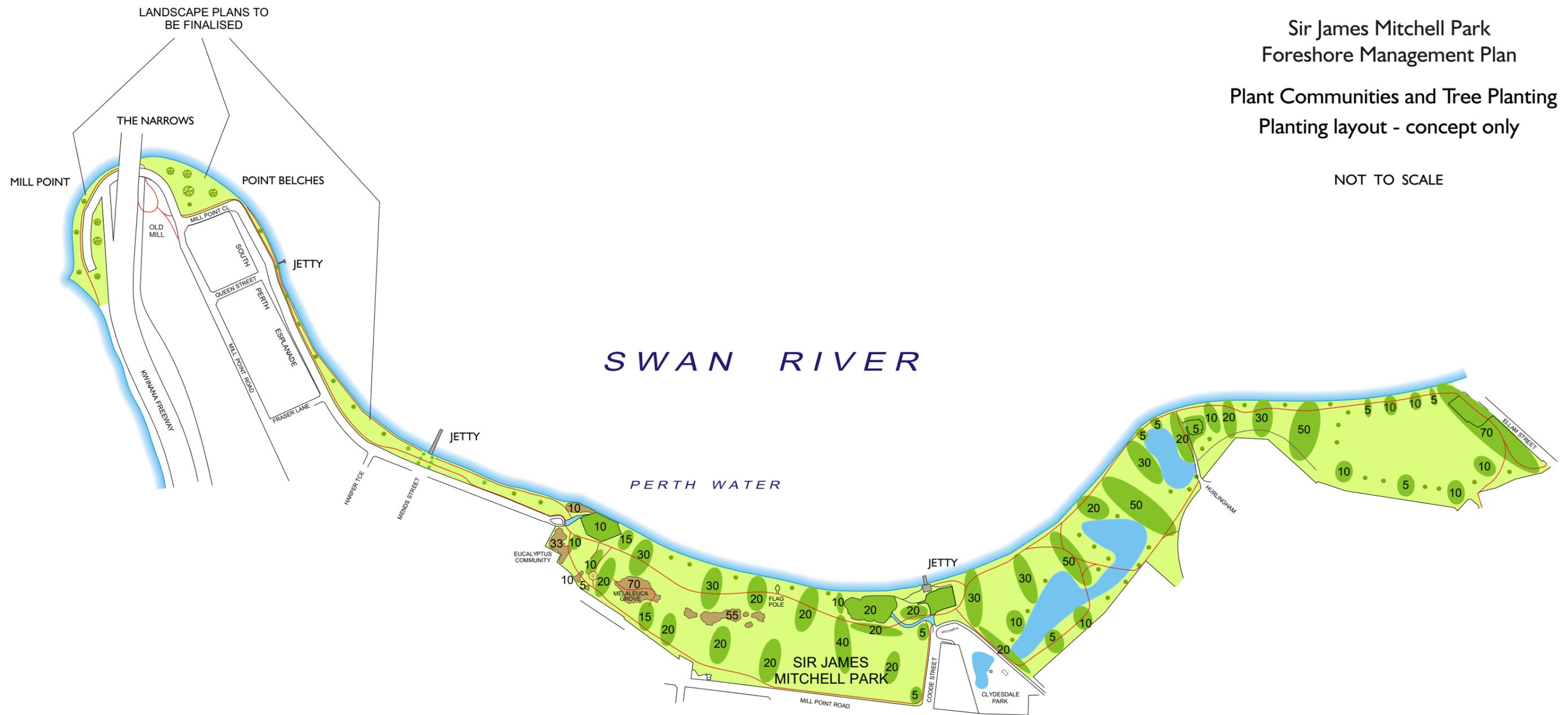
All ground cover and shrubs greater than 1m in height located adjacent to cycleway, pedestrian paths, car parks and toilets be replaced with plants growing to a height of less than 1m where they compromise safety and security.

