

PORT KENNEDY SCIENTIFIC PARK, BUDGET FOR MANAGEMENT

117. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) What is the budget for management of the Port Kennedy Scientific Park for the year to June 30 2001?
 - (2) What has actually been spent to date and where?
 - (3) What fences were replaced during this financial year to June 30 2001?
 - (4) Why are the fences put in by the Port Kennedy LCDC not maintained?
 - (5) Why is the feral fence not finished?
 - (6) When will it be finished?
 - (7) Why have the solar panels and electric top wire not been installed?
 - (8) Is it CALM's intention to replace parts of the fence with agriculture-style fencing and why?
 - (9) For which financial years was feral baiting carried out?
 - (10) If the current developer fails will the Minister require a new environmental assessment of any further proposals?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1) \$ 28 980

I would like to advise the Honourable Member that, while the budget for the Department of Conservation and Land Management for the 2001/2002 financial year has a modest increase to \$32 900, funding from other sources has been obtained and the total planned expenditure for 2001/2002 at Port Kennedy Scientific Park is \$114,500. The additional projects are for rehabilitation of primary dunes, being a Coast Care grant of \$24,000 and for maintenance, rehabilitation and weed management through a Work for the Dole scheme valued at \$57,600.

- (2) For the 2000-2001 financial year

Total expenditure: \$75 424 (inclusive of contributions such as Work for the Dole)

\$17 585 Salaried staff costs - maintenance, weed management, rehabilitation, community involvement, public information.

\$530 Unexploded ordinance check, alignment of temporary agricultural fence (unauthorised vehicle and motor bike control).

\$2008 Repair damage to vermin proof fence.

\$708 Installation of pedestrian access gate on northern boundary.

\$554 Purchase and install vehicle management gate to close firebreak entrance to the reserve on the southern boundary next to the Family and Children's Services Youth Camp.

\$1300 Slashing firebreak tracks.

\$2710 Vehicle running costs for facility maintenance.

\$2105 Rehabilitation equipment for stabilising the primary sand dunes (frog matting, saws, pruning shears, seedlings).

\$198 Replace battery for vermin proof fence electric top wire circuit.

\$6756 Dedicated fire vehicle lease costs.

\$1320 Community information day walks and clean-up days.

\$3650 Interpretive shelter and panels (completed June 2001 and to be installed by end of August 2001), management signs (installed 8 August 2001) and public display posters (recently on display at Rockingham Shopping Centre).

No cost 500 m recycled fence materials for temporary agricultural fence.

\$36 000 (2400 hours) 'Work for the Dole' - maintenance, rehabilitation, weed management.

- (3) Twenty three metres of damaged vermin proof fencing was replaced along the northern boundary.

Three metres of damaged vermin proof fencing was replaced along the southern boundary.

Forty metres of rabbit netting was replaced on the southern boundary west of the youth camp.

Ten metres of fencing that previously excluded four wheel drives from the Scientific Park was replaced on four occasions.

One pedestrian access gate installed on the northern boundary opposite Rostellifera Break was replaced.

Additionally, 500 metres of new agricultural fence on the north-western boundary of the Port Kennedy Scientific Park was installed to demarcate the boundary and assist in controlling unauthorised access by four-wheel drive vehicles and motorbikes.

- (4) The fencing installed by the LCDC is regularly patrolled and maintained.

During the 2000-2001 financial year, three 3 metre long sections of the LCDC fence were repaired following vandalism.

The LCDC fence is not being maintained to the same standard as the newer sections of vermin proof fencing, as it is intended to replace the LCDC fence with a more effective design, consistent with the style and functionality of the newer 'electrified' vermin proof fencing. This will occur as funding becomes available. The design of the existing LCDC fence is deficient in that it does not exclude predators such as cats.

- (5) Six kilometres of standard electrified vermin proof fence have been constructed along the southern, eastern and part of the northern boundary of the Scientific Park. This was constructed during 1996/1997.

An additional three kilometres of vermin proof fence is required to complete the northern boundary and enclose the reserve to the coast. The cost to complete the fence is estimated to be \$150 000.

The Port Kennedy Development Agreement Act 1992 requires the developer to provide the final three kilometres of fencing to agreed standards. The developers of the Port Kennedy Resort had committed to supply funding for that fencing prior to the stalling of the development.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management will continue to pursue alternative funding through external grants and other funding opportunities for this purpose.

- (6) Unknown. The fence will be completed when the developer of the Port Kennedy Resort is in a position to provide funding in accordance with the Port Kennedy Development Agreement Act 1992, or, if this does not occur, when the Department is successful in securing alternative funding.

- (7) The solar panel and electric top wire have been installed for the full six kilometres of the newer vermin proof fencing and have been operating since 1998.

- (8) No.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has never replaced, and does not intend to replace, vermin proof fencing with agricultural style fencing within the Scientific Park.

The Department has recently erected 500 metres of agricultural style fencing on the north-western boundary of the Scientific Park utilising materials that have been recycled from within the Scientific Park. This temporary agricultural fencing has been constructed to provide a physical barrier to the increasing number of four-wheel drive vehicles traversing the Scientific Park to access Becher Point and the foreshore for surfing and fishing activities. The temporary fence clearly identifies the northern boundary of the Scientific Park and will assist the Department in controlling unacceptable activities within the park.

It is intended to replace this agricultural style fencing with the electrified vermin proof fencing as soon as resources become available.

- (9) No fox baiting has been conducted by the Department to date.

Consideration was given to commencing a fox baiting program in July 1999. The Department chose to defer the fox baiting program until the final three kilometres of fencing is constructed, to reduce the possibility of domestic dogs and cats entering the Scientific Park and accidentally ingesting fox baits.

- (10) DEP has advised that if a new developer takes over the project, the existing environmental conditions will apply. If a significant change to the existing approved project is proposed, then this will be required to be referred to the EPA for environmental assessment.