

DISCUSSION SESSION

**Keiran McNamara -
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

What do you think we can do in regards to Ningaloo Marine Park's management plans, and associated biodiversity strategies, in relation to people's views?

It isn't that the management plan is written wrong, it's just that people reading the plans are not always reading it with the right views. It's hard to measure performance through management plans.

How can we best use programs such as Nature Conservation and Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPPH) together in order to better communicate with the public?

I expect that there will be interaction of these programs and other various educational programs on both a regional and district level right down through to units such as our marine branch and national station division. With saying this, educational programs must also liaise with CALM's Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs (SDCA) unit. It is important that CALM's conservation strategies are marketed together with programs such as HPPH. At the present time our biodiversity strategy is more complex to convey but it is vital to convey these messages to the community at all levels within the Department.

Do you think that there will be a more proactive move by Government to increase Aboriginal participation and consultation with respect to biodiversity conservation?

There is a whole wide arc of things that the Government expects CALM to do with limited funding which is why we struggle to get all of it done. What you have requested is a priority but biodiversity conservation strategies is one of the things we have not been able to act on as much as we'd like to. (There are only so many things we are able to do at once). A handful of people from CALM is presently in the process of deliberating and drafting a discussion paper as a starting basis of this issue. Once a draft strategy has been completed, we will determine an appropriate participation of various groups in the consultation process (there is a wide range of people who wish to be involved). This will encompass various CALM stakeholders such as community groups, Marine Park Reserves, NRM and indigenous people. This process will take some time.

For example say that this is a 20/30-year plan with a 100-year vision, I think it would be important to have Aboriginal involvement within the early stages of planning.

I accept your comment and it is a valid point.

There is a larger number of picket islands then before. How can we evolve through community consultation? I feel that we may need a more strategic approach to involvement and consultation with the community. Maybe this can be done with a changing role through SDCA where they can coordinate that activity?

I'm not sure that they should. The role they are currently playing beyond publications and assisting the district under pressure should be to coordinate community involvement rather than doing it for them. This would mean "arming" the general area carrying the heavy workload with support in community consultation.