DISCUSSION SESSION Amanda Smith -MURDOCH UNIVERSITY HONOURS STUDENT

Do visitors report that too much human interaction detract satisfaction of their visit? E.g. viewing platform.

Repeat regular visitors reported that if they were told to come at different times or viewing times were limited then this would comprise the quality of their visit although they would still visit the Shark Bay area.

People get told to be at Monkey Mia for the 8am feeding and often the early feed is the busiest. Doesn't this detract from visitor satisfaction?

Generally it's better to be earlier then late. We started doing this because there was great deal of annoyance from people not being able to see the dolphins.

Is it wise to base management plans on surveys? Do you think we over-valuing surveys?

Parks are being managed for visitor satisfaction as well as management satisfaction. Management plans have not been based purely on visitor surveys. I have liaised with a variety of people including community groups, managers, indigenous organisations and the Shire. Through management plans and visitor surveys we are able to determine how modifying a site may increase create visitor satisfaction.