



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



National and Conservation Park Camping Survey 2023



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Image on front page of Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park courtesy of Tourism WA.

Information current November 2023.



Executive Summary

- The aim of this study was to obtain current information about the camping behaviours of campers in Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) estate, and facilitate the establishment of an ongoing camper monitoring program. This program will aid in filling the knowledge gaps about camper behaviours and inform future capital works investments.
- The COVID-19 pandemic made Australian caravanners and campers more inclined to holiday domestically and travel regionally. Growth in recreational vehicle (RV) registrations in Western Australia and caravan sales in Australia more broadly could be seen as a reactive shift towards more domestic tourism in Australia post-COVID. Understanding camper behaviours now and into the future is imperative to maintaining and developing DBCA's camping experience and product.
- This study used a targeted survey of online bookable indicator sites from across Western Australia, selected to cover the breadth of camping experiences. The survey was distributed campers who had booked during or around the September school holidays 2022 and April school holidays 2023, and for the Kimberley region, only the June school holidays 2023.
- There were a total of **987 valid responses received**.

Campers

- Respondents were mostly **aged between 35-54** (57.9%), mostly **female** (54.9%) and **travelling with family** (41.1%) or **partner** (28.3%). Around **half were travelling with adults only** (50.4%).
- Most respondents were from **Western Australia** (75.0%) and were mostly from **Perth Metro** (61.6%), with interstate visitors the next largest cohort (20.9%), and few from overseas (4.2%).
- The **average nights camped was 3.5**, and almost half reported it was their **first visit to the park where they camped** (48.8%). Most reported they **visit national parks at least once a year or more often** (84.6%).

Satisfaction

- Respondents were **highly satisfied with their camping experience** (87.3%) and **highly satisfied with their visit to the national or conservation park** they visited (89.4%). Most would also **actively promote visiting a national or conservation park** (76.4%).

Activities

- **Camping was the most common activity** (92.9%), followed by **bushwalking/hiking** (79.0%), **relaxing/fun/enjoyment** (72.2%), and **sightseeing** (68.1%).

Main purpose

- Most reported their **main purpose was to go camping** (69.5%), followed by to **enjoy nature and the outdoors** (68.8%), and to **rest and relax** (61.6%).

Transport and equipment

- Most respondents used their **own passenger vehicle or four-wheel drive** (87.6%). Almost half of respondents **bought their main equipment from 2020 onwards** (46.9%).

Executive Summary

Transport and equipment cont.

- **Tents were the most commonly used equipment** on the respondents' **most recent trip** (47.2%) and the equipment **they used most often** when camping generally (42.7%), but 42.0% reported they **intend to use caravan/camper-trailer most often in the next 2 years**.

Camper description

- Most respondents identified themselves as either a **lifelong camper** (44.7%) or having **camped on and off throughout the years** (44.5%), with only **10.9% identifying as relatively new to camping** (only began within the last 4 years).

Camping frequency

- A third of respondents reported they did the **same amount of camping each year** (30.5%). 41.8% responded they took **three or more camping trips in 2022**, and there is an overall trend of increased camping frequency.

Camping behaviour changed

- Most respondents reported their **camping trips changed in some way in the past 12 months** (70.8%), with just over a quarter reporting their trips were longer than in the past (26.5%) . Of those who provided comment on why their camping increased, 25.0% said **changed circumstances** (e.g. work, family, education) meant they had **more time to go camping**.

Future camping behaviours

- Over three quarters (79.2%) of respondents reported they were **likely to go camping anywhere in WA national or conservation parks in the next 12 months**.
- Of those who responded they were **unlikely to camp in WA parks in the next 12 months**, around two-thirds (62.4%) reported they would be **travelling elsewhere in Australia for leisure/holidays**, while over a third (38.7%) reported they will be **travelling overseas for leisure/holidays**.

Future camping behaviours - camping in WA parks

- Of those who reported they were likely to camp again in the next 12 months, 43.8% reported the **number of trips and nights were unlikely to change**, while a quarter reported they expected an **increase in both trips and nights** (25.4%).
- Of those who provided a reason why they were **unlikely to camp in WA parks in the next 12 months**, 75.3% said it was **because they live outside of WA**.

Key insights

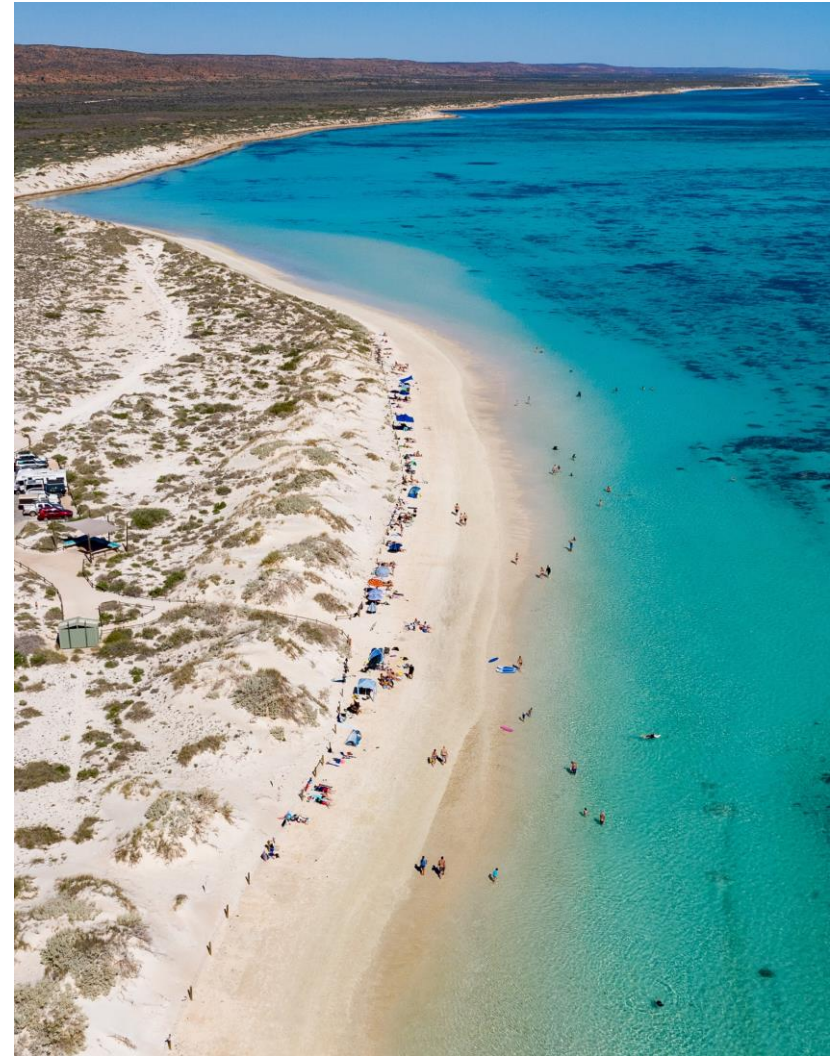
- The overall findings of this study suggest that campers in Western Australian national and conservation parks are loyal advocates with a strong sense of connection and 'camper' identity.
- Respondents reported they have been camping more often in the past four years, they visited national and conservation parks frequently, and about a quarter planned to increase their camping frequency into the future.
- Respondents were highly satisfied with their camping experience and with their visit generally, and many would actively promote visiting a national or conservation park. Further, these satisfaction and promoter values have increased when comparing the same parks in this study and the 2017-2018 studies.
- Camping is more than an accommodation choice; it is an activity and purpose of its own. It is an immersive experience that allows people to disconnect from ordinary life and reconnect with nature, friends and family, and themselves, and it facilitates access to nature-based activities e.g. bushwalking/hiking, wildlife viewing.



Joffre Gorge, Karijini National Park. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

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Turquoise Bay, Cape Range National Park. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

Background

In response to the government's *Parks for People Caravan and Camping Implementation* initiative, baseline camping-related research was completed in 2018 at indicator campgrounds across Western Australia (Cape Range National Park, Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park, and Lane Poole Reserve). A follow-on pilot study was conducted in 2021-22. The 2021-22 study developed Park Stay WA business analytics using Power BI and reviewed the 2018 survey tool, tested using a small subset of Park Stay WA camper bookings. This was to facilitate the establishment of an ongoing camper monitoring program to aid future capital works investment and facilitate better understanding of camper behaviours (*Park Stay WA Camper Monitoring Program – Stage 1* (SPP20220202)).

