

**CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn)** [2.48 pm]: Before I continue my remarks, I noticed the former member for Cockburn, Hon Fran Logan, wander into the gallery. I am not sure whether he is still up there—he has left again—but I place on the record again my gratitude for the work that he did for the people of Cockburn for many, many years.

Before the interruption for 90-second statements, I was discussing how this bill has been brought to the house in the context of the government's Plan for Our Parks, and particularly how that plan is important to my local community in Cockburn. I mentioned, of course, that I had been out at Manning Park just a few weeks ago with the member for Fremantle and the "first dog" of Fremantle, Doug, because the wetlands are a place that we exercise. They are also a place where people in my community play.

Obviously, people will be aware of Adventure World, but they might not be aware of Bibra Lake Regional Playground, which is a great facility in the wetlands area.

The wildlife and biodiversity in the area make our wetlands a major asset to my community. It is no doubt well known to members in this place that the Beeliar wetlands are a habitat for the endangered Carnaby's black-cockatoo. The Beeliar wetlands also have significant Indigenous cultural and heritage values. They are places that were used for camping, ceremonial purposes and as sources of food. The importance of the Beeliar wetlands for my community in Cockburn has been underlined by the City of Cockburn's commitment to redeveloping the wetlands precinct at Bibra Lake. I very much look forward to visiting that facility later this year.

The Beeliar wetlands have been evaluated and categorised as a conservation category wetland. This means that they support a high level of ecological tributes and functions. Thanks to the Labor government, Beeliar Regional Park is recognised as an A-class reserve. The creation of that park obviously forms part of the government's Plan for Our Parks, but it also goes without saying that it is a response to the Liberals' disastrous plan for Roe 8 through that region. I would like to take members to a 2013 report from the Environmental Protection Authority that describes the significant environmental impacts to the area that Roe 8 would have had if it was not stopped by this Labor government. These significant environmental impacts include clearing 97.8 hectares of native vegetation, which would have included 5.4 hectares of Beeliar Regional Park and seven hectares of Bush Forever site 224. We would have also lost 78 hectares of foraging habitat and 2.5 hectares of potential nesting habitat for Carnaby's black-cockatoos. It would have resulted in the clearing of 6.8 hectares of wetlands and it would have resulted in fragmentation of the wetlands and fauna habitat.

That last point is worth reflecting on, because the issue of fragmentation of our environment is often overlooked in these debates. It was very obviously overlooked by the former Liberal Premier when he glibly described Roe 8 as just a road that passes between North Lake and Bibra Lake. That description is glib because it fails to appreciate how wetlands and other ecosystems work. Wetlands do not simply stop at the edge of the lake. They do not just suddenly stop at the watermark. They are complex hydrological systems. They support genetic diversity across connected areas. They must have that connection for that genetic diversity so that wildlife from different areas from different genetic lineages are able to cross-breed —

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, excuse me. Attorney General, if you are going to walk between the person on their feet and the Speaker, you need to seek permission.

**Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE:** The same can be said of our bushland, our forest and our woodlands as well; the fragmentation of those ecosystems causes significant harm over and above the immediate harm to the area that might be cleared for a road. It causes problems in the surrounding areas, which become fragmented.

On the topic of Beeliar wetlands, I also wanted to share that it includes a particular lake, Thomsons Lake, which is a hidden gem in my electorate. It is hidden away near Russell Road on the boundary of my electorate. The reserve is 213 hectares and includes significant wetlands and bushland. It is so significant that it is in fact one of the last and best examples of a brackish seasonal lake, which was once typical of the Swan coastal plain, so much so that it is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, which is a national registry. It is a major migration stopover and drought refuge for waterbirds and it is, again, so significant that it is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is worth reflecting on the fact that since 1829, we have cleared more than 80 per cent of the original wetlands on the Swan coastal plain, and there has been similar levels of clearing of wetlands in other ecosystems around the state. This bill is another step in the right direction to stop and reverse that trend by protecting our bushland and wetlands.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE:** I will move now to some features of the bill. I move first to clause 6 of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill, which will amend section 8AA of the Conservation and Land Management Act.

