

SWAN–CANNING RIVERPARK — REPORT

310. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister for representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer the minister to the report titled “Economic Benefits Associated with the Swan–Canning Riverpark Perth, Western Australia” and her answer to question without notice 252.

- (1) Who wrote the report; did the Swan River Trust or any other government agency pay for it; and if so, what was the cost?
- (2) Why is quantifying the economic benefits of the Swan–Canning Riverpark a worthwhile exercise?
- (3) What methods were used by the report’s author or authors to obtain the necessary financial information?
- (4) Were other government or non-government agencies involved or consulted during the preparation of the report?
- (5) If the report is classed by the minister as a preliminary study, what further work is the minister commissioning or intending to commission to quantify the economic benefits of the Swan–Canning Riverpark?
- (6) Why does the fact that the objectives of the study proved to be beyond the scope of the study justify the minister not making the report public?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Environment has provided the following advice to me —

- (1) The report was written by the Curtin Sustainable Tourism Centre. The Swan River Trust paid \$30 000 for the study.
- (2) Quantifying the economic value of the Swan–Canning Riverpark helps to raise the profile and community awareness of the value of the park and the need to look after it as a valuable state asset. It also demonstrates the importance of the asset to the state’s economy.
- (3) Three approaches were used to obtain information. Revenue relating to direct use of the riverpark was collected from a range of commercial operators and government organisations; surrogate market valuations were used to estimate indicative indirect use value of the riverpark; and a stated preference technique was used based on a survey of Perth metropolitan residents to obtain information on non-market and non-use riverpark values.
- (4) Yes, several government and non-government organisations were consulted to obtain financial information including the Department of Transport, Eventscorp, Transperth, ferry operators, local governments, commercial boat operators and volunteer groups.
- (5) No further work is planned.
- (6) I am advised that, given time and data constraints, the preliminary study was unable to provide robust enough information to be used for public debate. It demonstrated the limitations of publicly available relevant information.