



# PARKS & VISITOR SERVICES STRATEGIC & BUSINESS DIRECTIONS

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Presentation by

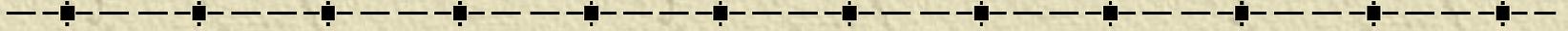
**Jim Sharp**

Director of Parks & Visitor Services

November 2003

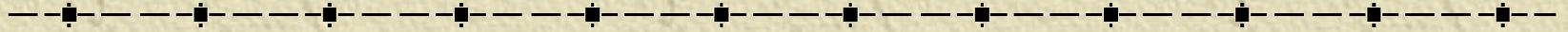
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# OUTPUT



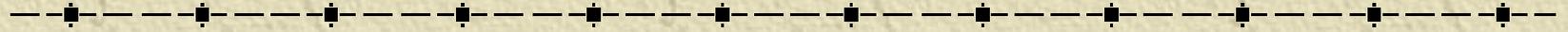
✦ Parks and Visitor Services.

# OUTCOME



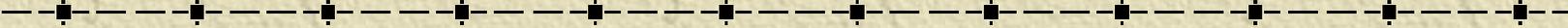
- ❖ Community enjoyment and appreciation of parks, wildlife and the natural environment without compromising conservation and management operations.

# ESSENTIALLY TWO COMPONENTS



1. People experiencing, enjoying and therefore appreciating and valuing the wildlife and natural environment.
2. People being given the opportunity to be meaningfully engaged and involved in maintaining biodiversity through contributing to management.

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

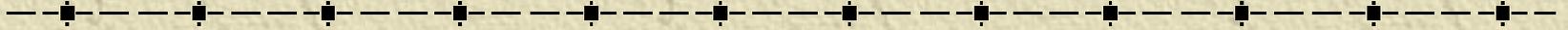
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- ✦ 24 million hectares of lands and waters (17 million in 1985).
  - ✦ Parks and reserves increasingly valued for economic and social contribution, eg Bibbulmun Track; Tree Top Walk (noted exemplars).
  - ✦ Injection of funds into “forest parks” via new parks funding. Three years of funding.
  - ✦ Increased focus on management planning.
  - ✦ Dramatic increase in visitation over a decade, up to 10.2 million visits (doubling over decade).
  - ✦ Dramatic increase in number of volunteers and their support.
  - ✦ High level of satisfaction of visitors about the job we are doing.

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING (cont'd)

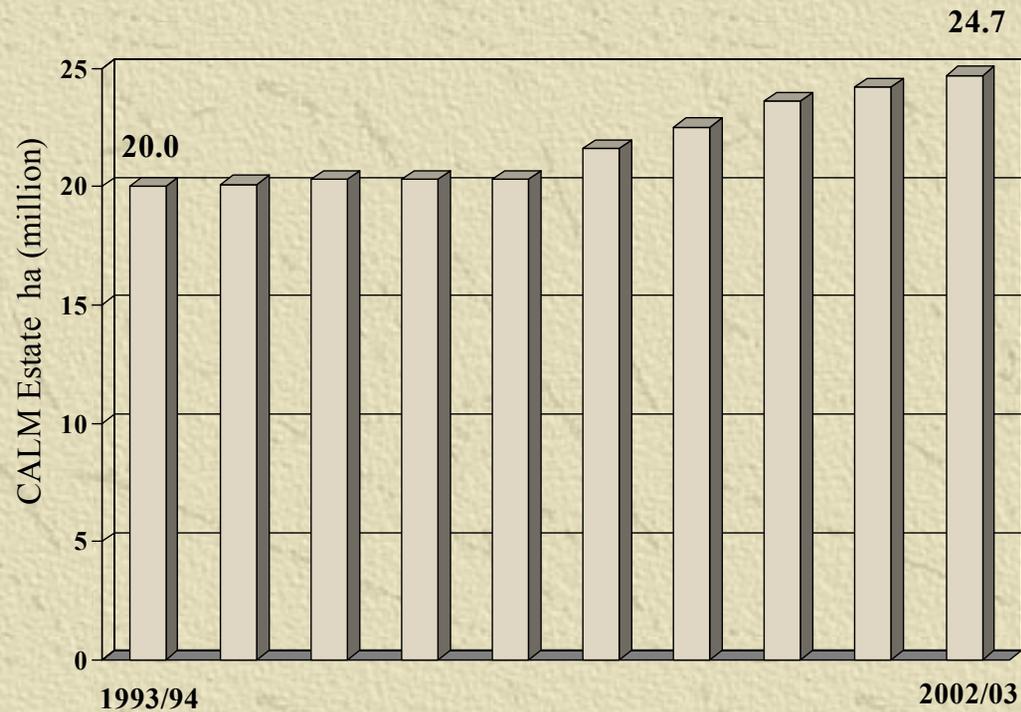
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- ✦ Establishing a research base:
  - ◆ Nature Based Tourism and Recreation Research Committee; plus
  - ◆ joined Cooperative Research Centre on Nature Based (Sustainable Tourism).
- ✦ Have identified a way forward for meaningful indigenous involvement in management subject to consultation.
- ✦ Expanded Aboriginal training and employment programs.
- ✦ Have established a system of strategic planning and forward estimates with integration between outputs.
- ✦ Have embraced the wider use of technologies and approaches to increase our capacities, eg VISTAT, RATIS.

