
Jim Sharp - discussion and questions

Issues

There will be 30 new national parks and 5 new marine conservation reserves created over the next 30 months. Issues to be addressed in relation to new parks include existing dams and whether or not they should be part of the park. Indigenous issues, such as liaising with traditional and contemporary indigenous owners also need addressing.

Coastal risk has also become an important issue recently. There are currently \$1.8 million worth of claims pending in relation to coastal accidents.

Business Focuses

Indigenous outcomes are not necessarily tangible outcomes although liaison is very important.

In terms of access, where the roads are placed is crucial in determining where the impacts will be generated.

In relation to facility maintenance, Jim acknowledges there is \$87 - \$90 million worth of built infrastructure on CALM lands, but highlighted that there is only \$1.6 million available for maintaining these assets.

RATIS is becoming very important in relation to facility record keeping and facility maintenance. Jim recently did a presentation to Treasury in regards to a budget request and the Hon Minister for the Environment expressed that that the budget request should be increased by a further \$3 million. This was largely due to the extensive data used to both justify and support the request.

Challenges

Challenges to protected area managers

Of the world's surface, 12% is protected area. One of the biggest challenges to protected area managers is that of water conservation and water use run-off from farms.

Pastoralists

There have been differing views on land management between pastoralists and CALM. While pastoral leases are Crown land, many pastoralists are worried about losing their land when their leases expire in 2015 and as such are

expressing that CALM may not be good land managers. There is a need for CALM to educate pastoralists about CALM's positive role in land management.

Questions

How does PVS fit in with other issues in pastoral areas such as up north?

Jim highlighted there are a range of values that need to be protected. Just saying 'biodiversity protection' is no longer enough.

It is now a key priority to address all issues in the regions. There are a lot of PVS issues prevalent in Natural Resource Management.

How is CALM going to justify having extra people working in the future. i.e. in relevance to new parks?

New parks money is for new parks staff and not to increase budgets. It is however, inevitable that there will be some losers.

When will there be a response from Cabinet in regards to the budget requests?

There should be a response in January 2004.

How is corporate sponsorship going these days?

It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain money from locally based agencies. People are more likely to donate/sponsor national programmes. Recent negative media has not been assisting CALM in receiving sponsorships. Although it is worth noting that in general, sponsorship is down across the board, not just within CALM.

Improved cultural management was once an issue, but this is not a priority anymore, why is this?

Integrating indigenous and non-indigenous issues is a priority. This is especially relevant in the development of new parks.

Will indigenous employment be addressed before the next election?

There is currently a consultation paper out with the public for comment until 31 December 2003. The proposal involves an amendment to the *CALM Act 1984*. It will take time to consult and get any amendment through Parliament.

More than likely, it will not be addressed before the next election because of other pressing priorities.

Is revenue generation CALM's best chance for an increase in recurrent budget?

Strategic partnerships are the best chance. Jim advised he is attending meetings with representatives from the West Australian Tourism Commission (WATC) to discuss capital budgets and revenue returns. Currently, approximately 18% of CALM's PVS output cost is funded from revenue. Parks are important, but they have to assist in paying for themselves. The other states of Australia are also taking the same approach towards revenue generation.

Is there a good working relationship between CALM and the WATC?

Yes, the WATC has established a sustainable tourism unit, reflecting the principles of nature-based tourism, which is positive for CALM. The WATC now has a new Chief Executive Officer and there is also an MOU being developed between CALM and WATC. The MOU covers and provides for meetings, marketing and related infrastructure.