

Enquiries Damien Head
Telephone (07) 3247 5951
Your reference
Our reference BNE2006/11305

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

An entity of the
Environmental Protection Agency

15 August 2006

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information
Technology and the Arts References Committee
S1 57
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

Hansard Proof - Cairns Hearing 30 June 2006

In follow-up to the Cairns hearing of the Senate Inquiry into Australia's national parks, conservation reserves and marine protected areas on the 30 June 2006, QPWS has reviewed the Hansard transcript and wish to provide the following information as a supplement to QPWS's original submission (Sub No. 175A). This additional information is tendered in response to factually incorrect comments made by witnesses during the hearing. The below information seeks to provide clarification to these issues in question. Please consider this supplementary information during your final deliberations, with reference to the Cairns hearing.

Wet Tropics World Heritage Area funding

The Commonwealth and Queensland State Government jointly fund the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA). The direct State contribution to WTMA is currently \$1.79M with around \$0.4M additional provided for corporate and other support functions. The State however, contributes a significant amount to management of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, with a total contribution for 2005-06 estimated at \$12.6M (including direct contribution to WTMA).

Operational Funding for Protected Area Management in Queensland

The total operating budget for management of protected areas in Queensland is outlined in Attachment I. These figures indicate that the QPWS operating budget has risen by 130% since 1996-97.

QPWS estate generated Revenue

The QPWS submission to the Inquiry detailed revenue generated from activities conducted on the QPWS managed estate. All user pays revenue raised on the estate is returned directly to the

QPWS and the park aggregations that generated the revenue. Statewide, revenue received meets less than 4% of the total operating costs to manage the estate.

Ranger Numbers

The total number of full time equivalent (FTEs) staff employed by QPWS is outlined in Attachment 1. These figures indicate ranger numbers have risen by 45% since June 1997.

Indigenous Rangers

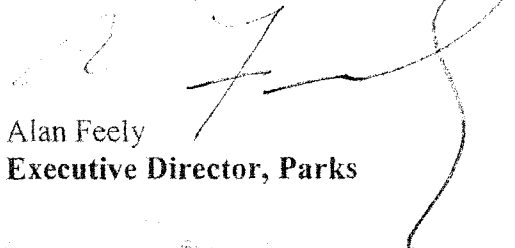
As at 26 June 2006, QPWS had a total of 41 rangers who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, this represents 5% of the QPWS ranger workforce.

More specifically across the Cape York/Dry Tropics district, QPWS has 8 indigenous rangers located in the Cape York/Dry Tropics District. Seven of these staff occupy indigenous 'identified' or 'specified' positions, based at various locations including Coen (2), Cooktown (1), Lakefield (2), Iron Range (1) and New Laura (1). More than 20% of all QPWS staff employed in the Cape York/Dry Tropic District have an indigenous background.

The number of indigenous staff employed is likely to be higher as individuals are not obliged to 'identify' themselves as aboriginal in any employment action and therefore do not appear in EPA census data.

Please do not hesitate to contact Damien Head, Principal Advisor (Parks Division) on 07 3225 1572 or damien.head@epa.qld.gov.au if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Alan Feely
Executive Director, Parks

Attachment 1

Protected Area Management 1997 to 2006

Category	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Management Expenditure (Excludes Capital) \$M	32.99	33.16	35.78	41.42	43.63	47.60	52.32	62.00	72.00	76.00
Protected Area Estate (Million Hectares)	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.7	8.3

Notes:

1. Includes protected areas only - National Park, National Park Scientific, Conservation Park and Resources Reserves.
2. Does not include State Forests, Timber Reserves or Forest Reserves.
3. Includes QRAM, island part of DDM of GBRMP, WTMA on NPs, other C'wealth specials.
4. Does not include Capital Funding

Source Reference:

ANZECC Reports 1996/97 to 2004/05 and * estimate only for 2005/06

Staff Establishment Numbers 1997 to 2006

Source Reference	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Employee Category	June-97	June-98	June-99	June-00	June-01	June-02	June-03	June-04	June-05	June-06
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Rangers	479	517	543	504	622	667	684	706	674	697
Other	1,120	1,212	1,287	1,357	1,712	1,701	1,498	1,423	1,428	1,476
Total	1,599	1,729	1,830	1,861	2,334	2,367	2,181	2,129	2,102	2,173

Note: Includes all staff reported by Full Time Equivalent (FTE) - permanent, temporary, casual and trainee

Source Reference:

1. EPA Annual Reports

2. Aurion Data 26/06/06