

NATIONAL PARKS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

By

MAGGIE JAKOB-HOFF

A Report to the  
Conservation Council of Western Australia Inc.

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*Maggie Jakob-Hoff.*

Maggie Jakob-Hoff

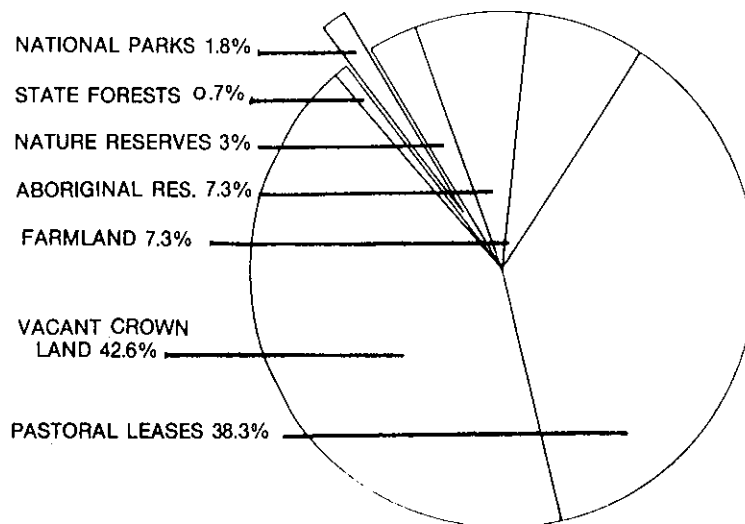
Further copies of this report and more detailed information can be obtained from:

Conservation Council of W.A.,  
P.O. Box 7375,  
Cloisters Square, PERTH. 6000.

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Western Australia is a large state with a total area of approximately 2,525,500 square kilometres (2). Approximately 1.8% of the total area of the state is set aside as national park and vested in the National Park and Nature Conservation Authority. A further 3% of the state is set aside for nature reserves (8).

FIGURE 1.1 Land use in Western Australia.



## 1.2 ANNUAL NATIONAL PARK USE

According to the National Parks Authority Annual Report for 1982/83, there were over 1.1 million visitors to national parks in Western Australia during 1982. Since 1983 the number of visitors has increased by as much as 40% in some parks.

## 1.3 THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL PARK ATTITUDE STUDY

The Conservation Council of W.A. made a submission to the Legislative Council of W.A. Select Committee on the Assessment of National Parks in 1981. In the submission, the Conservation Council listed nine essential measures needed to improve

general community understanding of the value and purpose of national parks. Among these issues were included, better education, better publications and public participation.

Strong support for community environmental education was expressed by respondents to a 1982 study of attitudes to conservation and the environment in Western Australia (9) undertaken by P. Newman and I. Cameron, of Murdoch University. However, the Conservation Council of W.A. felt that more information was needed in order to determine how public education on national parks should be carried out.

This project was carried out in conjunction with a CEP project undertaken by the Conservation Council of W.A. The aim of the CEP project was to increase the public's awareness of national parks and to involve members of the public in the management and protection of individual national parks through the formation of "Friends of National Parks" groups. This survey compliments this work by highlighting areas of lack of knowledge about national parks amongst the public and elucidating Western Australians' opinions about their national parks.

#### 1.4 THE ISSUES

It was only in 1956 that the first, centralized national park and reserves controlling body replaced the trust system of management. This change in the management of national parks also heralded a change in emphasis away from the recreational purpose of parks and towards their scientific significance and conservation value (1).

#### 1.5 DEFINITION OF A NATIONAL PARK

"...A national park is a relatively large area set aside for its features of predominantly unspoiled natural landscape, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education and inspiration, and protected from all interference other than essential management practices, so that its natural attributes are preserved..." (p.37.)

This definition is a modified version of that forwarded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (I.U.C.N.) and has, in recent years, been adopted by the Australian Council of Conservation Ministers (CONCOM) (7):

Although there has been controversy over natural resources since the early days of the colony, the role of conservation reserves in the protection of native species of plants and animals has not been widely recognised. This is confirmed by the Newman and Cameron survey. Though findings indicated that respondents felt that the loss of rare and endangered native plants and animals was the foremost pressing environmental issue of today, there was little detailed knowledge as to how conservation reserves could achieve that aim.

This indicates that it was not only important for the Conservation Council to determine whether or not the Western Australian public understood the purpose of national parks, but also those more complex issues involved in effective conservation within national parks. These include such issues as the need to set aside large enough areas of natural bush to protect a diversity of native species as well as the need to set aside sufficient examples of different environmental types.

Related to these issues are those of funding and management. The Conservation Council sought to determine whether the public recognised the sources from which funds to maintain national parks were obtained. If so, would the public agree to a user-pay system of funding to supplement existing monies set aside for the creation and management of national parks.

The effective management of national parks necessitates a series of restrictions on those activities considered to be damaging to the environment or detracting from the enjoyment of natural areas. The Conservation Council wanted to know the extent of public awareness of, and opinions about, such restrictions.

These, and other management issues, are of prime significance for the launching of an effective education campaign. To this end, the Conservation Council commissioned this survey which attempts to ascertain public opinion on these types of issues.

## 1.6 SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the National Park Attitude survey commissioned by the Conservation Council were therefore to:

1. Identify those areas of general knowledge of national parks where knowledge is either erroneous or lacking.
2. Determine the extent to which members of the general public recognise the role of national parks for the conservation of native plants and animals.
3. Determine whether or not the public understand conservation issues such as the need to have areas of adequate size set aside for the conservation of an appropriate diversity of native species.
4. Identify the types of parks visited by the general public and the activities for which they are used.
5. Assess public opinion of national park management.
6. Determine if conservationists differ from the general public in either their knowledge of, or attitudes to, national parks.

## 2.1 FUNDING

The Conservation Council of W.A. Inc. applied to the W.A. Heritage Committee for a National Estate Grant to provide funds for a survey to investigate public knowledge of and attitudes towards national parks.

The terms of the grant allowed for the employment of one Research Officer over a six month period. A moderate sum was made available for expenses incurred during the implementation of the statewide survey.

## 2.2 QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT

The questionnaire was developed and refined with the advice of conservationists, researchers and statisticians in Western Australia. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in the back pocket of this report.

## 2.3 PILOT STUDY

A pilot survey was sent to one person in each of the 57 State Electorates from the roll of the 1984 Daylight Saving Referendum in August, 1985 with a reminder being sent 2 weeks later. Response to the pilot survey was 31%. Some questions were reworded or removed from the final questionnaire because they seemed too complex or confusing for some members of the public.

## 2.4 QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTION

To survey the general population, the questionnaire was sent to a randomly selected sample of Western Australians in September, 1985. The state electoral roll for the 1984 referendum on Daylight Saving was used to draw names for the sample.

A randomly selected sample of members from the mailing lists of the Australian Conservation Foundation and The Western Australian Naturalists Club was surveyed as a sample population representative of conservation groups in W.A.

The data collected from both sources were treated in the same way, but separated for the purpose of analysis.

## 2.5 TREATMENT OF DATA

The data collected was computer-processed for sorting and cross tabulation: statistical analysis being similarly treated.



### 3.1 SAMPLE DESIGN

The 57 state electoral divisions were divided into Metropolitan and Rural areas and an attempt was made to select an equal number of names and addresses from each area so as to reduce the sampling error. Post-stratification adjustments, by area, were made during the data analysis stages in order to account for the correct proportions of metropolitan and rural distribution of the population. The size of the metropolitan area sample was 1,102 and the size of the rural area sample was 1,097 making a total sample size of 2,199.

### 3.2. PROPORTION(%) OF RESPONSES

Results of the survey are presented and discussed in the following chapters. Unless otherwise indicated, all figures will be expressed as a proportion of the total number of responses possible, eg:

$$X = \frac{100 \cdot x \cdot R}{Y}$$

Where X = presented figure.  
 R = number of responses given.  
 Y = 922 (General population)  
       75 (Conservationists)

In all instances, unless otherwise mentioned, trends in the data for the metropolitan/rural respondents and the conservationist groups are not statistically different from the trends for the general population sample.

### 3.3 POST-STRATIFICATION BY AREA

The general population figures were recalculated with post-stratification formulae (See Appendix B) to adjust for the actual proportional relationship between W.A. metropolitan and rural residents - thereby improving the accuracy of the survey results.

Only the general population figures of age, occupation and the types of national park visited were significantly different when post-stratification by area had been carried out.

