

## **DISCUSSION SESSION**

**Jim Sharp -**

**DIRECTOR PARKS AND VISITOR SERVICES**

### **How long is the maintenance capital locked in for?**

Maintenance allocation of funds is ongoing. It's based on Visitor Information Statistics (VISTAT) and Recdata inputs. It is also important that CALM's asset inventory is up to date.

### **You mentioned that there might be a new position/role within capital works?**

The Department recognises that maintaining and managing the capital works program is too much for one person (Wayne Smidt) and we may need to separate the role.

### **You spoke about the 2016 plus exclusion progress going well, if early possession of these lands occur, what allocation of budget has been set aside for this? Also community perception feels so strongly about the way CALM manages these things. Are we likely to end up with some of these lands as close as the end of the year?**

This will be dealt with in the same budgetary process. Currently there is no budget allocation. The Government will make a decision on this by the end of December. Lessees may hold onto their land until 2015, so they have another 11 years left. We haven't yet been able to put a budget case on that because we don't know what we'll be picking up in that time or process. Some are underway, e.g. Dirk Hartog Island, which has been nominated to not being reviewed until 2015. This is being negotiated directly with the Minister. A budget has been allocated to Dirk Hartog and management is currently drawing on this for capital improvements.

In the last month, management has allocated \$250 thousand in the planning processes for a number of lands to be acquired.

### **Through the new park processes park boundaries are changing, such as Darling Range National Park. Is there a process on balancing out some of the costs associated with managing these areas we're now inheriting?**

As CALM has had an increase in new parks, there has been an adjustment on budget. Management is currently negotiating with regional parks for budget allocation. There is a difference between regional parks and national parks but we're currently sorting this out.

### **Ex pastoral leases are an issue in PVS' role for planning and policy. Wayne (Smidt) has articulated thoughts and suggestions but PVS has not really held a role. The policy vacuum is becoming an issue with visitor risk and management.**

One of the important first few steps for evaluation of potential business and use is looking at both the potential and costs of the program. Presently, not much progress has occurred. A case has been made stating that CALM needs to do an inventory of physical assets, social and economic opportunity. We need to be judicious and strategic through our best efforts.