FIGURE 6:

Sir James Mitchell Park
Foreshore Management Plan

Plant Communities and Tree Planting
Planting layout - concept only

NOT TO SCALE



LEGEND	
	Treegroves
	Single trees
	Lake
	Existing dual use path
	Conservation areas

7.9 Artificial Wetlands

Management Principles

To maintain and enhance the artificial wetlands as a habitat for birds while providing for controlled public access and their use as compensating basins and nutrient traps.

To investigate the feasibility of reintroducing Black Swans to the river in the vicinity of Perth Water.

Three artificial lakes are located on the foreshore between Coode Street and Hurlingham Road (Refer to Figure 2). These lakes are appreciated by the public for their aesthetic, educational and recreational values. The decline of wetlands in the Perth metropolitan area has increased the importance of artificial freshwater lakes to the local bird life.

The management of these artificial lakes should include:

- The maintenance of water quality by limiting the occurrence of algae and bacteria;
- Protection from disturbance by people, animals and adjacent land uses; and
- The provision of controlled access, i.e. appropriate landscaping features and/or viewing facilities, to allow visitors to appreciate the aesthetic values of the lakes.

The lakes are exposed to disturbance by dogs, people, refuse (litter, grass clippings, leaves, etc) and nutrients that may affect the bird life and adversely affect the water quality causing algal or bacterial problems. Blooms of the blue-green algae *Anabena* spp. have regularly occurred in the lakes since the late 1980s. These lakes also create potential breeding sites for mosquitoes, however no problems have been experienced to date.

At present, the artificial lakes receive some stormwater run-off and direct this drainage into the river. The smallest lake takes the overflow from the largest and is used to supplement the reticulation system. Recent rationalisation of the drains has reduced their number and visual impact, with each outlet fitted with silt traps to minimise the entry of pollutants into the river. All residences in the area are connected to deep sewerage.

There is currently little vegetation present around the perimeter of the lakes. The establishment of fringing vegetation would provide a barrier against disturbance and improve the habitat for birds, thereby adding to the value of the foreshore. This vegetation would also act as a buffer against nutrient inputs. As the water level of these lakes is maintained throughout the year the fire risk associated with fringing vegetation in summer would be minimal. Regular maintenance of adjacent grassed areas and the presence of an extensive reticulation system provide additional security against fire.

Access to the lakes needs to be provided so that visitors are able to appreciate the lake environment and the associated bird life. Access should be designed to minimise damage to the fringing vegetation and disturbance to wildlife.

Artificial lakes on the foreshore have the potential to become a suitable habitat for the re-introduction of certain waterbirds to the Swan-Canning System. The Black Swan, in particular, has become scarce on the river system in recent years largely due to the loss of suitable habitat in foreshore areas through reclamation works, infilling of natural marshlands and the dredging of Fremantle Harbour, thus altering the Swan River to a more marine environment. Black Swans prefer fresh water lakes and swamps but use the estuary fringes in the summer when many of the freshwater lakes dry out.

There is a desire in the community to re-introduce the Black Swan to the river system and associated foreshore areas. The Water and Rivers Commission has indicated an interest in assessing the opportunities for doing so. Rehabilitation works could be carried out for the existing lakes to provide such a habitat and attract the birds back into the area. It is proposed that a detailed environmental assessment be conducted to investigate the feasibility of such a plan. This assessment would include an examination of the likely effects on a population of Black Swans of powerboat use and other recreational pursuits carried out on the river/foreshore area.

The existing lakes are considered to be one of the principal attractions of the Park, as indicated by approximately 80% of respondents to a survey of Park users (Marketing Centre, 1995). The South Perth Foreshore Review Committee have also indicated that they would be in favour of incorporating a lake facility in the area to the west of Coode Street; a small deep water lake was therefore requested to be included into the rehabilitation plans for the wetlands.

The inclusion of a water feature such as a waterfall, flowing water or lily pond, was rated highly by Park users. The South Perth Foreshore Review Committee considered a number of locations for the water feature, and considered the most appropriate location for the water feature to be connecting the wetland with the scented garden.

