

To: The Secretary,
 Senate Environment
 Communications Information Technology and the Arts References Committee
 Parliament House,
 Canberra
 ACT
 2600

2/2/06

Submission on Australian Parks and Reserves: funding and resources available to meet objectives of Australia's national parks, other conservation reserves and marine protected areas:

From: Victoria Jansen-Riley

(Comments relate to Coastal areas:)

In order to ensure that natural and cultural values of coastal areas are maintained there needs to be more funding toward the following aspects:

1/ **More people resources** (e.g. Parks and Wildlife officers) who can effectively liaise with different groups (e.g. councils, community groups, developers etc.,) to ensure that the aims and objectives of relevant legislation, (e.g. the State Coastal Policy) is effectively implemented. This involves the need for more 'man power' actually on-site of coastal areas- i.e. actually monitoring developments , and enforcing penalties for breach of legislation.

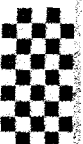
At the moment there are not enough rangers available to effectively do this. A lot of the time it becomes the responsibility of community members to report on breaches of legislation.

Councils also do not seem to have the resources to monitor these aspects; nor the ability (or inclination) to enforce penalties for breach of legislative process. It is often 'after the event' that the relevant bodies become informed (e.g. unauthorised clearing of vegetation) and of course, by then it is too late.

Paramount to the above is the need for more funding towards:

2/ **Education** of those people involved with management of coastal areas, to ensure that they have thorough understanding and knowledge of the appropriate legislation, and how to implement it.

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There could also be more funding directed towards education of the public, (perhaps via both Councils and Parks and Wildlife) e.g. in relation to preserving natural values of the areas that they live in - why mass clearing is to be avoided; why vehicles are not allowed on beaches etc.

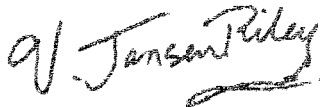
3/ Logistics of some management processes:

At the moment there seems to be a lot of emphasis on community groups being responsible for land management programs. It is my view that this is not the best way to go; that being reliant on **voluntary** work is not really giving land management the status that it deserves. There are too many contingencies that may occur in community groups - e.g. inconsistent membership; problems with organising reliable and competent contractors for projects; the need to liaise effectively with numerous stakeholders etc. It is my view that a centralised body needs to take on this responsibility, and should be funded appropriately; and therefore that community groups instead play only an ancillary role in this process.

4/ Threats to the objectives of the management of Coastal Reserves:

Developers are still getting too much power towards inappropriate coastal development - both residential and industrial development, - that can impact upon coastal reserves e.g. by causing erosion, pollution, loss of flora and fauna, loss of visual amenity etc. There needs to be more funding toward implementation and clarification of legislation that is designed to prevent this. It is my view that to assist with this, there needs to be a **separate body** that liaises with, and has regulatory powers over, all management groups that are involved with both coastal reserves and private land adjacent to coastal reserves. This may achieve a much more effective and co-ordinated approach, may make councils more accountable, and thus ensure protection of the natural values of these areas.

Yours faithfully,



Victoria Jansen-Riley