

NATIONAL PARKS, NORTH WEST, LATE OPENING

183. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Is the minister aware that Mr Kevin Kennealy of Landscape Tours told ABC Radio on Tuesday 13 June 2000 that CALM will be delaying the opening of a lot of national parks in the north of the State due to severe weather damage?
- (2) Are Mr Kennealy's comments correct?
- (3) If yes -
 - (a) which national parks will be opened late;
 - (b) on what dates will each national park open;
 - (c) what will be the delay for each national park; and
 - (d) what damage was incurred by each park?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

(1)-(2) Yes.

- (3)
 - (a) Tunnel Creek National Park is now open to four wheel drive vehicles only. Geikie Gorge National Park is now open. Windjana Gorge National Park is open to four wheel drive vehicles only. Purnululu National Park is now open to vehicles - four wheel drive access is only road access - and road works are in progress. Mirima National Park is now open. Drysdale River National Park is closed to all vehicles.
 - (b) Access is still currently being assessed so it is not possible to give a date.
 - (c) As indicated the majority of parks are now open. Where access is still to be opened or upgraded to national parks or other areas - under CALM's management control - bulletins are sent to tourist information centres each working day indicating the current known condition of roads.
 - (d) All parks in the Kimberley region have experienced road damage due to flooding and an extensive long wet season. Repairs are currently under way.