This is what will allow for the joint vesting of “waters, land, or lands and waters” with a specified Aboriginal body corporate and the commission. Proposed section 8AA(2A) makes it clear that the minister will be able to make a determination in relation to joint vesting only with the consent of the Aboriginal body corporate. I want to raise that concept of consent because it goes to the heart of Aboriginal people’s wish for self-determination on their country, and it is reflected at multiple levels in this bill. Joint vesting gives a role of equality to our local Aboriginal people on their country. It gives them a role equal to the Conservation and Parks Commission in preparing the initial and any future proposed management plan. It gives them an equal role in being consulted on the granting of licences and leases on the jointly vested land or waters. It also gives an equal role on being consulted and providing advice to the Minister for Environment on proposals to cancel or amend the purposes or boundaries of particular reserves, not including A-class reserves. The consequence is that the equal role for Aboriginal bodies corporate in preparing management plans, granting licences and consulting on changes to boundaries gives a real say to Aboriginal people when managing their country.

I would like to draw members’ attention to a report that was released by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in July last year. This report reviewed joint management arrangements as it applied to terrestrial parks. That report really highlights that these joint vesting arrangements are critical to giving Aboriginal people a say in their land in a number of ways. The report discusses how the joint vesting enables Aboriginal bodies corporate to draw up cultural management plans that have a real influence on the statutory management plan. It also allows the department to better appreciate and protect those intangible qualities and values of country for Aboriginal people. Previously, it was very easy for the Conservation and Parks Commission to understand physical sites such as burial sites, but it is perhaps less easy for the commission to be cognisant of intangible values such as the spiritual or ceremonial value that a particular part of country might have for Aboriginal people. I thought it was worth reflecting on a quote from the report titled *A review of the Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011: How are Western Australia’s joint management arrangements working?* This is a quote from a Yawuru representative who participated in the review —

*“We think one of the critical things that Yawuru and MG —*

*That is Miriwung–Gajerrong —*

*have had is their cultural management plans that have informed the management plans for the jointly managed estate. The format of the Yawuru plans is completely different to others and it puts the Yawuru values right up-front and centre. Having the cultural management plan was fundamental to assisting the department.”*

We see there the reflection of putting Yawuru values right up front and centre. That is what this bill will do. It will continue the work of joint vesting of terrestrial parks so that the values of Aboriginal traditional owners can be reflected in future marine parks and reserves. That additional consultation, that additional say, has flow-on effects for connection with country for Aboriginal people and flow-on effects in employment, which is obviously complemented and assisted by this Labor government’s commitment to Aboriginal ranger programs. In the same report that I have just drawn members’ attention to there is a great section that reflects on how working on country under these joint vested arrangements is very beneficial for traditional owners. I quote from a Murujuga Land and Sea Unit ranger, who says —

*“Working on country most days I feel, is significant. It feels great, you’re out there, you’re amongst it. It’s something that the old people wanted so we can learn from them. And I feel privileged to be a part of that.”*

It is the privilege of everyone in this chamber that we get to bring forward bills such as this that contribute to empowering our First Nations people and righting some of the wrongs of the past.

I will move from clause 6 to clause 9, which amends section 13B(1) to include “protection and conservation of the value of the marine park to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons” as a purpose that is consistent with the reservation of a marine park. The effect of that provision will be that the purpose of the protection and conservation of the value to culture and heritage must be considered by the minister in any declaration of incompatibility of an activity within a marine park. As I mentioned at the outset, I understood the member for Moore to be reflecting on some concerns about the effect that this amendment might have, for example, on existing commercial or recreational activities impacted by a management plan that is brought forward in the future. If those existing commercial or recreational activities are found to conflict with the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage, will that have some sort of effect on those existing activities?

There are two points worth noting in this respect. I referred earlier to the Plan for Our Parks that this government has been pursuing and how it is a whole-of-government plan and requires a multi-agency approach. That is reflected in how the types of issues that the member for Moore raised will be dealt with. Obviously, part of establishing a marine park is the management plan. The first step in that process is the creation of the indicative management plan. It will always be essential that that indicative management plan identifies potentially incompatible purposes under

those conservation values that the minister takes into account when drawing up the management plan. It is at that point that affected parties will be notified of that impact when the plan is released for public comment. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for any affected parties to make public comment on the plan.