In 2020, 62% of caravan and campers in Australia reported that COVID-19 made them more likely to take a domestic holiday than previously, with 50% more likely to travel regionally (Yager, 2020). In 2019, 91% of Australia's caravanning and camping activity were domestic travellers (Caravan Industry Association of Australia, 2020), and in Western Australia in 2021, 98% of campers were travelling intrastate (Caravan Industry Association WA, 2021a). Camping and caravanning operators noted a shift in 2020 towards younger, more family-oriented travel groups and more 'first-time' campers (Cassidy, 2020). Sales of caravans in Australia hit a 30-year high in 2021 (Cassidy, 2020) while Western Australia has experienced a five-year growth period in RV registrations, with the largest increase in 2019-20 (Caravan Industry Association of Australia, 2021b). This market appears to have changed as a consequence of the pandemic. As DBCA are the major providers of nature-based camping experiences in WA it is imperative that the ways in which this market has changed, and will continue to change (or revert), is understood so that visitor needs and expectations are met.

The aims of the camper monitoring program are to:

- Respond to the increasing demand for camping data for internal and external stakeholders.
- Identify a suite of indicator sites that are representative of camping across Western Australia.
- Improve understanding of the camping market in Western Australia.
- Determine proportion of new campers and their ongoing camping intentions.
- Understand changes in camping equipment use at previous 2018 indicator sites.
- Determine changes in behaviour over time (frequency and duration).
- Understand if visitor satisfaction remains constant over time.



Dales Gorge, Karijini National Park. Photo – A. Smith

Methodology

This survey targeted a suite of online bookable indicator sites from across Western Australia, from DBCA's Park Stay WA campsite booking system. These sites were selected to cover the breadth of camping experience across the state, including a variety of geography, environment, remoteness (distance from populated areas), visitation levels, and camping amenities/experience.

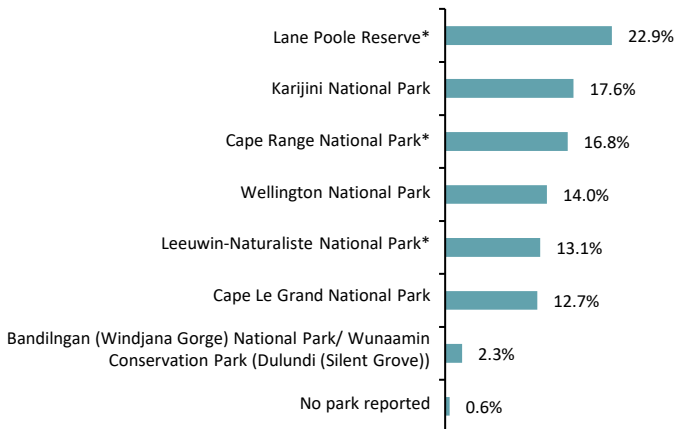
The survey was distributed to campers who booked sites in the indicator sites in the September school holidays in 2022 and April school holidays in 2023, and for the Kimberley region only in the June school holidays of 2023. Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) was closed for all of 2023 due to flooding damage, thus the survey was distributed to Wunaamin Conservation Park (Silent Grove) to capture the Kimberley region.

Where comparison has been made with the previous studies for Lane Poole Reserve, Cape Range National Park and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, only data from those same parks in the current study have been used.

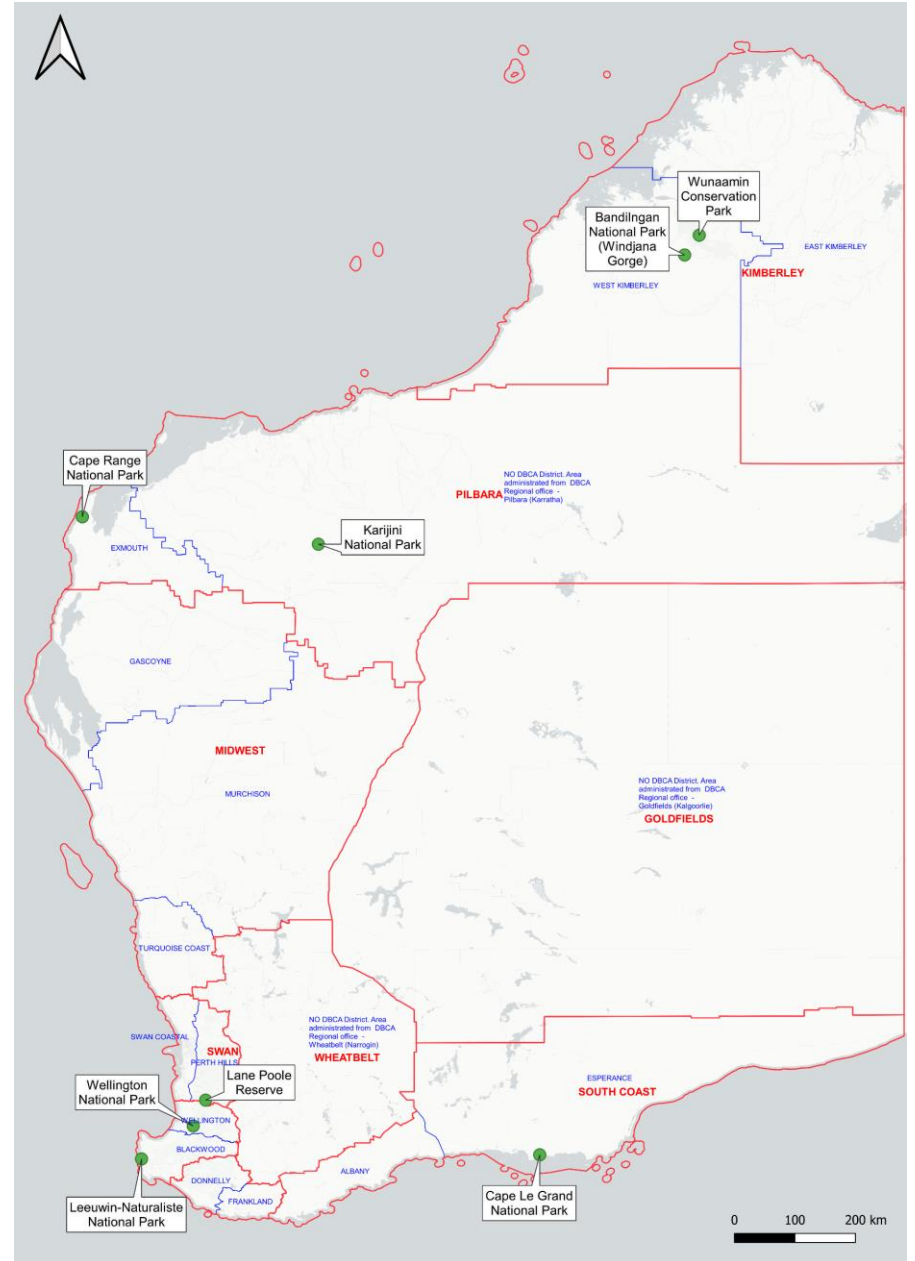
The survey was distributed to a total of 7,357 campers, with a response rate of 13.4%.

There were a total of 987 valid responses.

Response by indicator site (n=984)



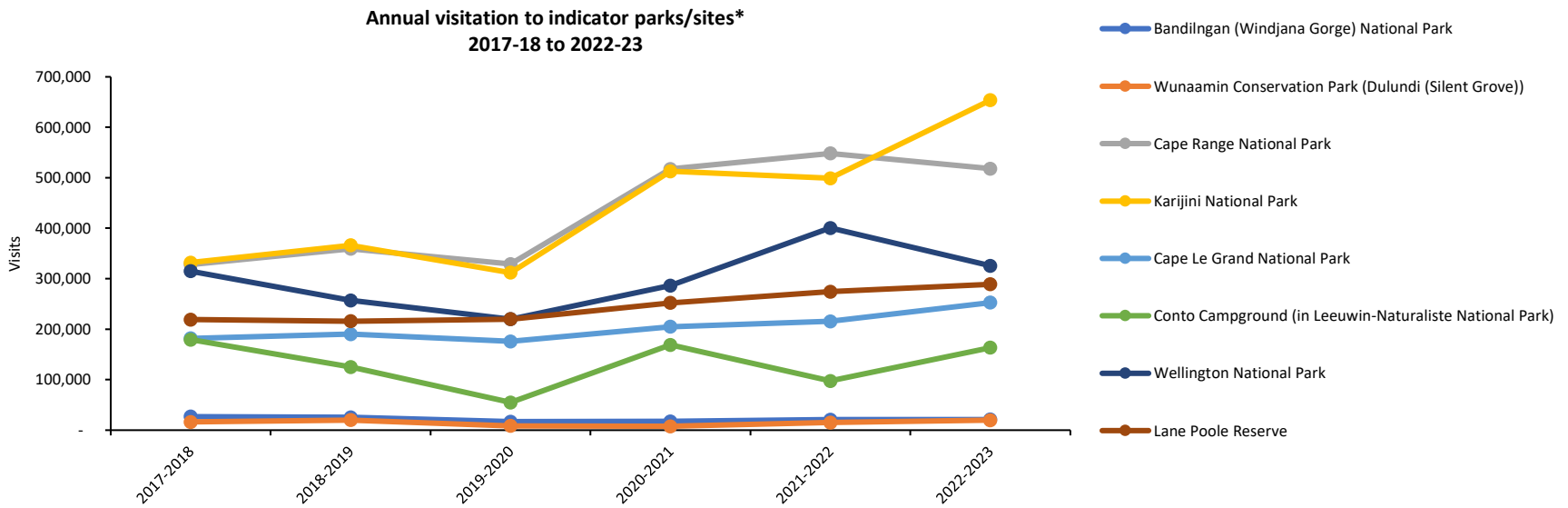
*Site used in camper studies 2014-15 and 2017-18



