



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings - Additional Questions

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

1. I refer to 'Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure' contained at page 207 of Budget Paper 2 and I ask:
 - (a) Please provide a timeline and scope of works (including budget allocation) for each stage of the project; and

Answer: The project comprises three major stages of work. Stage 1 was to seal 22km of roads to provide sealed road access to the Loop (Nature's Window), West Loop (Skywalk site), Z Bend and Meanarra Hill. The roadworks contract was awarded in November 2016, with works commencing in February 2017 and finishing in August 2017. The budget for roadworks was \$9.05 million.

Stage 2 is the development of visitor infrastructure at Z Bend and Meanarra Hill including toilets, shade shelters, paths and lookouts. The Geraldton based firm Coral Coast Homes was awarded the contract for this work in July 2017. Works are in progress and are expected to be completed by the end of 2017. The budget for these works is \$1.8 million.

Stage 3 is the development of visitor infrastructure at West Loop including the two skywalks, a 90m boardwalk between the skywalks, a commercial kiosk, toilets, shade shelters, paths and visitor interpretation. Final drawings for the skywalk development are in preparation and it is expected that construction tender/s will be advertised in December 2017. The budget for West Loop is \$8.93 million.

Two tendering options are currently being considered for works at West Loop:

- Option A – one tender for all works at West Loop; and
- Option B – one tender for the skywalk and boardwalk and one tender for other visitor infrastructure.

While Option A would likely result in a shorter construction timeframe, Option B enhances the potential for local building firms to be contracted for construction works and is the preferred option. The expected timeline for Option B is for the skywalk and boardwalk

construction from February to July 2018, and other visitor infrastructure construction from July to December 2018.

A budget of \$940,000 has been allocated for other costs including project management, landscape architectural services, employment and training of two Nanda Ranger Assistants, tourism promotional campaigns and project audit.

- (b) With respect to stage two which the committee was advised tenders had just been let, please advise the successful tender recipient?

Answer: The Geraldton based firm Coral Coast Homes was awarded the contract for constructing visitor infrastructure at Z Bend and Meanarra Hill in July 2017.

2. I refer to an aircraft with registration VH-KTG and I ask:

- (a) Is the aircraft owned or leased by the department;

Answer: Owned.

- (b) What is the make and model of the aircraft;

Answer: American Champion Scout.

- (c) What is the purpose of the aircraft; and

Answer: Aerial fire surveillance (primarily bushfire detection and observation) and potentially, as a platform to supervise water bombing aircraft/operations.

- (d) What budget allocation is made in 2017-18 for the aircraft in question?

Answer: In 2016/17, an average of \$50,260 was spent on maintenance for each of the 10 'spotter' aircraft owned by the Department. A similar allocation is included in the 2017/18 budget.