

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, HANDS-FREE MOBILE PHONE DEVICES

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

I refer to the answer to question on notice No. 418, 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. 418?

Dr EDWARDS replied:

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority:

- (1) No.
- (2) Staff have been provided with the less expensive alternative – the combined earpiece - microphone type device.
- (3) Not applicable.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) Nil. Cradle hands-free devices have been installed in many vehicles for some years as a safety measure.

The Conservation Commission of WA:

- (1) Both Government vehicles have cradle hands free devices in them.
- (2) N/A
- (3) \$661.83

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) Already installed.
- (2) As above.
- (3) Included as part of new vehicle leasing cost.

The Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) Minimal use is made of official mobile phones in government vehicles by staff of this Office. Cradle-type hands free devices have previously been fitted to vehicles that require them, and a portable hands-free device has been purchased for use by staff in other vehicles.
- (2) Answered by (1)
- (3) \$95.00

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.