

STANDING COMMITTEE

COUNCIL OF NATURE CONSERVATION MINISTERS

SIXTEENTH MEETING

CANBERRA 25 OCTOBER 1979

PRESENT

Western Australia

Representatives: Mr B.K. Bowen,
Director,
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,
(Chairman).

Dr F.G. Smith,
Director of National Parks,
National Parks Authority.

Adviser: Mr A.J. Mearns.

Commonwealth of Australia

Representative: Prof J.D. Ovington,
Director,
Australian National Parks and Wildlife
Service.

Advisers: Mr G.R. Mills.
Mr J.R. Sands.

CSIRO

Representative: Dr R.J. Millington,
Chief,
Division of Land Use Research.

Adviser: Mr G.J. Sinclair.

Australian Capital Territory

Representative: Dr B.H. Pratt,
Director (Conservation and Agriculture),
Department of the Capital Territory.

Adviser: Mr J. Williams.

Northern Territory

Representative: Mr W.T. Hare,
Director,
Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Queensland

Representative: Dr G.W. Saunders,
Director,
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

New South Wales

Representative: Mr D.A. Johnstone,
Director,
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Adviser: Mr J.R. Giles.

Victoria

Representatives: Mr J.C. Wharton,
Director,
Fisheries and Wildlife Division,
Ministry for Conservation.

Mr D.S. Saunders,
Director,
National Parks Service,
Ministry for Conservation.

Tasmania

Representative: Mr G.J. Middleton,
Chief Resources Officer,
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

South Australia

Representative: Dr P.W. Ellyard,
Director-General,
Department for the Environment.

Adviser: Dr S. Barker.

Secretariat

Mr R.E. Hogg,
Secretary to Standing Committee.

Mr D. McAllister.

AGENDA

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1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Summary record of fifteenth meeting.
4. Marine parks and reserves.
5. World Wildlife Fund.
6. Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
7. State representation on Australian delegations negotiating international agreements.
8. Working Groups.
 - (a) Kangaroo Management.
 - (b) Youth for Conservation Program.
 - (c) Law Enforcement.
 - (d) Remote Sensing.
 - (e) Sub-professional Training.
 - (f) Technical Conference Program.
 - (g) Selection and Classification of Protected Areas.
 - (h) Endangered Fauna.
 - (i) Endangered Flora.
9. Guidelines for culling populations of native animals.
10. Inventory of ecological research facilities.
11. Monitoring of protected areas.
12. International Botanical Congress.
13. IUCN matters.
14. Annual statement of research projects.
15. National wetlands survey.
16. Submission to Senate Standing Committee inquiry into forestry.
17. Correspondence.
18. Proposal for 1980 meeting of Council.
19. Other business.
 - (a) Issue of permits to collect wildlife for scientific purposes.
 - (b) Co-ordinating Committee on Agricultural Chemicals.
 - (c) Transfer of exotic animals from A class zoos.

- (d) Funding for Atlas of Australian Birds.
- (e) Interstate trade in fauna.
- (f) Working group on endangered species.
- (g) Migratory birds questionnaire.

20. Next meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and apologies

The Chairman, Mr Bowen, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates.

He advised that apologies had been received from:

- Mr P. Murrell, who was being represented by Mr Middleton.
- Mr N.S. Coad.

Members of Standing Committee expressed and agreed to place on record their sorrow and sense of loss at the death of Mr W.S. Steel.

Standing Committee also agreed to place on record its appreciation for the contribution which had been made to the development of CONCOM by:

- Dr R.W. Boden, who had recently been appointed Director of the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.
- Mr W.T. Hare, who would shortly be retiring as Director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of agenda

Standing Committee adopted the provisional agenda for the meeting without alteration.

Agenda Item 3: Summary record of fifteenth meeting

Standing Committee accepted the revised summary record of its fifteenth meeting, incorporating several minor amendments proposed by members, as an accurate account of the proceedings.

Agenda Item 4: Marine parks and reserves

Standing Committee noted that the administrative arrangements proposed by Council for the establishment and management of marine parks and reserves outside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park region had been submitted to the Premiers' Conference by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General and endorsed by the Premiers' conference as the basis for future action in this regard.

