

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

C964. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Environment

Given the prevalence of unauthorised shooting for pigs in many of the wetlands in National Parks and Nature Reserves around the extremities of the Perth metropolitan region, I ask:

- (1) What action is being undertaken to protect those that bushwalk or Rogaine in these areas?
- (2) Who is liable in the event of injury from a shooting event in a National Park or Nature Reserve?

Further, I refer to matters of departmental enforcement in these areas and ask:

- (3) How many field officers are available to, and have undertaken enforcement duties in the National Parks and Nature Reserves within 400 kilometres of Perth, in each of the previous five calendar years?
- (4) How many infringement notices, and for what offences have they been issued, in each of the previous five calendar years at National Parks and Nature Reserves within 400 kilometres of Perth?
- (5) How many of those issued infringement notices have resulted in prosecution, the payment of a fine or have been withdrawn or terminated by Department of Parks and Wildlife?

Answer

I thank the Hon Member for some notice of this question.

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (1) The Department of Parks and Wildlife has responsibility for managing national parks and nature reserves throughout the State and is particularly conscious of the need to ensure visitor safety in these areas. This includes education campaigns and taking steps to deter illegal or dangerous activity.
- (2) In the event of any incident involving the injury of a person on a national park or nature reserve as a result of unauthorised shooting on that land, the WA Police would investigate the matter and liability would be subsequently determined by the court.
- (3) Parks and Wildlife currently has 299 authorised officers throughout the State who are available to carry out compliance and enforcement functions on national parks and nature reserves managed by the Department. The number of authorised officers fluctuates over time as staff change.
- (4) A total of 561 infringement notices were issued during the 2015-16 financial year for a range of offences across the State.

- (5) Most infringement notices result in the payment of the modified penalty applicable to the offence specified thereon, with only a small number progressing to court. Only one infringement notice was withdrawn and substituted with prosecution action last year while a further 10 infringement notices were withdrawn either due to insufficient evidence to support the alleged offence or as a result of mitigating circumstances warranting the extension of leniency.

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