



# **NANARUP BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**A Community Initiative**



**Prepared by the Strategic Planning Team  
City of Albany**

**December 1999**







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**Acknowledgements**

This document has been prepared by Melanie Price, David Giles and Jane Davies of the City of Albany Strategic Planning Branch. Thanks go to the community members who contributed time and effort to the formulation of this plan. The cover photo was provided by Barbara Madden and was taken in 1988.





## **1.2 Location and Tenure**

Nanarup beach is located approximately 23km East of Albany City centre via a sealed road as shown in Figure 1. The road is partially contained in the Taylor Inlet reserve as it approaches the Nanarup Beach carpark.

The area of this plan includes several reserves and private land as shown in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Taylor Inlet reserve (No. 19539) includes the car park and picnic area. This reserve has a 'management order' issued in favour of the City of Albany. The City has applied to the Department of Land Administration (DOLA) to change the purpose of this reserve from 'Recreation' to 'Recreation and Landscape Protection.'

The beach area of Nanarup is currently Unallocated Crown Land (UCL). The City of Albany has applied to DOLA to create a new reserve for the beach area for the purpose of 'Recreation and Foreshore Protection' with management orders issued in favour of the Council. DOLA has confirmed that the vesting will be formalised once a management plan for the area has been completed and adopted by Council.

**Table 1. Tenure of Land at Nanarup Beach**

<b>Public Land</b>	<b>Management Agency</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Taylor Inlet Reserve	City of Albany	57.9ha	The City of Albany has applied to change the purpose of this reserve to 'Recreation and Landscape Protection.'
Nanarup Beach Northern section/ Southern section	Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) with Management Order in favour of the Department of Land Administration		The City of Albany has applied to create a new reserve for this area, for the purpose of 'Recreation and Foreshore Protection' with a Management Order in favour of the City Council.
Unmade Road Reserve	City of Albany		The history of this reserve is not clear, but it is not suited to be developed as a road and should be incorporated into the Nanarup Beach reserve.
7124	Fishermen's Lease (City of Albany)	2428m <sup>2</sup>	This lease has been granted to Derek Tysoe for the special purpose of 'commercial fishing station'.
<b>Private Land</b>			
PT A82 of Loc. 416, Nanarup Rd		322ha	Zoned 'Rural'
Lot 1 Nanarup Rd		1.6ha	Zoned 'Rural'
PT A88 of Loc. 416, Nanarup Rd		7.8ha	Zoned 'Rural'
Pt A88 Nanarup Rd		2.9ha	Zoned for 'Motel'. Currently has chalets. Public ablutions that service visitors to Nanarup Beach and Taylors Inlet are within the boundary of this lot.

**1.3 Physical Environment and Heritage**

**Landforms**

Nanarup Beach is a long, sandy beach between rocky headlands at Islet Point and Rocky Point.



The land, which borders the beach, forms tall, steep dunes with small incipient foredunes. Except for areas of isolated disturbance, the tall dunes are vegetated with stable, mature and permanent coastal plant species.

The beach close to the inlet opening is sheltered from southwesterly winds, but is open to southeasterly weather.

Further east towards Rocky Point, the beach is open to southwesterly swells and prevailing winds. Some of the force of inshore waves is deflected by broken limestone reefs approximately 200m offshore. The beach width varies seasonally according to storms and tides. In winter the beach is usually more narrow and steep. In summer, the sand is replenished and the beach becomes wider. It should be recognised that this is a natural occurrence and that the beach is a dynamic and ever changing system.

Taylor Inlet is separated from the ocean by a low sand bar that is closed most of the year. The bar has been broken often since the first recorded opening in the 1890's although it is usually open only a few times a year and usually only stays open for a short period.

The inlet is kidney shaped and lies approximately parallel to the shoreline, with a 300m channel that extends from the main inlet body to the bar. The channel is usually up to 100m wide as it passes through the sand dunes to the ocean.

The inlet opening to the beach forms the area of easiest access to the ocean for most of the year. The inlet mouth is protected from southwesterly weather by the relatively stable Islet Point

The inlet itself is shallow with a small catchment of 10km<sup>2</sup>. The water level can vary nearly 2m, from 1m below sea level in summer due to evaporation, to 1m above sea level when full.

**Coastal Vegetation**

The Taylor Inlet is fringed by *Melaleuca cuticularis* with an understorey of *Juncus kraussii*, *Samolus repens*, *Isolepis nodosa*, *Gahnia trifida*, *Baumea juncea* and *Atriplex cinerea*.

