

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Additional Estimates, February 2009

Outcome:	1	Question No:	183
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Cocos (Keeling) Islands – poaching		
Hansard Page ECA:	30 (24/2/09)		

Senator Scullion asked:

Senator SCULLION—I refer to the numbers of prosecutions for poaching birds on the island. People go out there to have a wedding so they will go out and poach birds, and I understand there have been some prosecutions.

It may not be a matter for you, but I do know that you have been apprised of the issues associated with the ownership of firearms on Home Island and the incidences of poaching. I understand that this would not normally be a matter for you, but given that the whole islands are in fact a national park, it is very different circumstances, so if you could provide answers to those questions on notice, that would be appreciated.

Answer:

Pulu Keeling National Park consists of the 1.2 km² North Keeling Island, its central lagoon, and the waters around the island extending to 1.5 km from its high water mark. North Keeling Island is separated from the 26 islands of the southern atoll, which are not part of the national park, by 24 km of open ocean.

North Keeling Island is an internationally significant seabird rookery. Seventeen species of birds recorded on the Island are listed in the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment (CAMBA), and the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment (JAMBA). The breeding colony of the dominant bird species, the red-footed booby, *Sula sula*, is one of the largest in the world. The Pulu Keeling National Park Management Plan 2004, made in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and accepted by both Houses of the Parliament of Australia, prohibits the hunting of birds in the Park.

The red-footed booby, *Sula sula*, is listed as a migratory species under the EPBC Act, effectively prohibiting hunting of the species in Commonwealth areas, including the southern atoll of the Cocos (Keeling) Group. I understand the Cocos Congress submitted a referral under the EPBC Act to allow a sustainable harvest, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands-Red Footed Booby Bird Harvest (EPBC 2002/844).

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The Australian Federal Police Force (AFP) is responsible for enforcing law throughout the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and have a local police station manned with permanent staff. The AFP works closely with Parks Australia in enforcing the EPBC Act. I understand there have been seven prosecutions under the EPBC Act resulting from incidents in 2003 and 2006 of persons killing members of listed migratory species (red-footed boobies and frigate birds) in a Commonwealth area.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	184
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	North Keeling - employment		
Hansard Page ECA:	30 (24/2/09)		

Senator Scullion asked:

Senator SCULLION – Mr Cochrane, just on some general questions in regard to North Keeling, I know that you are very interested in ensuring that we maximise opportunities for employment on Home Island. As you know, we have very, very high levels of unemployment, and I suspect, as we have shared the view, that certainly Parks believe there is a high level of opportunity. Perhaps again on notice if you do not have the information here you can provide the numbers of permits for people to actually visit Keeling Island. You may be able to tell me the numbers of Cocos Malays under the act where you train Cocos Malays as guides, because without that they cannot get access to the island. How many Cocos Malays have actually been trained as guides? You might be able to provide that information now.

...

It is something that I took out of the management plan. I cannot put my finger on it right now. It was not so much an undertaking but the legislation provided that you cannot become a tour guide unless you receive training from Parks. Is that correct?

Mr Cochrane—I think you are correct.

Senator SCULLION—I think that is the case. Please provide me with the numbers if that has happened at all. I will certainly provide you on notice with the reference in your plan.

Answers:

The Pulu Keeling National Park Management Plan 2004, a plan made in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and accepted by both Houses of the Parliament of Australia, provides that a maximum of two permits may be issued at any one time authorising the conduct of tours on North Keeling Island. There is currently only one permitted commercial tour operator and to date no Cocos Malays have received formal tour guide training.