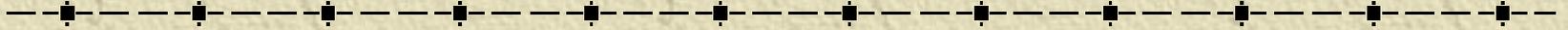
# GROWTH IN RESERVES



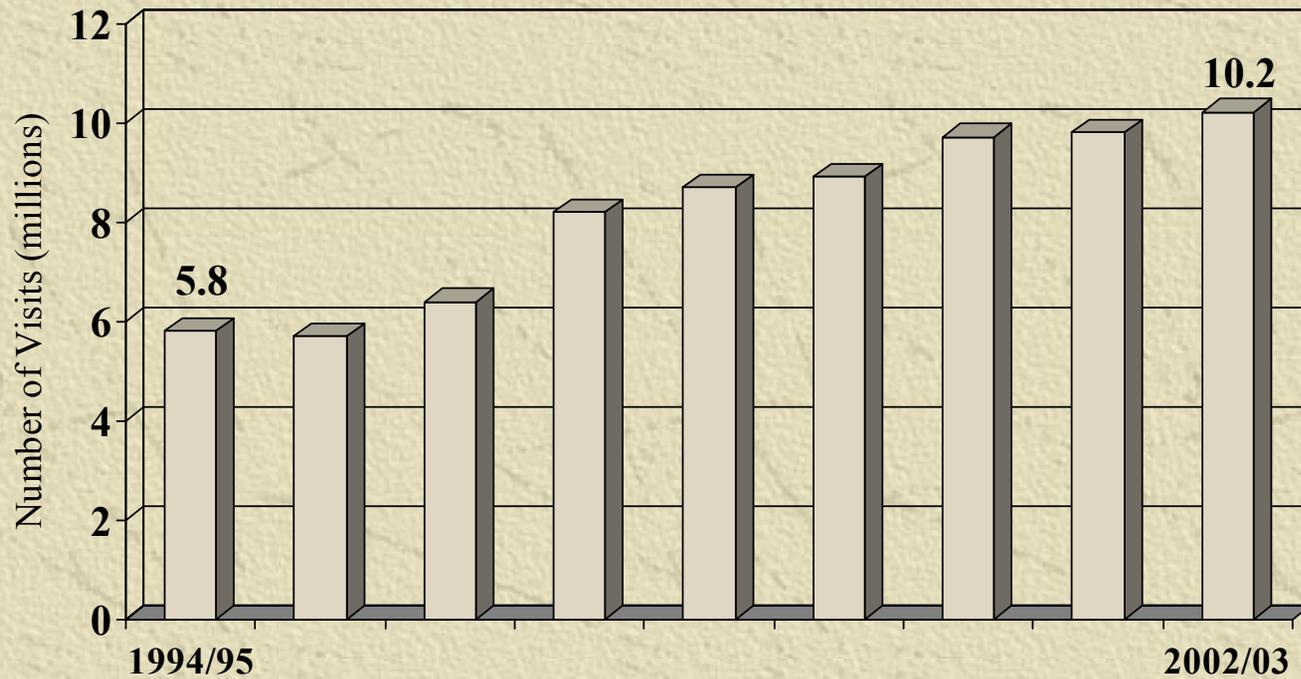
24.7 million hectares of the State's lands and waters