Furthermore, the second point worth making is that, ultimately, approval of a marine park management plan sits with the Minister for Environment. It also requires the concurrence of the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. Obviously, those are the ministers charged with the facilitation and promotion of various industries and activities. Those ministers can be approached by affected parties and relevant stakeholders if they need input to the process of drawing up the management plan. The point is that the change will not be suddenly dropped upon people. There will be plenty of opportunities for consultation, feedback and representations to be made to the ministers whose role it is to facilitate and advocate for those potentially affected activities. I draw the member for Moore's attention also to existing section 13D of the Conservation and Land Management Act, which already recognises the validity of existing authorisations made under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 for commercial operations or licences, and licences or permits under the Pearling Act. Those protections already built into the legislation will not be affected by the passage of this bill.

In conclusion, this bill reflects a number of things that make me very proud to speak on it today. The first is that it reflects the Labor Party's strong history on environmental protection. It has always been the party that has had to walk the tightrope between ensuring that people have access to good, secure, well-paying jobs and ensuring that we protect our natural environment for future generations. This bill might not be the sort of flashy bill that attracts the attention of the media, but, at its core, it is a Labor bill about protecting our environment. It goes hand-in-hand with that very significant increase to our conservation estate that the government is pursuing. The bill is also consistent with Labor's strong history of recognising Aboriginal people's right to country, their relationship with country and their wish for self-determination on country.

I am very pleased that this bill is consistent with the work the government has been doing in my local area for Beeliar wetlands. I am very pleased that it is a bill that will give voice to Aboriginal people and extend that voice from terrestrial parks to marine parks. I congratulate the Minister for Environment on bringing this bill forward to the house this early in the Parliament and also her predecessor Hon Stephen Dawson for the work he did. I am very proud to commend this bill to the house.

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.08 pm]: Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk), I compliment and commend you on wearing a very appropriate scarf for the debate on this bill today.

I start by also congratulating the minister on bringing the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 to the house. This is yet another example of the McGowan government delivering on an election commitment and is something that members on the Labor benches hold very dear to their hearts, being about the environment as well as the rights of Aboriginal people in Western Australia and around the country.

Obviously, this bill deals with the joint vesting of marine parks. It is something we have done previously with terrestrial reserves, nature reserves and our conservation parks. I think it is really important to highlight that. There is an increasing awareness of and interest in traditional land management practices. In fact, I have a great story. When I was doorknocking before the election, I had someone with me who worked in this area doorknocking with me. She had not doorknocked by herself before; she had always gone with someone else to doorknock. On this occasion we said, "No, it's time you went to a door by yourself and had a conversation." She went to the first door, and the rest of us finished the rest of the street. We were standing at the end of the street wondering where she was and what had happened to her. It turned out that she was still at the first door, because the very first thing the lady who answered the door said was, "I really think the government should be doing more to listen to traditional owners about how they manage fire risks on land." This woman had worked in that area, so she spent the next 20 minutes discussing exactly how the McGowan government was engaging with traditional owners on the management of fire practices on the land. It was a fantastic afternoon for her; she was very capable of doorknocking by herself after that, because it had given her a boost of confidence.

It is really important to acknowledge that we have done a lot of work in this space over the last four years. As my colleague the member for Cockburn said, it is not a sexy bill; it is not something that is going to grab attention. However, it represents some really good work that we have done over the last four years, as is the Aboriginal ranger program, particularly around the sharing of knowledge and caring for country, which as we all know is a fundamental part of Aboriginal culture. We know that job opportunities can be very scarce in remote communities, so being employed as a ranger gives people opportunities for both gainful employment and living out the values of culture and connection to land.