Discussion of the adjusted data is confined to instances where significant differences occurred between the general population figures and the recalculated general population figures. It can be assumed that where differences are not discussed there are no statistically significant differences.

### 3.4 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Most of the data collected in the survey did not need to be treated statistically to determine whether differences in the data were real or apparent. However, in cases where some doubt did exist, Analysis of Variance was used to assist in the interpretation of results.

### 3.5 SAMPLE RESPONSE

The 1984 State electoral roll was compiled 18 months prior to the selection of the survey sample. While 2,199 questionnaires were originally sent out, 202 were returned from addresses where selected persons had moved away. They were taken out of the original sample.

The response rate was extremely encouraging, especially considering that the survey was conducted by mail and response was voluntary. Response rates are shown in Table 3.1.

TABLE 3.1 General Population Response Rates.

AREA	SAMPLE SIZE	RESPONSE	PROPORTION (%)
Metro	1013	493	49
Rural	984	429	43
TOTAL	1997	922	46

#### 3.5.1 RESPONSE RATES OF THE CONSERVATION GROUP

The response rate for members of conservation organisations was considerably higher than that for the general population. See Table 3.2.

TABLE 3.2. Conservation group response rates.

GROUP	SAMPLE SIZE	RESPONSE	PROPORTION (%)
* W.A. Nats.	49	38	77
* * A.C.F.	49	37	75
TOTAL	98	75	76

\* Western Australian Naturalists Club Members.  
 \* \* Australian Conservation Foundation Members.

### 3.6 REPRESENTATIVENESS OF SAMPLE

Figures produced from the 1981 Population Census conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics were used to compare respondents of the survey with the total population in Western Australia. Demographic data from the questionnaire were compared with the equivalent census data.

Age, sex and place of birth correlated well with the census figures used.

Level of education for respondents favoured the tertiary sector and a similar correlation evolved from comparison of respondents' occupations and the census figures. The general population was over represented in the administrative and professional fields and under represented in the trades, service and clerical fields.

However, when these factors were accounted for in the division of the data, it was found that both level of education and occupation did not play a major role in determining either attitudes to, or knowledge of, national parks.

### 3.7 SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION

#### 3.7.1 SEX OF RESPONDENTS

TABLE 3.3 General Population Distribution of Sex Compared to 1981 Population Census Figures.

SEX	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	1981 CENSUS
Female	50	50
Male	47	50
Not Known	3	-

#### 3.7.2 AGE OF RESPONDENTS

The survey sample was under represented in the 'under 25 years' old category compared to the 1981 Census proportion.

A greater proportion of rural respondents compared to metropolitan respondents came from the 25 - 39 year old age category. In the 55 years and over age category, the rural proportion was less than the metropolitan proportion.

Although the proportions of age distribution were comparable for conservationists and the general public, there was a slight tendency for conservationists to come from the lower age groups (eg. under 40 years).

TABLE 3.4 General Population Distribution of Age Compared to 1981 Population Census Figures.

AGE (YEARS)	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	1981 CENSUS
Under 25	11	19
25 - 39	39	37
40 - 54	26	21
55 And Over	22	22
Not Known	2	-

### 3.7.3 BIRTHPLACE OF RESPONDENTS

The proportion of rural respondents born in W.A. was greater than that for metropolitan respondents. Although the proportion of respondents born in another Australian state was similar for metropolitan and rural, metropolitan respondents had a greater proportion of people born overseas than rural respondents.

The proportion of conservationists who were born in Western Australia (52%) was less than the proportion of the general population who were born in Western Australia (60%).

TABLE 3.5 General Population Distribution of Birthplace Compared to 1981 Population Census Figures.

BIRTHPLACE	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	1981 CENSUS
W.A.	60	72 *
Other States	12	
U.K.	16	15
Others	10	13
Not Known	2	-

\* 1981 Census figures available do not indicate the Australian state in which respondents were born.

## 3.7.4 LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF RESPONDENTS

With one exception, the level of education for survey respondents fell into the same proportions as the levels of education for respondents to the 1981 Census. The survey respondents were more highly represented in the degree/diploma category than the 1981 Census respondents.

A greater proportion of rural respondents compared to metropolitan respondents had only achieved the lower high school level of education. In contrast, a greater proportion of metropolitan respondents compared to rural respondents had achieved the diploma or degree level of education.

Members of conservation groups tended to have a higher level of education than the general population sample.

TABLE 3.6 General Population Distribution of Education Compared to 1981 Population Census Figures.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	1981 CENSUS
Primary School	5	72 *
Lower High School	22	
Upper High School	31	
Trade/Technical	19	19
Diploma/Degree	21	9
Not Known	2	-

\* 1981 Census figures available do not separate these educational qualification categories.

## 3.7.5 OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENTS

Occupation of the survey respondents generally fell into the same proportions as the occupations for the 1981 Census respondents. The exceptions are the professional and primary industry workers who are over represented in this survey compared to the 1981 Census survey respondents. Persons who were not in the workforce were under-represented in the survey compared to the 1981 Census survey.

Employment in the primary industry sector was more common for rural respondents than metropolitan respondents. There was also a slightly greater proportion of people being employed in the professional and clerical fields in metropolitan areas compared to rural areas.

A greater proportion of conservation respondents tended to be employed in professional occupations than general population respondents.

TABLE 3.7 General Population Distribution of Occupation  
Compared to 1981 Population Census Figures.

OCCUPATION *	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	1981 CENSUS
Professional	16	7
Trades	14	14
Primary Industry	10	4
Administrative	8	4
Clerical	5	8
Sales	5	4
Transport	3	3
Services	4	5
Mining	1	1
Armed forces	-	-
Not in Workforce	30	47
Not Known	4	3

\* N.B. Categories are the same as those used for the 1981 Population Census. Housewives, pensioners, students and unemployed persons are therefore included in the category of 'Not in the Workforce'.

## 4.1 KNOWLEDGE OF REASONS FOR CREATING NATIONAL PARKS

The first question in the survey asked respondents to rank, in order of importance, the reasons for creating national parks. A ranking of '1' represented the most important reason for creating national parks and a ranking of '5' represented the least important reason. Other rankings progressed from the most to the least important.

Although some national parks are set aside mainly for recreational purposes, and others mainly for conservation purposes, 66% of the population felt that the most important reason for creating national parks was the protection of whole natural environments (the conservation option). A further 23% felt that the most important reason for creating national parks was to protect certain types of native plants and animals. In actual fact, nature reserves are more likely to be created for this purpose. Only 9% of the population thought that national parks were created primarily for recreational purposes.

TABLE 4.1 Rankings given to reasons for creating National Parks.

REASON	PROPORTION (%)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation	9	7	12	23	44
Protection of certain types of native plants and animals	23	44	21	6	2
Protection of natural landscapes	9	28	43	13	4
Nature study	2	5	9	45	36
Protection of whole natural environments	66	11	10	4	7

N.B. Some respondents chose to give the same ranking to different reasons.

#### 4.2 KNOWLEDGE OF MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS

Respondents were asked to choose which authority was mainly responsible for the management of national parks.

Some 61% of the population recognised that the State Government was mainly responsible for national park management. Whereas 12% were unsure, 25% of the population gave an incorrect response.

TABLE 4.2 Responses showing knowledge of which group was responsible for National Park management.

GROUP	PROPORTION (%)
Local Government	11
State Government	61
Federal Government	8
Non-Government Conservation Groups	5
Unsure	12
No Response	3

#### 4.3 KNOWLEDGE OF SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Respondents were asked to identify the various sources from which funds to maintain national parks were obtained. While 80% suggested taxes, 45% suggested entry fees to parks and 24% thought that funds came via donations from the public.

TABLE 4.3 Responses showing knowledge of sources of funding for National Parks.

SOURCE	PROPORTION (%)
Taxes	80
Donations from Public	24
Entry fees to Parks	45
Funds from conservationists	13
Unsure	10

N.B. Respondents were encouraged to choose more than one option for this question.



#### 4.4 KNOWLEDGE OF ACTIVITIES ALLOWED IN NATIONAL PARKS.

Respondents were presented with a long list of activities and asked to indicate their knowledge of whether or not they were allowed to take place in all, some or no national parks in Western Australia. That list can be divided into three sections as follows.

The first section consists of activities which are generally unrestricted by the National Parks Authority in all national parks. They are walking, fishing and both motor and non-motor boating. There are some exceptions to this general rule. In some extremely fragile national parks, even walking is prohibited. In Geikie Gorge and Millstream National Parks, motor-boating is prohibited.