Action 45:

Conduct an environmental assessment and develop a management plan for the lake system to address the following:

- Improvements to the water quality;
- Bird usage around the lakes and the establishment of suitable bird habitat including fringing vegetation;
- Public consultation and environmental investigations in collaboration with investigations proposed by the Water and Rivers Commission to determine the potential for modifying or extending the lakes on the foreshore as breeding habitat for Black Swans;
- Monitoring and management of mosquito and midge breeding in consultation with the

Swan River Trust and the WA Health Department.

Action 46.

Council refer to the Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group to investigate the inclusion of a water feature in parkland development incorporating a lily pond and flowing water linking the existing Melaleuca Grove to the Scented Garden.

7.10 Beaches and Retaining Walls

Principle

To provide the public with access to Perth Water and protect the river shoreline from erosion.

As shown on Figures 3 & 4, a large part of Sir James Mitchell Park has been developed on land created when shallow areas of the river were filled with dredge spoil. There is a natural tendency for wave action from the river to erode this artificial shoreline and retaining walls have been constructed to protect the filled areas. In some locations the retaining walls have begun to fail and require maintenance or replacement.

In areas of lower wave energy beaches have developed or been created by human activity and natural river processes. A narrow sandy beach exists on the western side of Mill Point and it is replenished with sand transported from the south by wave energy generated by the southwesterly sea breeze. Sand from this source and sand transported around the southern shoreline of Perth Water under the influence of easterly winds accumulates under the Narrows Bridge to form a large sand spit. This spit is used by boat operators using Perth Water but its growth should be limited. Periodically sand should be taken from the spit to nourish other beaches on Mill Point and Perth Water.

Immediately north west of the Mends Street Jetty a beach has been constructed in place of a river wall that existed there previously. This work was undertaken in 1965 on an experimental basis and it has been possible to maintain the beach since with a limited amount of artificial nourishment. North west of Coode Street the shoreline is relatively stable and is not receding as a result of erosion. This beach has been nourished with sand dredged from Perth Water and trucked in from other locations. It provides a valuable recreational focus for sailing and other forms of boating.

Between the Wesley College Boatshed and the site of the old Coode Street Jetty the river wall is collapsing and should be removed. If the wall is not replaced the shoreline will retreat creating a shallow bay which could be the site of another experimental beach held in place by two small groynes. Such a beach would be of benefit to small boat operators using the Coode Street boat ramp.

Upstream of the Wesley Boatshed, the shoreline is protected by a substantial wall that has recently been upgraded. If part of the wall were removed it would be possible to create

another experimental beach. This possibility should be considered when the wall is in need of further maintenance.

Occasionally waves resulting from strong northwesterly winds lift the wall capping causing damage to the retaining wall. As the water flows over the wall back into the river it takes the sand filling with it, undermining the wall. A more appropriate capping could be installed on top of the wall, to hold it in place.

The original Coode Street Jetty was demolished in 1989 because it had reached the end of its design life and become dangerous. The Department of Transport and the City of South Perth have constructed a small jetty in its place providing a focus for development and activity on this section of the foreshore. It may be necessary to undertake some maintenance dredging around this jetty site but this work would require an independent environmental assessment.

Action 47.

River retaining walls to be maintained as necessary.

Action 48.

The City of South Perth to assess the feasibility of creating a water feature near the Old Mill that may include beaches and shade facilities.

7.11 Pets and Pests

Principle

To monitor and control the detrimental effects of pest species and uncontrolled domestic pets on the foreshore.

The Silver Gull population along the foreshore is a growing nuisance. Management action is required as there is a potential for spread of salmonella from these populations. The most effective action to limit the population of Silver Gull would be to control potential food sources by preventing access to the bins and by educating visitors not to feed seagulls.

Many local residents exercise their dogs along the foreshore as a recreational activity. Uncontrolled dogs can be a nuisance to picnickers and visitors who wish to relax or enjoy other forms of passive recreation. Dogs may also be dangerous and can damage or disturb flora and fauna. City of South Perth officers receive complaints about faeces left by dogs. The market survey indicated that approximately 12% of Park users used the foreshore area to exercise their dogs. This is balanced by approximately 10% of those surveyed indicating that dogs off leashes and dog droppings were the least appealing features of the Park.