Visitation

- Overall visitation across the department's estate has increased over the past 6 years, peaking at 24.61 million visits in 2022-23.
- While there has been an overall increase in visitation across the state, some areas have experienced more growth than others and this is demonstrated by this study's indicator sites. The two Pilbara region study sites, Cape Range National Park and Karijini National Park, had large increases in visitation, while the Kimberley region sites, Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park and Wunaamin Conservation Park (Dulundi, Silent Grove), have had very little change in visitation over the same period.
- All sites saw a decline in visitation during COVID (2019-20), with some larger declines in visitation e.g. Conto Campground, Karijini National Park, Cape Range National Park, compared to others that experienced little change e.g. Lane Poole Reserve, Cape Le Grand National Park, which mostly related to COVID lockdown periods.

N.B. the graph below shows whole of park figures with the exception of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park where only the figures for Conto Campground have been included. This is due to that park's size, breadth and large overall visitation which is not relevant in this context.



*Estimates have been used in some years, data shown is an overall indication of visitation to the selected parks and Conto Campground.

Seasonality

- The suite of online bookable indicator sites from across WA provide a variety of experiences and the visitation is highly seasonal, varying across the state with the north receiving more visits in the cooler months and the south receiving more in the warmer months, and the expected peaks around school holidays.
- Visitation to the two study sites in the Kimberley region, Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park and Wunaamin Conservation Park (Dulundi, Silent Grove), is only in the cooler months (their dry season), as these sites are subject to seasonal closures with limited visitor access in the summer months due to wet season impacts such as flooding.
- Similar to the Kimberley, the Pilbara sites, Cape Range National Park and Karijini National Park, tend to have higher visitation in the cooler, winter months, but also around school holiday periods in April and July.
- By contrast, the study sites located in the south of the state, Cape Le Grand National Park, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, and Wellington National Park, are more popular in the warmer, summer months, and around the April school holidays. Lane Poole Reserve in the Swan region is the closest to the Perth Metro area and most popular around the school holiday periods.

N.B. the table below shows whole of park figures with the exception of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park where only the figures for Conto Campground have been included. This is due to that park's size, breadth and large overall visitation which is not relevant in this context.

Seasonality at indicator parks/sites*	Region	Jul**	Aug	Sep**	Oct**	Nov	Dec**	Jan**	Feb	Mar	Apr**	May	Jun
Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park	Kimberley	33.7%	20.1%	10.8%	4.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	8.5%	20.1%
Wunaamin Conservation Park (Dulundi (Silent Grove))	Kimberley	33.7%	18.3%	9.3%	3.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	10.3%	24.5%
Cape Range National Park	Pilbara	14.7%	12.6%	11.1%	9.7%	4.8%	4.8%	4.5%	2.3%	4.5%	9.9%	10.0%	11.1%
Karijini National Park	Pilbara	17.6%	15.5%	11.4%	8.6%	4.3%	2.8%	2.2%	1.8%	3.8%	8.7%	9.9%	13.4%
Cape Le Grand National Park	South Coast	3.2%	3.4%	6.7%	8.1%	8.2%	14.8%	16.4%	9.6%	10.0%	10.6%	5.6%	3.4%
Conto Campground (in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park)	South West	3.5%	3.9%	6.8%	9.1%	8.7%	9.7%	13.3%	8.4%	9.3%	11.9%	10.9%	4.7%
Wellington National Park	South West	5.7%	5.8%	9.5%	8.6%	8.4%	9.3%	13.1%	7.9%	9.2%	11.0%	5.9%	5.5%
Lane Poole Reserve	Swan	5.3%	5.6%	8.2%	10.2%	7.9%	10.0%	11.9%	6.1%	8.4%	10.4%	7.4%	8.3%

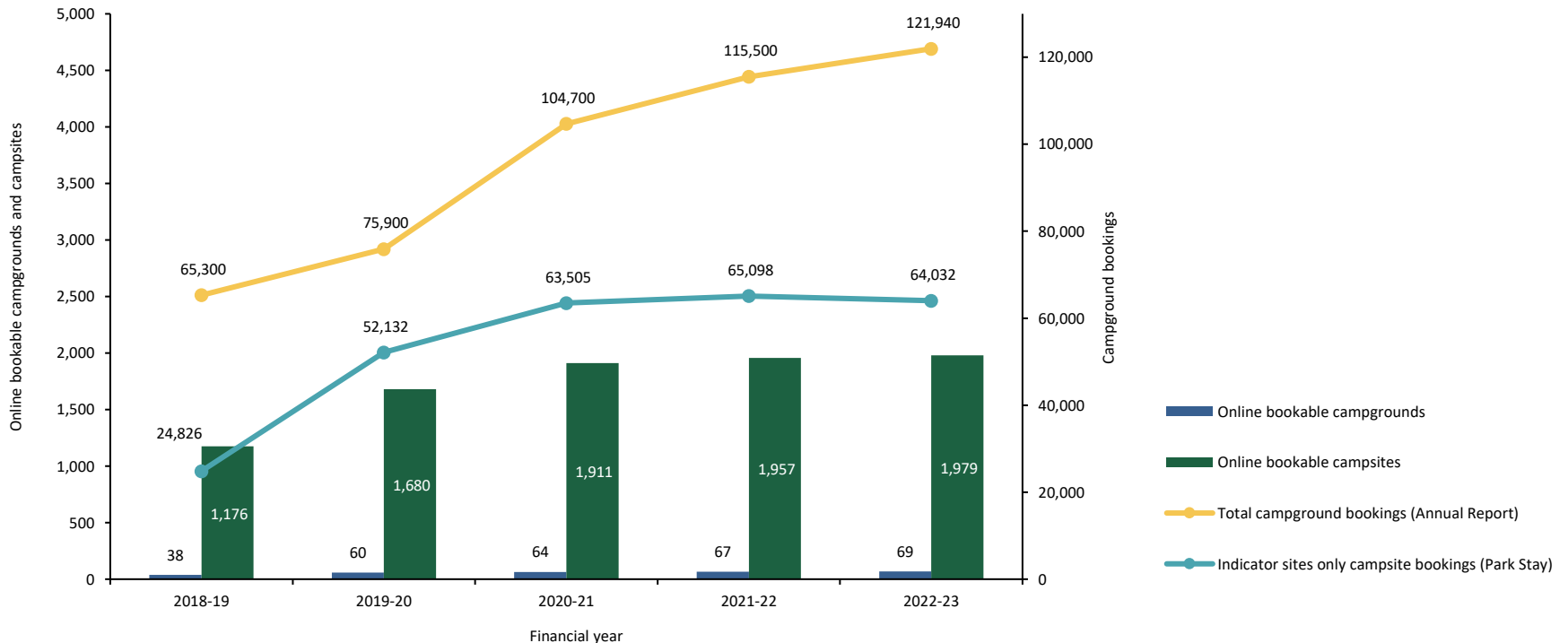
*Seasonality refers to the average visitation by month, and is calculated using monthly proportion of the average visitation over ten years (2013-14 to 2022-23)

**Typical school holiday months indicated in *italics* (months shown in financial year format consistent with DBCA data reporting)


Campground bookings and Park Stay bookings

- During 2022-23 online camping bookings peaked at 121,940 bookings. Additional campsites have been added and existing campsites made online bookable which will have added to the inflation of this number.
- During the 2022-23 season some sites were closed, such as those in the Kimberley due to flood damage, and this is reflected in the decline in bookings for the indicator sites in this period.
- The data for the number of online bookable campgrounds and campsites was taken from the PVS Park Stay inventory dashboard. This number can vary due to sites opening and closing in response to natural disasters, operational needs and other events.