It is great that the McGowan government has identified the fact that there is no one solution to a lot of these problems. One of the great things we did in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was to reduce, freeze or cut TAFE fees. I did a quick search earlier to have a look at what fees we have cut or reduced for TAFE conservation management courses. The certificate II in conservation and land management is now half-price; the diploma of horticulture, half-price;

certificate III in horticulture, half-price; certificate IV in horticulture, half-price; certificate III in Indigenous land management, half-price; and certificate III in landscape construction, half-price. Then there are the green jobs. The seed collection skill set course is actually free. I bring this up because when we look at the list of TAFE courses that are free or half-price, it is just a list, but the reality of this was really brought home to me when the member for Joondalup and I took the Premier up to North Metro TAFE before the election. We were specifically looking at these horticultural and conservation courses and we met a young Aboriginal man. I am not sure whether the member for Joondalup remembers this, but he was very excited to meet the Premier and the Minister for Education and Training and to tell them just how important it had been to him that we had slashed the fees for the course he was doing. His dream job was to be a ranger on land, but there was no way he could have afforded to undertake that training before we cut the fees.

It is important for us to acknowledge that there are a lot of little pieces of legislation and lots of policy settings that we can look at to provide a holistic solution to some of the issues we are seeing or some of the policies that we want to progress in Western Australia. Although this is slightly disconnected, these TAFE courses that help people get into the ranger program are actually really important. It is important that we understand the impact of cutting those fees for people who want to become rangers in the future.

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 deals with marine parks. As a mum with a young family who absolutely love the beach, it should be no surprise to members that the Ningaloo Marine Park is a great attraction for my family. In fact, we have visited the Ningaloo coast a number of times—not just Coral Bay but also Winderabandi and Gnarlou Bay. Until you go to Ningaloo, you never quite understand what people are talking about. The pristine nature of the Ningaloo coast, the amazing outlooks and the experiences you can have there, such as being at one with nature and seeing what it has to offer, even with very young children, are really important. It is also really important that we understand that joint vesting will enhance those types of experiences for families and all tourists.

The pandemic has really encouraged a focus on holidaying at home. I know the former Minister for Tourism was very strong on his Wander out Yonder in WA campaign. My circle of family and friends and I certainly took that on board and have experienced some wonderful places around Western Australia. This bill will also provide an opportunity to increase that tourism. The creation of joint vesting for the protection of the environment provides an opportunity for a lot of Aboriginal groups and organisations to use the unique nature of Western Australia to create an economic impact for them and to showcase the oldest culture in the world.

We are so privileged in Western Australia. We do not necessarily always appreciate what we have in our own backyard, but over the last 12 months we have been forced to look in our backyard and appreciate what we have. There is certainly a fantastic appetite for access to more cultural experiences for not only tourists but also Western Australians, including those within my group of friends. That is something I feel very passionate about, as does my local community.

I did a grievance back in 2019 to the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt, because I had been contacted by a parent in my community who had raised concerns about the lack of places to experience local Aboriginal history and culture. She and her family had visited Kalbarri and were really excited about going to the information centre to see what experiences were available. They were really disappointed when they got there because there was nothing for their kids to experience some Aboriginal culture and history. There was no information at the tourist centre or online to assist them. In his response to my grievance, Minister Wyatt highlighted that this is an area that is sorely lacking here in Western Australia. A 2017–18 Tourism WA visitor research survey noted that 82 per cent of visitors to WA wanted to participate in Aboriginal tourism experiences, but only 26 per cent felt that they had secured such an experience. Clearly, we are falling short in offering these experiences to tourists and locals. This bill will be a great foundation upon which Aboriginal groups can get involved in the management and promotion of our destinations. If we can promote care about something, people will be more inclined to look after it. That is a really important part of this bill that might be slightly overlooked.

Although I have no marine parks in my landlocked electorate of Kingsley, we have the Yellagonga Regional Park, which I share with the members for Landsdale, Joondalup and Wanneroo. We are very excited about the \$8.5 million election commitment to Yellagonga Regional Park. It will be used to conserve and enhance this area to ensure that all people get to enjoy it. One of my favourite parts of the commitment that I made was to put money towards what we are calling at the moment a cultural and heritage walk. We understand that there is an appetite out there for this, but the question was: how could we deliver the experiences for people? The members and I collectively decided that one of the ways we could do this was to suggest a cultural and heritage walk. We had chats with the local governments, which were also on board with this idea to provide some information about the sites around Yellagonga Regional Park that included both the European culture and heritage, and also, more importantly, the local culture and heritage of our Aboriginal people.

