

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Supplementary Information No 27.

Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked -

I refer to the outcomes and key effectiveness indicators for threatened species management at page 604. I note that the first line refers to threatened species. Between last year and this year there has been an increase of 12 new threatened species. Can the minister provide a list of the 12 species that have been newly listed? The footnote at the bottom of the page refers to a management system being in place for the recovery of threatened species. Does that mean that there is some kind of management plan for each of the 560 species now on that threatened species list; and, if not, what kind of systems are in place?

Answer:

Mr McNamara provided an answer to the part of the question relating to management plans. This answer deals with the change in the number of threatened species.

The net increase of 12 is based on the recommendations of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

Five flora taxa have been recommended for addition to the list - *Eremophila koobabbiensis* ms, *Hibbertia priceana* ms, *Ricinocarpus brevis* ms, *Synaphae* sp. Fairbridge Farm (D Papenfus 696), *Tetralochea* sp. Eneabba (L Sweedman 3364).

Nine fauna taxa have been recommended for addition to the list - Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Western Rosella (inland subspecies), Trout Minnow, *Pogona minor minima*, *Egernia pulchra longicauda*, *Tiliqua rugosa konowi*, *Pseudonaja affinis exilis*, *Pseudonaja affinis tanneri* and *Cyclodomorphus branchialis*.

Two taxa have been recommended for removal from the list. One is the flora species *Laxmannia jamesii*. The other results from taxonomic revision for the fauna subspecies *Lagorchestes hirsutus dorrae* which has been amalgamated with *Lagorchestes hirsutus bernieri* resulting in the deletion of one subspecies name from the list.

Supplementary information No 28.

Question: Hon Barry House asked -

I refer to a large block of land on the coast near Windy Harbour that is privately owned by a consortium of owners who operate under the company name Shellbay Holdings Pty Ltd. I am sure this is known to the CALM officers, because it is surrounded by D'Entrecasteaux National Park. Despite gazetted road access to this land, the owners have had a long running and to date unsuccessful battle to get approval to construct road access to their property. Why is CALM continuing to prevent these owners from putting in a road access to their property, which is a normal expectation of any private property owner; and if this land is so valuable to CALM, why does CALM not purchase it?

Answer:

Shellbay Holdings Pty Ltd owns a private property enclave in D'Entrecasteaux National Park known as Sandy Peak (Nelson Location 7965), and have put forward a proposal to build a road on a gazetted road reserve vested in the Manjimup Shire Council that passes through the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

Shellbay Holdings Pty Ltd prepared a Public Environmental Review (PER) for the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in January 1998 to obtain the necessary approvals to construct the road. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and the then National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA) both commented that the PER was an inadequate document as it did not adequately document flora or fauna, deal with the management of dieback, evaluate the impact on Aboriginal sites, or deal with visual impacts.

The EPA indicated at the time that it did not support the road being constructed on the road reserve alignment.

Following this, the proponent was alleged to have bulldozed a track destroying protected flora, disturbing several small granite outcrops and crossing sensitive wetland areas along the unformed portion of Doggerup Road within the road reserve. CALM initiated legal action against the proponent for breaches of section 23B(1) of the Wildlife Conservation Act, and Shellbay Holdings Pty Ltd were prosecuted for these actions.

CALM has been open to proposals from the proponent for an alternative solution to provide access to Sandy Peak. This included the option of relocating the gazetted road reserve and accessing Nelson Location 7965 from Salmon Beach Road, an existing public access road to the south of the property. The proponent has indicated this is not a practical solution and there are no suitable alternatives that meet their needs. Their preference is to pursue the option of developing Doggerup Road within the road reserve.

CALM has previously expressed an interest in the purchase of this property for inclusion within the D'Entrecasteaux National Park, in line with the Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks Management Plan

1987-1997. The previous owners were approached to sell Nelson Location 7965 to CALM in 1992. They indicated they were not keen for the property to be included into the national park and subsequently sold the property to Shellbay Holdings Pty Ltd. There were some initial informal discussions between the Directors of Shellbay Holdings Pty Ltd and CALM staff regarding the possibility of a land exchange involving Nelson Location 7965 and areas of conservation land near Northcliffe. There was little interest shown by the proponents in this option and it was not pursued. There was also some informal discussion regarding CALM purchasing the property. The very high indicative price, availability of funds and priorities for conservation land purchase elsewhere in the State resulted in this option not being formally pursued.