Campground bookings and Park Stay bookings




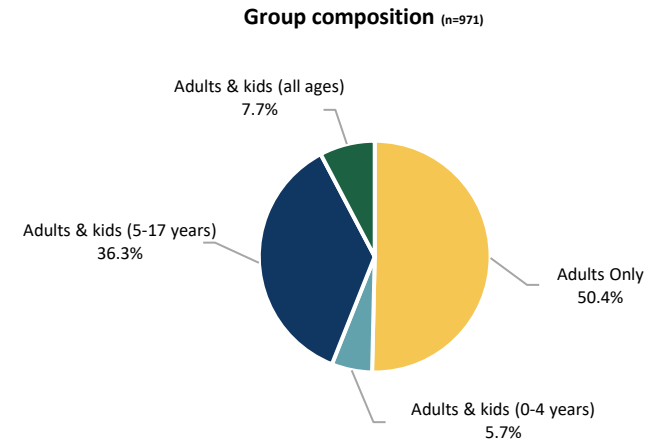
Respondent profile

 **50.4%** of respondents were travelling in **adults only** groups. For those travelling with children, most were aged 5-17 years.

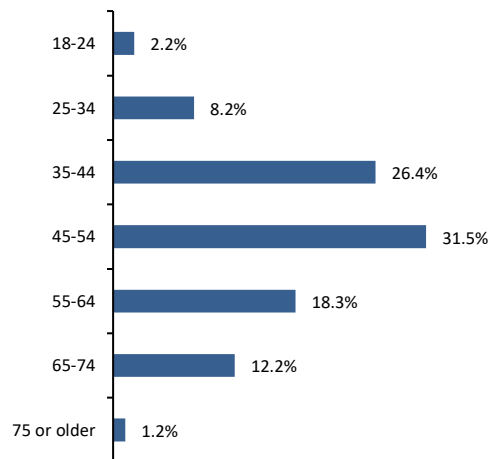
 **3.2 people per group** average (range 1 – 21 people)

 **54.5%** of respondents identified as **female**

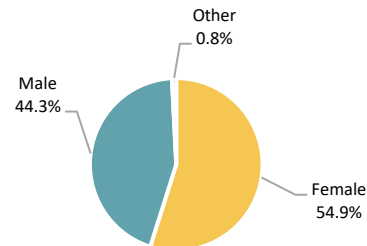
 **57.9%** of respondents were aged between **35-54**



To which age group do you belong? (n=883)



Gender (n=880)



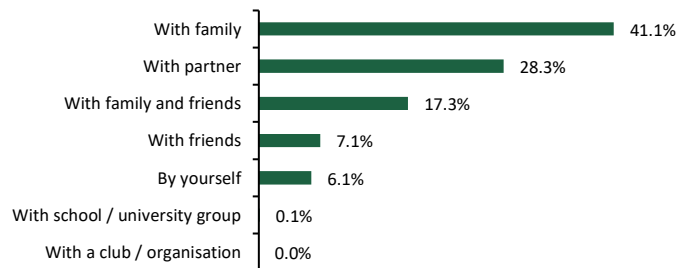
Lane Poole Reserve. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

Respondent profile - residence

Where is your usual place of permanent residence? (n=887)


Origin	Percentage of total	Percentage (total)
Western Australia		75.0%
Perth Metro	61.6%	
South West	6.8%	
Pilbara	2.0%	
Midwest	1.5%	
South Coast	1.0%	
Kimberley	0.6%	
Goldfields	0.6%	
Wheatbelt	0.3%	
Warren	0.1%	
Postcode not provided	0.6%	
Interstate		20.8%
Victoria	6.8%	
New South Wales	6.5%	
Queensland	3.9%	
South Australia	2.4%	
Australian Capital Territory	0.7%	
Tasmania	0.3%	
Northern Territory	0.2%	
Overseas		4.2%


Travel group (n=886)



 **75.0%** from **Western Australia**

 **61.6%** from **Perth Metro**

 **20.9%** Interstate; **4.2%** overseas
 ➤ higher proportion interstate and lower proportion overseas than statewide figures (14.9% interstate; 6.3% overseas)

 **41.1%** were travelling with **family**

 **28.3%** were travelling with their **partner**

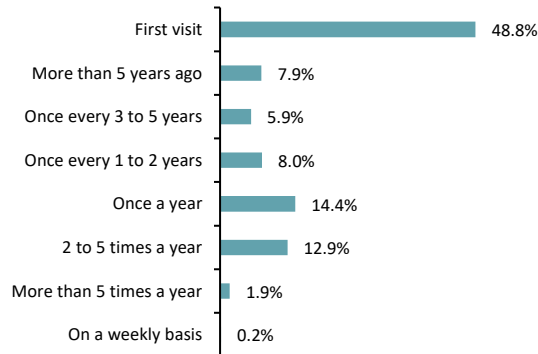


Boranup Karri Forest, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.
 Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

Visit frequency to park and length of stay

How often do you visit the park where you camped?

(n=960)



3.5 average **nights** camped (range 1–37 nights)



62.8% stayed **2 to 4** nights



48.8% reported it was their **first visit** to the park where they camped



51.3% were **repeat visitors** to the park where they camped

There were fewer first time visitors to the park where respondents reported they camped in 2023 compared to the previous studies in 2017-18, with more respondents reporting they visited that park once a year or more often in 2023 (see appendix A).



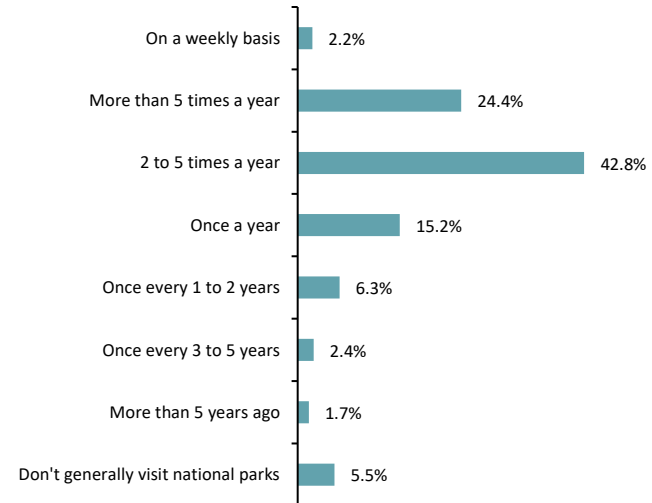
Potters Gorge, Wellington National Park. Photo – Frances Andrijich.

Visit frequency to parks in general



Karijini National Park. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.




How often do you visit national parks in general?



84.6% visit national parks **at least once a year or more**

Frequency of visit to a site, and to national parks generally, in conjunction with high levels of satisfaction can be linked to loyalty and further park advocacy (Moore et al., 2017).

Satisfaction

-  Satisfaction with recent camping experience
-  Satisfaction with recent visit to the national or conservation park
-  Would actively promote visiting a national or conservation park

2023

87.3% (n=981)

89.4% (n=956)

76.4% (n=939)

2023 compared to 2017-18*

2023 average of selected same sites only

2017-18 average of combined studies*

88.0% (n=517)

86.1% (n=1,165)

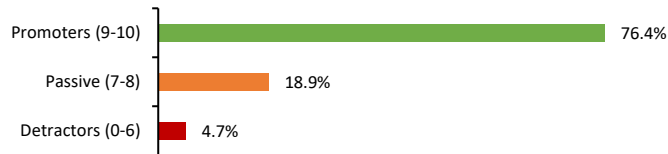
89.7% (n=501)

87.5% (n=1,127)

71.6% (n=490)

64.7% (n=1,134)

How likely is it that you would recommend visiting the national or conservation park you visited to a friend or colleague? (n=937)



Overall satisfaction and active promotion has increased since the previous studies were conducted in 2017-18

Camping, as a highly immersive experience, can increase attachment and connection to natural places (Wolf, Sticker, and Hagenloh, 2015; Pearce et al., 2022). These connections have been shown to lead to increasing park visitors' appreciation for parks through attained benefits resulting in place attachment, improved constituency for park conservation and increased visitor expenditure (Wolf, Ainsworth and Crowley, 2017).

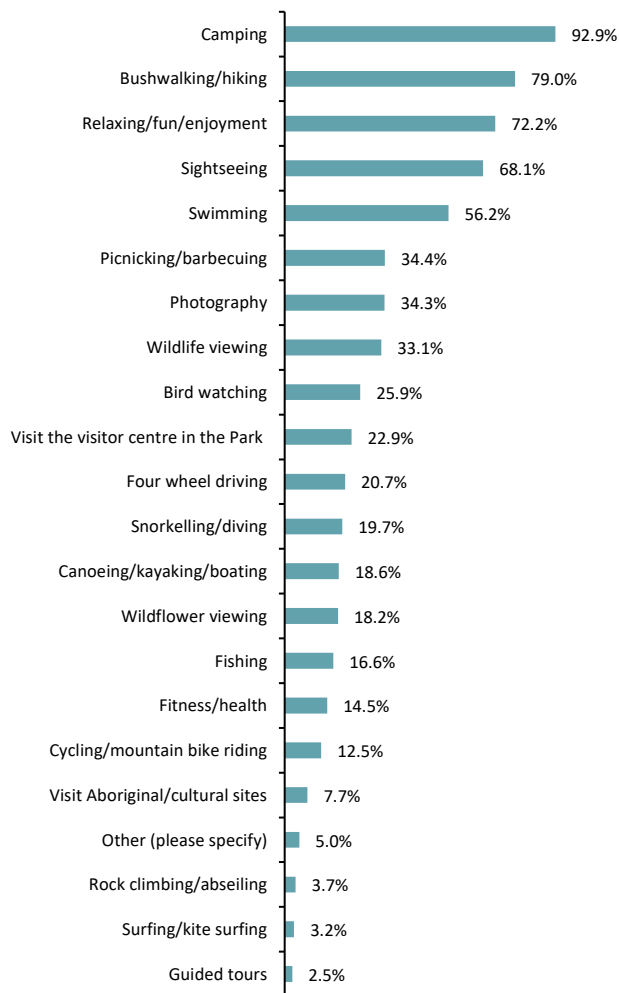


Wellington Dam. Photo – Frances Andrijich.

