



Local Nyoongars address participants in public workshop on Stirling Range and Porongu National Parks management plan. They are from left Ken Dean, Syd Penny and Jack Williams...

Photo by Martin Lloyd

Mountain workshop

THE most critical management issues in the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks are dieback, fire, protection of flora and fauna, and visitor management and facilities.

These were the findings of a recent public workshop hosted by CALM as part of the community involvement program working towards preparation of a draft management plan for the two parks.

The workshop was chaired by regional planning officer Ian Herford assisted by planning officer Kate Orr.

Also from CALM were Albany District manager Kelly Gillen, senior ranger

Martin Lloyd and Park rangers Neil Scott, Tony Smith and Allan Rose.

A total of 59 people attended and included representatives of park neighbours, Aboriginal organisations, friends groups, conservation groups, recreationists, the tourism industry, the military and local shires.

Also in attendance were members of the Planning Advisory Committee for the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks who helped organise the day.

The workshop was opened by Jim Sharp representing Director of Parks, Recreation, Planning and Tourism Chris Haynes.

The morning session consisted of a series of short presentations by participants, who covered issues such as Aboriginal cultural use, tourism, adventure activities such as rockclimbing, bushwalking and paragliding, access for the disabled, and

military training exercises.

Speakers told participants of the nature of their use of parks and their ideas on future park management.

In the afternoon, the participants broke off into smaller groups to consider each park separately, with Planning Advisory Committee members facilitating each group.

The major issues were found to be the same in the two parks.

Group members then wrestled with the formulation of management objectives and discussed the options available to achieve them.

The threat of spread dieback disease and resource shortages appeared as major constraints on the available options.

A report on the workshop will be used in the drafting of the management plan by CALM and the Planning Advisory Committee which comprises 15 local people.

TUTOR

At 6.00 am the next day we noticed the group pack up and leave, which I believe was as a result of