Dog owners should be made aware of their responsibilities and of the penalties for non-compliance with the Dog Act and the City's Local Law Relating to Dogs.

Action 49.

Monitor recent amendments to the Local Law Relating to Dogs in the Park for their effectiveness. Review if necessary;

Action 50.

Monitor the Silver Gull population and control their access to food. If further action is required it should be conducted in conjunction with CALM as part of a Silver Gull action plan.

7.12 Public Awareness and Education

Principle

To increase awareness and understanding of Sir James Mitchell Park by the local community and other foreshore users.

The management of the Sir James Mitchell Park and its associated environment can be assisted if the public has a sound knowledge and understanding of that environment. Public involvement assists in identifying issues and ensuring equitable and appropriate use and management of resources.

Management costs can be reduced if members of the community contribute their time to the management effort. In addition if the community values the foreshore, problems associated with issues like vandalism and littering will be reduced.

Information can be provided in the form of interpretative signs and pamphlets and by contact between the City of South Perth, the Swan River Trust Officer and the public.

Action 51.

Develop a public awareness strategy for the Park aimed at increasing user's understanding of the foreshore environment.

7.13 Review of Plan

Principle

To monitor implementation of the plan and revise it to ensure changes in the type and level of use of the Park and in community expectations are accommodated.

The Foreshore Review Committee recommended that the management plan be reviewed after a period of five years to update the progress on the recommendations as well as identify new issues, which may need to be addressed.

Action 52.

The plan be reviewed after five years, or when changing circumstances create an environment that would compromise the integrity of the plan. The review should identify which objectives and recommendations have been achieved and any reasons for particular aspect of the plan not being implemented.

8 IMPLEMENTATION

Principle

To ensure that Sir James Mitchell Park is managed with the participation and support of the community in accordance with the Sir James Mitchell Park Foreshore Management Plan.

The Management Plan outlines 51 recommendations that are considered necessary for the long-term management of the Park. Overall responsibility for the management of the foreshore rests with the City of South Perth, however other organizations and agencies have specific expertise or responsibilities, which can aid the implementation. The City of South Perth should liaise with these bodies to encourage their participation.

In July 1998, the Council resolved to form an Implementation Group for Sir James Mitchell Park. The Implementation Group consisted of elected members of the City of South Perth, a representative of the Swan River Trust and City of South Perth Staff and was empowered with the role of:

- assisting in and making recommendations for the finalisation of the Management Plan;
- preparing draft action plans for the development of Sir James Mitchell Park;
- developing as appropriate, draft policies for the use of the Park for sporting, non sporting, passive and commercial pursuits;
- assisting in the formulation of maintenance programs and performance outcomes;
- developing terms of reference and a method of setting up an on-going community based advisory group to assist in the management of the Park.

On completion of this plan the Implementation Group disbanded. The process of assisting the City of South Perth to implement the plan will be through the establishment of a Community Advisory Group, which recognises the strong community interest in the management of Sir James Mitchell Park. The primary purpose of this group will be to provide advice to Council on how best to implement this plan. The expansion of the group to include representatives of the diverse community interest would do much to address the historical community concerns over the development and management of the Park. However this would not change its role as an Advisory Group of Council but an appropriate level and balance of community representation needs to be achieved. Including three of the adjacent residents and three people living elsewhere in the City of South Perth would achieve this.

In addition to the Community Advisory Group, there are also opportunities for community involvement in the day-to-day management of the area. Community participation in park management, whether at a single event or on a more regular basis, increases the sense of community ownership as well as maximising the use of scarce resources.

Action 53.

A Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group be formed to include three Councillors, three members who reside adjacent to the Park and three members who reside elsewhere in the City of South Perth.