* 2023 averages are for the same sites covered in the 2017-18 averages. 2017-18 averages the studies conducted at Lane Poole Reserve (2018), Cape Range National Park (2017), and Conto Campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (2018).

Activities


What activities did you participate in during your most recent visit to the national or conservation park you visited?* (n=943)



Top 3 most popular activities:

 92.9% camping

 79.0% bushwalking

 72.2% relaxing/fun/enjoyment

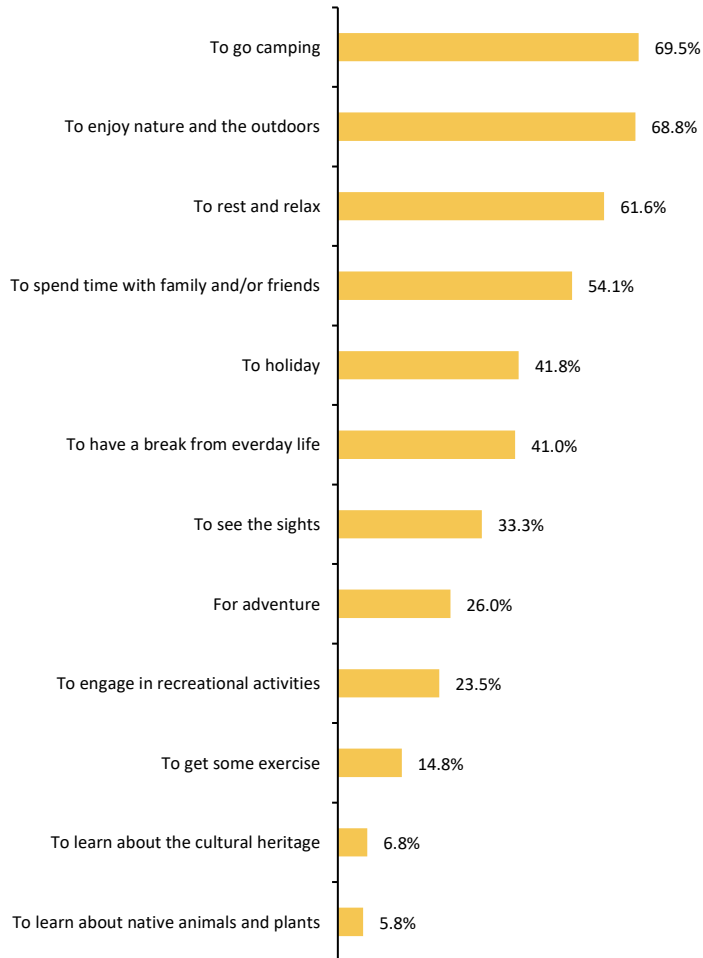


Cape Range National Park. Photo – Australia's Coral Coast.

*Respondents could select multiple responses

Main purpose

What were the MAIN purpose/s of your trip* (n=945)



Top 3 main purpose/s of trip:



69.5% to go camping



68.8% to enjoy nature and the outdoors



61.6% to rest and relax

Respondents' most reported main purposes, beyond camping itself, were reflective of the findings of Hassell, Moore and Macbeth (2015), that camping is associated with desires such as to reconnect with nature, to relax and escaping the busyness of daily life, and to connect with family and friends. Perceived personal and social benefits such as these, have been linked to loyalty and pro-environmental behaviours (Mock et al., 2022; Pearce et al., 2022)

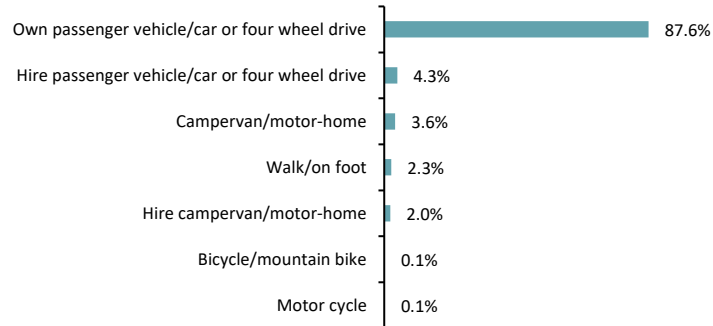



Lane Poole Reserve. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

*Respondents could select multiple responses

Transport

What form of transport did you use to travel to the national or conservation park you camped? (n=915)



 **87.6%** used their **own vehicle** as transport

 Fewer used their **campervan/motor-home** as transport in 2023 (2.7%) compared to those in the combined 2017-18 studies (8.7%)



Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge). Photo – Crikey Campers, Tourism Western Australia.

Camping equipment – year of purchase



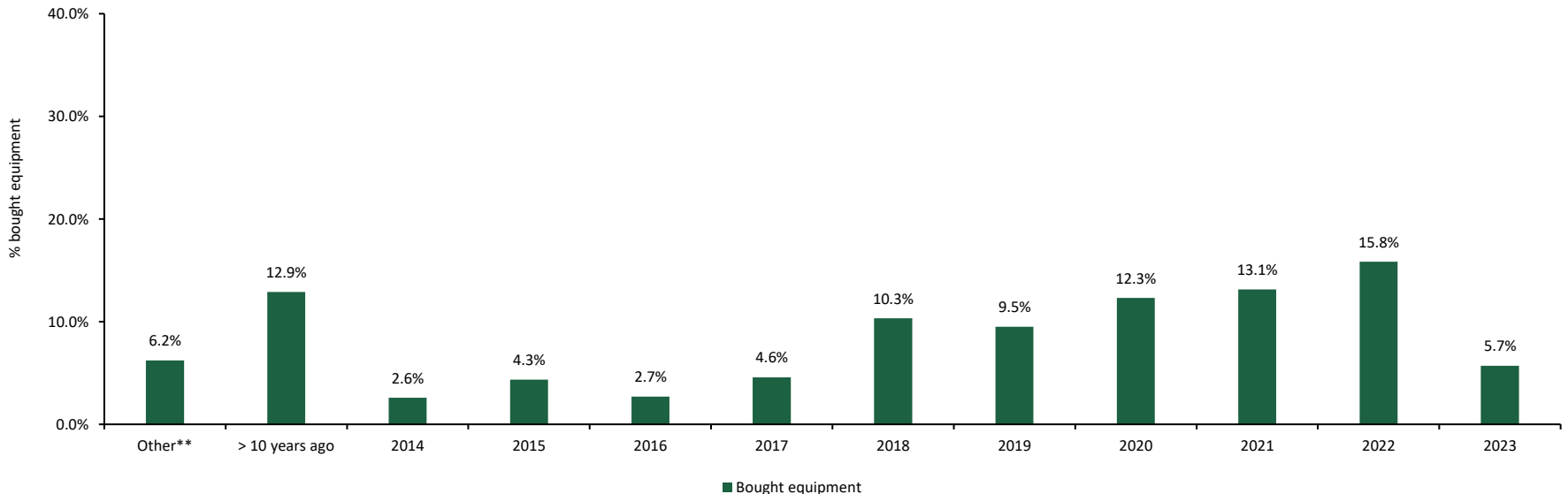
46.9% bought their camping equipment **between 2020 and 2023**



3.1% reported they **hired or rented the equipment** they used

- Caravan sales hit a 30-year high in 2021 and there were also significant growth in the sales of camping (and sport) equipment in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic influenced demand for domestic holiday opportunities¹. This growth was reflected in the responses seen in this study, with over a third (34.6%) of respondents purchasing their main equipment from 2021 onwards.
- Camping bookings for the whole of WA increased 2019 to 2022, while the bookings for indicator sites reduced in 2022.