A survey of coastal vegetation in the Taylor Inlet area at Nanarup Beach was carried out by JM Chambers in 1988. The most common species found are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2. Common Coastal Plant Species at Nanarup Beach (JM Chambers 1988)**

<i>Polypogan monspeliensis</i>
<i>Spinifex hirsutus (sand spinifex)</i>
<i>Isolepis nodosa (knotted club rush)</i>
<i>Lepidosperma gladiatum (sword sedge)</i>
<i>Rhagodia baccata (berry saltbush)</i>





COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STUDY
Common dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis murina fuliginosa</i>	* #
Western grey kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	* #
Black-gloved wallaby	<i>Macropus irma</i>	* #
Honey possum	<i>Tarsipes rostratus</i>	* #
Southern bush rat	<i>Rattus fuscipes</i>	*
Southern brown bandicoot	<i>Isodoodon obesulus</i>	* #
Mardo	<i>Antechinus flavipes</i>	#
Western ringtail	<i>Pseudochierus peregrinus</i>	#
Western pygmy possum	<i>Cercartetus concinnus</i>	#
Quokka	<i>Setonix brachyurus</i>	#
Bush rat	<i>Rattus fuscipes</i>	* #
House mouse (introduced species)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	* #
Rabbit (introduced species)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	* #
Fox (introduced species)	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	* #
Cat (introduced species)	<i>Felis catus</i>	#

**Table 3: Mammal species that may occur at Nanarup Beach: (Species identified in a study of Mt Martin Reserve (S. Leighton, 1992)\* and Gull Rock (N. Bocsacha 1996 and W. Manson, 1995)#**

Common ‘bush birds’ include: Wedge-tailed eagle, kestrel, little eagle, Carnabys cockatoo, red-capped parrot, rosella, little wattlebird, fan-tailed cuckoo, golden whistler, New Holland honeyeater, red-winged wren, splendid wren, white-browed scrub wren, raven and grey currawong.

Threatened birds such as the noisy scrub-bird, western whipbird and ground parrots, though not currently recorded in the immediate area of Nanarup Beach are likely to survive in the area if fire and feral animals can be controlled.

Frog species identified in wetlands associated with the coast include *Crinea georgiana*, moaning frog (*Heleiporus eyerii*), *H. psammophilus*, banjo frog (*Limnodynastes dorsalis*), bull frog (*Littoria moorei*), slender tree frog (*Littoria adelaidensis*), and *Ranidella pseudinsignifera*.

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME
Tiger snake	<i>Notechis scutatus</i>
Bardick snake	<i>Notechis curtus</i>
Legless lizard	<i>Aprasia striolala</i>
Skink	<i>Ctenotus labillardieri</i>
Skink	<i>Leiolopisma trilineatum</i>
King skink	<i>Ergernia kingii</i>
Skink	<i>Lerista disinguenda</i>



Bobtail	<i>Teliqua rugosa</i>
Racehorse goanna	<i>Varanus rosenbergi</i>

**Table 4. Reptiles that may occur at Nanarup Beach (Species identified in a study of Mt Martin, Leighton, 1992)**

Four introduced species have been recorded in the area, including house mouse (*mus musculus*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) cat (*Felis catus*) and rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).

**Heritage**

Advice from the Aboriginal Affairs Department states that there have been no Aboriginal sites recorded in the Nanarup Beach area. However, it is recognised that most inlets along the south coast are of significance to the Noongar people. There is some oral tradition of fish traps in the inlet and in the lower reaches of the creeks that lead into it.

It is possible that sites may exist that have not yet been entered on the Aboriginal Sites Register. The Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) protects all Aboriginal sites in Western Australia whether they are known to the Aboriginal Affairs Department or not.

Should any ground disturbing works be planned in the area, the Aboriginal Affairs Department should be consulted.

Early European settlers used to offload furniture and other goods in the protected pool area near Islet Point. There are also records of mullet fishing in the inlet, and a native oyster fishery.

**1.4 Human Activities**

**Recreational Uses**

The natural environment and spectacular beauty of Nanarup Beach area make it popular for a number of recreational activities, including sightseeing, family outings and picnics, swimming, surfing, beach fishing, bird watching and walking.

Exercising of dogs and horses is also common. The area has also been popular for four-wheel drives, off road vehicles and for sand boarding.

The area is popular with local residents as well as people from Albany and further afield. Most recreational activities are carried out without conflict or problem. However, some activities have caused problems of conflict with other beach users or landowners adjacent to the coastal reserve.

These mainly include activities such as sand boarding on steep dunes which has caused problems of dune erosion and some vehicle activity which has raised concerns about safety and environmental damage.



## Part 2 Management Issues

A number of management issues have been identified at Nanarup Beach. These include:

- the use of vehicles on the beach and dunes,
- dune degradation and rehabilitation and
- facilities.

The following sections outline how these management issues will be addressed.

