



**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**2014/15 ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Thursday 10 December 2015**

**Department of Parks and Wildlife**

***[Supplementary Information C1]***

*Question:*

*In reference to part three of 'Service 2: Wildlife Management' on page 31, Hon Alanna Clohesy asked if a copy of a report on the ecological character description of the values of the Ramsar wetlands is publicly available on the Department of Parks and Wildlife website, and if she could be provided with a copy if it is not available.*

*Answer:*

There are 12 Ramsar sites listed in Western Australia. The Ramsar Convention encourages the development of three key documents for each Ramsar site, namely Ramsar information sheets, ecological character descriptions and management plans. Ecological character descriptions have been completed for 11 sites, with the description for the twelfth site, Becher Point, currently being finalised. These descriptions, together with the Ramsar information sheets and management plans are available on the Department of Parks and Wildlife's website.

***[Supplementary Information C2]***

*Question:*

*In reference to the performance highlights under 'Service 2: Wildlife Management' on page 34, Hon Ken Travers asked if the Committee could be provided with any information included in a database created to capture the results of the Biodiversity Audit 2, that is not currently publicly available.*

*Answer:*

Biodiversity Audit II is an evidence-based and expert opinion assessment of WA's terrestrial and marine plants and animals, threatened and priority ecological communities and significant wetlands in each of the State's 54 sub-bioregions. It presents a 'snap shot' in time of knowledge of the condition of and threats to the State's biodiversity and changes since the first audit in 2002. The Biodiversity Audit II portal provides improved access to the information collected and the ability to search and analyse by trends at whole of State or subregional scales. While much of the information collected for the audit is publicly available, for example in recovery plans, reserve management plans or scientific papers, a

portion of it is based on the expert opinion of more than 120 Parks and Wildlife staff. It is not possible to readily determine from the database which particular pieces of information are contained within public documents. Information in the Biodiversity Audit II portal would be verified through other processes before being used in decision making.

***[Supplementary Information C3]***

*Question:*

*In reference to the performance highlights under 'Service 2: Wildlife Management' on page 36, Hon Alanna Clohesy asked for details of the last few occasions the list of threatened ecological communities was updated, endorsed and approved by the Minister.*

*Answer:*

The list of threatened ecological communities (TEC) is approved by the Minister for Environment, after taking advice from the Western Australian Threatened Ecological Communities Scientific Committee (WATECSC) and the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The list was last approved in 2002. While there is currently no legislative mechanism in Western Australia to list ecological communities as threatened, this ability is included in the *Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2015*. The WATECSC has continued to assess TEC nominations since 2002 pending the inclusion of TECs in new biodiversity legislation. Ecological communities assessed as being at risk have been included on the Department of Parks and Wildlife's priority ecological communities list in the interim.

***[Supplementary Information C4]***

*Question:*

*In reference to the performance highlights under 'Service 2: Wildlife Management' on page 36, Hon Alanna Clohesy asked how many changes to the threatened ecological communities list occurred in the last financial year (2014-15) due to conservation activities, rather than new information acquired that showed it was not really threatened.*

*Answer:*

No changes were made to the list of threatened ecological communities in 2014-15. However, 35 additions and two deletions were made to the Department of Parks and Wildlife's list of priority ecological communities in 2014-15.

***[Supplementary Information C5]***

*Question:*

*In reference to pages 36 and 105, Hon Alanna Clohesy asked for those threatened ecological communities that are critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable, how many have recovery plans.*

*Answer:*

The performance indicator only refers to critically endangered and endangered threatened species and ecological communities. Thirty (79 per cent) of the 38 critically endangered and endangered threatened ecological communities (TEC) have recovery plans. Ten (36 per cent) of the 28 vulnerable TECs have recovery plans. Recovery plans are prepared on a priority basis, depending on the nature and immediacy of threats to the TEC, the practicality of implementing recovery actions and relative priority given to resources to respond to different demands across a number of conservation programs.

***[Supplementary Information C6]***

*Question:*

*Hon Alanna Clohesy asked for an overview document that provides the current status of all management plans for national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and state forest; including plans that are in process.*

*Answer:*

**CALM Act Management Plan Summary**

<b>FINAL MANAGEMENT PLANS</b>	<b>GAZETTAL DATE</b>
Barrow Island Marine Park	10/04/07
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	10/04/07
Barrow group nature reserves	24/02/15
Beeliar Regional Park	20/10/06
Benger Swamp Nature Reserve	12/02/88
Canning River Regional Park	05/12/97
Cape Range National Park	31/08/10
Carnac Island Nature Reserve	07/10/03
Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves	31/08/90
Dryandra Woodland	27/10/11
Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park	02/12/14
Esperance Lakes Nature Reserves	11/05/99
Fitzgerald River National Park	19/07/91
Forest Management Plan	06/12/13
Forrestdale Lake Nature Reserve	27/05/05
Goldfields Region	09/08/96
Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve	07/03/97
Herdsman Lake Regional Park	03/12/04
Jandakot Regional Park	05/08/10
John Forrest National Park	19/08/94
Jurabi and Bundegi Coastal Parks and Muiron Islands	25/08/00
Jurien Bay Marine Park	01/07/05
Kalbarri National Park	18/08/15
Karijini National Park	15/06/99
Kennedy Range National Park and Proposed Additions	02/05/08