In what year did you buy the camping equipment you use most often when camping (tent, campervan/motorhome, caravan, camper-trailer)? (n=853)

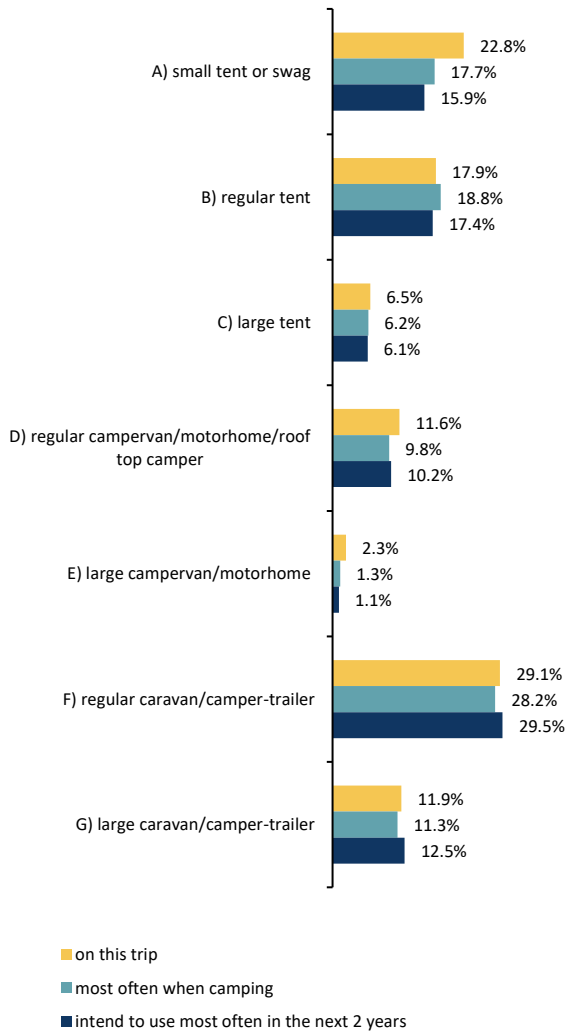


**Other included responses of rental, borrowed, unsure, and various








1. Godwin, D. and A. Smith. 2021. *Caravan and Camping Users: A summary of recent key industry reports*. Visitor and Social Research Unit, Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia

Camping equipment – type used

What equipment did/do you use...* (n=904)



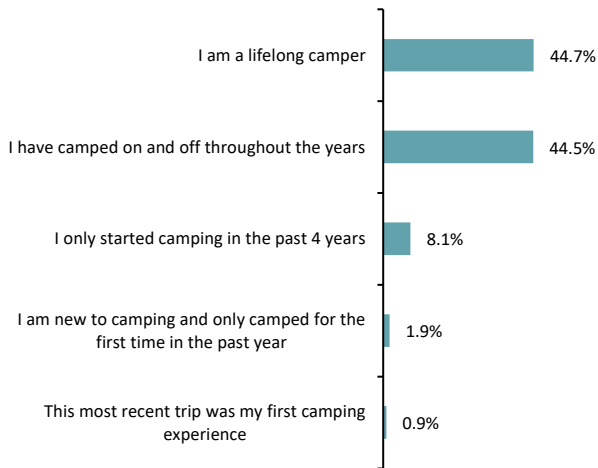
- **Regular caravan/camper-trailer** had the highest equipment fidelity, with 23.8% of respondents reporting high fidelity to this equipment type (using it on their most recent trip, using it most often when camping and intending to use it most often in the next 2 years).
- **42.7%** use **tents** (all sizes) **most often** when camping, and almost half (47.2%) used tents on their most recent trip
- **40.1%** use **caravan/camper trailers** (all sizes) **most often** when camping
- **42.0%** reported they intend to use **caravan/camper-trailer** (all sizes) **most often in the next 2 years**, demonstrating a slight shift away from tents in what respondent's used on their most recent trip

Camping type - tents	Example	Camping type – campervans, motorhomes, camper-trailers, caravans	Example
A) Small tent (3x2m)		D) Regular campervan/ motorhome	
B) Regular tent (6x4m)		E) Large campervan/ motorhome	
C) Large tent (8x6m)		F) Regular caravan/ camper-trailer (<18 ft)	
		G) Large caravan/ camper trailer (>18 ft)	

*Respondents could select multiple responses

Camper description

Which statement best describes you? (n=916)



Most respondents had previous experience camping, with:

- **44.7%** identifying as having **camped on and off over the years**
- **44.5%** as **lifelong campers**.

This suggests high camper loyalty, especially when compared to results in the KOA 2022 study² from which this question was taken (26% lifelong campers and 42% camped on and off throughout the years).



10.9% identified as **relatively new to camping** (started within past 4 years)



The top three **reasons** cited for **taking up camping** were:

- **nature** (46.2%)
- **peace/tranquillity** (28.6%)
- for their **children** (17.6%)

New to camping quotes:

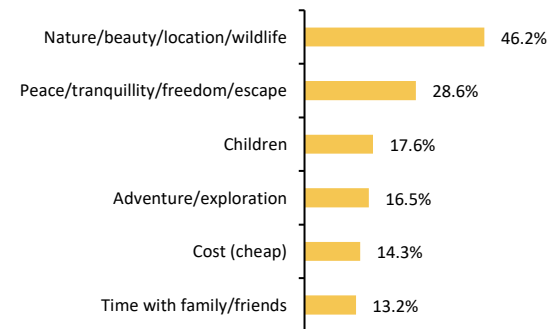
To show the kids some of the beautiful country we live in.

Get outdoors and see nature, enjoy some family time without disruptions.

Relaxation, getting my kids outdoors.

Spending more quality time with family doing outdoor activities. Away from electronics and enjoy the nature and Aussie outback.

New to camping – reasons/motivations (n=91)



Camping frequency



41.8% undertook **three or more camping trips per year**, which increased in 2021 and 2022

