

## Estimates Committee 2003 Questions Taken On Notice

( 01/10/2002 to 01/10/2004 )

Date: 06/27/2003

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Increase in funding parks and reserves

**From:** Ms CARNEY to Honourable Kon VATSKALIS  
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

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### 8-6

**Question:** In the 2002-03 budget the total allocated for parks and reserve management was \$33.63m. In this year's budget, the allocation is \$36.826m, showing an increase of about \$13m. How do you explain this significant increase?

### Answer:

Answered On:

Answer:

The former structure of the Parks and Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment had eight outputs listed under Management of Parks and Reserves, Bio-diversity and Bushfires, and Integrated Land and Water Resource Management output groups.

In August 2002 Parks and Wildlife and Natural Resources underwent a restructure to form the Conversation and Natural Resources Group.

In developing the 2003-04 Budget the opportunity was taken to rationalise the Parks outputs from eight to five. This means that the new output 'Parks and Reserves Management' (\$36.8m) incorporates programs or parts of programs that were previously listed under other outputs, explaining the additional \$13m. These include:

- the Territory Wildlife Parks Community Service Obligations (\$9.16m);
- the incorporation of the Wildlife Operations Unit and part of the Parks Planning Unit into Parks and Reserves Management (\$2.4m);
- new funding for the Governments Parks Agenda Program (\$0.5m);
- an increase in the Repairs and Maintenance Program (\$0.16m); and
- a rise in depreciation of \$1.097m.

Overall there has been very little change in the total budget between the new Conservation and Natural Resources output group (\$72.27m) and the sum of the two old output groups in the 2002-03 Budget - Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Natural Resources Division (\$72.858m).