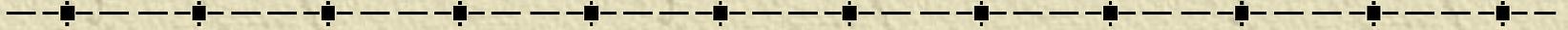
# GROWTH IN VISITORS



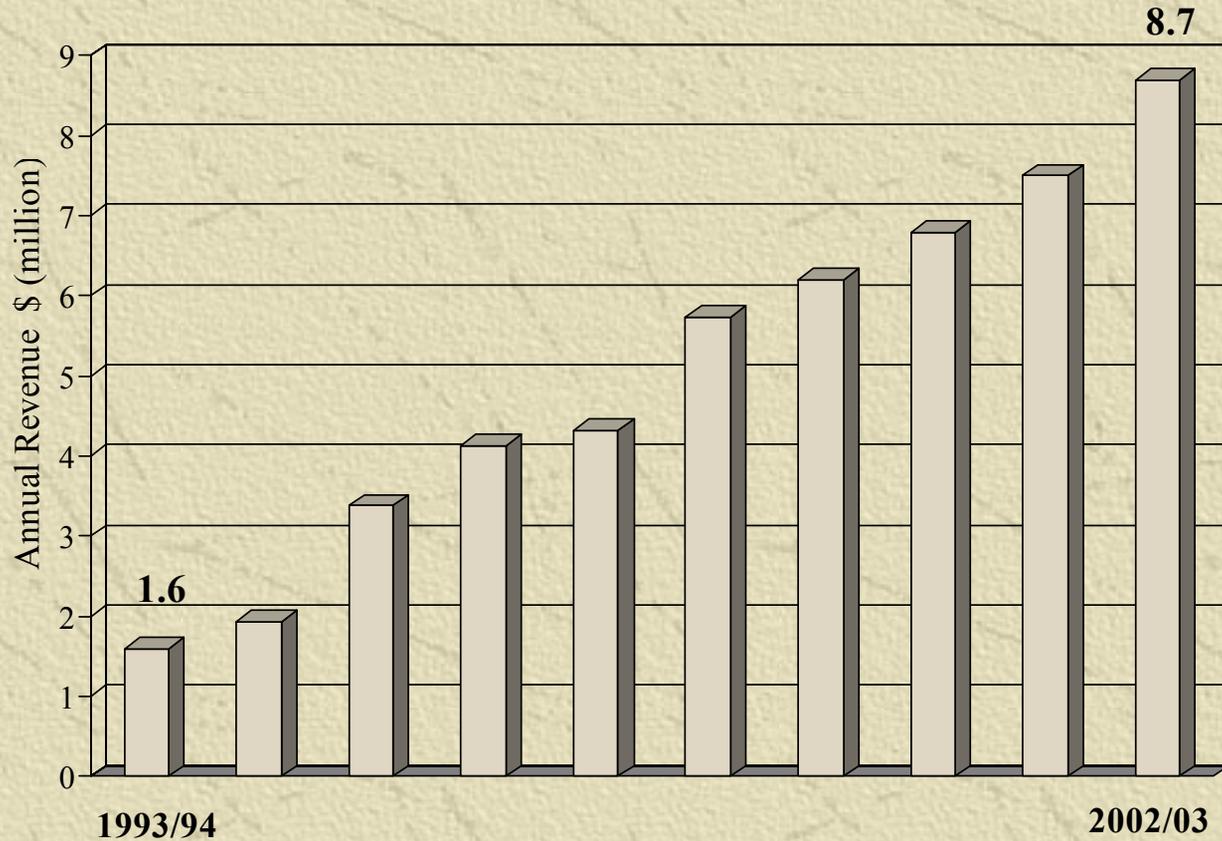
10.2 million visits in 2002/03



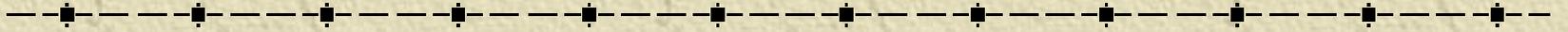
# GROWTH IN REVENUE



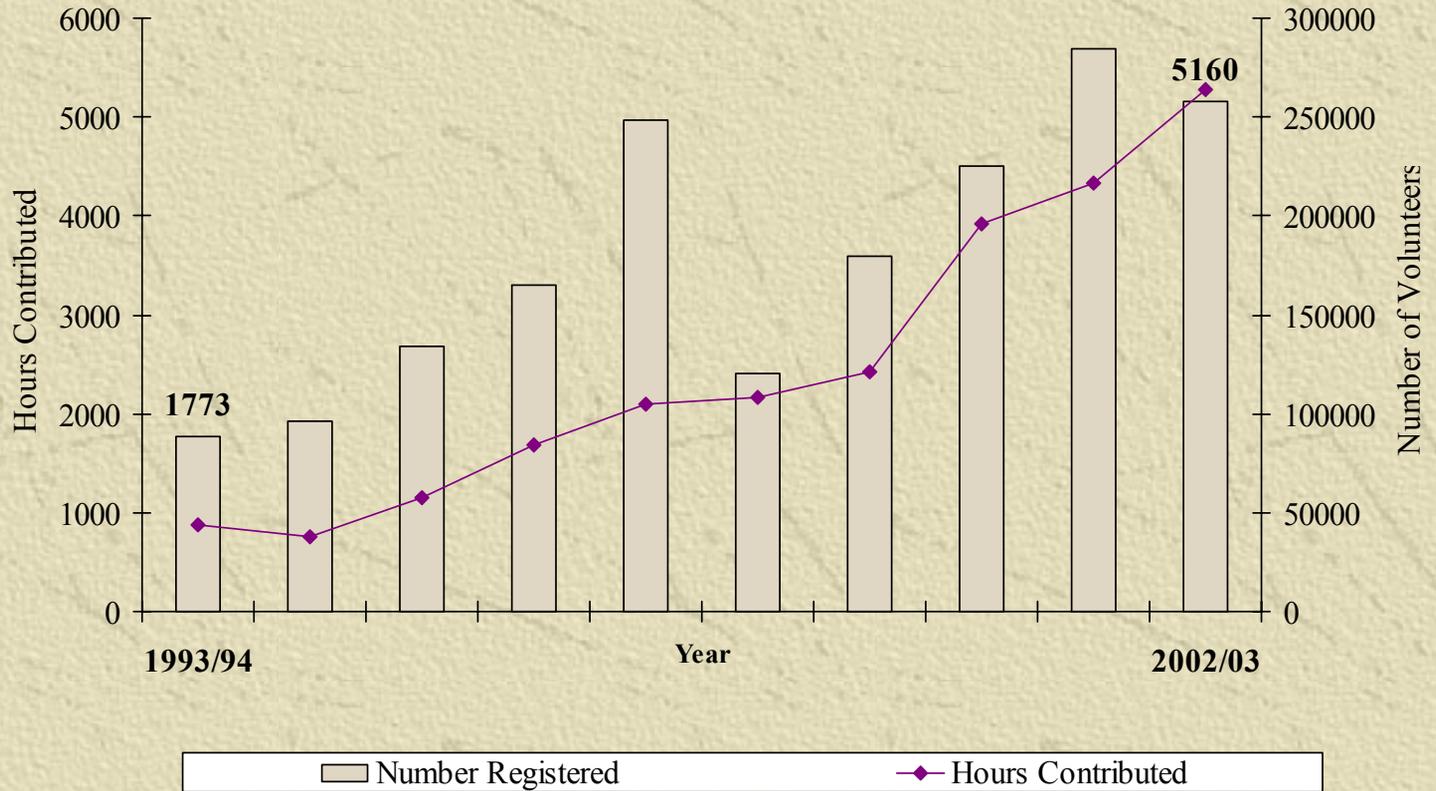
## Recreation and Tourism Revenue



# VOLUNTEERS



More than 5,000 registered volunteers and 264,000 hours contributed in 2002/03



# ISSUES

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- ✦ Relatively low budget capital and recurrent.
  - ✦ Management responsibilities increasing.
  - ✦ Role in resolving planning issues, eg Ningaloo.
  - ✦ Joint management outcomes reliant on external processes.

# GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

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## ✦ **Protecting old-growth forests:**