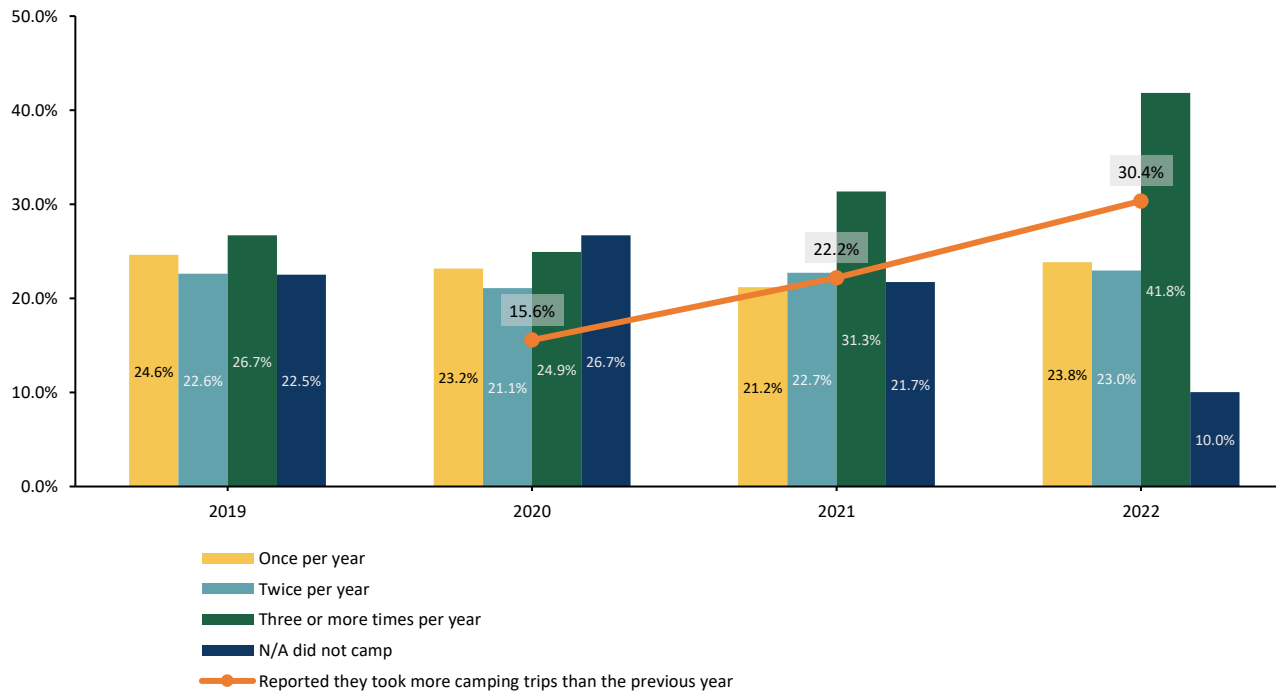


30.5% undertook the **same number of camping trips each year**

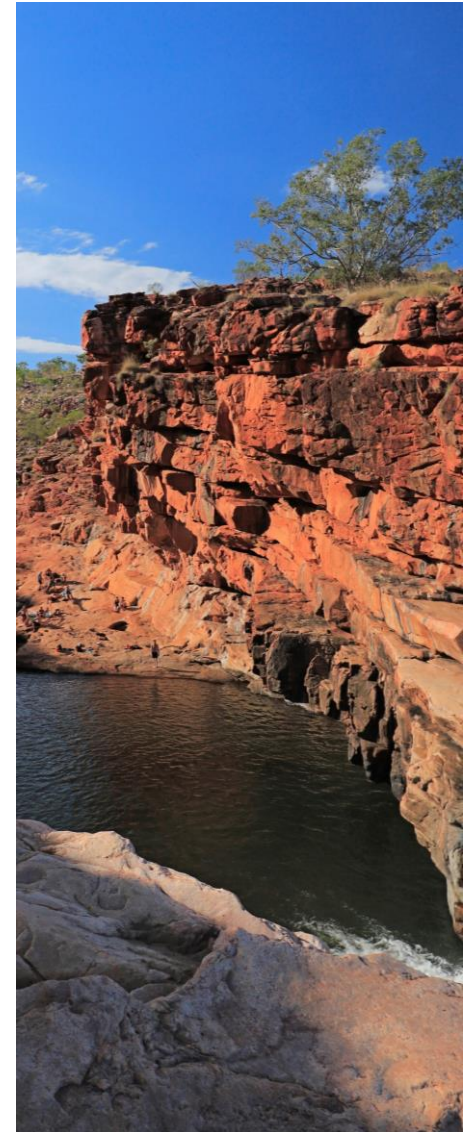


30.4% reported they undertook more camping trips in 2022 compared to 2021, indicating an overall increase in reported annual camping frequency

How often did you go camping in a national or conservation park in the past 4 years?* (n=906)



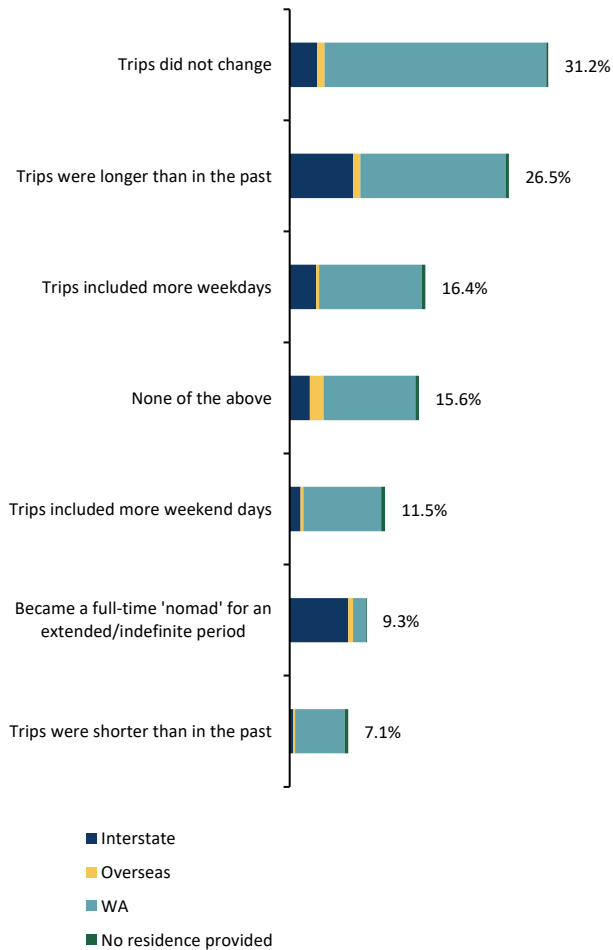
*Response rate does not total 100% because not all respondents reported a camping frequency for each year



Bell Gorge, Wunaamin Conservation Park (Dulundi (Silent Grove)). Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

Change in camping behaviours

How did your camping behaviours in national or conservation park/s change in the past 12 months?* (n=903)



70.8% reported their **trips changed** in some way in the past 12 months (trips were longer, shorter, more weekdays/weekend days or became a full-time nomad)



26.5% reported their trips were **longer than in the past**



26.8% of **Western Australians** reported their **trips did not change** in the past 12 months

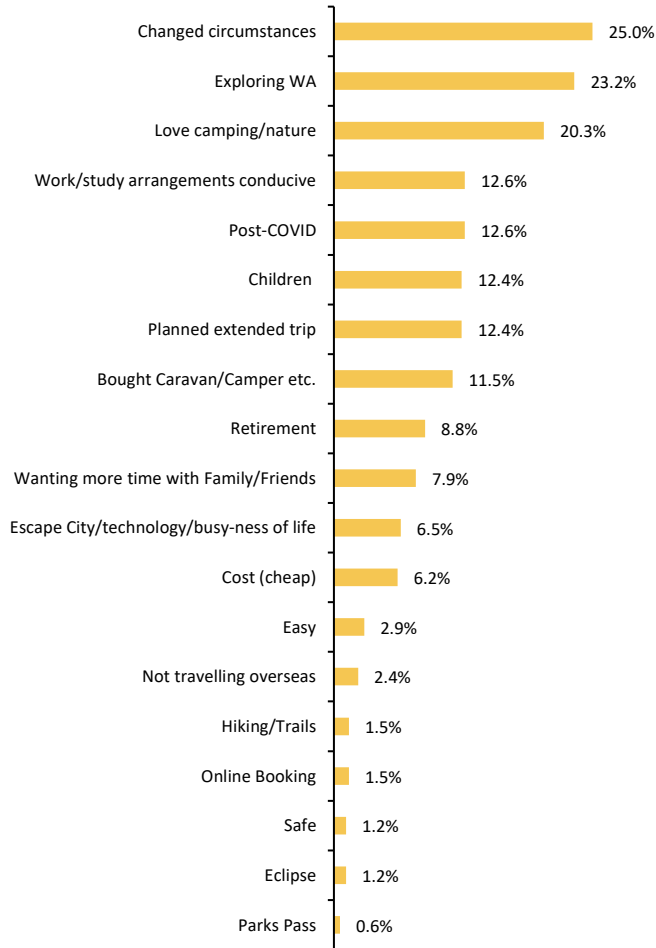


Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

*Respondents could select multiple responses

Change in camping behaviours – reasons for increase

Reasons for increased camping in WA parks in the past 12 months (open response)* (n=342)



25.0% of respondents cited **changed circumstances** as a reason for increased camping

- Changed circumstances included responses such as changes to work or study situations that meant they had more time to go camping.



23.2% were **Exploring WA**

Increased camping quotes:

Just love getting back outdoors. Been busy in the past years and want to get my family out more often

Change of job after cancer and wanting to spend more quality time with kids without devices

My daughter is growing up and I find she's enjoying it more now and me and my partner have more time to rest/relax while she explore the surroundings and play with other kids

[I] had more time when finishing university.

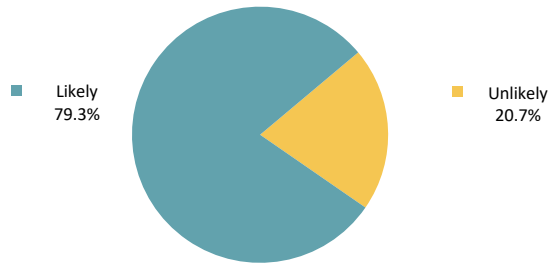
Better work/life roster enabling more travel

The end of the COVID situation. Financial changes that have given opportunities.

