

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 209

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Director of National Parks

Topic: World Parks Congress

Hansard Page: 48

Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Milne asked:

Senator MILNE: I wanted to ask about the World Parks Congress, which Australia will host next year. As most people are aware, it is a once in 10-year event. I was at the last one in Durban, so I am very interested and will hopefully be very proud of Australia hosting this particular congress. Could you give me an update on where we are up to in terms of the organisation and in terms of sponsorship. I am aware that the federal government and the New South Wales government are cosponsors, but I wanted to know whether we have had any more significant fundraising initiatives or sponsorship and how we are going at approaching people about that. In particular, in relation to the pre and post Parks Congress tours, what opportunities are being offered to other states or communities to be integrated? Do you bid for these? How does it work? Could you just give me an update on where you are up to, please?

Ms West: Certainly, the program seems to be moving ahead well. The planning is progressing as we would expect. The call for papers and for ideas of how people want to participate opened just last week. The call is for people to put forward papers for discussion—not ordinary papers like a scientific conference; it is much more wide ranging than that, as you would realise. So that has just opened. The sponsorship aspect is going ahead. There is a professional conference-organising company engaged as well, which is doing most of the sponsorship, but I know that a couple of big banks are interested, so that financial side is hopeful. I am not 100 per cent sure about the tours. I know different Australian states have been offering to carry out tours and they are providing a whole range of possibilities, but I am not quite sure where that is up to. I could take that on notice and get more information to you, if you wish, unless Mr Thompson has more information.

Answer:

The IUCN World Parks Congress includes both field trips and tours. The congress field trips are delegate learning opportunities while Congress tours are pre-existing leisure based activities run by tour companies. Australian park agencies, universities, research organisations and non-government organisations were invited to submit applications for field trips. Tours were selected from tour companies associated with Australia's National Landscapes program.

A selection process was established for both field trips and tours. Applications have now closed.

For the field trips, the World Parks Congress National Steering Committee invited applications from across Australia to host field trips on 16 August 2013. Applications closed on 27 September 2013 and were assessed against a number of selection criteria. A total of 34 applications were received and 22 field trips were approved.

The congress tours were chosen through Australia's National Landscapes program. Each of Australia's National Landscapes Steering Committees was requested to nominate two existing tour products that demonstrated strong partnerships between the conservation and tourism sectors. A total of 18 Tours were approved across Australia.

The tours were made public on the Congress website on 27 November 2013. The field trips are expected to be announced before the end of December 2013.

Additional information about the World Parks Congress is provided at Attachment A.



IUCN
WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

ATTACHMENT A

IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

Background

- Australia is to host the sixth IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC) at Sydney Olympic Park from 12-19 November 2014. Held every 10 years, the Congress is the premier global event on parks and protected areas, bringing together 3000 people from around 160 countries to set the policy agenda and direction for the decade ahead.
- The WPC is organised on behalf of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) by the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP) and the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Parks Australia and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have partnered to host the Congress on behalf of Australia.
- The theme of the Congress is Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions. The aim is to position parks and protected areas firmly within broader economic and community wellbeing goals by demonstrating the benefits of protected areas and compelling action to deliver these benefits.
- The sixth Congress is underpinned by the notion that equitably governed and effectively managed protected areas are vital to economic and community wellbeing. Developing partnerships across sectors by bringing together leaders in the fields of business, government, health, development, science, conservation and youth to better realise the benefits is therefore a core objective.
- Stream leaders - consortiums made up of institutional leaders, agencies and organisations from around the globe - will drive the development of the Congress' eight program streams. In addition to the eight program streams, four cross-cutting themes have been identified and will be integrated into the Congress program.
- Further information is available on the Congress website: www.worldparkscongress.org.

Congress Field Trips

- Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IUCN, Australia is responsible for delivering the field trips for the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. The aim of the field trips is to contribute to the Congress purpose by building delegate capacity through technical learning. The aim of the field trips is to impart new skills and ideas about how delegates can position parks and protected areas within broader goals of economic and social wellbeing in their countries.

- An open call process to submit field trip applications was promoted on the World Parks Congress website from 16 August 2013 date. This was supported by direct distribution to park agencies, universities, research organisations and non-government organisations. Applications closed on 27 September 2013.
- The World Parks Congress National Steering Committee assessed all applications against selection criteria that included delivering on the Congress objectives, capacity building, affordability, regional dispersion. Field trips were also encouraged to ensure engagement of local Indigenous communities in the field trips. A total of 22 field trips were approved across Australia, including a number of World Heritage Areas. See Attachment A.1 for a breakdown of successful field trips. It is expected that these field trips will be launched on the Congress website in mid-December.

Experience Australia- the Congress Tours

- The Congress tours are existing leisure based activities that delegates can book for before or after the Congress. The tours aim to help Australia demonstrate to the world how healthy ecosystems and biodiversity can help support tourism, local economies and livelihoods. They also play an important role in attracting international delegates to the Congress, and provide an opportunity to showcase Australia's best natural places.
- The Congress Tours do not form part of the core Congress program and are optional activities that delegates and accompanying persons may choose to experience Australia. The Congress Tours are hosted by existing tour companies.
- The Congress Tours were chosen through Australia's National Landscapes program. Each of Australia's National Landscapes Steering Committees was approached and was requested to nominate two tours that demonstrated strong partnerships between the conservation and tourism sectors. A total of 18 Tours were approved across Australia (not all Landscapes chose to take up the opportunity. See Attachment B.1). The Congress Tours are currently accessible to delegates on the Congress website in the 'Experience Australia' section.