In response to the resolution of Council that formal liaison be established between CONCOM and the Australian Fisheries Council in relation to marine parks and reserves, Standing Committee resolved to:

- (i) Request Mr Bowen, as current Chairman of the Standing Committee on Fisheries, to convey through that Standing Committee to the Australian Fisheries Council the CONCOM proposition that each proposal for the establishment of a marine park or reserve which would extend across the boundary of the territorial sea be submitted to both CONCOM and the AFC for information and comment.

- (ii) Request early advice from the AFC Secretariat regarding the reaction to this proposition to enable a report and recommendations for any further action which might be required to be prepared for the next meeting of Council.

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(Resolution 1)

Agenda Item 5: World Wildlife Fund

Standing Committee noted that Council had endorsed its recommendation that the operation of the World Wildlife Fund and its interaction with government nature conservation agencies be monitored for twelve months and then reviewed in the light of the experience gained during that time, and agreed that this monitoring should remain on an informal basis with members reporting at meetings on any difficulties which had arisen through the activities of the Fund.

Standing Committee also noted advice from New South Wales and South Australia that in several cases WWF had not observed its earlier undertaking that all projects which it proposed to support would be referred for comment to the responsible government agency in the State or Territory where the work was to be carried out. Standing Committee therefore resolved that the Secretariat would obtain details of the projects in question and convey to WWF the concern of CONCOM that they had not been referred to the State agencies in the agreed manner.

(Resolution 2)

Agenda Item 6: Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Standing Committee considered the report prepared by Mr Bowen on the outcome of the Negotiating Conference on the Draft Convention for the conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals which was held in Bonn in June 1979, noting in particular that the Conference had rejected the Australian proposal for the incorporation of a federal clause into the text of the Convention.

Standing Committee thanked Mr Bowen for his report and requested the Secretariat to circulate the final report of the Australian delegation to the Conference to all members for their information as soon as it became available.

Agenda Item 7: State representation on Australian delegations negotiating international agreements

Standing Committee considered possible arrangements for the inclusion of State representatives in future Australian delegations negotiating international agreements of relevance to CONCOM, and resolved to recommend to Council that:

- (i) The current Chairman of Standing Committee or his nominee would be the person proposed to the Commonwealth as the States' representative on any particular delegation.

- (ii) If the current Chairman was a Commonwealth officer, then the person proposed would be the next Chairman from a State or Territory or his nominee.
- (iii) The cost of sending a States' representative on each delegation would be shared equally by the States and Territories.

(Resolution 3)

Agenda Item 8: Working Groups

(a) Kangaroo Management

Standing Committee considered in detail the report by the ad hoc Working Group on Kangaroo Management regarding the operation of the system of carcass tags for commercially harvested kangaroos, and resolved to endorse for submission to Council the recommendations of the Working Group that:

- (i) The present tagging system be retained as it formed an integral part of the kangaroo management programs of the States.
- (ii) As special problems did occur in the management of kangaroo populations, the State quotas for harvesting commercial species be set within biologically meaningful ranges, rather than as specific figures.
- (iii) These ranges be reviewed every three years and re-established for the next three-year period.

(Resolution 4)

Standing Committee also resolved that the report of the Working Group submitted to Council should include an estimate for each State of the income from the sale of carcass tags, to offset the figures given for expenditure on the production and distribution of tags. The Secretariat was requested to obtain this information from the States for inclusion in the report.

(Resolution 5)

Standing Committee requested Prof Ovington to provide advice at its next meeting in relation to:

- (i) The outcome of a Commonwealth interdepartmental committee which had been set up at the direction of the Prime Minister to examine the proposition that Australia should further restrict its trade in wildlife products, including those derived from species not considered to be endangered.
- (ii) The moves in Federal Parliament and elsewhere seeking to relax the special restrictions applying to the export of koalas and lyrebirds.
- (iii) The current action aimed at removing the United States ban on the importation of kangaroo products.

(b) Youth for Conservation Program

Standing Committee noted that following the endorsement in principle by Council of the concept of a youth for conservation program, the Department of Social Security had been approached concerning the transfer of those funds which would otherwise be used for unemployment relief to pay participants in any such program the equivalent of the unemployment benefit, but that the Department had not responded to date.

