

the Director of Fisheries, the Manager of the Harbour and Lights Department, the Harbour Master at Geraldton, and Mr G. Travia (representing the Geraldton Professional Fishermen's Association), agreed that the provision of additional facilities was warranted. It is intended to list the proposed works when the draft estimate for next year's loan programme is being prepared. Mr Hutchinson has advised the Geraldton association that the work will be commenced next financial year provided funds are made available.

INCREASED TRAVELLING EXPENSES

The Public Service Commissioner has advised that following a review of hotel tariffs it has been agreed with the Civil Service Association of W.A. Inc. to increase by 1/6 the daily rates of reimbursement of travelling, transfer and relieving expenses. The increases, which will date from January 1, 1963, have lifted the rate to 53/- a day when overnight travel beyond 15 miles radius of one's headquarters is involved. All future claims should be made at the new rate but no claim need be lodged for retrospective payments. Adjustments will be made in this office in respect of any January claims which may have been received at the lower rate.

FISHERMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minister for Fisheries has re-appointed Mr N.H. Wright, of Quindalup, via Busselton, to the statutory Fishermen's Advisory Committee. Mr Wright, whose new term of office commenced from January 1, 1963, will therefore continue to represent the interests of deep-sea fishermen other than crayfishermen.

The other appointed members of the committee are Mr W. Matthei, of Yunderup, representing beach and estuarine fishermen, Mr G. Travia, of Geraldton, representing crayfishermen, and Mr Roland Smith, of Perth, representing persons not commercially engaged in fishing. The Director, Mr Fraser, is the chairman of the committee, while Mr H.B. Shugg is its secretary.

FAUNA NOTES

In the July, 1962, issue we published references to the sighting of black swans in the sea near Broome and Carnarvon. Further reports of swans in the sea have come from Onslow (prior to the cyclone) and from Ledge

Point.

Writing from Onslow, Mr A.H. Clark, the wharf-inger and fisheries inspector, said that black swans were quite common in the Ashburton district, both in the sea and in the coastal tidal creeks. They also occurred inland in freshwater pools. Mr Clark said that he had seen a female with six smallish cygnets in the ocean at Onslow. The birds were there for some time and were believed to go into the local creek at night. Odd pairs were seen from time to time in the many creeks. Mr Clark added in his letter (dated December 3) that reports of crayfish in spawn had been coming in and that small groups of flock pigeons were in evidence earlier in 1961.

A fisherman operating about a quarter of a mile offshore and 5 miles south of Ledge Point, on January 3, was surprised to have a visit from a black swan. It spent some time swimming around his boat and appeared to be quite at home in those surroundings.

Fauna Warden N.E. McLaughlan, with Honorary Warden L. Miller, were told last month of increased numbers of quokkas and numbats in the Willowdale, Hoffmans and Tallanalla areas. The report came from Mr G.M. Treasure, who is also an honorary warden and, like Mr Miller, is an overseer employed by the Forests Department. He said that all the swamps in the area had small quokka populations and that odd numbats were observed on any sandy areas throughout the forest. The greatest number of quokkas he had seen in recent months was six. These ran out of a small swamp when a controlled fire was put through. Mr Treasure attributed the increase in wildlife to the decrease in the number of foxes since the area was baited regularly.