

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, ROLE

14. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

- (1) What is the purpose of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NP&NCA)?
- (2) Who are the members of the authority and what is their period of tenure?
- (3) In the last eight years how many excisions from national parks and conservation reserves have taken place?
- (4) In how many of these excisions has the NP&NCA indicated support for the excision?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- (1)-(2) The National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (the Authority) was abolished by the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Act 2000 which in turn established the Conservation Commission of Western Australia as a replacement controlling body. The Authority's functions were listed in section 22 of the Department of Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act) with that section repealed by the amendment Act 2000. Consequently there are no functions or members of the Authority.
- (3) In the last eight years there have been eight excisions from national parks, 63 from nature reserves and two from CALM Act section 5(1)(g) reserves.
- (4) Under section 17 of the CALM Act the Authority was required to consider amendments to land vested in it which was not a conservation park, not a national park created after the commencement of the CALM Act or not land classified as class A under the Land Administration Act 1997. The Authority did not object to any proposed amendment to such reserves in the last eight years of its operations. The Authority's recommendations were approved by the Ministers for the Environment.

In 1992-93 the Authority objected to an excision from the Kalbarri National Park for airstrip and infrastructure requirements but the Authority did not have a role to consider the class A reserve under section 17 of the CALM Act. Changes to conservation parks, national parks and class A reserves have been unofficially referred to the Authority from about 1997 and the Authority has not objected to proposed amendments. The Ministers for the Environment have approved the Authority's recommendations.