

DOG SWAMP SHENANIGANS

Statement by Member for Yokine

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine) [12.50 pm]: I recently attended an environmental activity day at Dog Swamp in my electorate called “Dog Swamp Shenanigans”, which involved students and staff of the Yokine, Tuart Hill and Kyilla Primary Schools and the St Denis Catholic Primary School. The students discussed the historical importance of this area to the indigenous inhabitants and the early pioneers. They were given the opportunity to learn about the current health of the wetland, through water quality testing, and about catchments in general and the effect nutrients, pollution, storm water and algae have on the ecosystem.

Importantly, students learned what they could do around their homes, schools and streets to improve the water quality of Dog Swamp and its natural wetlands. These environmental action days are coordinated by the Department of Education and Training under the Ribbons of Blue program, the Water Corporation’s Waterwise Schools program, the Swan Catchment Council, the Swan River Trust and the Phosphorous Action Group. I take this opportunity to thank the staff of these groups. The project has helped these four schools to recently become recognised “waterwise” schools. The project aims to educate schools and communities about the need to value, protect and conserve our water resources.

The North Metro Catchment Group and the City of Stirling were also involved, which links with the work they are doing to restore Dog Swamp to a healthy wetland. I am proud to be leading and facilitating this vital local project. I thank the North Metro Catchment Group and Daniel Rajah at the City of Stirling for their efforts to progress this initiative. Councillor Rod Willox, the friends of Dog Swamp group and the Dog Swamp Shopping Centre also have been strong supporters of the program. The conservation of our local wetlands should be important to us all. I congratulate all staff, students and the community organisations for their involvement in the ongoing restoration of Dog Swamp.