

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question On Notice

Tuesday, 23 August 2016

4320. Hon Robin Chappie to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation

I refer to the economic contribution of off highway vehicle recreation and a study undertaken by the Arizona State University, entitled "Arizona Trail 2015 A Statewide Motorized & Non-motorized Trail Plan", and ask:

- (a) does the Minister agree that managers, policymakers and communities need research, education and outreach programs focused on outdoor recreation to better manage resources for sustainable outdoor environments;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) does the Minister know what the economic contribution of off highway vehicle recreation is;
- (d) if no to (c), will the Minister commission a study into the economic contribution of off highway vehicle recreation that also quantifies the social and ecological benefits associated with this form of recreation; and
- (e) if no to (d), why not?

Answer

- (a) Research, education and programs focussed on outdoor recreation are needed to sustainably manage outdoor environments. The Government is currently investing in outdoor recreation projects that deliver economic, well-being and environmental outcomes for communities across the state. This includes recent trails funding announcements of \$954 019 from Royalties for Regions and \$1 064 674 from the 2015/16 Lotterywest Trails Grants Program. The government has funded WestCycle \$450 000 over three years to deliver research, education and programs in response to the WA Mountain Bike Strategy 2015. Trails connect people to the outdoors and a Government/Industry partnership is developing the WA Strategic Trails Blueprint 2016-2021 and the WA Sustainable Trails Planning Framework.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) No. The Government has supported and initiated targeted studies across the outdoor recreation spectrum but has not limited any study to "off highway vehicle recreation". The State Trail Bike Strategy (2008) estimated the economic impact of off road trail bike riding at \$150m per annum and the Government is currently investigating the economic feasibility of establishing a trail bike town in the South West.
- (d) No.
- (e) The Government will continue to work with the outdoor recreation and off road vehicle sectors to prioritise and resource targeted initiatives, however the suggested study is complex and would divert resources from other priorities.

