

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, HANDS-FREE MOBILE PHONE DEVICES

861. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer to the answer to question on notice No. 432, in respect to mobile phones, and the answer to question without notice No. 126 and ask will the Minister provide a detailed response to question on notice No. 432?

Dr EDWARDS replied:

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) \$120

The Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) No
- (2) Not all staff who have been issued with a mobile phone and drive a vehicle for work purposes accept calls when driving. Combined ear piece - microphone type devices or cradle hands-free devices have been provided to drivers on request for some years as a safety measure, and will continue to be provided.
- (3) Not applicable

The Conservation Commission of WA:

- (1) Conservation Commission vehicles have a hands free facilities installed
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A

The Department of Environmental Protection and The Water and Rivers Commission:

- (1) No
- (2) Both the Department of Environmental Protection and Water and Rivers Commission have advised staff that, with the exception of executive staff, ie. CEO and Directors, and vehicles that are deemed to be required for constant use (regional), all staff are to either:
  - a) Turn the phone off whilst driving the vehicle and let the call go to message bank and then retrieve the call once they have legally parked the vehicle.
  - b) Pull over to a legal parking area and then answer the phone.
- (3) No cost – vehicles for executive staff and those that are deemed to be required for constant use were fitted with Hands Free Car Kits prior to 1 July 2001.

Heritage Council of Western Australia:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Installed as part of vehicle lease cost.

The Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) No
- (2) Minimal use is made of official mobile phones in government vehicles by staff of this Office. Cradle-type hands free devices are already fitted to vehicles that require them, and a portable hands-free device is available for use by staff in other vehicles.
- (3) Not applicable

The Perth Zoological Gardens:

- (1) No.
- (2) Cost implication. Zoo staff have been instructed not to drive Zoo vehicles when operating a mobile phone. Phones are turned off in vehicles if there is no hands-free facility fitted.

(3) N/A.