With your indulgence, Madam Acting Speaker, that leads me to mention the names of a few people in my electorate who have been very important to Yellagonga Regional Park. Firstly, I would like to highlight Heather Chester, who now has a Medal of the Order of Australia. Heather is an integral part of the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park.

She has been secretary for a number of years and is a passionate advocate for the environment and Yellagonga Regional Park. It was actually you, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk), who suggested that we might want to nominate people for an Order of Australia medal. This is a great thing to do, new members. It takes a substantial time to work through the process, but I was really pleased when I found out this week that Heather had been accepted and was receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work in conservation and environment in Yellagonga Regional Park.

The next person I would like to speak about is a man who worked very closely with Heather. Kevin McLeod worked tirelessly over 15 years for the betterment of Yellagonga Regional Park. Kevin was born in East Fremantle in 1944 and attended Christian Brothers College in Fremantle. As a youngster, he became an altar boy and was a diligent churchgoer for the rest of his life. As a young person, he tried many diverse careers, including studying medicine. He moved to New South Wales and set up a successful aquarium shop that exported fish food, and invested in poultry farms. Whilst living in Sydney, he met the love of his life, Hiroko, whom he married in 1972. They then welcomed a son and a daughter into the world. Eventually, he returned to Western Australia and purchased a poultry farm along Wanneroo Road in an area that we now know as Madeley, in your electorate, Madam Acting Speaker. Many long-time residents can still recall the egg shop outside his home. He lived opposite Yellagonga Regional Park and, after selling his farm over 17 years ago, he spent a lot of time cycling around the regional park. He had found his calling. He noticed a block within the park that seemed to be in pristine condition, but was deteriorating due to human intervention. He sought advice from the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park to save and protect this small block of bushland.

Firstly, he fought the department to have this area fenced, which was against its guidelines, but he won and now that little area, after all his hard work, is looking fantastic. As someone who always wanted to help the park, Kevin ultimately took on the role of chairman of the Friends of Yellagonga group. Kevin was a mentor to many, an environmental warrior, a quiet achiever and a protector of wildlife. He was always coming up with innovative ideas on how to improve our regional park and protect its wildlife. He was a deep thinker who liked to just get things done, even if he occasionally took an unorthodox pathway to achieve them. Some of his progressive ideas were a little radical, but he would not be deterred from pursuing them with the department. Many of his ideas were initially declined. They included microchipping the turtles that he caught and released during his annual turtle studies; fencing a large area to protect resident wildlife populations from being decimated by feral foxes; allowing the public to visit and observe the park; creating a tuart forest by burning off under the tuarts to allow seedbank propagation to occur naturally; and creating a feeding station in the Craigie bushland so that visitors could see the nocturnal quenda come out to feed.

Kevin's achievements are long and many, but I will list just a few of them. He lobbied tirelessly for the betterment of Yellagonga Regional Park to anyone who would listen, and persistently to the member for Joondalup and me. He personally undertook turtle studies. He installed bat and owl boxes and cockatubes. He encouraged students to include the Yellagonga Regional Park in their studies or dissertations and he welcomed international students and helped them with their research, seed collection and propagation to grow plants within the Friends of Yellagonga's nursery. He liaised with the Department of Justice to provide its workers with time in the park and personal supervision.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** Kevin also liaised with Volunteering WA to provide corporate volunteers from places such as Shell Australia and Woodside with work in Yellagonga Regional Park. He attended and presented at seminars and conferences that would give him further understanding of environmental matters. He attended meetings of organisations such as the Conservation Council of Western Australia and the Urban Bushland Council WA. He was also a chair of the City of Wanneroo's environmental advisory committee and a long-term member of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' community advisory committee. He also started up the Friends of Craigie Bushland group and was instrumental in releasing the quenda into that area. One of his projects was to design, build and install the floating islands in Lake Goollelal as a trial to improve the water quality and ultimately mitigate the increasing midge population. I am very proud to say that during the 2017 election, we provided funding that allowed that work to occur. If members walk around Lake Goollelal in Kingsley—I strongly urge members to do that if they are in the Kingsley electorate—they will see a sign there that acknowledges this project. Kevin's contribution in making the Friends of Yellagonga a strong, progressive group is today a lasting testament to his ongoing efforts.

