12 CONCERNS WITH the PROPOSED GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS TO
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1972

1. The Bill includes an inappropriate new objective in the Act of mining, hunting
and grazing in some parks and reserves;
2. It includes an objective of undefined “other activities” in the “public interest” in
parks and reserves;
3. It continues the inappropriate category of Recreation Park for a limited
number of parks (which are probably marked for disposal and which can be
reduced in size without parliamentary approval as for other parks/reserves);
4. It fails to reflect internationally recognised understandings in its creation of
new categories of parks/reserves;
5. It misleadingly re-names areas of National or Conservation parks reserved
for potential mining as Nature reserves, without placing any appropriate
restrictions on the form such mining activities may take;
6. It continues to misname wetland wildlife reserves as Game reserves for duck
hunting;
7. It potentially creates an onerous new legal onus on park managers to clear
areas of park/reserve to protect private property from fire;
8. It removes the conservation priority where mining, grazing or hunting rights
are being exercised in parks/reserves;
9. It entrenches mining and grazing rights in some reserves where they could
previously have been removed for conservation reasons at a state, national
or international level;
10. While the introduction in the Bill of Aboriginal co-management and ownership
of some parks/reserves is supported, it creates a new loophole for
downgrading National or Conservation parks to Nature reserves which allow
mining rights not previously allowed;
11. It sets the stage for division and manipulation of Aboriginal and wider
community groups by the mining industry in the same way Fortescue Metals
Group have apparently acted in WA;
12. It contains no provisions to ensure management plans for parks/reserves are
prepared or implemented within a reasonable time.