Supplementary Information No 29.

Question: Hon Norman Moore asked -

The eighth dot point on page 611 refers to future management arrangements of pastoral excisions and the coral coast. 1. Which agency will manage the proposed excision from the Ningaloo Pastoral Station? 2. Why has it been necessary to exercise such a large proportion of the property? 3. Is it a coincidence that the proposed excision is almost identical to the proposal put to Government by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Foundation as an alternative to the Mauds Landing development?

Answer:

Two current Government processes are relevant to the future of Ningaloo Station.

The first is the process under the Land Administration Act 1997 for the identification and negotiation of exclusions from pastoral leases in 2015. In December 2002 the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure determined the areas of pastoral leases that would be excluded upon lease renewal. In the case of Ningaloo, the Department of Conservation and Land Management is identified as the acquiring authority. Negotiations are not yet concluded. The exclusion identified in this process comprises the coastal strip of approximately two kilometres width as well as the northern portion of the lease that includes the southern part of Cape Range.

The second is the planning process for the Carnarvon-Ningaloo Coast. The May 2004 Draft Carnarvon-Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy has been prepared under the auspices of the Western Australian Planning Commission and released for a public comment period closing on 28 June 2004. As well as the area identified in the exclusion process, the draft Strategy has identified additional portions of the lease as proposed conservation and recreation areas.

The areas in question have been identified for their values in respect of conservation, provision for and management of recreation, and protection and management of the adjacent Ningaloo Marine Park. The proposals are based on a number of previous studies and reports, including by the Environmental Protection Authority, the WA Planning Commission and the 1995 report of the Legislative Council Select Committee on Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park. In 1994 the then Minister for Lands advised the Ningaloo lessee that possibly the whole lease would be required for conservation management.

The proposed excisions have their basis in studies and reports extending back to the 1975 conservation reserves systems reports of the Environmental Protection Authority. They are not based on the Australian Wildlife Conservancy proposal.

It is intended that the areas excluded or excised from the Ningaloo pastoral lease for conservation and recreation will be vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. However, a final decision will be made at the conclusion of the processes referred to above.

Supplementary Information No 30.

Question: Hon Robyn McSweeney asked -

I refer to the second dot point under major initiatives for 2004-05 on page 607, which states -

Develop key subsidiary management guideline documents to the Forest Management Plans 2004-13 . . .

I have a copy of the forest management plan, which states on page 8 that the removal of other forest produce will be managed and regulated by licence and management and that removal of domestic firewood is identified as a priority area. Paragraph 12.1.1 on page 36 states that the department will regulate the supply of forest produce, other than sawlogs, residue logs and craft wood, through the administration of licensing legislation. I take that to mean that a licence for firewood means there will be a charge for firewood. If that is true, how much will people be charged to go into the forest to collect wood and will there be wood collection areas? The forest management plan states very clearly that CALM will licence the collection of firewood.

Answer:

The Forest Management Plan 2004 – 2013 covers all State forest within CALM's Swan, South West and Warren Regions. Within each of these three regions, there are a number of public firewood collection areas for the removal of firewood for personal use.

There are six such areas in the Swan Region, 10 in the South West Region and 13 in the Warren Region.

The public firewood areas within the South West and Warren Regions have not been designated under regulation 98 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993. No charge is imposed on members of the public in these regions to collect firewood for personal use, and no licence or authorisation is needed.

Designating areas as public firewood collection areas for the removal of firewood for personal use under the Regulations enables CALM to enforce a greater control where it is deemed necessary. Within the Swan Region, the six public firewood areas have been formally designated under the Regulations. Members of the public must obtain authority before collecting firewood for personal use from these designated areas. This authority may be obtained from any CALM office or selected tourist bureaux within the Swan Region. The following amounts, per tonne or part thereof, are payable in respect to the removal of firewood from a public firewood area that is designated under the Regulations:

- (a) between 1 November and 30 April each year - \$7.70; and
- (b) between 1 May and 31 October in each year - \$15.40.

Supplementary Information No 31.

Question: Hon Norman Moore asked -

The last dot point on page 611 refers to the department's ownership of pastoral properties. How many pastoral leases does the department own and could I have a list of the names of the properties?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The member indicates that he is happy to take that question on notice.

