

Nature Based Tourism Review



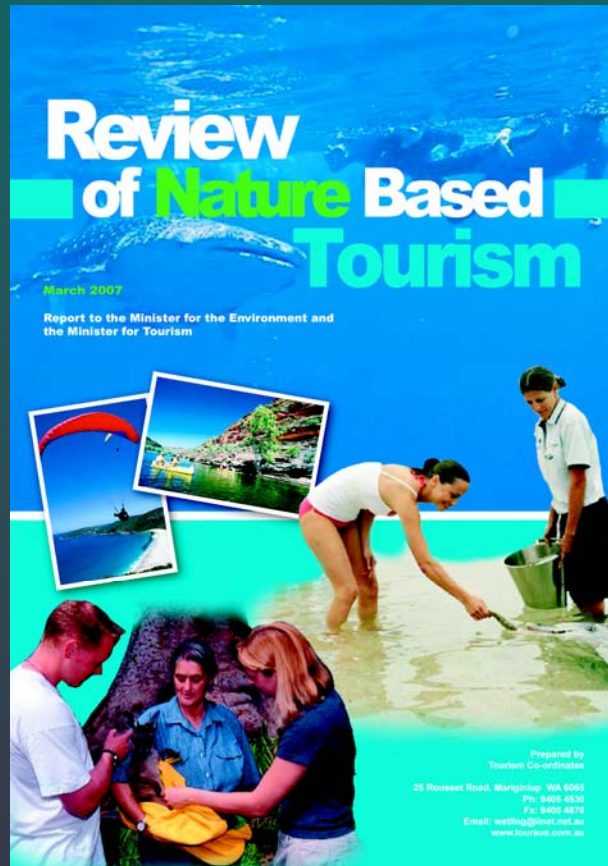
OWA State Conference 2007

Rod Quartermain



Department of Environment and Conservation
Government of Western Australia

Nature Based Tourism Review



Commercial Operation's Licences

- Not “Tour Operator Licences”
- Gives “Lawful Authority” to conduct commercial operations
- Defined by the *CALM Regulations 2002*
- “Sell” goods and services
- Includes
 - Supply of transport
 - Supply of information
 - Supply of instruction/supervision



Licences

- Must be consistent with Park Management Plans
- Compatible with the purpose of the reserves
- Purpose of a National Park:
 - To fulfil so much of the demand for recreation as is consistent with the maintenance and restoration of the natural environment



Lawful Authority

- Non Commercial operations do not need “Lawful Authority”
- BUT! Some non-commercial activities require lawful authority e.g. Abseiling except in designated areas.



- Jointly announced by the Ministers for Environment and Tourism on 17 July 2006
- Conducted by Eddie Watling of Tourism Coordinates
- To examine and provide recommendations in relation to statutory, regulatory and administrative framework applying to nature based tourism



Process

- Has been released by Ministers for 6 week public comment period (Closed 28 September 2007)
- Responses will be evaluated jointly by Tourism WA & DEC
- Each agency will then provide advice to its Minister on the responses, recommendations and implementation
- Ministers to then consider Government response and implementation



Recommendations

- There are 49 Recommendations
 - Lease/Licence tenure
 - Business sustainability
 - Transferability of licences
 - Non-commercial visits
 - Licence/Lease Planning/Approval process
 - Booking system
 - Accreditation
 - DEC - Tourism WA Communications
 - Interaction with Wildlife
 - DEC pricing
 - Social research



Recommendations

"All observations and recommendations in this review are based on the first priority being extended to the protection and sustainable management of the resource - the DEC estate."



Recommendations

- Restricted licences to become 10+5 years
- Greater importance of accreditation incorporating sector components - eg Recreation Registration Schemes - AAS
- Demonstrated Quality Assurance.