It is not correct that you cannot become a tour guide unless you receive training from Parks. Parks Australia is facilitating with Indian Ocean Group Training relevant training, including a manual for tour operators and guides, to ensure protection of the Park, and the conduct of safe and educational tours. There is no requirement, however, for tour guides or operators to have attended a training program before working under a permit authorising the conduct of tours on North Keeling Island.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	185
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	North Keeling – Tour guides, fishing		
Hansard Page ECA:	30		

Senator Scullion asked:

There is a differential between, let us say, a fishing tour operator, one of the local island Malays who wishes to take a tourist out to the island to catch fish and put it on the boat exactly the same as he would—there is a bag limit—and he can then have an employment. I know that that is not permitted under the act. Could you take that into consideration? I know that from time to time you review the act, because it does seem like a clear impediment to employment that would have no impact on the environment whatsoever, given that there are existing bag limits and there are controls in terms of the definition of ‘recreational fisher’. If the definition of ‘commercial’, simply because he makes money out of taking you out rather than being an industrial fisher, was somehow dealt with, I think that would make a great deal of difference. Could you talk to me just briefly about your capacity to be able to interact? What is the timing? What are your views on that?

Answer/s:

Pulu Keeling National Park is managed in accordance with the Pulu Keeling National Park Management Plan 2004, a plan made in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and accepted by both Houses of the Parliament of Australia. Access to Pulu Keeling National Park is limited to those in the company of Park staff, those authorised by a permit issued by the Director under the EPBC Regulations, and those carrying on or taking part in authorised commercial tour activities. The management plan, however, does not authorise commercial fishing tours and fishing boat charters, to ensure that the Park’s internationally significant scientific and conservation values are retained and that the Park continues to provide a replenishment area for species targeted at the southern atoll.

The current management plan is in place until April 2011. Planning for and consultations about the new management plan will commence soon, and this will provide the opportunities for stakeholders to put forward their views about changes for the next plan.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	186
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	NRS and IPA – funding		
Hansard Page ECA:	31		

Senator Siewert asked:

How much of the new NRS and IPA funding that has been committed has already been spent and what it has been spent on in the categories of what is going into the state reserve system, IPAs and private protected areas?

Answer/s:

As at 31 January 2009, \$3,613,133 has been spent on the National Reserve System with \$3,500,000 going into the state reserve system, \$46,081 on private protected areas and \$67,052 on maintenance of the program (predominantly development of the revised NRS Strategy document and obtaining legal advice).

As at 31 January 2009, \$3,267,875 has been spent on the following Indigenous Protected Areas projects:

Indigenous Protected Areas	
Dhimurru IPA	227,700
Guanaba IPA	105,300
Kaanju Ngaachi IPA	135,000
Laynhapuy IPA	330,300
Mt Chappell and Badger Island IPAs	130,000
Mt Willoughby IPA	150,000
Nantawarrina IPA	140,000
Ngaanyatjarra IPA	310,000
Ninghan IPA	150,000
Northern Tanami IPA	200,000
Paruku IPA	270,000
Risdon Cove and Putalia IPAs	140,000
Toogimbie IPA	92,700
Tyrendarra IPA	115,000
Warlu Jilajaa Jumu IPA	180,000
Watarru and Walalkara IPAs	155,000
Wattleridge IPA	158,000
Yalata IPA	100,000

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Indigenous Protected Areas Consultation Projects	
Co-management in the Central Queensland Coast	40,000
Co-management in Mandingalbay Yidinji	49,000
Maintenance of the program	89,875
TOTAL	3,267,875

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 187
Output: 1.2
Division/Agency: Director of National Parks
Topic: Christmas Island - employment
Hansard Page ECA: 34 (24/2/09)

Senator Siewert asked:

Mr Cochrane—Current staffing at the moment on the island is 28. Some of those are involved in the management of Cocos as well, because we transferred a position over to Christmas Island to harvest some efficiencies of operations.

Senator SIEWERT—Some are project staff?

Mr Cochrane—Yes. I would have to take on notice exactly what the break-up would be of project staff.

Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated. I am also keen to know how the staff numbers have fluctuated over the last, say, 10 years?

Answers:

There is currently 34 staff in Christmas Island and Pulu-Keeling National Park, including on-going, non-ongoing and seasonal staff. The average number of staff for Christmas Island for 2008/09 is 28. This reflects the seasonal nature of some positions.