Standing Committee expressed concern at the delay which had occurred, but acknowledged that no further action could be taken to develop the draft program until the Commonwealth agreed to the proposed funding arrangements. Standing Committee therefore resolved that:

- (i) Prof Ovington would attempt to expedite a decision on the proposal by the Department of Social Security.
- (ii) If a positive response was received from the Commonwealth, the ad hoc Working Group on the Youth for Conservation Program would be reconvened to initiate a pilot program in New South Wales.

(Resolution 6)

Standing Committee also agreed that the proposal for a land management workforce submitted to Mr Johnstone by the Kosciusko Committee be acknowledged by the Secretariat and referred to the Working Group for consideration and comment if it was reconvened.

(c) Law Enforcement

Standing Committee considered in detail the various matters raised in the report of the ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement.

In relation to the system of export and import licences for controlling the movement of fauna between the States and Territories, Standing committee resolved to recommend to Council that:

- (i) No export or import licences would be issued for the movement of:
 - gang gang cockatoos,
 - golden-shouldered parrots,
 - hooded parrots,
 - orange-bellied parrots,
 - fig parrots,
 - naretha blue bonnet parrots,
 - eclectic parrots,
 - red-chee ked parrots.
- (ii) A technical group comprising members of the Working Group and the former Standing Working Group on Birds would review this list of birds.
- (iii) For the movement of all other species, a positive indication that an import licence had been or would be issued by the receiving State or Territory would have to be given before the exporting State or Territory would issue an export licence.

(Resolution 7)

In relation to controlling the export of indigenous "family pets" by persons returning overseas after a comparatively short time in Australia, Standing Committee resolved to recommend to Council that:

- (i) The qualifying period for which indigenous family pets must be held before permission for their export might be granted by the relevant State or Territory authority and the Bureau of Customs should be extended from six months to two years.
- (ii) The relevant authorities should have a discretionary power to vary this qualifying period in cases where special circumstances could be demonstrated.
- (iii) The Bureau of Customs be requested to accept these provisions for family pets and amend its procedures accordingly.

(Resolution 8)

Standing Committee also considered the need for all States and Territories to adopt uniform minimum cage standards for animals kept in connection with travelling circuses and shows, recognising that:

- (i) The majority of agencies represented on CONCOM did not have the administrative responsibility or the legislative power to control circuses and circus-type animals.
- (ii) Regulations prescribing minimum cage sizes had been in force in Victoria since 1966 and would serve as a useful model for any other State or Territory proposing similar legislation.

To ensure that overseas circuses visiting Australia would be aware of the cage size standards which they would encounter in Victoria, Standing Committee resolved to request the Secretariat, in consultation with Mr Wharton, to prepare for consideration at its next meeting a draft letter to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet requesting that all circuses entering Australia be advised of the Victorian regulations through the appropriate channels.

(Resolution 9)

(d) Remote Sensing

Standing Committee noted the interim report of the ad hoc Working Group on Remote Sensing and advice from the Convenor that the final report was in the course of preparation and would be available for the meeting of Council in mid-1980.

(e) Sub-professional Training

Standing Committee noted the report of the ad hoc Working Group on Sub-professional Training and accepted the nomination of Mr A. Fox of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to replace Dr Boden as Convenor of the Working Group.

(f) Technical Conference Program

Standing Committee noted that only a small number of proposals for technical meetings to be sponsored by Council had been submitted to the Secretariat by member agencies, and in view of this agreed that the ad hoc Working Group on the CONCOM Technical Conference Program could defer presenting its recommendations until the next meeting of Standing Committee to allow time for more proposals to be received.

(g) Selection and Classification of Protected Areas

Standing Committee noted the interim report of the ad hoc Working Group on Selection and Classification of Protected Areas and advice from the Convenor that the final report would be submitted to the first meeting of Standing Committee in 1980.