### *2.1 Use of Vehicles on the Beach and Dunes*

**Objective: to ensure that Nanarup is a safe beach for all users and that the environment is protected.**

The use of vehicles on the beach and dunes at Nanarup Beach has been strongly identified as a high priority management issue due to the risks to public safety and problems with dune degradation.

Vehicles are often used on the beach with most people driving carefully between the high and low water mark to access fishing or surfing areas to the east of the beach. However, it has been common for some vehicles to drive recklessly without regard to the safety of beach users.

In some instances vehicles have been reported pulling surfboards or similar objects with people on them, often at high speed raising grave concerns for safety risks especially to young children.

The dunes and the beach at Nanarup have also been popular in the past for off-road vehicles. The use of off road vehicles in this area has caused severe erosion problems to the dunes as well as safety risks.

Due to the close proximity of private property to the beach, vehicles have often caused damage to private property. Liability issues arise due to the risk of injury to people or damage to property in these activities. The City of Albany has a duty of care to minimise the risk of damage or injury that could be caused by access to private property from public land in the dune area.

There is also a concern about safety at the access route to the beach as it is very narrow and shared by vehicles and pedestrians. This area often becomes boggy and difficult to traverse.

The issue of off road vehicles was raised in September 1997, when the Albany Shire Council passed recommendations relating to vehicular use on beaches within the Shire. This included allowing vehicles in general (on road and off road vehicles) on Nanarup Beach NE of the Inlet. This was later rescinded (December 1997) when investigation of the Off Road Vehicles Act 1978 showed that off road vehicles had in

fact been prohibited south of the South Coast Highway in the entire City of Albany since April 1992.

The Department of Local Government has an advisory committee that deals with issues arising from the *Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act*. The Shire referred the matter to them for their consideration.

During 1997, the issues of off road and four-wheel drive vehicles attracted public interest after a number of incidents were reported to Council rangers.

In November 1997, the Nanarup Landowners and Friends formed in response to community concerns about these issues. In December 1997 a meeting was held at Nanarup Beach to discuss the issues of safety and dune erosion and what could be done about them. The meeting was attended by members of the Nanarup Landowners and Friends, other community members, staff from the then Shire of Albany, Waters and Rivers Commission, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Albany Police Traffic Branch and Greenskills.

In December 1997 Council recommended to the Minister for Local Government that in accordance with the provisions of the *Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act*:

- ❑ the area of Nanarup Beach south west of the Taylor Inlet be gazetted prohibited to vehicles generally and that;
- ❑ the area of Nanarup Beach north east of the Inlet be gazetted a permitted area to licensed on road vehicles only and prohibited to all other vehicles.

These areas are shown in Figure 4.

On the 20 March 1999, the Off Road Vehicle Committee published a notice in the West Australian and Albany Advertiser, of their intention to gazette south west of the Inlet at Nanarup Beach ‘prohibited to all vehicles.’

The City of Albany is currently awaiting endorsement by the Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory Committee for gazettal of the beach area at Nanarup.

There have been some comments through the public comment period about the pool adjacent to Islet point being a gazetted anchorage. Enquiries to the Department of Transport (DoT) have shown that this is not the case. DoT do not consider the pool a safe anchorage and stated that there was no reason to have vehicle access to the site based on that issue alone

Prior to finalisation of these gazettals a strategy should be developed and implemented to inform the public of the proposed changes. This will raise community awareness of the gazettal and promote respect for the designation of a vehicle free area that is safe for families.

The strategy will also need to raise awareness of the ongoing prohibition of all off road vehicles on public and private land in the Nanarup Beach area.



The City of Albany will also need to address the issue of clear and unambiguous identification of the prohibited area and the area permitted for on road licensed vehicles only.

To ensure that changes to the law with regard to vehicles at Nanarup are adhered to, the issue of compliance, penalties and prosecution will also need to be addressed.

The commercial fishing operation will be issued with a permit to allow access into the 'no vehicle' zone. This will assist in ensuring others comply with the prohibition of vehicles in the area west of the inlet. This may also be useful for other special cases such as access for the elderly, disabled or for special events (e.g. scuba diving clean up days).

## **2.2 Dune Degradation and Rehabilitation**

**Objective: to protect the dune system from unnatural degradation and prevent access to private land via the beach reserve.**

Sand dunes are held together by vegetation that, if disturbed, is difficult to replace. Once the vegetation is lost, the unstable sands are easily blown or washed away making rehabilitation difficult and costly. Activities such as vehicle driving and sand boarding tend to create bare areas of sand that become difficult to stabilise. In extreme conditions, blowouts can form large areas of mobile sand. This has occurred in two areas adjacent to Nanarup Beach.

