

SUMMARY OF PVS WORKSHOP OUTCOMES,
PVS ANNUAL WORKSHOP, WOLLASTON
28-30 SEPTEMBER 2004

Some of the key messages presented where:

- The rapid rate of change that is occurring in society, particularly in technology and communication will impact on the way protected area managers do business. (Anne McBeth)
- Research shows that society is less trusting of government. Agencies need to work very hard at building “trustworthiness” (Anne McBeth)
- Society is now more accepting of a traditional view of environmental management as opposed to the current scientific approach. (Ann McBeth)
- Tourism WA research confirms much of the trend data presented by Ann McBeth. Visitors are seeking more individual destination experiences, want to take short breaks more often, and use travel as a revitaliser. Research indicates that many are looking to holidays to supplement lifestyles involving health and spiritual living.
- Both Directors emphasized the imperative of delivering good budget management, particularly the current capital budget and other budget initiatives. CCs should have a particular focus on accountability. Revenue should be considered as part of the CC business. We need to continue to grow revenue as an important component of our overall budget. (Jim and Keiran)
- A need to continually review business plans for operations as well as financial management. Imperative that staff is aware of the bottom line and take accountability for purchasing. (Jim)
- FRIT will impact on the way CALM/PVS conducts its business. It will also have financial and human resource implications. (Ron K)
- The importance of continuing to build a strong CALM business case to government to support funding of its key responsibilities. PVS has succeeded because it prepared a well researched, multifaceted, quantifiable and well presented case. Future areas for budget case preparation include Biodiversity Strategy and addressing recurrent budget pressures. (Keiran)
- Need to continue to build on joint management initiatives with indigenous people and communities. Work needs to continue both internally and externally. (Jim/Keiran)
- Building a consistent and strong relationship through community involvement with volunteers, indigenous groups, local Shire and Council members and various recreational and tourism groups. The only way to build support is to get out there and start talking to these groups in order to remain relevant to the community about what we are doing and what we want to do together. (Keiran)
- Other important priorities for PVS are interpretive and education programs, Healthy Parks initiative, integration of PVS and NC programs, nurturing the development of an advocacy for protected areas. (Keiran)
- The PVS Output Research Program is beginning to achieve significant outcomes through partnerships with local tertiary institutions and the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre. (Colin)

The below summarizes the key issues and/or suggested recommendations recognized by the participants attending the 2004 Parks and Visitor Services (PVS) Workshop. Issues have been listed in order of importance as determined by the workshop participants.

1) The issue of motorcycling, off road vehicles, extreme four wheel driving and mountain biking activities on CALM managed land (32 votes):

- Land tenure Should these activities be encouraged to operate elsewhere? (CALM or private)?
- Research required to assess appropriate planning programs, risks, insurance and environmental impacts.
- Need for consistency in rules applied to other high impact recreational activities.
- What is the relationship of high impact recreation management to tracks and trails? Development of a state wide strategic planning approach to high impact recreation activities.
- Suggestion of a dedicated Project and Policy Officer with links to Tracks & Trails Unit. To provide coordination at state level across regions (including PVS) for these high impact activities.

2) Internal and External Communication (22 votes):

- Recognising that the traditional techniques of communicating are not always valid due to CALM's dynamic environment. Need to develop better strategies and approaches to communicating with the tourism industry and the broader community. How can we better integrate the various communication needs occurring across the department?
- Need to place greater emphasis on building trust with the community.
- Liaison and coordination with Tourism Western Australia, Regional Tourism Organisation, CALM's Indigenous Heritage Unit and other relevant agencies.
- Liaison with CALM's respective marketing and public relations units.
- Increasing communication and further developing a relationship with Traditional Owners.

3) Communicating with Stakeholders and visitors (16 votes):

- Through use of new technology such as intelligent e-mail.
- Need to look at emerging technologies to meet the demand for technology-based communication/interpretation as a result of generational change.
- District staff given the capacity to handle Internet enquiries from Nature Base.

4) CALM's current lack of access (or limitations) of the Internet/databases due to remote locations of regional staff raised the issue of inefficiency (13 votes).

- Corporate Services have long running proposal to improve remote area access.

5) Relevance/Effectiveness of statutory planning time frames (12 votes)

- Current planning process gestation period needs to be reviewed.
- Suggestion of different timeframes for different planning objectives.

6) Internal and external consultation with aboriginal people on key CALM initiatives (10 votes).

This initiative really forms part of issue 2

7) Nearer to Nature, Eco-Education and other current/future interpretative and District based education programs (9 votes):

- Need to explore the cost benefits of amalgamating/partnering of these programs.
- Assessing and exploring the costs and benefits involved of these programs.

8) Commercial filming applications (8votes):

- Development of standard application processing lead times to appropriately assess and consult for each request.
- Suggestion of research permits (internal and external).

9) The need for forecasting trends, scenario planning and early warning mechanisms at regular intervals to aid change within CALM's environment (8 votes).

10) Developing a greater PVS role in promoting/marketing the Department's Biodiversity Strategy and associated conservation messages internally and externally. (5 votes)

- Suggested that Nearer to Nature and other PVS interpretation activities could assist in delivering the biodiversity message

11) Inputting and formatting Recreational Data site information so that it may be used for other purposes. Eg 'Park Notes (2 votes).

12) Research into the potential implications of CALM's proposed regional restructure and its associated effects on capacity building and maintaining a relationship with the community.

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Workshop Convener

16 November 2005