Kevin was one of a kind—that is certainly true—and he will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to not only his lovely and very patient wife, Hiroko, and his family, who have lost a loving husband and dad, but also to the flora and fauna of Yellagonga Regional Park, which has lost a wonderful advocate. I would also like to acknowledge that the Friends of Yellagonga often tried to nominate Kevin for a variety of awards. He would decline the nominations saying that it was not about him, but that it was a joint effort by many. Kevin really embodied what it means to be an environmental warrior in a modern world. He was never deterred when he got knocked back. He was always determined to do the best for Yellagonga Regional Park. As I said, he will be sorely missed by not only his friends and family, but also the wider group of the Friends of Yellagonga, and by the member for Joondalup

and me. I would like to thank Kevin and put on the record that we appreciated all his work. Even if we did not see eye to eye at times, we appreciate that his heart was in the right place and he was doing it for the right reasons.

I would like to make some concluding remarks about the importance of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 and how it is another step in our journey to maturity around what we do with our land in Western Australia and how we integrate that with traditional owners, and how we respect and value their contributions over the last 55 000 years and into the future. This bill is a continuation of some great work in this area and I commend the Minister for Environment for bringing it to the house. I would also like to commend the former minister, Hon Stephen Dawson, who did a lot of work on this bill prior to this Parliament. I am sure he is still very much involved under his new portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs. I commend the bill to the house.

**MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton)** [3.29 pm]: I also rise to add my contribution to debate on the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021. From listening to the members who have spoken before me, some themes have clearly become apparent. First and foremost, this bill presents opportunity, certainty and equality for Aboriginal people. The member for Kingsley, who spoke before me, made me think clearly about and acknowledge the many environmental community champions in my electorate of Bicton and across the electorates of all our members. This bill is very much about that sense of connection and caring, and when we connect and know a place, those two things come together so much more clearly.

The Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 was amended in 2015 to enable the joint vesting of certain terrestrial reserves, national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks with the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate. The proposed amendment will extend this joint vesting arrangement and enable marine reserves, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas to be jointly vested in the same way as national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks. As noted previously by other members, it will certainly extend that important work that the government has begun.

Two-thirds of the electorate of Bicton is bordered by Derbarl Yerrigan, the Swan River. My constituents are intimately connected to and by our local waterways, and whether it is through recreation, sport, birdwatching, art and culture or simply by quietly being riverside, we are blessed to live so close to our river. Bictonites greatly value and enjoy the many different ways in which we are able to connect with this special place, and my own personal interaction with, and commitment to, protect the waterways and foreshores of the electorate of Bicton allows me to more fully appreciate the importance of this bill. Additionally, the area is within the Swan Estuary Marine Park, which encompasses three biologically important areas within the Swan River region. Alfred Cove, which is 200 hectares adjacent to the suburbs of Attadale and Applecross, is in the heart of my electorate. Alfred Cove is also internationally recognised as a significant migratory bird flight route and biodiversity hotspot.

This amendment will fulfil a 2017 election commitment of the McGowan government and will continue the strong bipartisan support for improving the engagement of Aboriginal people in the management of conservation reserves. The joint vesting legally recognises a shared responsibility between the Conservation and Parks Commission and traditional owners over waters, land, or land and waters. Vesting formally recognises traditional owners' interests in country on the reserve title.

On the subject of joint vesting, and to add a local context, I would like to briefly talk about my recent participation in the first stage of the City of Melville's *Attadale Alfred Cove foreshore master plan*. The master plan will extend from Tompkins Park in the east, along the river way and foreshore to Troy Park, heading west. It will encompass two sporting reserves and some very highly significant natural spaces, as well as an arts and cultural precinct at Atwell House. It is a collaborative initiative to bring together the views, values and hopes of the many participants who share and care for this place.