Those activities for which special permission from the National Parks Authority is needed are in the second section. They are orienteering, camping, horse riding, exploration for minerals, beekeeping and scientific study.

The third section consists of activities which are generally restricted in all national parks in Western Australia. They are driving vehicles off roads, trail bike riding, hunting, grazing, logging, mining, rock collecting and firewood collecting. Of these activities, hunting in some national parks is allowed, but only by tribal aboriginal people. Wildflower displays may be picked from the Stirling Range National Park and the Western Australian Parliament has recently approved a mining lease in the Hamersley Range National Park. Off road vehicular traffic is allowed on the beaches at Cape Arid National Park only and although prohibited, grazing is difficult to control in Winjana Gorge National Park.

As this information is complex, it is understandable that there are gaps in the public's knowledge of activities that are allowed in national parks. Results are presented on Tables 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6.

Although the following activities are generally unrestricted in all national parks, it is interesting to note that respondents thought that they were restricted, at least in some national parks. There is evidently some confusion about motor boating and fishing in national parks. These are allowed with a few exceptions.

TABLE 4.4 Knowledge of those activities which are generally unrestricted in all National Parks.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Walking	82	13	-	5
Boating (non-motor)	10	74	10	6
Motor Boating	-	42	49	9
Fishing	3	51	39	7

The Table below shows that generally, people do recognise that the listed activities are allowed to take place in at least some national parks. The exceptions are exploration for minerals which respondents thought was not allowed in any national parks and scientific study which respondents thought was allowed in all national parks.

TABLE 4.5 Knowledge of those activities which are allowed in National Parks only with special permission.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Orienteering	29	53	4	14
Camping	4	71	21	4
Horse Riding	7	72	15	6
Exploration for Minerals	4	25	63	8
Beekeeping	9	50	34	7
Scientific study	69	24	2	5

With the exception of wildflower picking and hunting, knowledge of those activities which in general are not allowed in national parks is not high. At least 21% of the population believe that most of these activities are allowed in at least some national parks.

TABLE 4.6 Knowledge of those activities which are generally restricted in all National Parks.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Driving vehicles off roads	1	37	57	5
Trail bike riding	1	23	69	7
Hunting	-	8	85	7
Grazing	2	24	66	8
Logging	1	24	69	6
Mining	1	20	73	6
Rock Collecting	8	41	44	7
Wildflower picking	1	7	87	5
Seed Collecting	7	33	54	7
Firewood Collecting	4	35	54	7

#### 4.5 SUMMARY

Generally, respondents in the survey understood the reasons for the creation of national parks. Knowledge of the authority that is responsible for the management of national parks, and the sources from which funds to maintain national parks are obtained, was also good.

Knowledge of those activities that are generally allowed in national parks was good with the exception of fishing and motor boating which respondents thought were not allowed in national parks.

It was shown that people generally knew about those activities which are allowed in national parks, but for which special permission is required. The exceptions to this were exploration for minerals and scientific study.

Knowledge of those activities that are generally restricted in national parks was not high with the exception of hunting and wildflower picking. It was known that these activities are generally restricted in national parks.

## 5.1 VISITS TO NATIONAL PARKS

Respondents were asked to name or give the locations of the national parks they had visited in W.A. This question was asked in order to discover how many people could actually identify what a national park was, and to make sure that respondents answered questions about national parks from first hand experience.

Although 94% of the population claimed to have visited a national park in W.A., only 76% correctly named a national park they'd visited. While 42% of the population correctly named national parks with no errors, 41% of the population identified as national parks areas which were not, in fact, national parks. The most common places incorrectly identified were Kings Park, Lake Leschenaultia, Perth Zoo, Cohunu Wildlife Park and Atlantis.

All the conservationists in the survey had visited a national park. 77% of conservationists, but only 26% of the general population stated that they had visited more than three national parks. 17% of conservationists and 50% of the general population said they had visited less than three national parks. A smaller proportion of conservationists (33%) compared to the general population (41%) listed the name of an area or park that was not a national park.

TABLE 5.1 Number of National Parks correctly listed compared to the number of non-national parks listed by respondents.

CORRECT NATIONAL PARKS LISTED	PROPORTION (%)		
	None	One to three	More than three
None	16	6	-
One to three	27	23	1
More than three	15	11	1

## 5.2 TYPES OF PARKS VISITED

All national parks in W.A. vested in the National Park and Nature Conservation Authority were divided into three categories. They are:

- (i) Those parks set aside primarily as high visitor use parks with many recreational facilities (recreational parks). Examples of this type of park are John Forrest National Park and Yanchep National Park.
- (ii) There are those set aside primarily for conservation purposes and which provide few facilities for people (conservation parks). Examples of this type of park are Drysdale River National Park and Fitzgerald River National Park.
- (iii) There are those between, where there are some recreational facilities but which retain a conservation role (mixed parks). Examples of this type of park are Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and Millstream-Chichester National Park.

Survey response indicated that 28% of the population had visited recreational parks exclusively whilst 74% had not visited a conservation park at all. Additionally, 36% of the population had visited both recreational and mixed parks.

Rural respondents reported visiting mixed parks more often than metropolitan respondents whereas metropolitan respondents reported visiting only recreational parks more often than rural respondents.

This may have more to do with the distance needed to travel to national parks than to any other factor. Metropolitan people can reach a national park within one hour from any point in the metropolitan area. Such easily accessible parks tend to be devoted mainly to recreation. It is logical that rural respondents would only tend to visit national parks during annual vacation times because of the greater distances involved. Rural respondents are therefore more likely to expend the time needed to reach the conservation parks.

A much greater proportion of conservationists (41%) than the general population (4%) had visited a Conservation Park. 6% of conservationists had visited recreational parks exclusively compared to the general population proportion of 28%.

Whereas 63% of conservationists had visited a combination of recreation and conservation parks, only 36% of the general population had done so.

TABLE 5.2 Types of National Parks Visited by Respondents.

TYPES OF PARK VISITED	PROPORTION (%)
Recreation	28
Mixed	12
Conservation	-
Recreation and Mixed	34
Recreation and Conservation	-
Mixed and Conservation	1
Recreation, Mixed and Conservation	2
No Park Names Given	23

## 5.3 REASONS GIVEN FOR GOING TO NATIONAL PARKS

People in the survey mostly went to national parks for activities which were congruent with the philosophy under which national parks were developed. Activities such as admiring the scenery, looking at plants and animals, going for walks and picnics were all mentioned by at least 67% of the population.

TABLE 5.3 Reasons given for going to National Parks.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)
Admire the Scenery	81
Picnic or Barbecue	76
Go for Walks	71
Just Relax	70
Look at Plants & Animals	67
Take Photographs	54
Camp overnight	21
Go Swimming	20
Go Boating	11
Other Activities	11

#### 5.4 REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT GOING TO NATIONAL PARKS

Only 5% of the survey respondents said that they had not visited any national parks in Western Australia. Almost half of the reasons respondents gave for not having visited a national park related to lack of time, transport or the great travelling distance to national parks. A did not know where any national parks were located.

Other reasons given included advancing old age and lack of opportunity. Only 8% of those who had not been to a national park indicated that they had no desire to go.

#### 5.5 MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL PARK USER CLUBS

Of the 5% of respondents who claimed to be a member of a club or organisation that visited national parks as a group, 43% belonged to wildlife or conservation oriented clubs such as the Western Australian National Parks and Reserves Association (WANPARA), the W.A. Naturalists Club and the Wildlife Association. A further 22% belonged to specific purpose recreational clubs such as Action Outdoors and camera clubs and the remainder belonged to senior citizens clubs, service clubs, school or religious groups.

#### 5.6 RANGERS IN NATIONAL PARKS

The survey revealed that 17% of the population had needed to see a ranger whilst visiting a national park. Of those, only 3% were unable to find one and 15% were able to find a ranger when needed only in some parks (See Table 5.4).

#### 5.7 TIDINESS OF NATIONAL PARKS

Some 67% of the population felt that the national parks they had visited looked clean and tidy, and 28% of the population thought that only some national parks looked clean and tidy. However, respondents' comments indicate that, in some instances, 'untidiness' of a national park was considered preferable as it was more in keeping with a natural area. Litter created by people was universally frowned on in comments by respondents (See Table 5.4).