The current break down of staff is as follows:

No.	Level	Title	Ongoing/ Non ongoing
Park Operations			
1	EL1	Manager Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks	Ongoing
2	APS 6	Natural Resource Manager	Ongoing
3	APS 6	Policy and Programs	Non-ongoing
4	APS5	Chief Ranger	Ongoing
5	APS 3	Senior Ranger	Ongoing
6	APS 1/2	Ranger	Non-ongoing
7	APS 4	Admin Officer	Ongoing
8	APS1/2	Admin Assistant (permanent part-time)	Ongoing
Mine site to Rainforest Rehabilitation Program (externally funded)			
9	APS 5	Project Officer	Ongoing
10	APS 3	Rehabilitation Field Supervisor	Ongoing
11	APS 3	Rehabilitation Field Supervisor	Ongoing

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No.	Level	Title	Ongoing/ Non-ongoing
12	APS 3	Nursery Manager	Ongoing
13	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Ongoing
14	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Ongoing
15	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Non-ongoing
16	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Non-ongoing
17	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Non-ongoing
18	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
19	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
20	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
21	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
Invasive Species (part externally funded)			
22	APS 5	Project Officer	Ongoing
23	APS3	Invasive Species Field Supervisor	Ongoing
24	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Ongoing
25	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Ongoing
26	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Non-ongoing
27	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Non-ongoing
28	APS 1/2	Field Officer	Non-ongoing
29	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
30	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
31	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
32	APS 1/2	Seasonal worker	Non-ongoing
Pulu Keeling National Park			
33	APS 5	Pulu Keeling Chief Ranger	Ongoing
34	APS 3	Ranger	Ongoing

With respect to fluctuation of staff over the last 10 years, this has been answered in response to a written question on notice (number 192).

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	188
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Christmas Island Biodiversity reports		
Hansard Page ECA:	34		

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—Has that been given to the department?

Mr Cochrane—It has been provided to the department of finance, yes.

Senator SIEWERT—How long ago was that?

Mr Cochrane—The second half of last year. I am happy to provide it and I am happy to tell you when we gave it to them.

Senator SIEWERT—That would be appreciated. Have they ever been publicly released?

Mr Cochrane—No, because essentially it was a consultancy that the department of finance funded us to do, and we provided them with the final report.

Senator SIEWERT—So the ownership of the report is with the Department of Finance and Deregulation?

Mr Cochrane—Yes. I would be surprised if they had any difficulty with our making it available to you, but we had better check.

Senator SIEWERT—If you could, that would be appreciated. It will actually save me going into that estimates and asking them for it. If you could ask them, and if you could make it publicly available, that would be very much appreciated.

Answer/s:

The final report, and its recommendations, was provided to the Department of Finance and Deregulation in September 2008.

The Director has sought and is awaiting the agreement of the Department of Finance and Deregulation to the release of the final report to the Committee.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	189
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Christmas Island Expert group on threatened species		
Hansard Page ECA:	36 (24/2/09)		

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—When is the expert committee due to report?

Mr Cochrane—They have had a teleconference already. We are still assembling the committee to meet on island within a few weeks. Associate Professor Bob Beeton, who chairs the Threatened Species Scientific Committee, has taken a very strong interest in this and has offered to chair the expert working group. It is a question now just of the logistics of getting the right people on the island. I will provide you on notice the list of names.

Answers:

Christmas Island Expert Working Group:

- Associate Professor Robert (Bob) Beeton AM (Chair)
- Dr Andrew Burbidge
- Professor Gordon Grigg
- Dr Ric How
- Mr Norman McKenzie
- Dr John Woinarski

The Christmas Island Expert Working Group will be meeting on Christmas Island from 30 March – 3 April 2009. The timing of their final report to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts will be determined following the on-island meeting.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	190
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Kakadu – Infrastructure, Jim Jim road		
Hansard Page ECA:	38 (24/2/09)		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—How long is the road, out of curiosity?

Mr Cochrane—I am sorry, I do not have that in my head.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Take that on notice.

