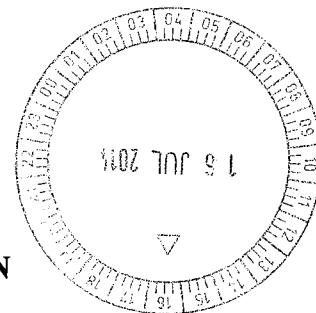


ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 1: Hon Lynn MacLaren asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2, "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" at page 662, and ask -

- (a) *A stated but unrealised goal of the Government has been to replace the Wildlife Conservation Act and introduce a Biodiversity and Conservation Act. How many FTE are dedicated to this review or the writing of a new Bill? In what ways is priority being given to this?*

Answer: The Corporate Executive of the Department has been restructured with a new position of Director of Legislative and Policy Reform created. This Director is specifically responsible for driving the development of the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Act, along with other matters of legislative reform, including amendments to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. The Director General also maintains a close involvement in the development of the proposed new Act. Currently there are two FTE assigned to this matter. The resources assigned to this task will be reviewed as necessary in regard to the workload involved.

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ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 2: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2, "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" at page 663, bullet 3, and ask -

- (a) *Compliance with KPIs in the recently replaced Forest Management Plan was lacking. What resources are being dedicated to monitor and/or enforce compliance with KPIs in the new Forest Management Plan?*

Answer: The Department of Parks and Wildlife manages State forest and timber reserves in the south-west for a range of values. An integral part of the department's role is monitoring activities undertaken in these areas and compliance, enforcement and work to support reporting on key performance indicators. The financial system does not separately identify resources dedicated specifically to these activities.

- (b) *What are the new initiatives to be implemented by the Department in the FMP? What financial and FTE resources are required? What reporting mechanisms will there be on these initiatives?*

Answer: Key features in the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* (FMP) include:

- a proposal to increase protected areas by adding 4,000 hectares to Whicher National Park, near Busselton;
- continued protection of old-growth forests;
- changes to silviculture to protect the habitats of a variety of species by retaining additional habitat logs for numbats and large marri trees for black cockatoos. Associated updates of the jarrah, karri and wandoo silviculture guidelines were finalised in January 2014;
- a new objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Noongar people;
- improved monitoring and reporting on the health and diversity of the forest;
- revised key performance indicators to better assess the success of management activities; and
- providing for forest management practices to maintain or enhance water supply and ecosystem health.

New initiatives in the FMP will be implemented within the existing resources allocated to the Department.

The FMP (management activity 130) requires the preparation of mid-term (due 2018) and end-of-term (due 2022) performance reviews.

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- (c) *Regarding the Auditor General's report into the supply and sale of native forest products, what changes has the Department made to address the concerns of the report, in that standards for environmental protection were being breached and that those breaches were not adequately addressed?*

Answer: The Auditor General's finding from the report into the supply and sale of native forest product in regard to breaches of environmental standards was related to the Forest Products Commission. Parks and Wildlife will work with the Forest Products Commission with the intention of focussing future effort on addressing the issues identified in the report.

PUBLIC

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 3: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2, "Significant Issues Impacting the Agency" at page 663, bullet 4, and ask –

(a) What is the current status of the strategic assessment of the Perth and Peel regions?

Answer: The Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions is being led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and is driving a very high level of coordination amongst State Government agencies, with significant input from the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, and the Departments of Planning, Water, Mines and Petroleum, Environment Regulation, and Parks and Wildlife.

A Stakeholder Reference Group with representatives from the urban development, basic raw materials and consulting industries, conservation groups and local government was established in November 2012 and to date has met on eight occasions.

The strategic assessment is providing an unprecedented opportunity for a strategic and integrated whole-of-government approach to the development of the Perth and Peel regions for the next 20 to 40 years, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife will continue to work with other State agencies towards the completion of the project.