#### 5.8 CONDITION OF ROADS IN NATIONAL PARKS

The condition of roads in all national parks was considered satisfactory by only 52% of the population. However, many comments attached to this question indicated that people accepted bad roads in national parks as being "more natural" and therefore acceptable. Indeed, some respondents indicated that they thought that too many well-built roads were detrimental to the park (See Table 5.4).



TABLE 5.4 Responses to questions relating to Ranger availability, tidiness of national parks and the condition of roads in national parks.

	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Found Ranger when needed	11	15	3	71
Parks looked clean and tidy	67	28	-	4
Roads in satisfactory condition	52	39	2	7

## 5.9 SUMMARY

The majority (76%) of respondents correctly identified national parks that they had visited. However, 41% of the population named non-national parks as national parks they had visited. Conservationists named more national parks that they had visited, and were less likely to incorrectly name an area as being a national park, than were the general public.

People went to national parks to participate in activities which were congruent with national park values.

The main reasons given for non-visitation of national parks related to lack of time, great travelling distances and a lack of transport rather than from lack of interest in national parks.

The Park user clubs, to which 5% of respondents belonged, were wildlife and conservation oriented for about 40% of members. A further 22% belonged to specific purpose recreation clubs such as Action Outdoors and camera clubs.

A very small percentage of respondents who needed to see a Ranger in a national park were unable to find one. By far, the greater majority of respondents felt that national parks looked clean and tidy, and that the condition of roads was satisfactory.

## 6.1 NATIONAL PARKS AS A CONSERVATION TOOL

When asked to choose the most effective conservation option for native plant and animal species, 71% of the population thought that there was a need to set aside areas of natural bush for the adequate protection of different types of native plants and animals (This is the 'National Park' option). Whilst 21% of respondents thought that people needed to stop killing plants and animals, only 1% thought that the best protection option was breeding in captivity.

Although only three options were given, 4% of the population decided to choose a combination of the given options.

A greater percentage of conservationists (89%) than the general population (71%) recognised the need to set aside whole areas of natural bush for the adequate protection of native species.

TABLE 6.1 Opinion on the most effective option for the protection of native plant and animal species.

OPTION	PROPORTION (%)
A. We can effectively protect different types of native plants and animals by breeding them in captivity	1
B. We need to set aside areas of natural bush to adequately protect different types of native plants and animals	71
C. To adequately protect different types of native plants and animals we need to make sure that people don't kill them	21
Protection by combinations of the above	4
No Response	3

National parks were thought to be a good idea by 83% of population and 88% are aware that there are costs involved in the on-going management of national parks. Some 92% believed that national parks should be left in as natural a state as possible.

Although 65% of the population thought that there wasn't enough being done to protect native species of plants and animals, and 57% thought that more national parks were needed, 43% thought that there should be larger national parks than those existing at present. Nearly 25% of the population were unsure of their feelings in relation to these two issues.

TABLE 6.2 Response to statements of opinion about National Parks.

OPINION STATEMENT	PROPORTION (%)			
	AGREE	DISAGREE	UN- DECIDED	NO RESPONSE
A. National Parks are not a good idea	10	83	2	5
B. There is enough being done to protect different types of native plants and animals	14	65	16	5
C. Western Australia needs larger National Parks than most of those existing at present	43	27	25	5
D. National Parks do not need to be managed, they only need to be set up	4	88	3	5
E. National Parks should be left in as natural a state as possible	92	4	2	2
F. Western Australia needs more National Parks	57	15	24	4

Rural respondents disagreed more readily than metropolitan respondents with the statement: "Western Australia needs larger National Parks than most of those existing at present". They were also less inclined to be undecided about the issue than metropolitan respondents.

Metropolitan respondents were more likely than rural respondents to agree that Western Australia needs more national parks. Conversely, they were less likely than rural respondents to disagree with that statement.

A greater proportion of conservationists than the general population supported the conservation ideas related to National Parks. That is, they supported statements that advocated larger parks, a greater number of parks, etc.

## 6.2 OPINIONS ABOUT FACILITIES IN NATIONAL PARKS

Almost all respondents had no hesitation in suggesting that low-impact facilities, such as picnic grounds and visitor information centres, should be allowed in at least some, if not all, national parks. Camping grounds were the next most acceptable type of facility that respondents felt should be allowed in all or some national parks.

Reservations were clearly expressed about higher impact facilities such as caravan parks, shops and indoor accommodation. Over 35% of the survey respondents suggested that each of these facilities should not be allowed in any national parks.

TABLE 6.3 Opinions about whether facilities should be allowed in National Parks.

FACILITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
1. Picnicking facilities	60	38	-	2
2. Indoor accomodation (motels,cabins etc)	4	56	36	4
3. Caravan Parks	6	50	40	4
4. Camping grounds	16	61	19	4
5. Shops	12	45	39	3
6. Visitor Information Centres	71	24	2	3

## 6.3 OPINIONS ABOUT WHETHER CERTAIN ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN NATIONAL PARKS

The list of activities was divided into the same categories as those used for the question concerning knowledge of which activities are allowed in national parks.

Although motor boating and fishing are generally allowed in national parks, 71% of the population felt that motor boating should not be allowed in any national parks and 38% of the population felt that fishing should not be allowed in any national parks.

TABLE 6.4 Opinions about the acceptability of activities that are unrestricted in all National Parks.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Walking	90	8	-	2
Boating (non-motor)	16	68	13	3
Motor Boating	1	24	71	4
Fishing	7	53	38	2

Exploration for minerals and beekeeping were considered to be the least acceptable of those activities for which special permission is needed. Exploration for minerals was felt to be unsuitable for any national parks by 83% of the population, and 59% of the population thought that beekeeping should be allowed in, at least, some national parks).

A greater proportion of conservationists (24%) than the general public (13%) were prepared to allow exploration for minerals in, at least, some national parks.

TABLE 6.5 Opinions about the acceptability of activities that are currently allowed in National Parks only with special permission.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Orienteering	39	46	4	11
Camping	16	64	17	3
Horse riding	11	68	18	3
Exploration for minerals	2	11	83	4
Beekeeping	12	47	37	3
Scientific Study	73	21	3	3

Although some 27% of the population felt that grazing should be allowed in at least some national parks, there were indications in accompanying comments that this applied to native animals only. Over 83% of the population felt that the two biggest threats to national parks, logging and mining, should not be allowed in any national parks.

Surprisingly, 30% of the population felt that driving vehicles off roads should be allowed in at least some national parks.

There was a slight tendency for the rural sector to allow grazing, logging and mining in some national parks. However, by contrast, the metropolitan sector would not allow them in any national parks.

Conservationists were less likely than the general population to allow high impact activities in national parks. That is, a greater proportion of conservationists than the general population would not allow grazing, logging or mining in any national parks.

TABLE 6.6 Opinion of the acceptability of activities that are currently restricted in all National Parks

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Driving Vehicles off roads	2	28	67	3
Trail bike riding	1	15	81	3
Hunting	-	7	89	4
Grazing	2	25	69	4
Logging	1	13	83	3
Mining	-	8	87	5
Rock collecting	7	43	47	3
Wildflower picking	1	15	81	3
Seed collecting	8	40	43	9
Firewood collecting	4	39	54	3

It is interesting to note that, although it was not mentioned in the questionnaire, several people voiced objections to the "No Dog" rule in national parks.

## 6.4 OPINIONS ABOUT FEES IN NATIONAL PARKS

55% of the population believed that the public should be charged a fee to visit national parks. A small entry fee or, alternatively, a fee for the use of facilities were judged (by 41% and 24% of the population respectively) to be the most favoured way of charging fees for the use national parks.

TABLE 6.7 Opinions about how fees to use National Parks should be charged.

TYPE OF FEE	PROPORTION (%)
Small entry fee	41
Fee to cover visitor costs	11
Annual park visitor fee	6
Fee to use facilities only	24
Other	2

N.B. Respondents were given the option of responding to more than one method of fee collection for this question.

## 6.5 PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION

Support for conservation was very high with 68% of the population expressing either strong or very strong support. Only 2% of the population did not support conservation at all.

A greater proportion of conservationists (97%) expressed strong or very strong support for conservation than did the survey respondents (68%).

TABLE 6.8 Public support for Conservation.

STRENGTH OF SUPPORT	PROPORTION (%)
Very strong	29
Strong	39
Somewhat	28
Not at all	2
No Response	2

## 6.6 THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS COMPARED TO OTHER ISSUES IN RESPONDENTS' LIVES

This question was asked in order to put the issue national parks into perspective relative to other concerns in respondents' lives. Some 72% of the population felt that national parks were important, or very important, compared to other concerns in their lives. A total of 26% of respondents felt that national parks were either not very important, or not important at all, compared to other concerns in their lives.