Caring for country, and water, has been embraced by all as the top priority. Although it is very early days, the concept of a joint vesting between the local Whadjuk group, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the local government has been raised and discussed. The pre-work undertaken by the Whadjuk working group in consultation with the City of Melville and the master plan project group, Element, has provided and will continue to provide vital guidance and a framework for the continuing master plan process.

I take this moment to congratulate the City of Melville for undertaking this absolutely vital pre-work ahead of the more formal and larger master plan process. During this workshop, caring for country and water was described in three simple but very powerful words—care, share and protect—which perfectly capture the nature of the many stakeholder groups and individuals who have come together to participate in the Alfred Cove master plan process, as well as in general care for the area. These groups include SEAG, which is the Swan Estuary Action Group; Eco Sisters, which is a feature of the foreshore in Attadale; the Troy Park Sporting Association, which is made up of netballers, footballers and cricketers; the Friends of Attadale Foreshore; Sea Shepherd, with its marine debris campaign—I have participated in many foreshore clean-ups and one is coming up very soon in the area; and many local individuals.

We also have the Nature Conservancy and the Melville Bird Sanctuary and Discovery Centre, two groups I have been fortunate enough to be able to support through pre-election commitments towards funding for the TNC. It does exceptional work in re-establishing shellfish reefs, which have many benefits, including greater clarity of water, providing fish habitat and those fish then providing food for our local birdlife, in particular our ospreys. We have local elders, such as the phenomenal Marie Taylor, who narrates a walking app. If any member happens to be in the Point Walter area, I highly recommend this app. It is called Geotourist, and Marie relates the Jenna Bidli Yorga trail, which commences at Quarantine Park above Blackwall Reach and extends to the Point Walter sandspit in Bicton.

Further to the joint vesting as it relates specifically to this bill, we know that when a reserve is jointly vested between the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate, both parties' interest in the reserve is recognised and both parties have a shared responsibility for the future of the reserve. This provides recognition on the reserve title of Aboriginal traditional owners alongside the Conservation and Parks Commission. As set out in this amendment bill, an Aboriginal body corporate, as the joint vesting party, will become the joint responsible body for the reserve. The proposed joint vesting provisions will provide an Aboriginal body corporate with a role equal to the Conservation and Parks Commission in preparing the initial and every other proposed management plan, and reviewing each expiring management plan for the jointly vested land, land and water or waters. It will provide an equal role in being consulted on the granting of licences and leases on the jointly vested land, land and water or waters, and an equal role in being consulted on, and providing advice to, the Minister for Environment on proposals to cancel or amend the purpose of, or change the boundary of, certain types of CALM act reserves that are not class A reserves. Joint vesting will be able to be applied to existing and new marine reserves. Similar to terrestrial reserves, when considering the joint vesting of marine reserves, the state will take a flexible approach. The focus of joint vesting will be with Aboriginal people on lands and waters where native title has been determined in their favour. This flexible approach allows the state to negotiate a range of land tenure outcomes through Indigenous land use agreements, addressing issues that are important to Aboriginal people and the state government. It is important to note that the final decision to jointly vest a CALM act reserve—marine or terrestrial—rests with the government of the day.

I refer to the purpose of marine parks and the creation of marine park reserves. In 2012, the CALM act was amended to enable joint management of CALM act reserves—marine and terrestrial—between the state and an Aboriginal body corporate. Joint management is enabled through the preparation and approval of a CALM act management plan. It is worth noting, as we heard earlier, that the provisions in section 56(2) provide for management plans. It is clear that the 2012 amendments intended that marine reserves would be jointly managed to protect and conserve “the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons”. It is noted that a marine reserve includes land and water. The Aboriginal ranger program ensures that Aboriginal culture and heritage is embedded in the care of country and water. The state government developed the Aboriginal ranger program to create jobs and training and to promote community development opportunities for Aboriginal people across a range of tenures in regional and remote Western Australia.