The Community Advisory Group to investigate opportunities for further community involvement in the establishment of a Friends of Sir James Mitchell Park group.

The recommendations developed in the final management plan will be implemented over a number of years depending on sufficient funding and resources being available. The following table identifies the recommendations as to whether they are one-off projects or ongoing actions and allocates a priority to their implementation.

The management plan is to be reviewed and revised after a five-year period. This process will include further public consultation, as well as a review of the existing recommendations and of progress with implementation.

ACTION LIST: PRIORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 1.</p> <p>The foreshore parkland from the second groyne adjacent to the Kwinana Freeway on the western foreshore, to Ellam Street, be gazetted as Sir James Mitchell Park.</p> <p>.</p>	One off	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 2.</p> <p>Commercial developments and special events should only be permitted in suitable locations which are chosen after careful consideration of social, environmental and physical planning criteria, in the context of the City of South Perth policy for Commercial Activity on Sir James Mitchell Park.</p>	Ongoing	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 3.</p> <p>The mobile surf cat hire facilities be replaced by permanent facilities that are unobtrusive and complement the adjacent cafe under arrangements determined by the City of South Perth and the Swan River Trust.</p>	One off	Medium	Operator and City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 4.</p> <p>Improve enforcement by the Department of Transport and Water Police of existing marine regulations to control the speed of personal watercraft and other powerboats on Perth Water.</p>	Ongoing	High	Department of Transport and Swan River Trust
<p>Action 5.</p> <p>Ensure any new water based activity likely to increase crowding on the foreshore be consistent with the infrastructure required to support the activity.</p>	Ongoing	High	City of South Perth and Swan River Trust
<p>Action 6.</p> <p>The City of South Perth prepare a report on the demand for additional areas for junior sports and on the work required to establish suitable grounds in the area of the Park in the vicinity of Ellam St.</p>	One off project	Medium	City of South Perth
<p>Action 7.</p> <p>As a general principle, pedestrians and cyclists should be separated.</p>	Ongoing	High	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 8.</p> <p>The existing dual use path should be retained and a new pedestrian only footpath be constructed.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West
<p>Action 9.</p> <p>The new footpath route should be constructed of suitable material generally located closer to the river.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West
<p>Action 10.</p> <p>Cycle paths within the Park should be designed and constructed primarily for low speed commuter and recreational cycling.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West
<p>Action 11.</p> <p>Cycle access points to the foreshore area should be better promoted and signed.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West
<p>Action 12.</p> <p>Bicycle parking facilities should be extended to ensure coverage at toilets, picnic areas and special features.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 13.</p> <p>The City of South Perth to advise Bikewest of the need to develop and promote a comprehensive education program for cyclists, highlighting their responsibilities to lower their speeds when using recreational facilities in the vicinity of other Park users.</p>	One off project	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West
<p>Action 14.</p> <p>The City of South Perth to consider all avenues to restrict speeding cyclists or cyclists riding in a manner considered dangerous to others.</p>	Ongoing	High	City of South Perth in consultation with Bike West
<p>Action 15:</p> <p>Coode Street north of Mill Point Road should be the principal entry point to the Park.</p>	One off	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 16:</p> <p>Coode Street north of Mill Point Road should be upgraded to incorporate a central island landscaped and beautified.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 17.</p> <p>There should be no development of additional formal parking areas within the Park.</p>	One off	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 18.</p> <p>Parking in the form of embayment on-road facilities should be provided on the approach roads as the preferred means of accommodating additional parking needs.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	Medium	City of South Perth
<p>Action 19.</p> <p>Overflow parking on the grassed areas should continue to be provided for special events.</p>	One off	Medium	City of South Perth
<p>Action 20.</p> <p>Pedestrian and vehicle traffic within the Park and surrounding area be monitored and recommendations about future development of pedestrian access be developed as and when required.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	Medium	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 21.</p> <p>The City of South Perth to seek Main Roads Western Australia approval for the inclusion of a walk phase at the Mill Point Road/ Coode Street traffic signals.</p>	One off project	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 22.</p> <p>The City of South Perth to promote ferry and bus services as a desirable transport option to the Park.</p>	Ongoing	Medium	City of South Perth