96% of conservationists stated that national parks were important, or very important, compared to other concerns in their lives.

TABLE 6.9 Importance of National Parks compared to other concerns in the lives of respondents.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	PROPORTION (%)
Very Important	18
Important	54
Not Very Important	24
Not Important At All	2
No Response	2



## 6.7 SUMMARY

Respondents appeared to understand that the best way to conserve native species of plants and animals is to set aside areas of natural bush. National parks were thought to be a good idea by most people and most respondents agreed that national parks should be left as natural as possible.

Most respondents felt that not enough was being done to protect native species of plants and animals and understood that national parks needed to be managed, as well as being set up.

A quarter of the respondents were uncertain about the need for more national parks while a similar number of people were uncertain about the need for larger national parks in W.A. 30% of the population felt that W.A. did not need larger national parks than those existing at present, and 15% of the population felt that W.A. did not need any more national parks.

The provision of picnicking areas and visitor information centres were the only facilities that the majority of respondents felt were acceptable for all national parks. A large number of respondents felt that the higher impact facilities like indoor accommodation, caravan parks, camping grounds and shops were acceptable in some national parks only.

The Western Australian population generally agreed with the management restrictions on activities in national parks. The exceptions are as follows.

Although motor boating and fishing are generally allowed in all national parks, over 40% of the population felt that these activities should not be allowed in any national parks.

Of those activities currently allowed only with special permission, exploration for minerals was clearly unacceptable in any national park for the great majority of the Western Australian population. Beekeeping was thought to be an unsuitable activity by 40% of people.

For the majority of the population, almost all of the generally restricted activities were considered to be unacceptable in national parks. Heading the list were hunting, mining, logging, wildflower picking and trail bike riding, all of which were not considered to be acceptable activities in any national parks by at least 80% of the population.

Over half of the population felt that fees for the use of national parks should be charged. The most appropriate form of fee collection was felt to be through small entry fees, or through fees for the use of facilities.

Nearly 70% of the general population expressed either strong, or very strong support for conservation and considered national parks to be important, or very important, compared with other concerns in their lives.

## 7.1 INTRODUCTION

In order to be able to make predictions about the whole of the Western Australian population, it was essential that some investigation be made to discover whether differences existed between the responses of those who participated in the survey, and those who did not. Therefore, a sample of non-respondents was interviewed in order to collect the data necessary to make such a comparison. Results of these interviews are given below.

## 7.2 DATA COLLECTION

Due to limitations on both time and resource availability, only six metropolitan electorates were investigated. The rural electorates were not investigated.

To select a meaningful sample of electorates were listed in order of decreasing socio-economic status. The order was determined with the aid of a state electoral boundary map and the Social Atlas of Perth (1) from the 1981 census. The number of non-respondents for each electorate was then listed, and added, to make a cumulative frequency list. Since it was possible to investigate only six areas closely, the total number of metropolitan non-responses (520) was divided by 6 to obtain a frequency interval (86.6). A random starting number was used and every 87th case was noted. The Electoral Districts in which these cases occurred were chosen for investigation.

TABLE 7.1 Electoral Districts chosen for Non - Response Interviews.

DISTRICT	NON RESPONDENTS IN DISTRICT	NON RESPONSE INTERVIEWEES
Floreat	19	8
Karrinyup	19	7
Mt Lawley	16	7
Cockburn	16	4
Balga	23	9
Morley-Swan	18	2
TOTAL	111	37

Each non-respondent address for the six electoral areas was then personally visited by the researcher. At each address, enquiries were made in order to determine the reason for non-response to the survey. The results of these enquiries are presented on Table 7.2.

TABLE 7.2 Results of enquiries made about non-response to the survey.

REASON FOR NON-RESPONSE	NUMBER
Changed Address	44
Answered survey at door	37
Refused	30
Total	111

Of the non-respondents who were interviewed, 37 completed those questions considered to be of greatest interest; which were questions 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14 (grazing, logging, mining, and mineral exploration only), 16, 17 and all the Demographic questions (See Appendix A.). Refusals were mainly given on the basis of a dislike of surveys, regardless of content. Other refusals were given on the basis of old age, the inability to understand English or illness in the household.

### 7.3 COMPOSITION OF NON-RESPONSE INTERVIEWEES

Non-respondent interviewees differed from general population respondents in the following ways:

A greater proportion of non-respondent interviewees came from the 40 - 54 year old age group and a smaller proportion came from the 25-39 age group than was the case in the general population respondents.

TABLE 7.3 Comparison of age distribution for non-respondent interviewees and the general population respondents.

AGE (YEARS)	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	NON-RESPONDENTS
Under 25	11	8
25 - 39	39	30
40 -54	26	38
55 and Over	22	24
Not Known	2	2

More non-respondent interviewees came from overseas countries (other than the U.K.) than in the general population.

TABLE 7.4 Comparison of distribution of birthplace of the general population and non-respondents.

BIRTHPLACE	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	NON-RESPONDENTS
W.A.	60	54
Other States	12	11
U.K.	16	14
Other Countries	10	19
Not Known	2	2

Amongst non-respondents, upper high school educated persons were less represented and lower high school educated persons were more represented compared to the general population.

TABLE 7.5 Comparison of levels of education of the general population and non-respondents.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTAINED	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	NON-RESPONDENTS
Primary School	5	-
Lower High School	22	33
Upper High School	31	24
Trade/Technical	19	24
Diploma/Degree	21	19
Not Known	2	-

In the occupational divisions, a lesser proportion of non-response interviewees than general population respondents came from the professional and primary industry sectors and a greater proportion came from the administrative sector.

TABLE 7.6 Comparison of the occupations of the general population and non-respondents.

OCCUPATION	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	NON-RESPONDENTS
Professional	16	5
Trades	14	16
Primary Industry	10	-
Administrative	8	24
Clerical	5	8
Sales	5	5
Transport	3	3
Services	4	-
Mining	1	2
Armed Forces	-	-
Not in the Workforce	30	35
Not Known	4	-

#### 7.4 COMPARISON OF NON-RESPONSE INTERVIEWEE RESULTS WITH GENERAL POPULATION RESULTS

Although the total number of non-response interviews was not high, it is possible to obtain some comparisons of overall trends in the data with overall trends in the general population. All non-response data, unless otherwise stated, will be presented in terms of the percentage proportion of the total non-response interviews.

##### 7.4.1 KNOWLEDGE OF NATIONAL PARKS IN W.A.

The order in which non-respondents ranked the most important reasons for creating national parks was the same as the order given by the general population. That is, protection of whole natural environments was most often ranked as the most important reason for creating national parks. Protection of native species of plants and animals was ranked the next most often. Recreation came next, followed by protection of natural landscapes and nature study.

##### 7.4.2 BEHAVIOR RELATING TO NATIONAL PARKS

Interviewees from the non-response sector tended to be more likely to correctly name a national park that they had visited than general population. They also tended to be more likely to name a non-national park as a national park which they had visited as a national park.

TABLE 7.7 Comparison between the general population and non-respondent interviewees of the number of correct national park names listed as visited.

CORRECT NATIONAL PARKS LISTED	PROPORTION (%)		
	NONE	ONE TO THREE	MORE THAN THREE
General Population	22	51	27
Non-Respondents	5	81	14

TABLE 7.8 Comparison between the general population and non-respondent interviewees of the number of incorrect national park names listed as visited.

INCORRECT NATIONAL PARKS LISTED	PROPORTION (%)		
	NONE	ONE TO THREE	MORE THAN THREE
General Population	58	40	2
Non-Respondents	51	49	-

Whereas 28% of the general population sample had visited only recreational parks, 75% of non-response interviewees had visited only recreational parks. No non-response interviewees claimed to have visited a national park solely devoted to conservation while 18% had visited either mixed purpose parks or a combination of mixed purpose parks and recreational parks.

TABLE 7.9 Types of parks visited by the general population compared with the types of parks visited by non-respondents.