Recently I caught up with a good friend of mine, Kate Hollick, who works in this space. As a side note, our daughters play netball together. She was recently on country with rangers in the ranger program and could not stop raving about the impact that that program is having. The McGowan government recognises the social, cultural and environmental benefits of Aboriginal ranger programs and the excellent work that has already been undertaken by established Aboriginal ranger groups throughout the state. Such programs are an integral step towards improved community wellbeing and reduces poverty by providing economic opportunities and building leadership in remote and regional communities. This program is led by Aboriginal communities and organisations, and is supported by the parks and wildlife service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and works in partnership with public and private sectors to help Aboriginal organisations to manage country and protect the environment across WA. Funding is made available for jobs for Aboriginal ranger training and community development. Since its commencement in 2017–18, the ranger program has trained and employed Aboriginal people as rangers to undertake land and sea management activities, including biodiversity monitoring and research; traditional knowledge transfer; fire management; cultural site management; feral animal and weed management; cultural awareness and immersion experience for visitors; guided welcome to country tours and/or talks for visitors; management of visitors or tourists; and tourism asset education programs and mentoring. It is exciting to think of the expanded role that this program will play into the future.

We have heard from other members who have spoken before me about the many purposes of the bill, including the management of marine parks, which is currently provided for in the CALM act. I would like to talk about a fourth purpose—that is, the protection and conservation of the value of marine parks in the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons becoming part of the reservation purpose. It is important to note that a very important part and integral aspect of this amendment is certainty. Additionally, special purpose areas, referred to as special purpose zones, in management plans will be made for the protection and conservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage values. SPAs in marine parks are those areas in which activities are restricted depending on whether they

are incompatible with a conservation purpose. Sharing of places and the activities that come with that is undeniably challenging. I am very well aware of this in a local context through my participation in the Attadale and Alfred Cove foreshore master plan. What is important for all, of course, is that there is a sense of certainty. The amendment will provide certainty to enable the incompatibility test to be applied to determine whether the activity is incompatible with a conservation purpose that includes Aboriginal culture and heritage. As such, it will provide certainty to enable the making of SPAs in which commercial and recreational activities that are incompatible with the protection and conservation of the value of the marine parks to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons' purpose are excluded. This will occur when a section 62 notice to create the marine park and associated zoning is gazetted.

The proposed amendment will continue the strong bipartisan support of improving the engagement of Aboriginal people in the management of conservation reserves. We have already heard, but it is worth noting again, about the McGowan government's announcement for the joint vesting of Ningaloo Marine Park between traditional owners and the state government, which was announced on 4 August 2020. That will now go ahead following the historic signing of an Indigenous land use agreement for the proposed Ningaloo coastal reserves. That agreement provides for the joint management and joint vesting of the existing Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park, as well as the creation of about 78 000 hectares of a new conservation area extending over approximately 215 kilometres of the Ningaloo coast. The formal creation of the Ningaloo coastal reserves occurred in late 2020. Joint vesting of Ningaloo Marine Park will be progressed soon.

I will finish on the McGowan government's Plan for Our Parks, which will leave a lasting legacy for future generations by significantly increasing Western Australia's conservation estate. The Plan for Our Parks will secure a further five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservational reserves over the next five years and expand the conservation estate by over 20 per cent. This plan will deliver new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across the rangelands, and through population centres in Perth and Bunbury to our south west forests and along our southern coastline.

The plan includes existing priorities and identifies new visionary opportunities to work with traditional owners to create, jointly manage, and invest and expand our parks. The Plan for Our Parks will also boost tourism in Western Australia by providing opportunities for the development of nature-based cultural tourism and recreation attractions. This will further enhance Western Australia's reputation as a leading nature and cultural-based tourist destination and create jobs. The Plan for Our Parks builds on the government's election commitments and strategic priorities, and includes longstanding reserve proposals designed to contribute to a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Western Australia. The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021, importantly, builds on the significant environmental and cultural work already undertaken by the McGowan government in its first and now its second term of government.

I join previous members in congratulating the Minister for Environment for bringing this bill to the house so early in this term of government. I also acknowledge the work of the former environment minister in the last term of government. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms E.L. Hamilton**.

*House adjourned at 3.46 pm*

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