(h) Endangered Fauna

Standing Committee considered the recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Fauna in relation to action arising from the Endangered Species Convention, and resolved to:

- (i) Approve the continuation of the Working Group to review periodically the status of Australian fauna against the provisions of the Convention and when necessary identify appropriate taxa for possible inclusion on the Appendices.
- (ii) Endorse the proposal by the Working Group to submit the finch Poephila cincta cincta for consideration by postal voting procedures for inclusion on Appendix II.
- (iii) Endorse the decision by the Working Group not to proceed any further with the Australian proposals rejected at the Costa Rica meeting of Parties to the Convention.
- (iv) Endorse the list of species prepared by the Working Group to form the basis of an official list of Australian endangered fauna.
- (v) Reject the proposal by the Working Group that the former Standing Working Group on Birds be reconstituted to compile a list of endangered birds for inclusion on the official list of Australian endangered fauna, and direct instead that this task be handled by a specialist sub-committee of the Working Group.
- (vi) Request the Working Group to obtain the list of endangered fishes being compiled by an advisory committee of the Australian Fisheries Council as soon as it became available for inclusion on the official list of Australian endangered fauna.

(Resolution 10)

Standing Committee acknowledged that the production of a "red data book" of Australian endangered fauna in the large and detailed format used by some other countries would be beyond the present resources of CONCOM, and resolved to accept as an alternative the undertaking by

the Working Group to produce an annotated list of endangered species with a brief accompanying text on each, based on the official list of Australian endangered fauna.

(Resolution 11)

Standing Committee accepted the nomination of Mr R. Jenkins of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to replace Dr Boden as Convenor of the Working Group.

(i) Endangered Flora

Standing Committee considered the recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on Endangered Flora in relation to action arising from the Endangered Species Convention, and resolved to:

- (i) Endorse the annotations proposed by the Working Group to denote whether the Australian taxa listed on Appendix II were included because they were subject to trade or because of their similarity to traded species.
- (ii) Approve the continuation of the Working Group to finalise the various tasks arising from the Costa Rica meeting of Parties to the Convention.
- (iii) Request the Working Group to give priority to completing the draft Guidelines for Plant Protection Legislation, including a common list of protected species for each State and Territory.

(Resolution 12)

Standing Committee expressed concern that the Working Group intended to hold its next meeting in Darwin, and therefore resolved to request the Convenor to justify this proposal in view of the present financial constraints or alternatively use a more acceptable venue such as Adelaide or Alice Springs.

(Resolution 13)

Standing Committee accepted the nomination of Mr V. Russell of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to replace Dr Boden as Convenor the Working Group, but resolved to request Dr Boden to remain as a member because of his particular expertise.

(Resolution 14)

Agenda Item 9: Guidelines for culling populations of native animals

Standing Committee considered the desirability of developing guidelines for the culling of populations of native animals, and resolved to defer the question until its next meeting pending receipt by the Secretariat of the IUCN publication "The Elephant Dilemma", which dealt with problems of wildlife population control relevant to the Australian situation.

(Resolution 15)

Agenda Item 10: Inventory of ecological research facilities

Standing Committee discussed the concept of a government encouraging a diversity of ecological research by providing the facilities to enable visiting scientists to study a complete range of ecosystems within a particular country, noting the returns which had already been presented by a number of member agencies giving details of:

- (i) Facilities under their control and the type of research which might be undertaken at each.
- (ii) Facilities within their State or Territory but under the control of other organisations.

Standing Committee recognised that the resources which would be required to obtain this information from all member agencies, assess it and collate it into a uniform format were not available at present, and therefore resolved to defer further consideration of an inventory of ecological research facilities until its meeting following the next meeting of Council.

(Resolution 16)

Agenda Item 11: Monitoring of protected areas

Standing Committee determined what action was required in relation to the inventory of national parks and protected areas of the world being compiled by the IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas at the request of the General Assembly, and resolved to:

- (i) Endorse the nomination of Mr N.C. Gare of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service as the person to receive, collate and onforward to IUCN the material being provided for the inventory by the State and Territory nature conservation agencies.
- (ii) Request Mr Gare to prepare for its next meeting a brief progress report on the Australian component of the inventory, including an explanation of the aims and objectives of the program and the criteria for inclusion of areas in particular categories.