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ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 4: Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2, "Explanation of Significant Movements at page 664, and ask –

- (a) *Regarding the declines in conservation status of certain species, what are those species and what is being done to address the decline for each? What outcome is expected in each?*

Answer: The species that have declined in status are the woylie, and the plants *Acacia splendens* and *Myriophyllum lapidicola*. The species that is projected to have a decline in status during the 2014-15 is the western ringtail possum. Each of these species has had a recovery plan prepared to guide its recovery. These plans identify the threats to their conservation and the management actions required to reduce the impact of those threats. Each species has different threats and management requirements. Implementation of the recovery plans is coordinated by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Through implementation of the recovery plans, Parks and Wildlife is working to halt the declines and gradually improve the conservation status of the species.

- (b) *If the Roe 8 extension proceeds, what will the budget impost be of consequent wetland and species conservation efforts?*

Answer: If the Roe 8 extension proceeds there is expected to be no budget impost on the Department due to consequent wetlands and species conservation efforts. Any identified impacts on conservation of wetlands and species will be dealt with through the approvals process.

- (c) *Regarding the cancellation of the Community Environmental Grants in the previous year's budget, what is the estimated cost in FTE equivalent of volunteer effort lost?*

Answer: There is expected to be no FTE equivalent of volunteer effort lost due to the cancellation of the Community Environmental Grants as community groups will continue to function with their volunteers.

PUBLIC

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 5: Hon Robin Chapple MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2, "Financial Statements- Details of controlled Grants and Subsidies" at page 668, and ask –

- (a) *As no funds have been allocated to the Kimberley Toad Busters, please provide detailed information for additional resources that have been allocated to combat the cane toad.*

Answer: The Government has committed ongoing resources to implementing the revised *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia*, with a focus on the following:

- providing education and information on cane toad impacts and management options for communities;
- protecting wildlife on Kimberley islands and preventing the accidental introduction of toads to these important areas;
- preventing new toad populations from establishing in southern parts of the state through ‘hitch-hiker’ cane toads being accidentally transported in vehicles;
- supporting scientific investigations to identify innovative means to mitigate cane toad impacts on high risk species;
- continuing biodiversity work to establish baseline information for areas ahead of the cane toad front to inform future management of these areas.

Since the cane toad strategy was released in 2009, the State Government has invested more than \$7.8 million in on-ground activities and research to help manage the impact of cane toads. Existing resources will be used to implement the revised *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia*, integrating efforts with the Government’s \$81.5 million investment in the Kimberley through the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

PUBLIC

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 6: Hon Robin Chapple MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2 "Services and Key Efficiency Indicators – Parks Management" at page 664, and ask –

(a) What is the financial assistance to the management of the Murujuga National Park?

Answer: The Burrup Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement provides recurrent funding for the joint management of Murujuga National Park. For 2014-15 the budget consists of new funding of \$550 000.

(b) What is the in-kind assistance to the management of the Murujuga National Park?

Answer: The Department of Parks and Wildlife will continue to provide in-kind assistance to the management of Murujuga National Park for conducting quarterly park council meetings, support for Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation staff and the Murujuga Operations Officer, specialist services for the design and construction of park infrastructure and facilities, coordination and delivery of training, attendance at non-park council meetings, and administration and financial management

(c) What funds were allocated to signage specific to the Murujuga National Park?

Answer: In 2013-14, \$8 762 was spent on new signs and signage materials for Murujuga National Park. The allocation of funds for signage in 2014-15 is yet to be decided by the Murujuga Park Council, which comprises of representatives from Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

PUBLIC

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 7: Hon Robin Chapple MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2 "Asset Investment Program" at page 666, and ask –

- (a) *Under the "Works in Progress" section, a figure of \$19.97m is given for "Conservation Parks infrastructure and roads - total cost". Please provide a breakdown of what has been, and will be, spent on which Conservation Parks, and when, for each of the past two years and for the 2014-15 financial year?*

Answer: The *Royalties for Regions* funded Conservation Parks Infrastructure and Roads initiative was initially provided over four years, but has been extended into a fifth year to complete visitor infrastructure works in Torndirrup National Park at the Gap site in 2014-15.