TYPES OF PARKS VISITED	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	NON-RESPONDENTS
Recreation	28	75
Mixed	12	5
Conservation	-	-
Recreation and Mixed	34	13
Recreation and Conservation	-	-
Mixed and Conservation	1	-
Recreation, Mixed and Conservation	2	-
No Park Names Given	23	7

## 7.4.3 ATTITUDES TO NATIONAL PARK ISSUES

The frequency with which non-respondent interviewees chose the most effective conservation strategy was the same as that for the general population. That is, protection of native species by setting aside whole areas of natural bush was chosen most often as the best conservation strategy. This was followed by protection of native species by stopping killing and protection of native species by breeding in captivity.

Non-respondent interviewees matched the general population with their responses to four out of six opinion statements in Question 12. That is, by far the greatest minority disagreed with the statement "National Parks are not a good idea". Approximately 14% agreed that enough was being done to protect native species while 62% disagreed that enough was being done. 95% agreed that national parks should be left in as natural a state as possible and the greater majority disagreed that national parks do not need to be managed.

Non-respondent interviewees had less tendency than the general population to agree with the statement "W.A. needs larger National Parks than those existing at present".

Less non-respondent interviewees than the general population agreed that Western Australia needs more national parks.

TABLE 7.10 Comparison of non-respondent and general population responses to opinion statements about national park issues.

OPINION STATEMENT	PROPORTION (%)			
	AGREE	DISAGREE	UN- DECIDED	NO RESPONSE
-----				
C. Western Australia needs larger national parks than most of those existing at present				
(GENERAL PUBLIC)	43	27	25	5
(NON-RESPONDENTS)	27	41	32	-
F. Western Australia needs more national parks				
(GENERAL PUBLIC)	57	15	24	4
(NON-RESPONDENTS)	46	14	38	2
-----				



There was a higher tendency for non-respondent interviewees to approve of grazing in national parks than the general population. There was a greater tendency for non-respondent interviewees than the general population to disapprove of logging, mining and exploration for minerals in national parks.

TABLE 7.11 Comparison of non-respondent with general population responses to opinions about which activities should be allowed in national parks.

ACTIVITY	PROPORTION (%)			
	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Grazing				
(GENERAL POPULATION)	2	25	69	4
(NON-RESPONDENTS)	8	38	54	-
Logging				
(GENERAL POPULATION)	1	13	83	3
(NON-RESPONDENTS)	3	24	73	-
Mining				
(GENERAL POPULATION)	-	8	87	5
(NON-RESPONDENTS)	-	22	78	-
Exploration for Minerals				
(GENERAL POPULATION)	2	11	83	4
(NON-RESPONDENTS)	-	24	76	-

#### 7.4.4 SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION

Non-respondent interviewees tended to express strong support for conservation (54%) less than the general population (68%).

TABLE 7.12 Comparison of non-respondent with general population responses to the strength of support for conservation expressed.

STRENGTH OF SUPPORT	PROPORTION (%)	
	GENERAL POPULATION	NON-RESPONDENTS
Very Strong	29	19
Strong	39	35
Somewhat	28	41
Not at All	2	3
No Response	2	2

#### 7.4.5 IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS COMPARED TO OTHER CONCERNS IN LIFE

Non-respondent interviewees matched the general population in the importance they attached to national parks compared with other concerns in their lives.

#### 7.5 SUMMARY

Differences between non-respondents and the survey respondents were not great for the major national park issues with the following exceptions:

A higher proportion of non-respondents were unsure about whether Western Australia needs more national parks than the general population. There was less agreement and more disagreement than the general population with the statement "W.A. needs larger national parks than those existing at present."

A greater proportion of non-respondents than the general public felt that mining, grazing, logging and mineral exploration should be allowed in some national parks.

Non-respondents also expressed less support for conservation than the general population.

However, these differences were not statistically different indicating that non-respondents held similar opinions about national parks to the general public.

### 8.1 RESOURCES

The total budget for the survey was limited and although much was achieved, the availability of increased funding would have led to significant improvements.

Certainly, a higher proportion of the total Western Australian population could have been sampled although the benefits of any greater precision must be weighed against the costs involved. With more funds, rural non-respondents would also have been interviewed to see if their views were significantly different from those of rural respondents.

### 8.2 QUESTION DESIGN

The issue of grazing in national parks should have been clarified so that respondents would have understood that 'grazing' referred to domestic stock rather than native animals. This only became apparent when reading the comments of some respondents who qualified their answers on the grazing question with an indication that they approved of grazing for native animals, but not for domestic stock.

The question asking respondents to choose the best conservation option for native species of flora and fauna should have offered respondents the opportunity to choose a combination of three options. As it was, several people chose to combine options as an alternative. Even then, there would only be a limited understanding of public perceptions of the best mix of options. Personal interviews would be a better method of obtaining more complex information such as this.

There may have been some confusion in the opinion statement where respondents were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with the statement: "National Parks are not a good idea." Perhaps this question should have been worded in a positive rather than negative form, or a more extensive series of attitudinal questions asked to ensure reliability.

This survey confirms the findings of the Newman and Cameron study (9) that there is a high level of public support in the community for conservation. However, results do not reflect Newman and Cameron's findings that national parks are not an important concern for the Western Australian community.

Although the importance of national parks in the conservation of native species of plants and animals is clearly recognised, some of the related national park issues are not.

An informal guideline agreed on at the 1982 World National Parks Congress, held in Bali by the I.U.C.N., recommended that 10% of all land surface be set aside in conservation areas. It is significant that Western Australia has less than 5% of its land surface set aside in national parks and nature reserves.

In spite of this, one quarter of the respondents to this survey were undecided about the need for Western Australia to have more national parks and a further quarter were unsure about the need for Western Australia to have larger national parks than those existing at present. When considering the suggestions made by Diamond (5) for the effective conservation of native species of plants and animals, results of this survey would indicate that this is an area of great need for public education.

Although some aspects of national park management in W.A. are well understood by survey respondents, there are some areas where further public education is indicated. The much publicised mining debate may have made an impact on the public's thinking about the acceptability of both mining and mineral exploration in national parks. This is also the case in relation to logging and wildflower picking, both of which have received a great deal of publicity in recent years.

Most other activities that are generally restricted for the purpose of effective national park management are clearly not known or understood by a good portion of the population. These include driving vehicles off roads, grazing and rock, seed, and firewood collecting. The number of comments about the 'no dog' issue (which was not mentioned in the questionnaire) indicates the need for detailed education about the importance of various restrictions on activities in national parks.

By combining the strong support expressed for conservation in this state with the willingness of the public to support a 'user-pays' system for the funding of national parks, there are strong indications that revenue for national parks could be increased with the help of the public.

With such a high level of public support for conservation as expressed by respondents to this survey, it is perhaps a valid recommendation that the Conservation Council should consider ways and means of utilising this valuable resource.

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## APPENDIX A

## DETAILS OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

## RESPONSE RATES.

	GENERAL POPULATION	CONSERVATIONISTS
Sent out:-	1997	98
Returned:-	922	75
RESPONSE RATE:-	46.1%	76%

Q1. How do you rank the following reasons for creating National Parks? Write numbers from 1 to 5 in the boxes where 1 = most important, 2 = next most important, to 5 = least important.

	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation	85	69	108	216	409
Protection of certain types of native animals and plants	215	407	195	57	17
Protection of natural landscapes	82	254	400	120	33
Nature study	19	49	79	411	328
Protection of whole natural environments	610	100	89	45	61

Q2. Which of the following groups do you think is mainly responsible for managing National Parks in W.A. (Tick one box only.)

GROUP	RESPONSE
Local Government	104
State Government	563
Federal Government	77
Non-Government Conservation Groups	50
Unsure	112
No Response	16

Q3. How do you think funds to maintain National Parks are obtained? (Tick more than one box if you wish.)

SOURCE	RESPONSE
Taxes	742
Donations from public	229
Entry fees to parks	411
Funds from conservationists	118
Unsure	88

Q4. Are the following activities currently allowed in all, some or no National Parks in Western Australia?  
(Please tick one box for each activity).

ACTIVITIES	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Walking	759	128	1	34
Orienteering	271	492	37	122
Camping	34	652	191	45
Driving vehicles off roads	11	338	521	52
Hunting	4	77	788	53
Fishing	32	471	363	56
Boating (non-motor)	96	679	88	59
Motor boating	8	383	461	70
Trail bike riding	11	215	639	57
Horse riding	61	666	141	54
Grazing	17	222	613	70
Logging	9	220	634	59
Mining	7	180	672	63
Exploration for minerals etc	39	232	578	73
Rock collecting	75	377	409	43
Wildflower picking	8	60	806	48
Seed collecting	60	303	496	63
Beekeeping	81	459	312	70
Firewood collecting	33	323	502	64
Scientific study	634	222	18	48



Q5. Have you ever been to a National Park in W.A.?

