

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Parks and Rangers:

Northern Territory National Parks

Please provide the following information:

1. In total, how much are the Northern Territory National Parks leased for?

The actual lease amount for Northern Territory (NT) National Parks for 2020-21 financial year is \$1.89 million.

2. What are the lease payments for each National Park? Please provide the break down for each Park individually.

The break-down of lease payments for National Parks is detailed in the table below.

Park	2020-21
Arltunga Historical Reserve	\$ 58,003.88
N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park	\$ 21,751.88
Trephina Gorge Nature Park	\$ 29,001.37
Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve	\$ 120,357.90
Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park	\$ 58,003.88
Karlu Karlu / Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve	\$ 29,001.36
Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve	\$ 97,156.35
Dulcie Range National Park	\$ 65,253.36
Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park	\$ 181,261.11
Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve	\$ 33,228.60
Kuyunba Conservation Reserve	\$ 14,501.27
Native Gap Conservation Reserve	\$ 29,001.36
Finke Gorge National Park	\$ 87,005.24
Watarrka National Park	\$ 65,253.36
Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park	\$ 217,513.10
Gregory National Park	\$ 360,390.79
Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park	\$ 273,387.95
Cobourg Garig Gunak Barlu National Park	\$ 107,204.00
Djukbinj National Park	\$ 46,303.00
	\$ 1,893,579.77

3. How many National Parks and Conservation Areas are land trusts under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976*?

We have 20 parks and reserves managed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission with Aboriginal Land Trust ownership and there are 24 Aboriginal Land Trusts within NT parks and reserves.

4. What are the lease terms and durations for each National Park and when are these leases scheduled to expire? Please provide these details for each Park individually.

Lease terms are as follows -

LEASES - Leases are between the Aboriginal Land Trusts (identified in Schedules 1 and 2) of the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Futures) Act 2003*, the Northern Territory of Australia and the Northern and Central Land Councils. Each Lease states that the joint management parties agree to establish, manage and maintain a comprehensive and representative system of parks in the NT. The purpose of this system is to benefit Aboriginal people and the wider community and to protect biodiversity. Some standard features are:

- the leases set out a brief history behind the lease agreements;
- identify the parties to the lease;
- identify the land the subject of the lease;
- set out the obligations of the parties and the conditions to which the leases are subject;
- provide mechanisms for such things as the calculation of rent, resolution of disputes and for negotiations for renewal of the leases;
- 99 year lease terms with an option for negotiation for renewal;
- “permitted uses” for the parks are prescribed which are the establishment, joint management, maintenance and use of the park as a park: and
 - to serve visitor and community needs for education and enjoyment;
 - to protect biological diversity;
 - for the appropriate use and enjoyment by relevant Aboriginals according to Aboriginal tradition (including establishing and maintaining living areas, hunting and use of resources in accordance with the Plan of Management); and
 - ancillary and related uses.
- the parks are required to be managed in accordance with principles of joint management which recognise, value and incorporate Aboriginal culture, knowledge and traditional decision making processes.

The table below outlines the lease terms and durations for each National Park and when the leases are scheduled to expire.

Parks and Reserves	Lease Arrangement	Lease Start Date	Lease Expiry Date	Term
Arltunga Historical Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	12/06/2009	11/06/2108	99 years
Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	12/06/2009	11/06/2108	99 years
Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	12/06/2009	11/06/2108	99 years
Finke Gorge National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	7/07/2011	6/06/2110	99 years
Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	13/05/2010	12/05/2109	99 years
Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	28/10/2008	27/10/2107	99 years
Judbarra/ Gregory National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	13/05/2010	12/05/2109	99 years
Karlu Karlu / Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	28/10/2008	27/10/2107	99 years
Napwerte / Ewanninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	12/06/2009	11/06/2108	99 years
N'dhala Gorge Nature Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	12/06/2009	11/06/2108	99 years
Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	18/07/2012	17/07/2111	99 years
Trephina Gorge Nature Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	12/06/2009	11/06/2108	99 years
Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	9/12/2009	8/12/2108	99 years
Dulcie Range National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	22/02/2010	21/02/2109	99 years
Kuyunba Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	22/02/2010	21/02/2109	99 years
Native Gap Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	22/02/2010	21/02/2109	99 years
Watarrka National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	13/09/2012	12/09/2111	99 years
Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	23/06/2005	22/06/2104	99 years
Black Jungle / Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	10/08/2005	9/08/2104	99 years
Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	10/08/2005	9/08/2104	99 years
Giwining / Flora River Nature Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	15/11/2005	14/11/2104	99 years

Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	15/11/2005	14/11/2104	99 years
Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	3/10/2005	4/10/2094	99 years
Mary River National Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	10/10/2007	9/10/2106	99 years
Melacca Swamp Conservation Area	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	15/11/2005	14/11/2104	99 years
Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	3/10/2005	2/10/2104	99 years
Ruby Gap Nature Park	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	3/10/2005	2/10/2104	99 years
Barranyi (North Island) National Park-ALRA	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	6/08/1991	5/08/2090	99 years
Djukbinj National Park-ALRA	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA.	17/04/1996	16/04/2046	50 years
Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg Marine Park)	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA 1976, Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary Marine Park Act 1981	2/09/1981	1/09/2080	99 years
Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Gurig National Park)	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA 1976, Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, and Sanctuary And Marine. Park Act 1981	2/09/1981	1/09/2080	99 years
Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act 1989- ALRA- 1 Portion- 03629	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA 1976 and Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) Act 1989	9/09/1989	9/09/2088	99 years
Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park- ALRA- 6 Portions- 04372,04373,04374,04375,04376,04377	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA 1976 and Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) Act 1989	25/08/1994	9/09/2088	99 years
Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve- ALRA (Aboriginal Freehold)	Joint Managed in accordance with TPWCA and Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Act	11/10/1990	10/10/2089	99 years

5. How many National Parks located within the Northern Territory are not subject to lease agreements? Please provide details of which Parks are not subject to leases.

We have 51 parks and reserves managed by Parks and Wildlife Commission which are not subject to Framework for Future Act lease agreements. Details are listed in the table below:

Parks and Reserves		Lease Arrangement
1	Adelaide River Foreshore Conservation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
2	Alice Springs Desert Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
3	Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
4	Attack Creek Historical Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
5	Barrow Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
6	Berry Springs Nature Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
7	Blackmore River Conservation Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
8	Buffalo Creek Management Area	Section 74 Agreement TWPCA 1976 between the Commission and Commonwealth of Australia (Defence)
9	Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976.
10	Butterfly Gorge Nature Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
11	Caranbirini Conservation Reserve	Section 74 Agreement TWPCA 1976 between the Commission and Mount Isa Mines Limited
12	Casuarina Coastal Reserve	Declared Crown Lands Reserve 1677, Care, Control and Management vested to the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
13	Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976.
14	Channel Point Coastal Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976.
15	Charles Darwin National Park	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976.
16	Connells Lagoon Conservation Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
17	Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
18	Daly River (Mt Nancar) Conservation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
19	Douglas River / Daly River Esplanade Conservation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
20	Esey National Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
21	Frew Ponds Overland Telegraph Line Memorial	Crown Land where care, control and management vested to the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT.
22	George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
23	Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976.
24	Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
25	Holmes Jungle Nature Park	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
26	Howard Springs Hunting Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.