The initiative includes four program areas and 17 projects funded from 2012-13 to 2014-15.

Program	Park / Project	2012-13 Expenditure	2013-14 Expenditure	2014-15 Budget
Naturebank	Purnululu National Park	\$300 398		
	Cape Le Grand National Park	\$37 952	\$71 400	
	Francois Peron National Park	\$45 350	\$157	
	Windjana Gorge National Park	\$40 040		
	Bramley National Park (Wharncliffe Mill)	\$43 162	\$21 077	
	King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park (Mt Hart)	\$13 950	\$50 072	
	Ngamooowalem Conservation Park	\$15 218	\$33 233	
	Lane Poole Reserve (Icy Creek)		\$115 996	
	Naturebank evaluation		\$50 054	
Low cost, in- park camping	Cape Range National Park (Kurrajong campground)	\$419 057		
	Yalgorup National Park (Martins Tank campground)	\$685 557	\$522 728	
	Logue Brook Dam	\$71 933	\$962 018	
	Lane Poole Reserve (Nanga Brook campground)	\$134 396	\$626 214	
Roads	Karijini National Park	\$256 186	\$312 740	
	Kalbarri National Park	\$154 419	\$4 836 747	
Visitor infrastructure	Kalbarri National Park	\$112 484	\$1 170 005	
	Torndirrup National Park	\$383 342	\$517 205	\$1 800 000
TOTAL		\$2 713 444	\$9 289 646	\$1 800 000

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(b) *Under the "Kimberley tourism initiatives" section, please provide a breakdown of what has been, and will be, spent and where and when it will be spent?*

Answer: A total of \$1 147 617 has been spent under the Kimberley tourism initiatives project, including:

- \$799 996 to develop the Munurru campground at the King Edward River crossing;
- \$279 000 to develop day use facilities along the Kalumburu Road;
- \$14 275 to develop signage and interpretation at the intersection of the Gibb River Road and Kalumburu Road;
- \$11 056 for design works at Carson River Station, Munuru campground, parks in the Miriuwung Gajerrong determination area and Bell Gorge; and
- \$43 290 to upgrade the carpark at Bell Gorge.

A further \$115 724 of unspent funds in 2013-14 will be spent in 2014-15 on completing signage and interpretation works at the Gibb River Road and Kalumburu Road intersection, \$93 946 on design works, \$356 710 to complete the Bell Gorge carpark upgrade and \$150 000 to commence construction of a parking area and visitor facility at Mimbi Caves. The 2014-15 budget also includes a further allocation of \$350 000 for Mimbi Caves and \$911 000 to complete campground accommodation at Carson River Station along the Kalumburu Road.

(c) *Why is there no budget allocation under the "Great Kimberley Marine Park" section for 2014-15, and only \$80 000 allocated for 2015-16?*

Answer: There is no budget allocation in 2014-15 as the focus is on planning for and establishing the Great Kimberley Marine Park rather than implementing capital works. Once the Horizontal Fall and North Kimberley marine parks are created, the Department will implement a capital works program of visitor infrastructure and facilities. Accordingly \$80 000 has been allocated in 2015-16 and \$1.41 million in 2016-17.

(d) *What is the breakdown of expenditure of the budgeted \$440,000 under "New Kimberley National Parks" for the 14/15 financial year?*

Answer: The budget of \$440 000 for the New Kimberley National Parks for 2014-15 is allocated for capital infrastructure to develop a seasonal ranger base to service the day-to-day operations of the Kimberley National Park and Horizontal Falls National Park. A breakdown of these costs is not possible until the parks are established and further planning for the management of the parks is complete.