RESPONSE	
Yes	869
No	47
No Response	6

Q6. Please print the names or locations of the National Parks you've visited in W.A. if you can remember them.

CORRECT NATIONAL PARKS LISTED	NON - NATIONAL PARKS LISTED		
	None	One To Three	More Than Three
None	149	59	1
One To Three	251	207	11
More than Three	141	97	6

Q6. Types of National parks listed as visited by respondents.

TYPES OF NATIONAL PARKS LISTED	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Recreation Parks only (A)	261
Mixed Parks only (B)	107
Conservation Parks only (C)	1
(A) and (B) Parks	309
(A) and (C) Parks	2
(B) and (C) Parks	8
(A) and (B) and (C) Parks	25
National Park type not given	209

Q7. What are the main reasons that you go to a National Park?  
(Tick as many activities as are appropriate.)

REASONS FOR GOING TO NATIONAL PARKS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Picnic or barbeque	701
Look at plants and animals	616
Go for walks	662
Admire the scenery	747
Camp overnight	202
Just relax	648
Go boating	98
Go swimming	183
Take photographs	496
Other activities	97

Q8. Are you a member of a club or organisation which visits National Parks as a group? (Please tick one.)

MEMBERSHIP	RESPONSES
Yes	42
No	840
No Response	40

Q8. If you are, please name the group or groups involved.

RESPONSES	
Conservation oriented clubs	18
School and aged persons groups	11
Religious, philosophical and other clubs	13

Q9a. Have you ever needed to see a Ranger when visiting a National Park in W.A.?

NEEDED TO SEE A RANGER	RESPONSE
Yes	159
No	715
No Response	48

Q9a. Were you able to find a Ranger when you needed one?

ABLE TO FIND A RANGER WHEN NEEDED	RESPONSE
Yes, all Parks	90
Yes, in some Parks	143
No, not in any Parks	25
No Response	656

Q9b. Did the National Parks you visited in W.A. look clean and tidy?

DID PARKS LOOK TIDY?	RESPONSE
Yes, all Parks	618
Yes, some Parks	255
No, not any Parks	3
No Response	46

Q9c. Were you satisfied with the condition of the roads in the National Parks you visited in W.A.?

SATISFACTION WITH ROADS	RESPONSE
Yes, in all Parks	482
Yes, in some Parks	364
No, not in any Parks	21
No Response	55

Q10. If you haven't been to any National Parks in W.A., please tell us the reasons. (Write as many reasons as are appropriate.)

REASONS FOR NOT VISITING A NATIONAL PARK	RESPONSES
Don't know where Parks are	5
No transport	3
No opportunity to go	3
Too far to go	9
Too old	7
Don't have enough time	10
Don't want to go	4
New in W.A.	3
Dog can't come to National Park	1
No reason	5
TOTAL	50

Q11. Which of these statements is closest to your opinion?  
(Tick one box only.)

STATEMENT CHOSEN	RESPONSE
A. We can effectively protect different types of native plants and animals by breeding them in captivity	8
B. We need to set aside areas of natural bush to adequately protect different types of native plants and animals	655
C. To adequately protect different types of native plants and animals we need to make sure that people don't kill them	198
Other	34
No Response	27

Q12. For each statement below, please tick the box which is closest to your opinion.

STATEMENT	AGREE	DIS- AGREE	UN- DECIDED	NO RESPONSE
A. National Parks are not a good idea	96	773	14	39
B. There is enough being done to protect different types of native plants and animals	132	604	144	42
C. Western Australia needs larger National Parks than most of those existing at present	399	247	239	37
D. National Parks do not need to be managed, they only need to be set up	40	813	31	38
E. National Parks should be left in as natural a state as possible	845	34	23	20
F. Western Australia needs more National Parks	534	135	222	31

Q13. Indicate whether you think the following facilities should be allowed in all, some or no Western Australian National Parks. (Tick one box for each type of facility.)

TYPE OF FACILITY	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Picnicking facilities (Toilets, B.B.Q's, playgrounds, etc)	554	354	4	10
Indoor accommodation (Motels, cabins, etc)	45	517	332	28
Caravan Parks	57	463	374	28
Camping Grounds	148	570	178	26
Shops	119	415	364	24
Visitor information centres	663	230	15	14

Q14. Indicate whether you think each of the following activities should be allowed in all, some or no Western Australian National Parks. (Tick one box for each activity.)

ACTIVITIES	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	NO RESPONSE
Walking	831	76	-	15
Orienteering	365	432	38	87
Camping	147	591	158	26
Driving vehicles off roads	20	261	618	23
Hunting	4	69	821	28
Fishing	61	485	351	25
Boating(non-motor)	147	623	124	28
Motor boating	7	230	652	33
Trail bike riding	11	140	746	25
Horse riding	103	623	174	22
Grazing	17	227	645	33
Logging	6	117	767	32
Mining	3	78	810	31
Exploration for minerals etc	17	110	767	28
Rock collecting	63	396	437	26
Wildflower picking	10	134	750	28
Seed collecting	74	369	447	32
Beekeeping	119	430	341	32
Firewood collecting	36	357	496	33
Scientific study	677	195	30	20

Q15. Do you believe that the public should be charged a fee to visit National Parks? (Tick only one box please.)

SHOULD BE CHARGED?	RESPONSES
Yes	504
No	388
No Responses	30

Q15. If you answered 'yes' to the last question, how do you think these fees should be charged? (Tick as many boxes as you like.)

TYPE OF CHARGE	RESPONSES
Small entry fee	387
Fee to cover visitor costs	106
Annual park visitor licence	54
Fee to use facilities only (eg; B.B.Q's)	219
Other	15

Q16. How strongly do you support conservation?

STRENGTH OF SUPPORT	RESPONSES
Very strongly	276
Strongly	357
Somewhat	255
Not at all	17
No Response	17



Q17. How important are National Parks to you compared to other concerns in your life?

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	RESPONSES
Very important	168
Important	497
Not very important	223
Not important at all	16
No Response	18

#### DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS OF RESPONDENTS

18A. Sex,

SEX	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Female	459
Male	442
No Response	21

18B. Age.

AGE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Under 25 years	99
25 - 39 years	365
40 - 54 years	242
55 years and over	200
No Response	16

## 18C. Place of birth.

PLACE OF BIRTH	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Western Australia	551
Other Australian State	108
United Kingdom (U.K.)	144
Overseas (Other than U.K.)	95
No Response	24

## 18D. Highest level of education attained by respondents.

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Primary school	43
Lower high school	207
Upper high school	283
Trade/Technical certificates	171
Diploma/Degree	196
No Response	22

## 18E. Occupation of respondents.

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OCCUPATION	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
Professional	149
Administrative	78
Clerical	51
Sales	44
Primary Industry	88
Mining	9
Trades	126
Transport	33
Services	34
Armed forces	2
Home duties	190
Pensioner	64
Student	15
Unemployed	5
No Response	34

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## APPENDIX B

## FORMULAE FOR POST-STRATIFICATION OF DATA

## POST-STRATIFICATION BY AREA - FORMULAE

The formulae used to recalculate the general population figures to account for the actual metropolitan and rural residency proportions are as follows:

$$\text{FORMULA A} \quad \frac{NM}{SM} \times RM = M$$

Where NM = Total number of persons living in the metropolitan electorates of the 1981 state electorate roll. (604,784)

SM = Number of respondents in the sample living in the metropolitan electorates of the 1981 state electorate roll. (493)

RM = Total number of responses by metropolitan respondents to particular questions.

M = Recalculated responses allowing for actual metropolitan portion of data.

$$\text{FORMULA B} \quad \frac{NR}{SR} \times RR = R$$

Where: NR = Total number of persons living in the rural electorates of the 1981 state electorate roll. (235,220)

SR = Number of respondents in the sample living in the rural electorates of the 1981 state electoral roll. (429)

RR = Total number of responses by rural respondents to particular questions.

R = Recalculated responses allowing for actual rural portion of data.

FORMULA C             $M + R = T$

Where:    T = Recalculated total sample response  
              allowing for the actual metropolitan  
              and rural proportions of the data.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POST-STRATIFIED GENERAL POPULATION FIGURES  
AND NON-ADJUSTED GENERAL POPULATION FIGURES

Only the general population figures of age, occupation and the types of National Park visited were significantly different when post-stratification calculations made by area had been carried out.