Mr Cochrane—I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Jim Jim road from the Kakadu Highway to Garnamarr camping area is 51 km of graded, gravelled road (4WD preferred but is trafficable by 2WD). The distance from Garnamarr to Jim Jim Falls is 9 km of very sandy 4WD bush track. Jim Jim Falls to Twin Falls is 11 km of very sandy/rocky 4WD bush track.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	191
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Keeling Island		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Scullion asked:

1. The taking of Booby Birds in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands has been suspended under a moratorium while a community management plan is adopted. Has a management plan for the Community Management Plan for the harvesting of red footed booby (*Sula sula*) in the Cocos Keeling Islands been drafted?
2. What was there a tender or selection process used to select the consultants to complete this plan?
3. What was the selection/engagement process?
4. Will the department provide the committee with a copy of the plan?

Answers:

1. A draft plan, 'Community Management Plan for Harvesting of Red Footed Boobies *Sula sula*, in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands' was prepared for Cocos Congress by the Australian National University in 2007.
2. The Director of National Parks managed a tender process to select the consultant to develop the plan.
3. Tenders were assessed against criteria outlined in the terms of reference for the consultancy. The Centre for Research and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University was the successful tenderer. It was engaged by the Director of National Parks in April 2006.
4. The draft plan is part of the referral information - Cocos (Keeling) Islands-Red Footed Booby Bird Harvest (EPBC 2002/844). It is not publicly available at present.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	193
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Christmas Island – Red crabs and Yellow crazy ants		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Was the original numbers of Red Crabs on Christmas Island estimated to be 150 million?
2. Has this been reviewed and what are the current estimated original total figures of Red Crabs prior to the arrival of Yellow Crazy Ants?
3. Who carried out the review of original total figures of Red Crabs on Christmas Island and how was it conducted?
4. What is the current estimate of the Red Crab population on Christmas Island and what have been the annual estimates for the last 15 years?
5. Is it correct that the last survey of Red Crab population showed an increase of 4% over the preceding survey?
6. Has it been concluded that part of this last survey contained an invalid count method for Red Crabs and if so can the figure of a 4% increase in Red Crab population be sustained?
7. Will the Government table all reports for the last 10 years into Red Crab population?

Answer/s:

1. Density estimates of red crabs made between 1979 and 1983 estimated the population to be 100-120 million Red Crabs.
2. There has not been a retrospective review undertaken. Population estimates do not, to our knowledge, exist prior to the arrival of the yellow crazy ant which may have occurred many decades ago.
3. The original population estimates were made by John Hicks, and published in the Australian Journal of Zoology. The reference for this study is below.

During this study, Mr Hicks conducted density sampling of red crabs at various points on the island. Density estimates were then applied across the entire area of the island to extrapolate the crab population for the whole island. This methodology may have been less rigorous than more recent surveys.

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Reference: Hicks, J.W. 1985. The breeding behaviour and migrations of the terrestrial crab *Gecarcoidea natalis* (Decapoda: Brachyura). *Australian Journal of Zoology* 33: 127-42.

4. The current population estimate is 50 million. More rigorous Red Crab population estimates have been made by Christmas Island National Park commencing with an Island Wide Survey in 2001 (at the peak of the crazy ant super colonies and prior to aerial baiting). This estimated the population size of Red Crabs to be 40-50 million.

Red crab burrow count data has been collected every second year since 2001 during a systematic Island Wide Survey. Most recent estimates by Parks Australia indicated the population remains at 50 million. Analysis of all of the crab burrow data collected since 2001 indicates that population densities have not increased or decreased significantly since 2001.

New data on crab densities (for the period 2008-2009) will become available after the fifth Island Wide Survey scheduled for completion in September 2009. It is not necessarily important to estimate actual numbers of crabs on the island, the important management issue is whether there have been significant changes in densities over time.

5. No, the evidence suggests that there has not been a detectable increase or decrease in crab densities.
6. Yes, there were some methodological problems. These have been addressed and there is no evidence of an increase or decrease in population numbers since 2001.
7. A number of reports prepared over the last 10 years that contain data on Red Crabs are attached.
 - A. 2009 Proposed Island Wide Survey
 - B. 2007 Island Wide Survey Report
 - C. 2003 Invasive Species Draft Action Plan
 - D. 2002 The Aerial Baiting Campaign September 2002 – An Appraisal of Project Objectives and Key Outcomes.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	194
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Efficiency Dividend		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How has the Director implemented the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend (ED)?
2. Where have savings been achieved – i.e. which programs/resources have been cut?
3. Has the Director had to reduce any activities that it considers to be ‘core business’ or has it had to reduce service standards as a result of the ED?