<p>Action 23.</p> <p>Public bus and tourist coach drop-off/pick-up facilities be incorporated into the Coode Street access area.</p>	One off project	Medium	City of South Perth
<p>Action 24.</p> <p>The City of South Perth request Metrobus to provide a more comprehensive bus service on weekends and extend the CAT service to include Sir James Mitchell Park within its route.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	Medium	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 25.</p> <p>Additional boat launching ramps should be provided in the vicinity of the western side of the Narrows Bridge</p>	One off project	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 26.</p> <p>The potential for increasing the area of beach adjacent to the existing launching ramp should be assessed.</p>	One off project	Medium	City of South Perth and Swan River Trust
<p>Action 27.</p> <p>Ensure a consistent high standard of facilities maintenance and ranger services for the Park.</p>	Ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 28.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing picnic sites be expanded to match user demand with new facilities being constructed in the vicinity of Ellam Street and the Narrows Bridge; • Shelter structures be provided at picnic sites along with shade trees to provide adequate shelter from the weather; and • Consideration be given to the provision of disabled access, water, litterbins and telephone facilities at all picnic sites. 	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 29.</p> <p>The Wesley boat shed be upgraded to reflect the standard of buildings now in the Coode Street area. Upgrading should be restricted to the extent and dimensions of the existing facility.</p>	One off project	High	City of South Perth liaise with Wesley College.
<p>Action 30.</p> <p>Standard signage and furniture be developed for the Sir James Mitchell Park area.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
Action 31. Wording and location of signage be the subject of further investigation.	One off project	Medium	City of South Perth
Action 32. Consideration be given to upgrade the existing heritage trail.	One off project with ongoing maintenance	Low	City of South Perth
Action 33. Council accepts the 'Revised Tooby Plan – 1987' in respect of the number of trees in the area covered by that Plan.	One off recommendation	High	City of South Perth
Action 34. Trees planted in the area covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan – 1987' be positioned so that they are generally planted in approximate elliptical groves whose major axis is oriented generally perpendicular to the river at the locations and to achieve the total number of existing and additional trees as shown in the planting plan (Figure 6).	One off recommendation	High	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 35.</p> <p>The Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group consult residents whose views may be affected and advise Council on the placement of trees in the area covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan – 1987'.</p>	One off recommendation	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 36.</p> <p>A landscape plan to be developed in areas not covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan- 1987' to give maximum benefit to Park users in those areas and, to the extent consistent with this objective, minimise obstruction of views.</p>	One off project	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 37.</p> <p>The Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group consult residents whose views may be affected and advise Council on the implementation of the landscape plan for areas not covered by the 'Revised Tooby Plan- 1987'.</p>	Ongoing	High	City of South Perth
<p>Action 38.</p> <p>Locally provenanced <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> and other endemic trees be planted within the Park except in areas whose character is currently defined by other species or landscape elements.</p>	Ongoing	High	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 39.</p> <p>Trees of endemic species be planted as an entry statement in Coode Street, and to provide shade in car parks and roadside parking areas.</p>	<p>One off project with ongoing maintenance</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>City of South Perth</p>
<p>Action 40.</p> <p>The <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla/Eucalyptus rudis</i> Community and the <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> Grove be reinforced and maintained with suitable endemic tree species. Any senescent and diseased trees or trees which compromise the safety of the public or health of other trees shall be managed through treatment, or removal and replacement with endemic species.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>City of South Perth with liaison with Swan River Trust.</p>
<p>Action 41.</p> <p>A weed management strategy to be developed for the <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> groves.</p>	<p>One off project with ongoing maintenance</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>City of South Perth</p>
<p>Action 42.</p> <p>The Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group advise the City of South Perth on the removal of self seeded trees that are inappropriately located in garden beds and roadside reserves or are undesirable species.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>City of South Perth</p>

