

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER

Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012



QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 5

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MS HUNTER: Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“I just wanted to go to the CBA contract. It is noted that the TAMS CBA contract will not be renewed after the middle of 2012. Is the basis for this decision financial or are there other reasons?”

Mr Hill: To be really honest, I am actually not that sure as to the nature of that particular agreement. What I do know is that the trial has been working positively from our perspective. I could not really answer that one on behalf of TAMS, to be honest.

THE CHAIR: Are you able to take that on notice, Mr Dawes?”

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised the contract between Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and the TAMS expires on 30 June 2012. The decision not to renew the contract in its current form was made by mutual agreement between the parties and considered a range of financial, operational and strategic factors. A new arrangement is being pursued by TAMS with CVA to enable the Volunteer Interpretive Program to continue. This well regarded and established program is a major component of the existing contract.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

Date: 9.6.2012

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER**

**Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012**



QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 7

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MR SESELJA: Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“You talk about technology. On the Tidbinbilla side of things it mentions a comprehensive website. I have not checked for a little while, for some time probably, the websites around Namadgi and the hikes and stuff. Has that been upgraded recently? When I last looked at it, which was some time ago, it was not all that useful in giving a lot of trip information. Has work been put into making that more user friendly?”

Mr Hill: I will have to take that one on notice; I am not 100 per cent sure. Like you, I have not checked it recently. “

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised there is a dedicated webpage on the TAMS website for Namadgi National Park. It includes information about recreational activities, publications including walking track and camping brochures, information about organised events and activities, personal safety, heritage sites, the Namadgi Plan of Management, wild dog management and a link to the Australian Alps website.

The Australian Alps website is hosted by the Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and includes information about Australian Alps National Parks, including Namadgi and Tidbinbilla. This website has been recently upgraded through the Australian Alps national parks Cooperative Management Program.

The information provided on the Namadgi website will also be reviewed as part of an ACT Government wide website review.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

**Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

Date: 9.6.2012

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER**

**Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012**



QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 10

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MS HUNTER: Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“You also mention that Namadgi at the moment has less developed facilities than Tidbinbilla. Is there a plan to enhance the facilities out at Namadgi or is that not on the cards at the moment?”

Mr Dawes: To my knowledge, no. I would have to take that on notice just to doublecheck.”

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised Namadgi has a range of visitor recreational facilities that are appropriate to low impact, nature-based recreation. Such facilities include walking trails and look-outs, campgrounds and toilet facilities. There are no plans to further enhance recreational facilities at Namadgi National Park.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barr".

**Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

Date: 9.6.2012

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER**

**Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012**



QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 13

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MS HUNTER : Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“..... The other part of that is if there has been a growth—this question is based on an assumption that there has been growth—how that has been dealt with within the Tidbinbilla plan of management.

Mr Hill: I will take that on notice.

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised there has been growth in visitor numbers to Tidbinbilla from a low of 78,003 in 2005-06 to a high of 219,540 in 2010-11. The Tidbinbilla revised draft Plan of Management 2011 establishes management goals, defines Tidbinbilla’s values and sets out a management framework to guide decision-making in relation to all aspects of management. Section 8 of the draft plan focuses on recreation and tourism and provides for a range of actions to manage visitor impacts, visitor safety, communication, nature based tourism, recreational activities, recreational facilities and overnight stays.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

**Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

Date: 9.6.2012

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER**

**Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012**



QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 13

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MS HUNTER : Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“..... I have a couple more questions. On page 8 you mention that the total visitation to Tidbinbilla reached 220,000 in 2011-12. How does this compare to the previous year's visitation rates?

Mr Hill: I am sorry; I do not have that data on me but I can certainly check.”

MR BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised that on the basis that the member's question relates to the 2010-11 financial year (and not the 2011-12 financial year recorded on page 13 of Hansard), the number of visitors to Tidbinbilla in 2010-11 was 219,540. This represents an increase on the number of visitors in 2009-10, which was 182,479.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

**Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation**

Date: 9.6.2012

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER**

**Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012**



QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 13

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MS HUNTER : Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“The commissioner also recommended a need for greater community education around the appropriate use of nature reserves including in the context of ecotourism activities, so the question is: what efforts have been made to ensure that this recommendation is implemented?”

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate advised that as part of the investigation into Canberra Nature Park, the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment commissioned a user group survey which included feedback from the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate and recreational user and interest groups. Reference to ecotourism was highlighted by TAMS as a long-term aspiration. The Canberra Centenary Trail project is the first step towards achieving this goal and it is anticipated that this iconic trail will attract interstate visitors.

A review of the signage in Canberra Nature Park is currently underway. This involves the development of a signs standards manual which will detail a signage hierarchy and standards to ensure uniformity.

As a destination marketing body Australian Capital Tourism promotes Canberra nature based experiences to the community through a number of different channels.

Canberra and Region Visitors Centre (CRVC)

The CRVC distributes a range of brochures promoting appropriate nature based products and experiences including those available at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Namadgi National Park and through Canberra Nature Parks. The staff and volunteers at the CRVC are well educated on the range of experiences available and the different businesses who deliver them. The Canberra community regularly uses the CRVC as a place to get information , especially when visiting friends and relatives are in town.

Australian Capital Tourism works closely with other areas of the ACT Government to ensure the opportunities available at the CRVC as a information distribution point are understood.

Familiarisation programs are regularly conducted for CRVC staff and volunteers to ensure they are up to date with current product information. This assists the CRVC in promoting appropriate nature based experiences.

Australian Capital Tourism Consumer website (www.visitcanberra.com.au)

The visitcanberra website is an equally relevant information source for the community to discover more about the city they live in as it is for visitors. The website provides information on nature based experiences available in the ACT as well as individual product listings for business that deliver nature based experiences. The website provides links to other information sources such as the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve website and contact details for visitor centres such as those in Tidbinbilla and Namadgi National Park. Australian Capital Tourism staff liaise with relevant Government departments to ensure the nature based tourism information promoted on the visitcanberra website is appropriate and up-to-date.

Australian Capital Tourism publications

Australian Capital Tourism produces a number of publications each year that promote appropriate nature based experiences. The main hard copy publication produced is the annual Canberra and Region Visitor Guide. The Visitor Guide is a valuable resource for the community and provides extensive coverage of the breadth of experiences available in the ACT and region. This includes information nature based experiences and relevant businesses who provide access to natural areas.

Social media

Australian Capital Tourism uses social media as a mechanism to provide up to date information about things to see and do in Canberra. The community are able to follow Australian Capital Tourism on Twitter and Facebook. Information about nature based experiences available in the ACT and region is communicated through these channels on occasion.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

Date: 9.6.2012