Answers:

1. The Director has implemented the one-off efficiency dividend through reorganising work practices and staffing levels to achieve greater efficiencies and productivity; and by reducing the scope of some contracted works.
2. No programs have been cut. Savings have been achieved across the agency.
3. No ‘core business’ activities have been reduced. Some service standards have been reduced, such as reducing the frequency of cleaning at campgrounds during low visitation periods.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	195
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Staffing		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts? If so, where and at what level?
2. Are there any plans for staff reductions? If so, please advise details i.e. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
3. What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? Are such employment programs being reduced? If so, by how many and has the Director done an analysis on long term effect on retention and attrition?
4. Has the Director's consultancy expenditure increased due to reduced staffing?

Answers:

1. Overall staff numbers have not reduced.
2. Future staffing levels will depend on the outcome of the 2009-10 Budget.
3. The graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs are provided and managed by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has responded to a similar written question on notice (number 82) regarding this matter.
4. No.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	196
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Federal Financial Relations		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Noting the Government's Federal Financial Relations Bill 2009, which appropriates money to Treasury to pass on to the States:

1. Does the Director receive any appropriations that will be transferred to the Treasury Dept?
2. What are these?

Answers:

1. No
2. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	197
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Parks Resources		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Does the Director have enough analytical resources at its disposal? For example, the Government has cut funding to the ABS – is the Director provided with enough data collection for evidence-based policy making and evaluation?
2. Did the Director use any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure in 2007-08?
3. Has the Director used any depreciation funding for recurrent expenditure this year?
4. Has any depreciation funding been used for purposes other than the replacement of capital items in 2007-08?
5. How much has the Director spent on the replacement of capital items in the first six months of 2008-09?

Answers:

1. Yes
2. No
3. No
4. Depreciation funding in 2007-08 was used to directly replace assets or otherwise maintain existing service capability
5. \$2.661 million has been spent in the first six months of 2008-09 to directly replace assets or otherwise maintain existing service capability

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	198
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Stimulus Package		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Does the Director have any involvement in measures announced as part of the \$42 billion budget stimulus package?
2. If so, was (and when was) the Director asked for input before the stimulus package was announced?
3. When did the Director know details about the stimulus package affecting its portfolio?

Answers:

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	199
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Parks Staffing		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the current total staffing for the Director – permanent and temporary?
2. What was the total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staffing level for the Director on 1 July 2008?
3. How many permanent staff were recruited in calendar year (CY) 2008 and in financial year (FY) 2008-09 to date? What level are these staff?
4. How many temporary positions exist or have been created in CY 2008 and in FY 2008-09 to date?
5. For CY 2008 and FY 2008-09 to date, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Answer:

The Director of National Parks is assisted by staff employed by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. No staff are directly employed by the Director of National Parks. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has responded to a similar written question on notice (number 84) incorporating those staff that assist the Director of National Parks.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	200
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Underspend		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Which programs are currently tracking for an underspend this financial year?
2. How many of the Director's funding programs/budget measures lapse this Financial Year and what are they?

Answers:

1. No programs are tracking for an underspend this financial year.
2. Supplementation of \$4.432 million for the continuation of budget supplementation for Kakadu National Park to replace revenue lost through the abolition of park use fees in 2004 lapses this financial year.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	201
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Gershon Review		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What impact will the Gershon Review have on the Director?
2. How much money will be saved?
3. Will the Director be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10?

Answers:

1. The Director was not required to participate in the Gershon Review.
2. Not applicable.
3. No, the Director will not be required to return any money to Budget for 2009-10.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	202
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Parks Media Monitoring		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How much was spent on media monitoring in CY 2008?
2. How much has been spent on media monitoring in FY 2008-09 to date?
3. How many staff in the Director are employed for media related duties?