(Resolution 17)

Standing Committee also noted that the Australian Heritage Commission was developing a computer-based information system covering areas of national significance, including national parks and nature reserves.

Agenda Item 12: International Botanical Congress

Standing Committee discussed its policy towards the issue of State and Territory botanical collection permits to delegates attending the International Botanical Congress to be held in Sydney from 21 to 28 August 1981, and agreed that the relevant State and Territory agencies

would give sympathetic consideration to requests for permits to collect specimens in national parks provided the Congress Secretariat agreed to co-ordinate and rationalise these requests as far as possible.

Standing Committee therefore resolved to:

- (i) Request Mr Johnstone to obtain from the Congress Secretariat details of the likely requirements of the delegates for collecting specimens, and advise the Secretariat accordingly.
- (ii) Request the Secretariat to prepare for consideration at its next meeting a draft letter to the Congress Secretariat suggesting suitable arrangements for the issue of collection permits.

(Resolution 18)

Standing Committee noted that South Australia proposed to seek contributions from the other States to subsidise the publication of the "Flora and Central Australia" in readiness for the International Botanical Congress. It was agreed that the most appropriate action would be for the South Australian Minister to write in this regard to the Ministers responsible for both nature conservation and herbaria in the other States.

Standing Committee further resolved to place the "Flora of Central Australia" on the agenda for its next meeting with a view to recommending to Council that the publication receive the endorsement of CONCOM.

(Resolution 19)

Agenda Item 13: IUCN matters

Standing Committee noted the report of the joint meeting of the IUCN Commission on Ecology and the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas which was held in Canberra from 7 to 12 October 1979.

Standing Committee further noted that the Australian Committee of government and non-government IUCN Agency members would be meeting that evening to consider its draft constitution and formalise its establishment.

Agenda Item 14: Annual statement of research projects

Standing Committee noted that following the resolution taken at its previous meeting, the Secretariat proposed to prepare for submission to Council a statement describing in a standardised format all relevant research projects carried out or sponsored by member agencies during the year ending 31 December 1979, and would therefore be seeking in due course reports from members in relation to their 1979 research programs.

Agenda Item 15: National wetlands survey

Standing Committee noted the report by the CSIRO Division of Land Use Research outlining current and future work on the wetland studies program.

Agenda Item 16: Submission to Senate Standing Committee inquiry into forestry

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Standing Committee noted the letter which the previous Chairman of Council, Hon. D.P. Landa, had sent to the Secretary of the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce conveying the concern of CONCOM that the submission presented on behalf of the Australian Institute of Foresters to the inquiry being conducted into Australia's forestry and forest products industries had contained several unsubstantiated criticisms of existing national parks policy and practice in Australia. Standing Committee resolved to refer the contents of the letter to Council for information.

(Resolution 20)

Agenda Item 17: Correspondence

Standing Committee discussed the request by the Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation that the question of Australia's nominations for the World Heritage List and membership of the World Heritage Committee be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Council, and agreed that it would be undesirable to establish a precedent by listing items for consideration by Council at the request of outside organisations.

Standing Committee therefore resolved that in response to any future requests of this nature the Secretariat would:

- (i) Acknowledge the request, pointing out that it was not a function of CONCOM to consider matters raised by outside organisations, and suggest that the matter concerned be taken up with the appropriate State or Territory agency.
- (ii) Advise the State or Territory agency confidentially that the request had been received and acknowledged.

(Resolution 21)

Agenda Item 18: Proposal for 1980 meeting of Council

Standing Committee expressed support for the proposal by Western Australia that in conjunction with the 1980 meeting of Council in Perth, Ministers might participate in a discussion session on the topic of "public awareness and understanding of the objectives and practices of nature conservation" and/or present a number of short papers on specific aspects of this topic.

Standing Committee therefore resolved that with regard to the 1980 meeting of Council:

- (i) The Western Australian Minister would write to his colleagues in the other States and Territories inviting them to attend the Council meeting and participate in the discussion session, and present papers if they so desired.