Attachment A.1: Congress Field Trips

No	Location	Title	Organiser and Partners
1	Blue Mountains (NSW)	Low Carbon Tourism: Building Sustainable Communities- facilitating low carbon tourism.	Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute. Low Carbon Living Cooperative Research Centre. Blue Mountains Lithgow Oberon Tourism. Blue Mountains City Council.
2	Booderee National Park (NSW)	Connecting Science with Park Management.	Australian National University. Parks Australia.
3	Mimosa Rocks & Tanja (NSW)	Coastal Wilderness Bioblitz – citizen science in action	CSIRO.
4	Jervis Bay National Park (NSW)	A Journey through Dharawal & Durga Indigenous landscapes of the NSW South Coast	Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Uni of Wollongong. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage National Parks and Wildlife Service. Local Aboriginal Community Councils.
5	Greater Blue Mountains (NSW)	Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Experience – showcasing collaborative research, adaptive management and community engagement	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage National Parks and Wildlife Service.
6	Blue Mountains (NSW)	Crossing the Divide: Practical Experiences in Linking the People, Places and Parks	Greening Australia NSW on behalf of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative. NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.
7	Lamington National Park and Dorrigo National Park (NSW/QLD)	Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area.	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.
8	Ku-ring-gai National Park (NSW)	Roaming around Ku-ring-gai National Park.	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service - Chase Alive Discovery Program.
9	Ku-ring-gai National Park (NSW)	An Insight into Traditional Sustainable Use Strategies and Livelihoods	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation.
10	Sydney Harbour (NSW)	Exploring Marine Science At The	Sydney Institute of Marine Science.

		Sims Interpretive Centre	
11	Sydney Harbour (NSW).	Marine Parks- An Asset for the Fishing Industry	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation.
12	Wilsons Promontory National Park (VIC)	Wilsons Promontory National Park. Balancing ecosystems and visitor experiences	Parks Victoria.
13	Brimbank Park, Werribee (VIC)	Healthy Parks- Healthy People. Engaging and Innovating Communities	Parks Victoria.
14	Woodlands Historic Park (VIC)	Eastern Barred Bandicoot- Partnering for Recovery	Parks Victoria.
15	Kakadu National Park and Litchfield National Park (NT)	Innovation and Inspiration in Conservation Management in the Top End of the Northern Territory.	Conservation Volunteers. Parks Australia. NT Parks and Wildlife Commission. Charles Darwin University.
16	Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (NT)	Working Together in a Living Cultural Landscape.	Conservation Volunteers Australia. Parks Australia. NT Parks and Wildlife Commission.
17	Townsville, Reef HQ (QLD)	Sea Country Connections Tour	James Cook University. Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
18	Cairns (QLD)	Making Connections across the Wet Tropics World Heritage Landscape.	Wet Tropics Management Authority.
19	Heron Island (QLD)	Great Barrier Reef Science and Management	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.
20	Tasmania	Achieving Conservation Goals through Partnerships in Tasmania.	Tasmanian Land Conservancy. Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service. University of Tasmania. Bush Heritage. Inala Nature Tours.
21	Canberra and the Snowy Mountains. (ACT/NSW)	Integrating People and Parks - Australia's Bush Capital and Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program.	Territory & Municipal Service/ ACT Parks & Conservation Service Australian Alps National Parks. Conservation Council ACT Region.
22	Perth and South West Australia	Managing Parks in a complex landscape.	Parks and Wildlife, WA. Murdoch University. Parks Forum. Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Attachment B.1: Congress Tours

No	National Landscape	Tour Title	Company
1	Australian Alps	High Country History, Hikes and Horserides	Adventure Victoria
2	Australia's Coastal Wilderness	Coastal Wilderness and Wildlife	Australian Nature Tours
3	Australia's Coastal Wilderness	Coastal Wilderness Pedal and Paddle	Snowy River Cycling.
4	Australia's Green Cauldron	Best of Scenic Rim and Wollumbin Caldera	International Park Tours
5	Australia's Green Cauldron	Melting Pot Tour	Green Cauldron Tours
6	Australia's Red Centre	The Rising Sun	AAT Kings
7	Australia's Red Centre	Kings Canyon Day Tour	AAT Kings
8	Flinders Ranges	Arkaba Wilderness & Conservation	Wild Bush Walks
9	Flinders Ranges and Kangaroo Island	Outback to Ocean – Our Wildlife Rocks	Exceptional Kangaroo Island
10	Kangaroo Island	Kangaroo Island Highlights	Kangaroo Island Odysseys
11	Great Ocean Road	Great Ocean Walk Nature Conservation	Australian Nature Tours/Conservation Volunteers
12	Great Ocean Road	Endangered Wildlife Great Ocean Road	Australian Nature Tours/Conservation Volunteers
13	Ningaloo-Shark Bay	Coral Garden Spectacular	Sail Ningaloo
14	Ningaloo-Shark Bay	Ningaloo Reef Ultimate Reef Escape	Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef
15	Tasmania's Island Heritage	Island Discovery	Under Down Under
16	Tasmania's Island Heritage	Port Davey Wilderness Camp – Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area	Par-Avion Wilderness Tours
17	Wet Tropics	Wildlife Tours on the Atherton Tableland	Alan's Wildlife Tours
18	Wet Tropics	Cooper Creek Wilderness in the Daintree	Cooper Creek Wilderness
-	Great Barrier Reef	No tours submitted- regional tourism website will be profiled.	Tourism Queensland
-	The Kimberley	No tours submitted- regional tourism website will be profiled.	Tourism Western Australia
-	Great South West Edge	No tours submitted- regional tourism website will be profiled.	South West Development Commission
-	Australia's Timeless North	No tours submitted- regional tourism website will be profiled.	Tourism Top End
-	Sydney Harbour	No tours submitted (focus will be on local activities during Congress).	n/a
-	Greater Blue Mountains	No tours submitted (focus will be on local activities during Congress).	n/a