Answer:

The monitoring of media is a service that is provided by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under an overarching Service Delivery Agreement for corporate services to the Director of National Parks. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has responded to a similar written question on notice (number 210) regarding the media monitoring activity.

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	203
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	Parks Communications		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What communications programs has the Director undertaken, or is planning to undertake?
2. For each program, what is the total spend? Please detail including media advertisements (where placed and costs).
3. What was the total spend on advertising by the Director in CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?

Answer:

No communications programs have been undertaken by the Director of National Parks other than (a) advertising 'have your say' processes which initiate the preparation of new Management Plans for Commonwealth Reserves and invitations to comment on draft Management Plans and (b) advice to tour operators on road conditions and access to sites in Kakadu National Park. Cost of these activities are minimal and not tracked separately.

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 204
Output: 1.2
Division/Agency: Director of National Parks
Topic: Hospitality Costs
Hansard Page ECA: Written Question on Notice

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the Director's hospitality spend for CY 2008 and for FY 2008/09 to date?
2. Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

Answers:

1. The Director's official hospitality spend for CY 2008 was \$6,013.99 (GST exclusive).
The Director's official hospitality spend for FY 2008/09 to 13 March 2009 is \$2,727.53 (GST exclusive).
2. Details of hospitality costs is as follows:

Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (\$)
25/1/2008	Old Parliament House, Canberra	Working lunch with The Nature Conservancy	150.91
26/3/2008	Bunga Melati Restaurant Jalan Masjid Home Island	Pulu Keeling National Park Community Management Committee Meeting dinner	250.40
28/3/2008	5 Farrell Place, Canberra	Lunch for the IUCN Protected area policy meeting	114.55
30/3/2008	Asian Café Canberra	Working dinner for the IUCN PA Categories guideline review	231.55
7/4/2008	Kakadu Gagudju Crocodile Hotel	Dinner with tourism consultant to the Kakadu National Park	111.14
18-23/5/08	Darwin	Books for a meeting with staff of New Zealand Department of Conservation to maintain tradition and relationship between staff of Australia and New Zealand conservation agencies	136.09
21/6/2008	Bowali Visitor centre, Kakadu National Park	East Timor Presidential Visit morning tea to provide exposure to the National Park	209.09
22/6/2008	East Alligator Area, Kakadu	East Timor President Visit Ramos Horta - helicopter flight over Kakadu national park to	1,260.00

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Date	Location	Purpose	Cost (\$)
	National Park	give the park international exposure	
30/6/2008	Canberra	Wood carving to acknowledge and thank Mrs Ross for her outstanding personal contribution to the establishment and success of the AVH trust and AVH initiative	900.00
15/7/2008	Asian Cafe Canberra	Dinner for the discussion on ARC funded project undertaken by the University of Queensland Qld, Parks Victoria and NSW DECC regarding park management effectiveness	108.64
15/8/2008	Mezzalira, Canberra	Lunch for the partnership discussion with Tourism Australia on current status, future directions and opportunities for broader collaboration within Government and Industry	145.45
18/8/2008	Australian National Botanic Garden	South African Delegation visit Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) luncheon	633.64
25-26/8/08	Kakadu National Park	South African Official delegation visit lunch at Bowali visitor centre	254.54
19/8/2008	Booderee National Park	South African Delegation lunch, morning and afternoon tea for knowledge sharing on management of protected areas	847.27
19/8/2008	Cooinda, Kakadu National Park	Lunch and cruise for the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change	454.54
24/8/2008	Kakadu National Park	Lunch for visiting Indonesian and Papua New Guinea delegates as part of the operation plan for Tri Nations Wetland Agreement and Climate Change Symposium	69.82
26/11/2008	ANBG	Floral tribute for retiring CHABG secretariat for her contribution and successful administration of the CHABG forum over the past 8 years	45.45
6/12/2008	Mudginberri Kakadu	Flower wreath for Senior Mirarr Traditional Owner funeral	90.91
25/2/2009	Kakadu National Park	Flowers for Lorraine Large funeral - ex-KNP staff member	77.27
	Total		6,091.26
	CY 2008		6,013.99
	FY 2008/09		2,727.53

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Additional Estimates, February 2009

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 205
Output: 1.2
Division/Agency: Director of National Parks
Topic: Board Members
Hansard Page ECA: Written Question on Notice

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. What is the gender ratio on each board across the portfolio, and what is the total ratio across the portfolio?
2. In which states/territories do these Board members reside?