*Respondents could select multiple responses

Future camping behaviours

During the next 12 months, how likely is it you will go camping again in ANY Western Australian national or conservation park? (n=897)



79.3% reported they are **likely to go camping again in WA national or conservation parks in the next 12 months** (7-point scale, 1-4 unlikely, 5-7 likely)



43.0% were those likely to camp in WA parks again in the next 12 months and **would also camp in WA somewhere other than parks**

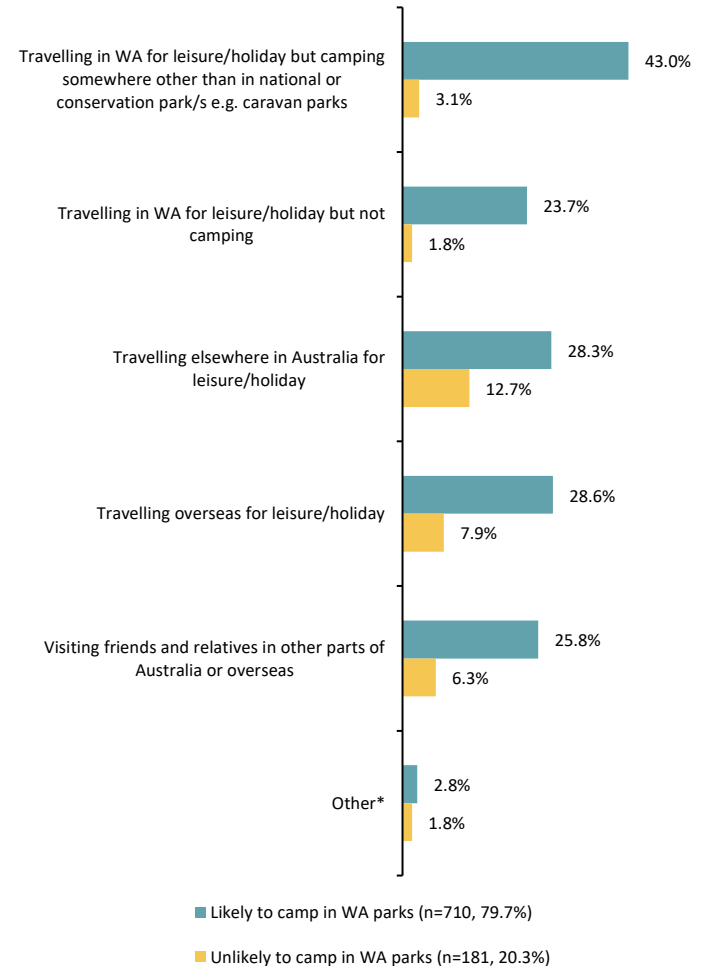


The largest proportion of those **unlikely to camp in WA parks** in the next 12 months reported they **would be travelling elsewhere in Australia for leisure/holidays** (12.7%)



In the next 12 months, similar proportions reported they were likely to **travel overseas for leisure/holiday** (likely 35.9%; unlikely 38.7%) and **go visiting friends and relatives in other parts of Australia or overseas** (likely 32.4%; unlikely 30.9%)

What sort of leisure trips are you likely to take in the next 12 months? (other than camping in WA parks) * (n=891)



*Respondents could select multiple responses

Future camping behaviours – camping in WA parks

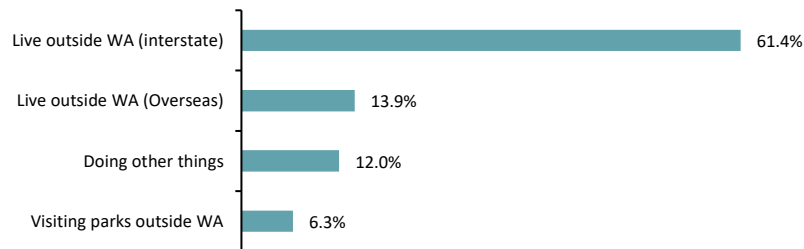
 **43.8%** responded that their **number of trips and nights in WA national or conservation parks** in the next 12 months **would stay about the same**

 **25.4%** reported both their **number of trips and number of nights** would **increase** in future

Likely to go camping in WA next 12 months, how trips might change* (n=690)

		Nights				
		Decrease	About the same	Increase	Unsure	
Trips	Decrease	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	1.6%
	About the same	0.3%	43.8%	6.1%	1.2%	51.3%
	Increase	0.7%	11.6%	25.4%	1.3%	39.0%
	Unsure	0.0%	0.7%	0.6%	6.8%	8.1%
		1.6%	56.7%	32.3%	9.4%	

Reasons unlikely to go camping WA parks in the next 12 months* (n=163)



- Of those who reported they were **unlikely to go camping in WA parks in the next 12 months** and chose to provide a reason (n=163), 75.3% said it was because they **live outside of WA**.

*Respondents could select multiple responses

Other comments

- **436 respondents** (44.2%) provided a range of general comments.
- A single comment could mention multiple topics, all topics mentioned were counted.
- Topics mentioned were divided into the two categories of experience related or management related
- Topics were categorized as either positive (coded in **green**), neutral (coded in **grey**), or negative (coded in **red**).

	Count of mentions	% of total comments (n=436)
Experience related		
Positive experience (Loved it, great, will return, unique experience, beautiful, nature, animals)	116	26.6%
Others' behaviour (noisy, rude, busy, speeding, driving on beach, foraging firewood, light pollution)	62	14.2%
Weather bad	5	1.1%
Other campers (good/friendly)	2	0.5%
Liked there's lots to do	2	0.5%
Access to shops appreciated	2	0.5%
Management related		
Booking system (difficult to use, sites booked but empty, problems with cancellations/refunds, hard to get booking)	143	32.8%
Facilities/amenities (good, well maintained, clean; incl. toilets, BBQs/camp kitchen, tables, showers, solar hot water, waste, trails, roads, location, visitor centre)	115	26.4%
Want more/different facilities (e.g. lights, sinks, showers, tables, hot water, dump point, rubbish bins/recycling, hooks in toilets, hand sanitiser, tent sites, camper-trailer sites, firepits, firewood, ban generators, visitor centre)	75	17.2%
Maintenance needed (incl. toilets, firepits, BBQs, sinks, showers, lights, waste, trails, roads graded)	73	16.7%
Staff friendly/helpful (incl. rangers, camp hosts, visitor centre)	40	9.2%
Want more information (pre-visit, on site signs, cultural, prescribed burns)	35	8.0%
Staff unfriendly/unhelpful/missing (incl. rangers, camp hosts, visitor centre)	30	6.9%
Booking system (easy to use, good, like cancellations/modifications)	11	2.5%
Invasive species a problem (feral cats, brambles/blackberries and other weeds, non-native mice)	7	1.6%
Dingo-human interactions problematic	7	1.6%
Information good (pre-visit, on site)	4	0.9%
Don't want dogs allowed/need better dog control	4	0.9%
Want to be allowed to bring dogs	2	0.5%

Limitations

- Data for campsites in the Kimberley region was difficult to attain for two reasons. Firstly, the two Kimberley sites, Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) National Park and Wunaamin Conservation Park (Dulundi, Silent Grove), have lower average annual visitation than the other indicator sites used in this study due to their remote locations and therefore the portion of potential respondents is smaller. Secondly, in addition to the usual wet season closures of these parks (December – April), other events such as feral animal control program in October 2022 and fires in November 2022 in Wunaamin, and damage from floods in November 2022 to Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge), meant the parks remained closed for longer than would normally have been expected.
- Although the overall sample size is statistically valid and representative of camping across the state, the sample per individual park is not statistically valid and therefore all analyses have been made using the whole sample.



Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Tourism Western Australia.

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Pre-development camping satisfaction case studies

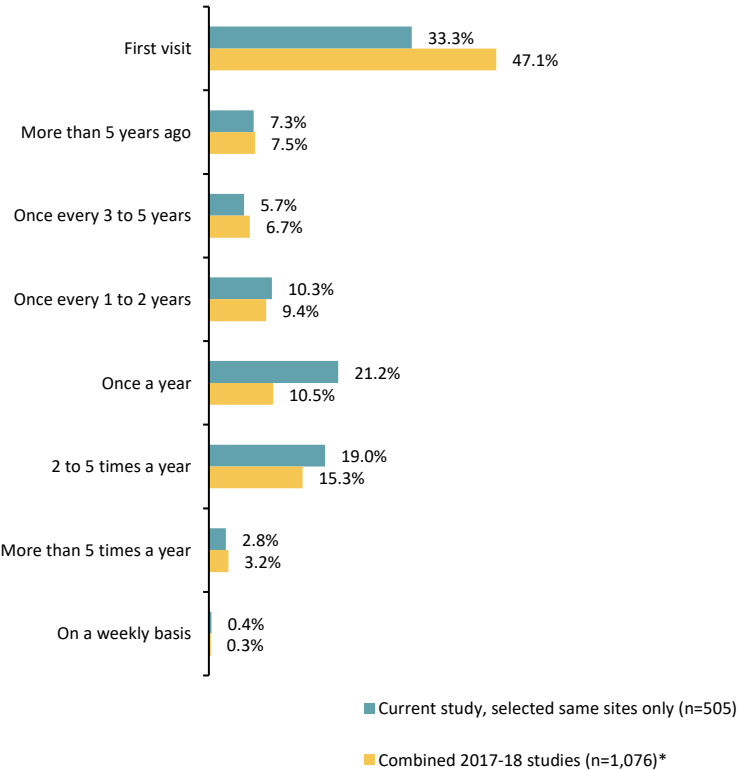
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Appendix A – comparison to 2017-18 study

How often do you visit the park where you camped?
 Comparison of current and previous studies for Lane Poole Reserve, Cape Range National Park and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park only*



There were fewer first time visitors to the park where respondents reported they camped in 2023 compared to the previous studies in 2017-18, with more respondents reporting they visited that park once a year or more often in 2023.

* Combined studies 2017-2018 refers to three post-development studies conducted at Lane Poole Reserve (2018), Cape Range National Park (2017), and Conto Campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (2018).