

CARNAC ISLAND, TOUR LICENCES

64. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Further to Question on Notice No. 15 of Thursday, May 3 2001 -

- (1) Do licences to operate tours on Carnac Island contain a condition that tours are limited to the beach area?
- (2) If yes, how often are checks carried out by CALM officers to make sure operators abide by this?
- (3) Is it possible for tours to move about on the whole island?
- (4) Is Carnac Island an important breeding ground for sea birds?
- (5) Does the study written by Mr Colin Ingram on visitor impacts take into account visitor impacts on other wildlife besides sea-lions?
- (6) If yes, what animals?
- (7) Will the Minister table a copy of the study written by Mr Colin Ingram on the impacts of visitors on Carnac Island?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

1. Yes.

2. Checks are conducted on a regular basis when tours are operating. Generally this is between October and April.

1999/2000 season - 35 visits by CALM staff to Carnac Island.

2000/2001 season - 27 visits by CALM staff to Carnac Island

3. There are no fences or other physical barriers restricting the public from moving around on the island. However -

Information panels at Carnac Island instruct visitors to stay on the beach.

Commercial operators are aware that they would be in breach of their licence conditions if they permitted their tour to move outside of the area of the (main) eastern beach.

Signs also warn visitors of dangers associated with tiger snakes and fragile cliffs at Carnac Island.

4. Carnac Island is a regionally significant site for seabirds.

5. No.

6. Carnac Island, along with the majority of Western Australia's coastal islands, is used for breeding purposes by seabirds.

Carnac Island is the southern most breeding site for the Wedge-tail Shearwater and the northern most breeding site for the Little Penguin in Western Australia, however it is not the sole breeding site for either of these, or any other sea bird species.

Other seabirds known to nest at Carnac Island include:

Pied Cormorant
Pied Oystercatcher
Silver Gull
Caspian Tern
Bridled Tern

A number of species of reptiles are also found on the island.

7. The report is still a draft document but is available on request from the Department of Conservation and Land Management.