Answers:

1. The gender ratio for each of the Director of National Parks' Boards of Management as at March 2009 is as follows:

Board	Females		Males		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Booderee NP	4	33	8	67	12
Kakadu NP	6	40	9	60	15
Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP	3	38	5	62	8
Total	13	37	22	63	35

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts have responded to a similar question on notice (number 213) in relation to Board Members across the greater portfolio.

2. The Board members reside in the following states / territories:

Board	ACT	NSW	NT	Jervis Bay	Total
Booderee NP	2	3		7	12
Kakadu NP	1		14		15
Uluru-Kata Tjuta NP	1		7		8
Total	4	3	21	7	35

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Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

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Outcome:	1	Question No:	206
Output:	1.2		
Division/Agency:	Director of National Parks		
Topic:	FOI		
Hansard Page ECA:	Written Question on Notice		

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. Has the Director received any advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Director received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI

Answer:

Responding to freedom of information (FOI) requests is a service that is provided by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under an overarching Service Delivery Agreement for corporate services to the Director of National Parks. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has responded to a similar written question on notice (number 214) regarding FOI's.

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Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

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Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 207
Output: 1.2
Division/Agency: Director of National Parks
Topic: Consultancies
Hansard Page ECA: Written Question on Notice

Senator Birmingham asked:

1. How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007?
2. Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the consultancy, and the method of procurement (i.e. open tender, direct source, etc). Please also include total value for all consultancies.
3. How many consultancies are planned or budgeted for this calendar year?
4. Have these been published in the Director's Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website? If not, why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

Answers:

1. 10
- 2.

Name	Subject Matter	Duration (days)	Cost (GST excl.)	Method of Procurement
JLLRLD PTY LTD	Marketing Assistance for New Australian National Botanic Gardens Café Licence Agreement	337	\$15,685	Open Tender
Mark Michael Richardson	To undertake a review of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Living Collection in order to determine future management and ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the utility of the collection.	320	\$20,000	Direct Source
Heather Moorcroft	Consultation with the Park and community in preparing strategies for Booderee National Park Cultural Heritage Management	396	\$18,182	Open tender

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Brian Gilligan	A review of land management services at Calperum and Tayloville Stations delivered under contract to the Director of National Parks	123	\$17,325	Expressions of interest / quotes sought from selected suppliers
Dept of Environment Water, Heritage and the Arts	The identification of conservation values and potential marine reserves in Commonwealth waters surround Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands	365	\$337,000	Direct source
Enmark Pty Ltd	Assistance and advice in regard to the business case for additional funding for the Director	28	\$11,890	Direct source
The University of Queensland	Impact of Cane Toads on native Frogs in Kakadu National Park	942	\$11,619	Direct source
Mulherin Consulting Pty Ltd	To develop management strategy for cultural objects held by Kakadu National Park	444	\$20,560	Direct Source
Dept of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NT)	Developing management and conservation strategies for the Australian Snubfin Orcaella heinsohni and Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin Sousa chinensis in Kakadu National Park	819	\$34,000	Direct source
AgEconPlus	Preparation of a Strategy for a Nationally Distributed Seed Banking Network and Caring for Our County Application	54	\$17,160	Direct Source
John Morse	Strategic Tourism Advice	365	\$70,909	Direct Source
Latrobe University	Research and Development of an indirect biological control for crazy ants on Christmas	850	\$801,850	Direct source

The total value for all consultancies is \$1,376,180.

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3. No other consultancies are planned or budgeted for the remainder of this financial year. Planning and budgeting for consultants for 2009/10, and hence the second half of this calendar year, has not been finalised.
4. Not applicable as no other consultancies are planned or budgeted for the remainder of this financial year.