

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

Question No: 200
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Programme: Director of National Parks
Topic: World Parks Congress
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 7 March 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

I understand that Parks Australia is involved in the running of the World Parks Congress (WPC).

1. What is the minimum amount of money which a community group would have to spend to attend the Congress?
2. What process was used to arrive at this figure?
3. Does the government envisage the WPC as an opportunity for the community to engage with other stakeholders in the management of national parks and protected areas?
4. How many independent community groups are expected to attend?
5. Why is the minimum cost so high for community groups?
6. Have options been canvassed to reduce the cost of attendance for community groups?

Answer:

1. The minimum amount of money which a community group would have to spend to attend the Congress is \$265 per person for a day pass. The full suite of registration packages available for attending the Congress can be found on the website at: www.worldparkscongress.org.
2. The costs of registration packages were developed on the amount required to cover the cost of hosting an International Congress of this scale, assuming attendance of over 3,000 full paying participants and allowing for discounted registrations for students and sponsorship packages to support participation. The registration costs were developed by the World Parks Congress International Steering Committee.
3. Yes. The Congress will provide an opportunity for a wide range of participants, including community groups, businesses and individuals, to engage with protected area managers from around the world on issues relevant to the management of national parks and protected areas over the next ten years.
4. At this stage it is not possible to predict attendance by independent community groups, although we are aware of a high level of interest. Based on attendance at the previous World Parks Congress we expect over 3,000 people from about 160 countries to attend the Congress, representing a wide range of stakeholders, including government and non-government, community and Indigenous groups, businesses and individuals.
5. Addressed in 2 above.

6. Options have been developed to reduce the cost of attendance for participants from low and middle income economies, Indigenous people and local community representatives through a financial support program. Applications for funding support to attend the Congress closed on 30 March 2014. However, funding is limited and strong competition is expected from applicants around the world. Low cost and budget accommodation options are also being identified on the Congress website to minimise accommodation costs for those participating in the Congress.