Mr McNAMARA: The department currently has management responsibility for about 4.7 million hectares as at 30 June 2003 of former whole and part pastoral leases that have been acquired mostly under the Gascoyne-Murchison strategy. We would need to provide a list of the whole and part properties that make up that figure.

Answer:

The leases and part leases that have been purchased by the Department of Conservation and Land Management for addition to the conservation reserve system, and that are awaiting reservation are:

- Barnong (part)
- Bidgemia (part)
- Black Range
- Boologoroo (part)
- Bulga Downs (part)
- Burnerbinmah
- Cashmere Downs (part)
- Charnley River
- Cobra
- Dalgety Downs (part)
- Doolgunna
- Earaheedy
- Giralia
- Goongarrie
- Jaurdi
- Jimba Jimba (part)
- Kadji Kadji
- Kaluwiri (part)
- Karara
- Lake Mason
- Lochada
- Lorna Glen
- Lyons River (part)
- Mardathuna (part)
- Meentheena
- Middalya (part)
- Minnie Creek (part)

Mooka
Mooloogool
Mt Elvire
Mt Florence (part)
Mt Minnie
Mt Phillip (part)
Muggon
Nanga
Nanutarra (part)
Narloo
Pimbee
Twin Peaks (part)
Waldburg
Wanna (part)
Williambury (part)
Woolleen (part)
Yaringa (part)
Yuin (part)

Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked -

- (1) *Is there a strategic plan for the management/eradication of blackberries in the South West?*
- (2) *If yes, may I have a copy provided?*
- (3) *What is the CALM budget for 2004-05 for blackberry eradication?*
- (4) *Which Department is currently responsible for blackberry control in radiata plantations held in freehold title by the Executive Director of Dept of CALM?*

Answer:

Blackberries are managed as required under the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976. There is no specific strategic plan for blackberries in the south-west. As with all other environmental weeds, blackberries on land managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management are managed under the "Environmental Weed Strategy for Western Australia, 1999" and relevant Departmental policy. On Department managed lands priority for control is determined giving due consideration to environmental values affected, the interests of neighbours and other conservation priorities. Total eradication of blackberries in the south-west is not a feasible option with current control techniques. The Department has contributed \$25,000 per year for the past four years on a collaborative study into blackberry rust as a possible broad-scale biological control agent. The initial research for this project has been concluded and the rust was released in the south-west in April 2004. Consideration is currently being given to additional work that will be required to use the rust effectively in an integrated manner with standard control methods.

- (1) Not applicable.
- (2) In 2002/03, the last year for which complete figures are available, the Department spent approximately \$55,000 on blackberry control. A similar level of control was maintained in 2003-04. This was in addition to the Department's contribution to blackberry rust research. It is intended that the 2004-05 budget will be similar to previous years and will be augmented by the \$25,000 formerly allocated to research, which will be used to implement a proposed enhanced blackberry control program.
- (3) The Department of Conservation and Land Management is responsible for declared plants on the public land it controls, including freehold title land held by the Executive Director, under the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976. Management of blackberries and other weeds on plantation areas is conducted according to Forest Products Commission payments made for works programs on those lands.

Question: Hon Murray Criddle asked -

Page 67 of the Economic and Fiscal Outlook, under the Bushfire Management and Suppression subtitle, states that an extra \$3.6 million will boost fire management resources in 2004-05. How and in which offices will this allocation be spent?

Answer:

The \$3.6 million extra funding for fire management resources in 2004-05 will be used to boost the number of fire fighting crews and fire planning staff in five CALM regions - Swan, South West, Warren, South Coast and Midwest.

These extra fire personnel will help to boost the capacity for prescribed burn operations, other fire prevention works and fire suppression.

The additional funds will also be used to increase the capacity to maintain strategic fire access, permanent water supplies, firebreaks and fuel-reduced buffers.

The funding will also allow two extra large bulldozers and low loaders with trained operators to be hired during the fire season to bolster the capacity to respond rapidly and effectively to wildfires.

Approximately \$600,000 of the allocated funds will be required to fund the increases in fire standby allowances under the new common fire service conditions agreement.

The provisional allocation of the remaining \$3 million in 2004/05 is as follows:

Swan Region	\$1,000,000
South West	\$810,000
Warren	\$780,000
South Coast	\$180,000
Midwest	\$180,000
Fire Management Services	\$50,000