- ◆ new national parks (creation and development);
- ◆ Walpole Wilderness;
- ◆ beneficial outcomes from expenditure planning and developing new parks.

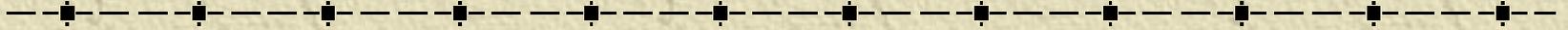
## ✦ **Indigenous involvement:**

- ◆ employment and social outcomes based on meaningful role in management.

## ✦ **Community involvement**

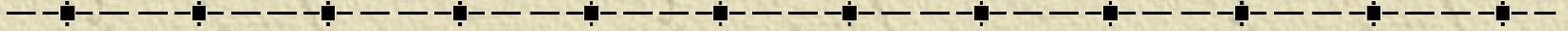
- ◆ an underpinning of direct and meaningful involvement of the community – a new “culture”.

# BUSINESS FOCUS 2004/05



- ✦ Management planning
- ✦ Indigenous liaison
- ✦ Access
- ✦ Facility development
- ✦ Community involvement
- ✦ Facility maintenance
- ✦ New parks
- ✦ Revenue generation and management
- ✦ RATIS
- ✦ Resource protection

# CHALLENGES



- ✦ Decline in capital resources.
- ✦ Increasing expectations
- ✦ Challenges to protected area managers.