

**Question on Notice
No. 311
Asked on Wednesday 7 March 2007**

QUESTION:

MR GIBSON asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to the lighthouse and cottages at Double Island Point and complaints I have received from local constituents and tourists regarding access to the QPWS lighthouse and the lack of commercial operations at the site—

- (1) Will she advise the conditions of the lease of the lighthouse and cottages at Double Island Point, specifically with regard to (a) public access to the site including tourist activities, (b) what commercial operations are permitted at the site and (c) what monitoring of adherence to these lease conditions is undertaken by the department?
- (2) Will she also advise the current expiration date of the lease along with any options for extension?

ANSWER:

- (1) In 2001, following a public expression of interest process, the Chief Executive of the Environmental Protection Agency acting on behalf of the State of Queensland entered into a 20-year agreement with the Noosa Parks Association (NPA) regarding management of the Double Island Point Conservation Park.

Detailed management arrangements for the site are set out in an agreed Tourism Facility Master Plan and a Vegetation Management Plan. These plans provide that the site and facilities are managed to offer educational and recreational experiences for day visitors, and to house on-site volunteers who provide caretaking, maintenance, weed control and interpretation services.

Under these arrangements, the general public are able to enjoy pedestrian access to the headland generally, and to the lighthouse and interpretive facilities staffed by NPA volunteers, along the existing track system. As has been the case for the past 50 years, public access to the lighthouse keepers' cottage precinct is restricted.

Commercial tour operator access to the site is directly managed by the NPA as lessee of the area and I understand that they currently authorise several 4WD-based tours who visit the lighthouse on a daily basis with fee-paying clients.

Monitoring of activities is undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service through regular meetings and site inspections that form

part of a constructive working partnership to conserve the natural and cultural values of the site.

Formal reviews of the Tourism Facility Master Plan are required every five years under the terms of the lease agreement. The first five-year review is nearing completion.

- (2) The lease agreement expires in 2021. The terms and conditions of the agreement do not include options for extension.