

**ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Thursday, 16 June 2016**

**Department of Parks and Wildlife**

**Supplementary Information Number D1: Hon Adele Farina asked –**

*Has the department sought additional budget to cover the additional cost of the staff who are now devoted to this plan (draft Green Growth Plan)? Can you tell me how much that was?*

Answer: In 2014-15, the Department of Parks and Wildlife received \$0.5 million for the draft Green Growth Plan (Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions). The Department has absorbed all other costs associated with the Strategic Assessment.

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Department of Parks and Wildlife

**Supplementary Information Number D2: Hon Adele Farina asked –**

*I understand the plan [draft Green Growth Plan] indicates that 170,000 hectares will be transferred into the conservation reserve system. I want to know whether the area in phase 1 contains land that has been purchased from previous environmental offsets. Can you indicate how much in area and value?*

○ Answer: Of the Phase 1 lands shown in the draft Green Growth Plan (Strategic Assessment) a total of 5008 hectares have been acquired as previous environmental offsets. The value (purchase price) of these lands is about \$4.7million, noting that the value of some landholdings has been approximated on a prorate basis where the Phase 1 land represents a portion of the land parcel only.

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**Department of Parks and Wildlife**

**Supplementary Information Number D3: Hon Alanna Clohesy asked –**

*An expected timeframe for the autopsy report and a more detailed report on diagnostic and pathology tests in relation to the two dolphins that died in May 2016.*

Answer: The Department of Parks and Wildlife has received gross necropsy results. The adult female was of advanced age and in good physical condition with no evidence of physical trauma. Due to post-mortem changes to tissues the results of the gross necropsy are inclusive. The calf was in good external condition, but had a fishing line entanglement around its rostrum and pectoral fin. Evaluation of tissues, including lungs, spleen and lymph nodes suggest inflammation. The results of the gross necropsy suggest cause of death was pneumonia, with possibly underlying infection.

Murdoch University will provide advice on the dolphin deaths, which will include the results of the gross necropsies, when a range of diagnostic and pathology tests now being undertaken are complete. This advice is expected in late June 2016 and these will then need to be evaluated by Murdoch University. The Department of Parks and Wildlife does not expect formal results and a report from Murdoch University until July 2016, though this report could be delayed if subsequent testing is required.

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**Department of Parks and Wildlife**

**Supplementary Information Number D4: Hon Alanna Clohesy asked –**

*What is the population size of female dolphins in the Swan Canning river system at the moment?*

Answer: Dolphins that utilise the Swan Canning Riverpark on a daily or near-daily basis are considered resident dolphins. There are 10 female adults within the current resident population. The sex of most juveniles and calves has not been determined, however of those that are known, there are no females.

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**Supplementary Information Number D5: Hon Alanna Clohesy asked –**

*For data on dolphin deaths over the last 10 years, including sex, cause of death and year.*

Answer:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sex /age</b>	<b>Notes</b>
20 May 2016	Male calf	6-7 months old male calf with entanglement. Preliminary evaluation of the cause of death in the male calf was pneumonia, with possible underlying infection.
19 May 2016	Female adult (~30 years)	Known as 'Pirulli'. Due to post-mortem changes to tissues, the results of the gross post-mortem examination are inconclusive.
24 October 2015	Male calf	Known as 'Gizmo'. Multi-organ bacterial infection and associated inflammation.
5 January 2015	Calf	The partial remains of a deceased dolphin calf. It was not possible for a detailed post-mortem examination to be undertaken
2 February 2014	Calf	Newborn with no obvious signs of trauma. Calf appeared to be born prematurely.
7 September 2013	Calf	Less than a week old and appeared to have died as a result of pneumonia. Underlying tests for pathogens inconclusive. Morbillivirus and toxoplasmosis tests results were negative.
21 January 2013	Calf	Known as 'Highhope'. The carcass was only partial and was significantly decomposed, showing signs of post-mortem predation; cause of death unknown.
6 January 2013	Male calf	Newborn calf of dolphin known as 'Danielle'. Cause of death unknown.
26 May 2011	Probable juvenile	Skeletal remains only. The skull case was missing. No soft tissue remained. There was nothing present about the skeleton that might indicate a cause of death.

25 October 2009	Female adult	Poor body condition. Covered in skin lesions, recent entanglement of the right pectoral fin, fish hook and line lodged in oesophagus. Likely drowned as a terminal event due to it being severely weakened by poor body condition and severe skin lesions, also had multi-organ infection by various opportunistic bacteria, indication of immuno-suppression.
9 October 2009	Male	Very decomposed - teeth and blubber samples taken. No autopsy undertaken.
17 September 2009	Female adult (old)	Severe fungal dermatitis, possibly immuno-compromise.
21 June 2009	Female Juvenile sub-adult	Fluke entangled with fishing line causing extensive soft tissue scarring and inflammation. Multi organ infection of Staphylococcus aureus (golden staph) bacterial infection; due to probable septicaemia; pneumonia; likely that this individual succumbed to infection introduced through the wounds in the fluke; pre-existing immunosuppression cannot be ruled out. Tested positive for morbillivirus.
8 June 2009	Male (2-2.5 years old)	No obvious injury or disease. Advanced decomposition. Infection of the brain associated with Aspergillus sp. fungus (opportunistic pathogen); no gut contents, focal area of intestinal haemorrhage/infarction (significance unknown), individual may have prior immuno-suppression. Tested positive for morbillivirus.
5 June 2009	Male calf (~2 years old)	No obvious injury or disease, advanced decomposition. Post mortem inconclusive.
18 Nov 2007	Female	Necropsy report refers to likely "dolphin pox".
5 Nov 2007	Not recorded	Advanced decomposition; cause of death unknown.
22 Dec 2006	Not recorded	No cause of death recorded.
21 Oct 2006	Not recorded	No cause of death recorded.
7 Oct 2006	Not recorded	Advanced decomposition; cause of death unknown.

