

**Question on Notice  
No. 25  
Asked on 6 February 2007**

QUESTION:

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

(1) Will she outline the number of Full Time Equivalent rangers broken down by region, the number of hectares each ranger is expected to maintain broken down by region and the amount of money spent to maintain each hectare broken down by region?

(2) How does this compare with the three previous years?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages approximately 11.7 million hectares of land throughout Queensland ranging from remote and inaccessible large areas through to highly visited small areas. The following table outlines the number of million hectares in each region for the three previous years.

Service Delivery Area	Gazetted Terrestrial estate area (million hectares) 05/06	Gazetted Terrestrial estate area (million hectares) 04/05	Gazetted Terrestrial estate area (million hectares) 03/04
Central Region	3.78	3.77	3.77
Northern Region	4.43	4.21	4.20
Southern Region	3.46	3.46	3.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.67</b>	<b>11.44</b>	<b>11.43</b>

The QPWS also manages an area in excess of 70,000 square kilometres of State marine parks and undertakes day-to-day management activities in more than 345,000 square kilometres of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

As at January 2007, the current number of occupied **permanent** ranger Full Time Equivalent positions were deployed across the regions as follows:

Service Delivery Area	Occupied Permanent Ranger Positions as at January 2007
Central Office	17
Central Region	111
Northern Region	183
Southern Region	378
<b>Total</b>	<b>689</b>

In addition to this, the QPWS employs a substantial number of casual and temporary rangers which gives the QPWS the flexibility to deploy additional resources according to specific project requirements such as delivery of the capital works program, restoration work undertaken for natural disaster relief, and additional communication and maintenance duties undertaken during peak visitor periods.

The QPWS is unable to provide a set number of hectares for which each ranger has maintenance responsibility, given the diversity of locations and visitation numbers, such a measure would be meaningless. Work load and operational requirements vary considerably between each terrestrial and marine estate area, with factors such as geographical location, level of visitation and protected area category influencing workload.

It would not be reasonable to compare a National park such as Noosa, covering 2,881 hectares with 1.6 million visitors per year, and extensive on-park infrastructure with a National park such as the Simpson Desert which, whilst substantially larger, with an area of 1,012,000 hectares has significantly fewer visitors and less infrastructure requiring maintenance.

Further, there are a number of rangers that do not undertake general estate management duties as part of their role such as those rangers undertaking wildlife activities. Other rangers have duties that are specific to one function undertaken across a number of estate areas, for example, fire and pest management activities.

Since the election of the Beattie Government, permanent ranger numbers have increased by 30%. The Beattie Government has made significant investment into Queensland's Protected Area Estate with the operating budgets at record levels - up more than 120% compared to the previous Coalition Government.

QPWS Regional financial allocations for managing the estate during the requested period can be found at Attachment 1:

## Attachment 1

Service Delivery Area	Estimated 2006-07 \$M		Actual 2005-06 \$M		Actual 2004-05 \$M		Actual 2003-04 \$M	
	Operating	Capital	Operating	Capital	Operating	Capital	Operating	Capital
Central Region	21.0	3.7	20.2	2.2	19.5	2.7	18.9	2.9
Northern Region	51.7	12.9	37.8	2.8	33.3	3.5	34.3	3.1
Southern Region	75.4	11.0	72.9	5.6	67.7	5.7	59.1	5.6

\*Higher than average Operating Expenditure for Northern Region (06/07) reflects increased expenditure due to Cyclone Larry recovery and associated work.

\*Figures are for total expenditure and include depreciation