

ENVIRONMENT — CONSERVATION STAFF

1207. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Western Australian Auditor General's Report, '*Rich and Rare: Conservation of Threatened Species Follow-up audit*' published in September 2017 that found "both expenditure and staffing are below 2009 levels while the conservation task has grown as more species and communities are listed as threatened...Staffing and Conservation Division and regional conservation staff numbers have decreased". I ask:

- (a) what are the current staffing levels for the Science and Conservation division at the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions; and
- (b) what are the current staffing levels for each of the nine regions, respectively, listed on page 13 of the Auditor General's report?

**Hon Darren West replied:**

- (a) There were 189 full time equivalent staff (FTE) in Biodiversity and Conservation Science at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) at 30 June 2022. This number is not directly comparable to historic staffing levels in Science and Conservation Division of the former Department of Parks and Wildlife due to restructuring following the machinery of government in 2017.
- (b) The table below outlines the FTE specifically related to the delivery of conservation-related activities for each of the nine DBCA regions at 30 June 2022. These figures do not include staff in the regions who support the implementation of broader conservation initiatives via other services including parks and visitor services, fire management, sustainable forest management, business management, administration, and management roles. The current staffing levels in DBCA's nine regions are not directly comparable to staffing levels in 2009 or 2016 primarily due to changes to internal cost allocation methodologies and service changes between 2009 and 2022.

DBCA region	Conservation-related FTE
Goldfields	3.6
Midwest	22
Kimberley	12.6
Pilbara	26.4
South Coast	15.2
South West	20.9
Swan	28.3
Warren	10.9
Wheatbelt	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>154.6</b>