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Department of Parks and Wildlife

**Supplementary Information Number D6: Hon Adele Farina asked –**

*Is the data in the Biodiversity Audit II database accessible via the NatureMap portal?*

Answer: No. There are some differences in the format of data contained within the NatureMap database and the Biodiversity Audit II database. The NatureMap portal displays data in a spatial context. The Biodiversity Audit II database draws on spatial data that is displayed in NatureMap and combines it with non-spatial data to produce a different product.

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**Department of Parks and Wildlife**

**Supplementary Information Number D7: Hon Adele Farina asked –**

*Could I please have a list of the staff involved in the Biodiversity Audit II project?*

Answer: The Department of Parks and Wildlife (and former Department of Environment and Conservation) staff that provided input to Biodiversity Audit II were:

<b>Position title</b>	<b>Section</b>
Principal Policy Officer	Nature Conservation Division
Policy Officer	Nature Conservation Division
Policy Officer	Nature Conservation Division
Project Officer x 2	Strategic Policy Division
Policy Officer	Swan Region
Regional Manager	Wheatbelt Region
Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Kimberley Region
Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Pilbara Region
Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Midwest Region
A/Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Swan Region
Regional Leader Nature Conservation	South West Region
Regional Leader Nature Conservation	Warren Region
Regional Leader Nature Conservation	South Coast Region
Regional Ecologist	Wheatbelt Region
Regional Ecologist	Swan Region
Regional Ecologist	Warren Region
Regional Ecologist	South Coast Region
Ecologist (Urban Nature)	Swan Region
Regional Wildlife Officer	Warren Region
Senior Reserves Officer Barrow Island	Pilbara Region
Environmental Officer x 2	Midwest Region
District Manager	Swan Coastal District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Exmouth District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Moora District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Perth Hills District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Great Southern District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Central Wheatbelt District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Wellington District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Frankland District



Nature Conservation Coordinator	Albany District
Nature Conservation Coordinator	Esperance District
Flora Conservation Officer	Midwest Region
Flora Conservation Officer	Moora District
Flora Conservation Officer	Swan Region
Flora Conservation Officer	Swan Coastal District
Flora Conservation Officer	Perth Hills District
Flora Conservation Officer	South West Region
Flora Conservation Officer	Great Southern District
Flora Conservation Officer x 2	Central Wheatbelt District
Flora Conservation Officer	Donnelly District
Flora Conservation Officer	Frankland District
Threatened Flora Officer	Albany District
Conservation Officer - Terrestrial	Pilbara Region
Conservation Officer	Swan Region
Conservation Officer	Goldfields District
Conservation Projects Officer	South West Region
Conservation Officer x 2	Warren Region
Conservation Officer	Wheatbelt Region
Flora & Fauna Conservation Officer	Central Wheatbelt District
Flora & Fauna Conservation Officer x 2	Esperance District
Fauna Conservation Officer	Donnelly District
Fauna Conservation Officer	Albany District
Senior Operations Officer	Goldfields Region
Senior Operations Officer	Central Wheatbelt District
Operations Officer	West Kimberley District
Operations Officer	Geraldton District
District Operations Officer	Moora District
District Fire Coordinator	Great Southern District
Curator	Plant Science & Herbarium
Senior Principal Research Scientist x 3	Plant Science & Herbarium
Senior Principal Research Scientist	Animal Science
Senior Principal Research Scientist	Biogeography
Principal Research Scientist x 2	Animal Science
Principal Research Scientist x 2	Biogeography
Principal Research Scientist	Ecosystem Science
Principal Research Scientist	Wetland Conservation Science
Senior Research Scientist x 2	Plant Science & Herbarium
Senior Research Scientist	Animal Science
Senior Research Scientist x 2	Biogeography
Research Scientist	Plant Science & Herbarium
Research Scientist	Animal Science
Research Scientist	Biogeography
Research Scientist	Ecosystem Science
Honorary Research Associate	Plant Science & Herbarium
Botanist	Plant Science & Herbarium

Technical Officer (ID Botanist)	Plant Science & Herbarium
Contractor	Plant Science & Herbarium
Senior GIS Analyst	GIS Branch
GIS Analyst	GIS Branch
Project Officer GIS Fire	Fire Management Services Branch
Principal Zoologist	Species and Communities Branch
Zoologist	Species and Communities Branch
Fauna Technical Officer	Species and Communities Branch
Senior Botanist	Species and Communities Branch
Coordinator - Threatened Flora	Species and Communities Branch
Flora Technical Officer x2	Species and Communities Branch
Principal Ecologist	Species and Communities Branch
Ecologist	Species and Communities Branch
TEC Technical Officer	Species and Communities Branch
Conservation Officer TEC	Species and Communities Branch
Principal Coordinator Wetlands	Species and Communities Branch
Environmental Officer - Wetlands	Species and Communities Branch
Covenant Officer	Species and Communities Branch
Environmental Assessments - Pilbara	Environmental Management Branch
Environmental Assessments - Goldfields	Environmental Management Branch
Environmental Assessments - Midwest	Environmental Management Branch

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**Supplementary Information Number D8: Hon Adele Farina asked –**

*Why has the updated Wetlands Conservation Policy prepared by the Wetlands Coordinating Committee not been released for public comment?*

Answer: The Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia (1997) does not have an identified expiry date. While work to revise this policy occurred between 2007 and 2010, it has not been progressed at this stage. It will be reconsidered in the context of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and other Government reforms.

The Wetlands Conservation Policy is not considered time critical and a revised policy is not necessary to ensure ongoing management and protection of important wetlands.

