

NATIONAL PARKS, WARREN-BLACKWOOD AREA, ENTRY FEES, ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

2837. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for the Environment

I refer the Minister to expenditure on National Parks in the Warren District for the years 2001 to 2004 and ask—

- (a) to which National Parks in the Warren-Blackwood are visitors required to pay an entry fee;
- (b) what is the current entry fee for each park where an entry fee is payable;
- (c) is there an entry fee for the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park;
- (d) if not, why not;
- (e) what is the cost of administering each National Park in Warren-Blackwood;
- (f) what is the Capital Expenditure for each National Park in Warren-Blackwood; and
- (g) during the Easter Weekend for 2004—
 - (i) how many CALM officers were checking National Park passes and collecting fees;
 - (ii) what were the receipts for the weekend;
 - (iii) how and where will the funds collected be spent; and
 - (iv) what was the cost of deploying the CALM personnel for the weekend?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) Gloucester, Warren, Beedelup, Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks.
- (b) The 'day entry' fee is \$9 per vehicle (for up to eight legally seated people); or \$3 per motor cycle and concessions (concessions apply to Seniors Card, aged pension card and Department of Veterans' Affairs cardholders); or \$3.40 per passenger on commercial tour vehicles and buses (or \$1 per bus passenger for concession cardholders listed above where the vehicle/bus is a non-commercial tour).

Extended park passes are also available:

- Annual Local Park Pass (for one park or group of local parks – eg Shannon/D'Entrecasteaux, Warren, Beedelup and Gloucester National Parks are included on a local park pass) - \$17.00/vehicle (up to eight people);
- Holiday Park Pass - \$22.50/vehicle (up to eight people);
- Annual All Parks Pass - \$51.00 (for up to eight people);
- Goldstar Pass (Annual All Parks Pass including subscription to CALM's Landscape magazine) - \$73.00.

Holders of recreational fishing licences are not required to pay a day entry fee if entering a park for the purpose of their licence (recreational fishing licences are required for the following types of fishing: abalone, rock lobster, south-west freshwater angling, marron, and net fishing).

Fee waivers are granted for school groups entering for educational purposes related to the school curriculum, aged and infirm people or disabled people on group outings, and forest tours by non-profit organisations for educational purposes.

- (c)-(d) No, however there will continue to be some contribution required through fees for facilities in the inland parts of the park through the development of a pass which will apply to a wider area and will include the Governments proposed new national parks in the area once they are gazetted and facilities are in place.
- (e)-(f) Expenditure within national parks is part of general expenditure across CALM Regions, therefore some estimation is involved in determining the expenditure within individual parks. Estimated expenditure (including Main Roads WA Tourist Road funding) for the national parks in the Warren-Blackwood was:

Shannon/D'Entrecasteaux National Park

2000/01	\$936,400 - includes \$86,600 capital expenditure.
2001/02	\$1,479,360 - includes \$271,220 capital expenditure.
2002/03	\$1,769,100 - includes \$361,480 capital expenditure.

Warren, Gloucester and Beedelup National Parks

It is not possible to separate expenditure in these three parks in the general ledger. Estimated expenditure for the three parks was:

2000/01	\$422,040 - includes capital expenditure of \$106,100.
2001/02	\$1,085,140 - includes \$146,040 capital expenditure.
2002/03	\$890,610 - includes capital expenditure of \$195,640.

Mount Frankland National Park

2000/01	\$88,340.
2001/02	\$117,080.
2002/03	\$122,150.

Walpole-Nornalup National Park

2000/01	\$628,300—includes \$84,900 capital expenditure.
2001/02	\$605,700—includes \$216,570 capital expenditure.
2002/03	\$955,050 - includes \$379,400 capital expenditure.

- (g) (i) CALMs Warren Region is comprised of two Districts - Donnelly and Frankland.

Donnelly District

The Donnelly District Easter works program involved 19 CALM staff working at various times and locations over the Easter weekend (9 - 12 April 2004). The focus for these staff members was to provide up-to-date information on the parks and to ensure visitors enjoyed their visit by providing local information and a range of options for visitor activities. They were also deployed to manage inappropriate visitor behaviour to prevent visitor conflicts and environmental impacts, and to ensure there were no significant impacts on the conservation values of the parks by the large number of visitors. Where appropriate they also collected visitor fees. The staff members were involved in a range of specific tasks including the following:

- cleaning and servicing recreation and camping sites;
- leading and coordinating volunteer programs such as the Lada Niva 4WD Club coastal clean-up project and the campground host program;
- providing visitor information, collecting visitor fees, and managing parking and climbing activities at the Gloucester Tree;
- leading and coordinating interpretive activities such as the “Go Bush Activity Program” at the Shannon Campgrounds;
- providing visitor information, collecting visitor fees and managing access, parking and camping at a range of locations including Black Point, Lake Jasper, Shannon and Yeagarup;
- providing visitor information, collecting visitor fees and managing parking at Salmon Beach.

Frankland District

In Frankland District, entry fees for D'Entrecasteaux National Park are generally collected via a self-registration entry fee station located on Mandalay Beach Road. National Park Rangers complement this system by checking vehicle passes when they are in the area. As indicated for Donnelly District, this work is carried out in conjunction with the full range of other tasks for which CALM staff are deployed.

During the Easter weekend, one Ranger spent from 10.00am to 4.30pm on 9 April in D'Entrecasteaux National Park. No Rangers from Frankland District were in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park from 10 - 12 April 2004 because of commitments elsewhere within the District, including a wildfire on 12 April.

- (ii) Visitor fees collected by Warren Region staff over the weekend totalled \$11,459. This does not include sales of National Park Passes from the Pemberton, Manjimup and Northcliffe Visitor Centres or other local outlets.
- (iii) National park entry fees are retained by CALM and spent on conservation and park management including the improvement of visitor facilities within the park where the fees are collected or other parks within the local CALM District.
- (iv) The Easter weekend work is part of the routine management and maintenance work that CALM staff undertake throughout the year. It is not possible to isolate a single

weekend from other expenditure in the general ledger. However, it is estimated the cost of deploying staff in Warren Region to cover all the tasks outlined in point (i) was \$19,700.