These differences are reflected in the metropolitan/rural break-down of the general population data and are discussed in the appropriate chapters.



**WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S  
NATIONAL PARKS?**

WHAT DO YOU THINK  
ABOUT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire is designed to discover how you feel about National Parks in Western Australia and what you know about them. It should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete and has a "quick answer" format.

Almost all the questions can be answered by placing a tick in the box next to the category which is closest to your opinion. A space for additional comments is provided on the back page. However, feel free to make them anywhere in the questionnaire.

Please ignore the numbers in brackets and italics in the questionnaire. They are for computer coding purposes only.

When your questionnaire is complete, please return it in the enclosed envelope by the due date. *The postage is FREE so no stamp is needed!* If you would like a copy of the results, ring me on 321-6032.

Thank you very much for your help,

*Maggie Jakob-Hoff*

Maggie Jakob-Hoff

RESEARCH OFFICER

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF W.A.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THIS FINAL SECTION CONTAINS A FEW BACKGROUND QUESTIONS ABOUT YOURSELF. THE INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE COMMUNITY. IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

18.a. Are you:

Female..... 1  Male..... 2  (33)

b. Is your age:

Under 25 years?..... 1  40 - 54 years?..... 3  (34)  
 25 - 39 years?..... 2  55 years or more?..... 4

c. If you were born in Australia, which state was it?  
 OR  
 If you were born overseas, which country was it?

\_\_\_\_\_   (35,36)

d. What is the highest level of education you have attained? (Tick one box only.)

Primary school..... 1   
 Lower high school..... 2   
 Upper high school..... 3   
 Diploma/Degree or higher..... 5   
 Trade/Technical Certificate..... 4  (37)

e. What is your usual occupation? (Do not use initials or abbreviations, eg: Home Duties, not H.D.)

\_\_\_\_\_   (38,39)

Office use only

2 (40)

PLEASE USE THE BACK PAGE FOR ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ADD.



If you wish to add any further comments about National Parks please use the space below,  
or attach a separate sheet.

\* \* \* \* \*

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS STUDY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED**

Feel free to ring me or write to me if you have any queries about the questionnaire or the study or would like a copy of the results. The address is:

**Maggie Jakob-Hoff,  
Conservation Council of W.A.  
794 Hay Street,  
Perth, W.A. 6000.**

**Telephone: 321 6032**

5. Have you ever been to a National Park in W.A.?

Yes.....  1

No.....  2

↑  
Go to Qn. 10

(36)

6. Please print the names or locations of the National Parks you've visited in W.A. if you can remember them.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What are the main reasons that you go to a National Park?

(Tick as many activities as are appropriate)

- (41)  0 Picnic or barbecue.....
- (42)  1 Look at plants and animals.....
- (43)  2 Go for walks.....
- (44)  3 Admire the scenery.....
- (45)  4 Camp overnight.....
- (46)  5 Just relax.....
- (47)  6 Go boating.....
- (48)  7 Go swimming.....
- (49)  8 Take photographs.....

Please write in any other activities.

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(50)

8. Are you a member of a club or organisation which visits National Parks as a group?  
(Please tick one)

Yes.....  1 (51)  
No.....  2

If you are, please name the group or groups involved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> (52) <i>Office use only</i>
---

9.a. Have you ever needed to see a Ranger when you've visited a National Park in W.A.?

Yes.....  1 (53)  
No.....  2

Were you able to find a Ranger when you needed one?

Yes, in all Parks.....  1 (54)  
Yes, in some Parks.....  2  
No, not in any Parks.....  3

b. Did the National Parks you visited in W.A. look clean and tidy?

Yes, all Parks.....  1 (55)  
Yes, some Parks.....  2  
No, not any Parks.....  3

c. Were you satisfied with the condition of the roads in the National Parks you visited in W.A.?

Yes, in all Parks.....  1 (56)  
Yes, in some Parks.....  2  
No, not in any Parks.....  3

(Ckt. 1 - 4)  
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1.

How do you rank the following reasons for creating National Parks? Write numbers from 1 to 5 in the boxes where 1 = most important, 2 = next most important, to 5 = least important.

- (5) Recreation.....
- (6) Protection of certain types of native animals and plants.....
- (7) Protection of natural landscapes.....
- (8) Nature study.....
- (9) Protection of whole natural environments.....

2. Which one of the following groups do you think is mainly responsible for managing National Parks in W.A.? (Tick one box only.)

- (10) Local Government.....  1
- State Government.....  2
- Federal Government.....  3
- Non-Government conservation groups.....  4
- Unsure.....  5

3. How do you think the funds to maintain National Parks are obtained? (Tick more than one box if you wish.)

- (11) Taxes.....  1
- (12) Donations from public.....  2
- (13) Entry fees to Parks.....  3
- (14) Funds from conservationists.....  4
- (15) Unsure.....  5

4. Are the following activities currently allowed in all, some or no National Parks in Western Australia? (Please tick one box for each activity).

	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	
Walking.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(16)
Orienteering.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(17)
Camping.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(18)
Driving vehicles off roads.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(19)
Hunting.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(20)
Fishing.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(21)
Boating - non-motor.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(22)
Motor boating.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(23)
Trail bike riding.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(24)
Horse riding.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(25)
Grazing.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(26)
Logging.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(27)
Mining.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(28)
Exploration for minerals, etc.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(29)
Rock collecting.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(30)
Wildflower picking.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(31)
Seed collecting.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(32)
Beekeeping.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(33)
Firewood collecting.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(34)
Scientific study.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(35)

10. If you haven't been to any National Parks in W.A., please tell us the reasons. (Write as many reasons as are appropriate.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(57)

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11. Which of these statements is closest to your opinion? (Tick one box only.)

- A. We can effectively protect different types of native plants and animals by breeding them in captivity.....  1
- B. We need to set aside areas of natural bush to adequately protect different types of native plants and animals.....  2
- C. To adequately protect different types of native plants and animals we need to make sure that people don't kill them.....  3
- Other, please specify.  4

(58)

12. For each statement below, please tick the box which is closest to your opinion.

	AGREE	DISAGREE	UNDECIDED	
A. National Parks are not a good idea.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(59)
B. There is enough being done to protect different types of native plants and animals.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(60)
C. Western Australia needs larger National Parks than most of those existing at present.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(61)
D. National Parks do not need to be managed, they only need to be set up.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(62)
E. National Parks should be left in as natural a state as possible.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(63)
F. Western Australia needs more National Parks.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(64)

13. Indicate whether you think that the following facilities should be allowed in all, some or no Western Australian National Parks.  
(Tick one box for each type of facility.)

	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS	
1. Picnicking facilities (Toilets, B.B.Q's, playgrounds, etc).....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(65)
2. Indoor accommodation (Motels, cabins, etc.....)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(66)
3. Caravan parks.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(67)
4. Camping grounds.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(68)
5. Shops.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(69)
6. Visitor information centres.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	(70)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (71)
New card
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
(Col. 1 - 4)
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14. Indicate whether you think each of the following activities should be allowed in all, some or no Western Australian National Parks. (Tick one box for each activity)

	ALL PARKS	SOME PARKS	NO PARKS
(5) Walking.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(6) Orienteering.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(7) Camping.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(8) Driving vehicles off roads.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(9) Hunting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(10) Fishing.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(11) Boating - non-motor.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(12) Motor boating.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(13) Trail bike riding.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(14) Horse riding.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(15) Grazing.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(16) Logging.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(17) Mining.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(18) Exploration for minerals, etc.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(19) Rock collecting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(20) Wildflower picking.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(21) Seed collecting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(22) Beekeeping.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(23) Firewood collecting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(24) Scientific study.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



15. Do you believe that the public should be charged a fee to visit National Parks?  
(Tick only one box please.)

Yes.....  1 (25)  
No.....  2

↓  
If you answered 'yes' to the last question, how do you think these fees should be charged?  
(Tick as many boxes as you like.)

Small entry fee.....  1 (26)

Fee to cover visitor costs.....  2 (27)

Annual park visitors licence.....  3 (28)

Fee to use facilities only (eg: B.B.Q's).....  4 (29)

Other, please specify.

(30)  
*Office use only*

16. How strongly do you support conservation?

Very strongly.....  1 (31)

Strongly.....  2

Somewhat.....  3

Not at all.....  4

17. How important are National Parks to you compared with other concerns in your life?

Very important.....  1 (32)

Important.....  2

Not very important.....  3

Not important at all.....  4