27	Howard Springs Nature Park	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
28	Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
29	John Flynn Historical Reserve	Not subject to JM arrangements. Native Title may co-exist. Alternate lease or management arrangement may exist.
30	John Flynn's Grave Historical Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
31	Keep River National Park- 1321	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
31(a)	Keep River National Park (proposed extension Spirit Hills area) 1586,1584,5776,3439,4170,4171,4174,4173,	Section 74 Agreement TWPCA 1976 between the Commission and NT Land Corporation.
32	Kintore Caves Conservation Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
33	Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
34	Leaning Tree Lagoon Nature Park- 1627	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
34(a)	Leaning Tree Lagoon Nature Park-5278	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
35	Limmen Bight Marine Park	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
36	Limmen National Park-7169 and part 00819 and 2373	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980
36(a)	Limmen National Park- 1334	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
36(b)	Limmen National Park-1323	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
37	Litchfield National Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
38	Manton Dam Recreation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980 and terms in deed of lease.
39	Oolloo Crossing Conservation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
40	Owen Springs Reserve	NTG Perpetual Pastoral Lease, Declared Sec 12(1)(a), and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976, vested care, control and management to the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT.
41	Ryan Well Historical Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Conservation Land Corporation.
42	Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT.
43	Stray Creek Conservation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
44	Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
45	Territory Wildlife Park	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
46	Tree Point Conservation Area	Conservation Land Corporation holds Freehold title. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
47	Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs	Gazetted Land Trust, ALRA 1976, 17/02/1994. No agreement in place, however operating on JM principles.
48	Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park	Crown land declared reserve vested to the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT, Under Land Claim (Upper Daly Repeat 128) management continuing under existing operations.
49	Victoria River Depot Historical Reserve	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
50	Windows on the Wetlands	Conservation Land Corporation holds perpetual lease. Managed pursuant to Section 39(6) Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1980.
51	Woodgreen Conservation Reserve	Crown land declared pursuant to Sec 12(1)(a), 12(1)(aa) and 17(5) TPWC Act 1976 vested to the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT.

6. Recently it has been announced that several National Parks located within the Northern Territory, including Litchfield and Nitmiluk National Parks, may be introducing a fee for entry permits. The fee for entry permit scheme would, it was stated, also include an online booking system which could be utilised by international and interstate visitors to manage their trips. Please explain:

a. What community or industry consultation was undertaken prior to this announcement?

The 2019-20 Budget Strategy and Outlook revenue measures included the introduction of a conservation and park use fee for NT National Parks and access fees for major walking tracks including Larapinta, Jatbula and Tabletop Track.

Consultation with Land Councils (on revenue splits for Joint Managed parks) and Tourism industry groups on implementation matters has commenced.

b. What evidence exists that the online booking system will be a beneficial addition to the tourism industry of the Northern Territory?

Inter-jurisdictional research and market sounding has found that all jurisdictions have noticed significant benefits from introducing online booking that may flow on to tourism operators including:

- improved satisfaction from park visitors with increased certainty of getting a campsite;
- an improvement in social behavior as people can be traced back to a campsite;
- improved safety outcomes as emergency responders have good information to work with;
- improved compliance with fee requirements resulting in better revenue outcomes and therefore increased capacity to manage assets; and
- improved data on visitor profiles, numbers and satisfaction that will provide information for both the tourism sector and government to refine services and opportunities for activation of the estate.

c. What are the expected costs of implementing the fee for entry permits system?

It is expected that the costs of implementing an increased and new fees system will be met from within the existing budget.

d. What are the expected costs of implementing the online booking system?

A future tender opportunity has been released with a tender value of between \$2,500,000 - \$4,999,999. This will include both the initial costs of setting up a system and the ongoing transaction costs over a four year period.

e. What is the expected income for the fee for entry permit system?

The expected income from a fee for an entry permit system cannot be established with certainty until consultation with Land Councils has concluded.

f. What is the expected income from the online booking system?

The 2019-20 Budget Paper Number 3 Revenue Statement in sales of goods and services provided the following for parks camping fees and other associated revenue.

2018-19 Estimate	2019-20 Budget
\$1 103 000	\$1 103 000

The online booking system is expected to reduce 'leakage' in the payment of fees that are currently payable for camping in parks and reserves. There is a reported 48% increase in revenue at campsites where volunteer campground hosts are monitoring the requirement to pay for campsites.