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- (e) *Given that the Camden Sound and Eighty Mile Beach marine parks are listed under the "Completed works" section, does this mean that the parks are now fully implemented and operational with final management plans and have no further spending requirements including, for example, Indigenous rangers costs? If not, what additional costs are budgeted?*

Answer: The Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park was created on 12 June 2013 and the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park on 29 January 2013 and both parks are operational. A final management plan has been prepared for the Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park and a management plan is currently being finalised for the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park. The parks will receive a recurrent budget of \$1.5 million per annum from 2014-15 to manage the parks and implement the approved management plans. There are no additional capital costs budgeted for the parks.

- (f) *What is the total budget of the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy; how much has been spent so far in each of the previous three years; what is the breakdown of planned expenditure for each of the next three years?*

Answer: The Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy was released on 17 June 2011, with a budget of \$63 million over five years towards its initial implementation. A further \$18.5 million was allocated in the 2013 budget, taking the total commitment under the strategy to \$81.5 million.

In 2011-12 and 2012-13 the Government expended \$13.3 million and \$12.8 million respectively on implementing initiatives under the strategy. Projected expenditure for 2013-14 is \$18.6 million. A further \$16.8 million has been budgeted for 2014-15, \$14.9 million for 2015-16 and \$19.7 million for 2016-17.

PUBLIC

Librarian	Perth	53
Senior Operations Officer	Narrogin	63
Interpretation Coordinator	Perth	64
Coordinator Workplace Planning	Perth	61
Administrative Assistant	Kirup	65
Aboriginal Heritage Officer	Perth	39
Research Scientist	Perth	54
Business Analyst	Broome	58
Conservation Employee	Perth	71
Apiary Coordinator	Perth	43
Senior Research Scientist	Bunbury	56
Administrative Assistant	Manjimup	60
Executive Officer	Perth	50
Unattached Officer	Perth	67
Unattached Officer	Perth	40
Unattached Officer	Perth	63
Unattached Officer	Perth	60
Unattached Officer	Perth	61
Unattached Officer	Perth	61
Unattached Officer	Perth	49
Unattached Officer	Perth	64
Unattached Officer	Perth	38

Each position was identified as surplus to requirements to improve productivity. Productivity was improved by reducing positions required for back office functions and by restructuring to give the necessary flexibility for the Department to provide front line services more effectively and respond to changing conditions.

PUBLIC

ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Question No. 8: Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked –

I refer to Budget Paper No 2, Volume 2, "Spending Changes" at page 661, and ask –

- (a) *How did the Department meet the 2013-14 Procurement savings of \$2.40 million and how is it planning to achieve the estimated savings of \$4.47 in this budget?*

Answer: The Department met the 2013-14 procurement savings and is planning to achieve the savings for 2014-15 by reducing non-essential procurement.

- (b) *In the "2013-14 Voluntary Separation Scheme" - Please list the roles, locations and ages of applicants who have received voluntary severances and briefly outline why each of these positions were identified as surplus to requirements?*

Answer:

Role	Location	Age
Project Officer, Budgeting and Reporting	Perth	59
Information Officer	Perth	40
Technical Officer	Perth	49
Strategic Planning and Special Projects Officer	Albany	68
Administrative Assistant	Bunbury	66
Senior Technical Officer	Perth	58
Research Scientist	Perth	63
Sustainable Resources Manager	Bunbury	60
Technical Officer	Perth	61
Senior Technical Officer	Perth	60
Ecologist	Denham	38
Electronic Document and Records Management Project Officer	Perth	56
Editor and Feature Writer	Perth	37
Science Support Officer	Perth	59
Research Scientist	Perth	56
Principal Marine Planner	Perth	50
Communications Assistant	Perth	65
Administrative Assistant	Perth	65
Administrative Assistant	Perth	64
Public Affairs Officer	Perth	71
Conservation Employee	Albany	63
Principal Human Resources Consultant	Perth	43
Visitor Services Officer	Narrogin	42

PUBLIC