Severe problems of dune erosion and degradation were identified as requiring urgent remediation in 1997. In 1998, the City of Albany engaged Greencorp to erect brush fencing along the foredunes at Nanarup Beach. Brush fences can aid in limiting vehicle access as well as trapping sand and promoting stabilisation and regrowth of vegetation on the dunes.

As the fences are designed to trap sand, it is likely that, in time the fences will be buried. Due to the dynamic nature of the coast, the fence will have to be monitored to ensure it stays in a safe condition. It will also have to be checked to ensure that damage from vandalism is repaired. Photographs have been taken along the beach so that the effects of the fence can be measured. These photos will be taken at yearly intervals, after a storm or other significant event, to gauge the effectiveness of the fences in stabilising the dunes and in preventing vehicle access.

The rehabilitation work to date has been successful in beginning to address dune erosion problems, however the area requires further work, especially brushing of eroded areas.

Damage to dunes has also been a problem along the access route to the beach when the inlet rises and vehicles push through the vegetation at the base of the dunes.

The main access route also often becomes boggy with high use in dry summer months. Some community members feel that the access route should be made more trafficable







**3.3 Action 3: Vehicle access signs**

That when the Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory has gazetted the area south west of the inlet at Nanarup Beach as ‘prohibited to all vehicles’ and the area north east of the inlet at Nanarup Beach ‘permitted for on road licensed vehicles only’:

The City of Albany will erect signs at Nanarup Beach carpark and the inlet to clearly and unambiguously identify where vehicles are allowed.

*Responsibility:*  
*City of Albany (Works and Services)*

**3.4 Action 4: Compliance**

That when the Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory has gazetted the area south west of the inlet at Nanarup Beach ‘prohibited to all vehicles’ and the area north east of the inlet at Nanarup Beach ‘permitted for on road licensed vehicles only’:

The City of Albany will ensure compliance by effective policing and monitoring of the area and prosecution of offenders. This will rely on a partnership with the community to report offenders and supply the City of Albany or Police with details.

*Responsibility:*  
*City of Albany (Rangers), Albany Police.*

**3.5 Action 5: Special access**

That when the Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act Advisory has gazetted the area south west of the inlet at Nanarup Beach ‘prohibited to all vehicles’ and the area north east of the inlet at Nanarup Beach ‘permitted for on road licensed vehicles only’:

That the licensed fisherman, elderly or disabled persons who apply be issued with City of Albany windscreen permits to assist in ensuring others comply with the vehicle prohibition. In addition, application for access for special events will be considered by the City.

*Responsibility:*  
*City of Albany (Corporate Services).*

**3.6 Action 6: Dune rehabilitation**

That the City of Albany in partnership with the community and the Regional Coastal Facilitator (Jamie Allnutt- 98424525), implements further brushing of eroded dune areas at Nanarup Beach.



*Responsibility:*

*City of Albany (Environmental Planner, Parks and Reserves Team Leader), Regional Coastal Facilitator and community.*

**3.7 Action 7: Seek funding**

That the City of Albany in partnership with the community and the Regional Coastal Facilitator apply for Coastcare funds to construct a stairway and look out. If successful, this will be located where a path has been formed on the dune immediately to the east of the inlet bar. The objective of the stairway will be to prevent further erosion and provide a lookout.

*Responsibility:*

*City of Albany (Environmental Planner)*

**3.8 Action 8: Monitoring**

That the City of Albany in partnership with the community, continues to monitor the dune fencing.

*Responsibility:*

*City of Albany (Environmental Planner; Parks and Reserves Team Leader) and community.*

**3.9 Action 9: Facilities**

That the City of Albany installs two tables with bench seats in the picnic/BBQ area.

*Responsibility:*

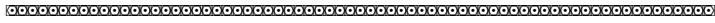
*City of Albany (Parks and Reserves Team Leader)*

**3.10 Action 10: Toilets**

That the City of Albany investigates sources of funding to demolish the existing toilet facilities and build appropriate toilets (e.g. composting) that will not leach into the inlet. Council will need to negotiate with the landowners to resolve the fact that the toilet and change rooms are on private land.

*Responsibility:*

*City of Albany (Works and Services)*

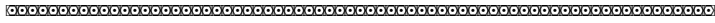


### **3.11 Action 11: Interpretive signs**

That the City of Albany installs interpretive signs at the car park area relating to the terrestrial and marine fauna and flora of the area, Aboriginal and European history and management issues such as dune erosion, vehicle use and rehabilitation.

*Responsibility:*

*City of Albany (Environmental Planner, Works and Services)*



***REFERENCES***

Hodgekin, EP and Clark, R (1990) Estuaries of the Shire of Albany. Estuarine Studies Series. Number 8. Environmental Protection Authority, Perth, Western Australia.