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 43.</p> <p>Future self-seeded trees within the Park be removed with the exception generally of trees within the Eucalyptus Community and Melaleuca Grove.</p>	<p>One off project with ongoing maintenance</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>City of South Perth</p>
<p>Action 44.</p> <p>All ground cover and shrubs greater than 1m in height located adjacent to cycle ways, pedestrian paths, car parks and toilets be replaced with plants growing to a height of less than 1m where they compromise safety and security.</p>	<p>One off project with ongoing maintenance</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>City of South Perth</p>

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 45:</p> <p>Conduct an environmental assessment and develop a management plan for the lake system to address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the water quality; • Bird usage around the lakes and the establishment of suitable bird habitat including fringing vegetation; • Public consultation and environmental investigations in collaboration with investigations proposed by the Water and Rivers Commission to determine the potential for modifying or extending the lakes on the foreshore as breeding habitat for Black Swans; • Monitoring and management of mosquito and midge breeding in consultation with the Swan River Trust and the WA Health Department. 	Program to be developed	Medium	City of South Perth in association with local community groups.
<p>Action 46.</p> <p>Council refer to the Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group to investigate the inclusion of a water feature in parkland development incorporating a lily pond and flowing water linking the existing Melaleuca Grove to the Scented Garden.</p>	One off project with ongoing maintenance	Low	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
Action 47. The river retaining walls be maintained as necessary.	One off project with ongoing maintenance	High	City of South Perth
Action 48. The City of South Perth to assess the feasibility of creating a water feature near the Old Mill that may include beaches and shade facilities.	One off project with ongoing maintenance	Low	City of South Perth
Action 49. Monitor recent amendments to the Local Law Relating to Dogs in the Park for their effectiveness. Review if necessary.	Ongoing	Medium	City of South Perth
Action 50. Monitor the Silver Gull population and control their access to food. If further action is required it should be conducted in conjunction with CALM as part of a Silver Gull action plan.	Ongoing	Medium	City of South Perth in conjunction with CALM
Action 51. Develop a public awareness strategy for the Park aimed at increasing user's understanding of the foreshore environment.	One off project	Medium	City of South Perth

Action	Project Type	Progress and Priority	Lead Implementing Agency
<p>Action 52.</p> <p>The plan be reviewed after five years, or when changing circumstances create an environment that would compromise the integrity of the plan. The review should identify which objectives and recommendations have been achieved and any reasons for particular aspect of the plan not being implemented.</p>	One off project	High	City of South Perth and Swan River Trust
<p>Action 53.</p> <p>A Sir James Mitchell Park Community Advisory Group be formed to include three Councillors, three members who reside adjacent to the Park and three members who reside elsewhere in the City of South Perth.</p> <p>The Community Advisory Group investigates opportunities for further community involvement in the establishment of a Friends of Sir James Mitchell Park group.</p>	One off recommendation	High	City of South Perth

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APPENDIX 1

Commercial Activity On Sir James Mitchell Park

1. POLICY STATEMENT

It is recognised that the area known as Sir James Mitchell Park has been created primarily as a regional passive recreation area, which contains significant environmental, conservation and public amenity areas. It is important that these values together with the integrity and amenity of the area are not compromised.

The City of South Perth recognises that limited commercial activity is necessary for the benefit of users however any such activity should be in harmony with the realised values of the parkland.

To ensure that these values are not compromised the use of a Commercial Activity Policy will enable an approved commercial activity to be provided and maintained without affecting the Park.

The policy establishes guidelines, which will be included in the South Perth Foreshore Management Plan and will form the basis for consideration of all commercial activities.

2. ZONES

To ensure orderly development of the Park, zones will be designated/specified below:-

1. Recreation, Play Areas;
2. Parkland Activities;
3. Environmental/Conservation areas;
4. Service Areas, Parking & Public Facilities;
5. Public Event / Mixed Use Areas;
6. Commercial activities.

3. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

3.1 Activities

To ensure that a development is appropriate to the area preference will be given to developments which demonstrate a clear integration of water based and land-based activities and where the water based activity forms a significant part of the development.

Any proposed activity must not have currently a recognised base or location for its activity. Where there is a current recognised location, the application will not be considered.

Any commercial activity located between any of the designated zones, must consider the provision of a service corridor, which will not adversely impact on these zones.

3.2 Structures

Permanent structures will not be permitted. (Except where the City of South Perth has already granted planning approval)

In considering an application preference will be given to activities which are day based only and where the infrastructure is removed on a daily basis.

3.3 Controls

When submitting an application the following factors need to be considered

3.3.1 Structure Design

- Height
- Colour
- Materials – fabric both internal and external
- Scale
- Shape
- Bulk
- Landscaping

3.3.2 Essential Services

- Water
- Power
- Sewerage

3.3.3 Visual Impact

Consideration should be given to the structure in relation to its visual impact both from the City to South Perth and on the foreshore across Perth waters. The total development is to be considered and should address the structure and its components including any external feature forming a part of the structure.

3.3.4 Advertising

No advertising will be permitted on the external surfaces/fences other than the relevant information to advise patrons of opening times and entrance fees.

3.3.5 Safety

The applicant will be responsible to ensure that all aspects of the Occupational Safety Health and Welfare Act relating to the activity are addressed.

3.3.6 Signage

- a) Structure
The only advertising permitted externally will be that indicating services, bill of fare and fees.
- b) Ancillary
No sponsorship signage will be permitted on any signs including billboards and posters etc

3.3.7 Signage Standards

- a) Structure
Signs measuring 3 metres long x .5 metres high will be the maximum allowable size for signage on the exterior of the Structure. Colour and number of signs are to be determined during the approval process.
- b) no freestanding signs will be permitted

3.3.8 Development Approvals

The applicant must obtain the necessary Town Planning and Building approvals for any proposed development, including approval from the Swan River Trust.

3.3.9 Impacts

Any development proposal should consider:

1. Impact on adjoining and adjacent residents
2. Environmental Impacts
3. Social and physical environment
4. Likely changes to foreshore
5. Pollution and erosion
6. Public usage and likely impact on access
7. Protection of amenity values and without interruption to quiet enjoyment of the parkland by existing passive users
8. Public amenities
9. Traffic and parking impact
10. Visual amenity

4. CONFLICTING USES

All activity proposals will be considered in conjunction with other activities or facilities in the area and the proponent is to ensure there are no conflicting uses, which may impact on nearby activities and or residential developments.

5. SUBMISSION

The applicant will be required to make a submission supported by documentation, which will incorporate:

- A Business Plan;
- Any Agreements with other parties;
- Any requirements for use of existing facilities including toilets, parking, pathways etc;
- Likely impact to current uses of all designated area;
- The need to carry out an environmental impact study to determine the likely impact of the development; and
- A plan that conforms to the adopted policy.

All costs are to be met by the applicant.

The applicant should be aware that depending on the nature of the activity the City of South Perth may request that the submission be made available to the public for comment.

6. EXCEPTIONS

Any activity that is of a commercial nature, which is situated on the foreshore for a period of less than 21 days, will not be considered a commercial activity and will not be the subject of an activity application. However the guidelines relating to this for an activity must be tested against the application prior to approval. Social functions are to be excluded.

Under authority delegated by Council, the Chief Executive can approve any activity less than 21 days within the guidelines of the Commercial Activity Policy.

Unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there will be no impact on the present amenity the City of South Perth will not consider any application for activities operating in the evening.

The controls contained in this policy relate to commercial activities only and do not impinge on any other normal City of South Perth development in the park including planting of trees, car parking, playgrounds, service facilities, pathways, lighting, shelters and barbecues or any other structures incorporated in the park.

7. APPLICATIONS

All applications must be in writing and address all the above criteria prior to a submission being considered. Failure to comply will result in the application not being considered until the submission is completed.

The City of South Perth reserves the right to refuse or consider any application at its absolute discretion.