- (ii) Standing Committee would meet for two hours in the morning of the day before the Council meeting for a final review of the business to go before Council.
- (iii) If possible, Ministers would arrive in Perth on the midday flights that day.
- (iv) The discussion session and presentation of papers would be held at the Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre from about 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm under the chairmanship of the Western Australian Minister.
- (v) Ministers would return to Perth at 5.00 pm and have the evening free.
- (vi) The Council meeting would be held the following day at the headquarters of the National Parks Authority of Western Australia, under the chairmanship of the Western Australian Minister.

(Resolution 22)

Agenda Item 19: Other business

(a) Issue of permits to collect wildlife for scientific purposes

Standing Committee considered the recent case of a visiting scientist applying simultaneously to several States for permits to collect specimens of protected fauna, without indicating in each instance that similar applications had been made to the other States.

To enable future applications of this nature to be assessed on an Australia-wide basis and thus minimise the numbers of specimens collected, Standing Committee resolved that:

- (i) All applicants for collection permits would be required to state whether they had applied, or intended to apply within the next six months, for similar permits in any other States or Territories, and if so provide full details of the relevant applications.
- (ii) Where significant numbers of specimens were involved, applications for collection permits would be circulated to the other States and Territories for their information and/or assistance in determining whether or not to issue similar permits of their own.
- (iii) The ad hoc Working Group on Law Enforcement would be requested to prepare for consideration by Standing Committee a standardised collection permit application form which could be used by all State and Territory agencies.

(Resolution 23)

(b) Co-ordinating Committee on Agricultural Chemicals

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Standing Committee noted the report by the wildlife authorities' representative on the Australian Agricultural Council Co-ordinating Committee on Agricultural Chemicals, Mr Wharton, concerning the deficient state of research into the effects of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals on Australian fauna.

Standing Committee recognised that the AAC was not the appropriate body to be monitoring pesticide residues in wildlife in view of its primary responsibility for increasing agricultural production, and therefore resolved to seek advice from the National Advisory Committee on Chemicals in this regard and consider the matter again at its next meeting.

(Resolution 24)

(c) Transfer of exotic animals from A class zoos

Standing Committee examined the proposal by Victoria that a procedure be established whereby State wildlife authorities would be involved in any decisions to transfer exotic animals from A class zoos to private zoos or other locations, to ensure that:

- (i) The species involved were not those which should be in captivity only in A class zoos.
- (ii) The security of the animals in transit would prevent them from escaping into new localities.

Standing Committee noted advice from members that adequate arrangements for consultation and co-ordination between the relevant authorities existed for zoo transfers in the other States, and therefore agreed that no action was required in relation to the Victorian proposal.

(d) Funding for Atlas of Australian Birds

Standing Committee noted the recommendation by Victoria that in view of the worth of the project all States respond positively to the request by the RAOU for financial assistance with production of the Atlas of Australian Birds.

(e) Interstate trade in fauna

Standing Committee noted the documentation submitted by New South Wales highlighting the likely practical consequences of the High Court judgement in the recent Smith versus Capewell case in relation to:

- (i) The future of the kangaroo management program in New South Wales.
- (ii) The interstate movement of "commercial" species of indigenous fauna and flora.

Standing Committee thanked New South Wales for drawing these consequences to its attention, and resolved to place the matter on the agenda for its next meeting to allow members time to further consider the results of the judgement.

(Resolution 25)

(f) Working group on endangered species

Standing Committee discussed the proposal by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service for the establishment of a working group to co-ordinate the protection and management of endangered species and recommend appropriate conservation projects for which individual agencies might seek financial assistance from outside sources, including the World Wildlife Fund.

Standing Committee resolved that a group consisting of Dr G. Wilson (ANPWS), Dr A.A. Burbidge (Western Australia) and Mr S.J. Cowling (Victoria) would prepare draft terms of reference and a work program for the proposed working group for consideration by Standing Committee at its next meeting.

(Resolution 26)

(g) Migratory birds questionnaire

Standing Committee noted the request by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service that member agencies respond promptly to the questionnaire which had been circulated to obtain the information which was required before Australia could ratify the Migratory Birds Agreement with Japan.

Agenda Item 20: Next meeting

Standing Committee resolved that for the convenience of members its next meeting would be held in Adelaide in April or May 1980, with Mr Bowen continuing as Chairman.

(Resolution 27)

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their co-operation.