Lake McLarty Nature Reserve	06/06/08
Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserve Additions	04/10/11
Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes Area Parks and Reserves	09/01/15
Leschenault Peninsula	08/01/99
Lesueur National Park and Coomallo Nature Reserve	13/10/95
Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park	05/11/13
Logue Brook Reservoir and Catchment Area	16/03/90
Marmion Marine Park	15/05/92
Matilda Bay Reserve	21/05/93
Millstream Chichester National Park and Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve	14/10/11
Montebello Islands Marine Park	10/04/07
Mooradung Nature Reserve	21/02/86
Muiron Islands Marine Management Area	14/01/05
Murujuga National Park	18/01/13
Nambung National Park and Wanagarren, Nilgen and Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserves	11/09/98
Nature Reserves in the Shire of Wyalkatchem	21/02/86
Nature Reserves of the Shires of York and Northam	10/07/87
Ningaloo Marine Park	14/01/05
Ngari Capes Marine Park	05/02/13
Ord River and Parry Lagoons Nature Reserves	05/10/12
Perup	03/05/12
Purnululu National Park	05/03/96
Rockingham Lakes Regional Park	30/11/10
Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park and Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve	19/01/01
Rowley Shoals Marine Park	10/04/07
Serpentine National Park	03/10/00
Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks	28/02/12
Shark Bay Marine Park	07/03/97
Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves and Proposed Reserve Additions	01/05/12
Shoalwater Islands Management Plan	20/10/92
Shoalwater Islands Marine Park	30/10/07
South Coast Region	13/03/92
Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks	03/12/99
Swan Estuary Marine Park	07/04/00
Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve	27/05/05
Tuart Forest National Park	19/08/14
Turquoise Coast Island Nature Reserves	24/03/05
Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve	07/06/96
Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park	24/07/09
Walpole Wilderness and Adjacent Parks and Reserves	07/07/09
Wanjarri Nature Reserve	02/07/96
Waroona Reservoir and Catchment Area	16/03/90
Wellington National Park, Westralia Conservation Park and Wellington Discovery Forest	17/04/09
West Cape Howe National Park	04/08/95

Woodman Point Regional Park	25/03/10
Yalgorup National Park	15/08/95
Yanchep and Neerabup, Parks and Reserves of	03/08/12
Yellagonga Regional Park	15/07/03

MANAGEMENT PLANS IN PREPARATION	STATUS
Albany Coastal Reserves	Draft in preparation
Esperance and Recherche parks and reserves	Final in preparation
(Proposed) Kimberley National Park (Wilinggin component)	Draft in preparation
(Proposed) Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park and North Lalang-garram marine parks, and Oomeday National Park	Open for public submissions
Proposed North Kimberley Marine Park	Draft in preparation
Pilbara Islands West Nature Reserves	Draft in preparation
Swan Coastal Plain South	Final in preparation
Walyarta, Kurriji Pa Yajula and Eighty Mile Beach coastal reserves	Draft in preparation
Wheatbelt Region	Draft in preparation
Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park	Final in preparation
Yawuru Northern Intertidal Area Conservation Area	Draft in preparation
(Proposed) Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park	Final in preparation
Yoorrooyang Dawang Conservation Parks	Final in preparation

**[Supplementary Information C7]**

*Question:*

*Hon Ken Travers asked for a specific example of an improvement in the way the Department of Parks and Wildlife will go about listing and using processes as a result of modernising the Wildlife Conservation Act, and the resources required to implement the new Act.*

*Answer:*

The question is best answered in two parts.

In terms of listing processes the *Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2015* will bring the entire listing process for threatened species up to 21<sup>st</sup> century international standards. By adopting international standard threat categories and also incorporates a requirement for the detail of listing processes and criteria to be made in Ministerial Guidelines. It is intended these guidelines will adopt the IUCN Red List criteria as accepted nationally and internationally. The Bill will therefore lawfully provide for recognition of status assessments undertaken by other jurisdictions, saving Western Australia from undertaking all its own assessments.

In terms of savings from the Biodiversity Conservation Bill will provide for greater efficiency, principally in two areas: reduced activity in traditional licensing areas under the Wildlife Conservation Act and; by recognising approvals under other legislation such as clearing and environmental impact assessments under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Under the Biodiversity Conservation Bill people will only require licences to cover species where that keeping poses a significant conservation threat. In relation to approvals, currently all activities approved under the Environmental Protection Act that impact

threatened flora for example also require a second approval under the Wildlife Conservation Act, wasting time and resources. The Bill provides for recognition of other approvals, which will be a saving for both departmental and private resources.

The detailed analysis of the resource requirements will be undertaken as the Bill progresses and during the development of the regulations necessary to implement it.

***[Supplementary Information C8]***

*Question:*

*In relation to the Cost of Services section of 'Statement of Comprehensive Income' on page 69, Hon Ken Travers asked why the figure for 'Other grants and contributions' has fallen from \$36,353,000 in 2013-14, to \$20,470,000 in 2014-15.*

*Answer:*

Other grants and contributions decreased by \$15.9 million (43.7 per cent) due mainly to significant one-off funding provided in 2013-14 by Main Roads WA for conservation land purchase. This information appears as note 'H' on page 93 of the Department's 2014-15 Annual Report.



Public / Internet

27/11/16 