

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

Question No: 210

Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates

Outcome: Agency

Programme: Director of National Parks

Topic: Land Areas National and Commonwealth Parks

Hansard Page: 46

Question Date: 18 November 2013

Question Type: Spoken

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Can you tell us how much land is designated as national park in Australia?

Ms West: As national parks as a whole, not just Commonwealth parks?

Senator URQUHART: Can you do them separately?

Ms West: No, I would have to take that on notice for the whole of parks reserves.

Senator URQUHART: Leave out the Commonwealth parks and provide that on notice. Are you able to do the other one?

Mr Thompson: Just to clarify, the Director of National Parks looks after Commonwealth parks and then there are a whole series of other terrestrial and marine reserves which are declared as state national parks. The Director of National Parks has properties in Booderee, Pulu Keeling, Christmas Island, Kakadu, Uluru and the Botanic Gardens.

CHAIR: If you were to answer the question in relation to the area of the state national parks and territory national parks, it would be a pretty big job for you to research all of that, wouldn't it?

Ms West: Yes, that information would be available but I do not have it today.

Senator URQUHART: That is all right—the information on Commonwealth parks is adequate.

Ms West: I have not got this added up, but even just taking Kakadu, it is two million hectares, so there is quite an area there. Booderee is 6,000 hectares, Uluru is 1,320, Christmas Island is 8,000 hectares, Norfolk Island is 600 and Pulu Keeling is about 2,600.

Answer:

The figures in Table 1, for terrestrial protected areas in the states and territories, have been sourced from the Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database (CAPAD). The information is current up to 31 December 2012. These figures do not include Commonwealth terrestrial protected areas.

Table 1: Terrestrial Protected Areas in Australia by Jurisdiction (2012)	
Jurisdiction	Protected Area (ha) *
ACT	129,686
NSW	7,249,044
NT	23,252,952
QLD	12,948,848
SA	29,371,586
TAS	2,905,460
VIC	4,069,852
WA	36,692,110
Australia	116,619,538

* These area figures are based on "Reported Area". If the State and Territory agencies provide us with the Gazetted area we use that, otherwise if Gazetted Area not provided then we use GIS Area. So effectively the "Reported Area" is a blend of 2 figures.

The CAPAD data for terrestrial areas in Commonwealth Management is provided in table 2.

Table 2: Terrestrial Protected Areas in Commonwealth management		
Type	Name	Gazetted Area (Ha)
Botanic Gardens (Commonwealth)	Australian National	0
	Booderee	80
	Norfolk Island	5
	Total	85
National Park (Commonwealth)	Booderee	6,312
	Christmas Island	8,719
	Kakadu	1,980,400
	Norfolk Island (Mt Pitt)	480
	Norfolk Island (Phillip Island)	190
	Pulu Keeling	2,602
	Uluru-Kata Tjuta	132,566
	Total	2,131,269
Total all Commonwealth Protected Areas		2,131,354

Further information from the Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database can be found on the internet: <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/land/nrs/science-maps-and-data/capad>.