

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

**406. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Environment:**

The North Swan Land Conservation District Committee was recently successful in being granted \$25 000 for a project to measure fauna biodiversity in Bullsbrook, which is in my electorate. This is just one of several grants that groups in my electorate have received. Could the minister please update the house on the latest round of environmental community grants?

**Mr W.R. MARMION replied:**

I thank the member for Swan Hills for an excellent question. The community groups in his electorate were very successful in the latest round. I am very pleased to report that the fourth round of environmental community grants totalling \$1.6 million have been provided to community groups and individuals throughout Western Australia. The environmental community grants program was a \$6 million election commitment by the government, and I am pleased that this election commitment has now been completed. While not financially as large as the \$63 million Kimberley science and conservation strategy, this project delivers to on-the-ground grassroots community groups and is extremely beneficial to the community. It supports numerous local community groups, conservation-minded landowners, local governments and individuals. This year 155 individual projects have been funded across the state from 239 applicants. Over the four years of the program, we have now awarded 588 grants to groups and individuals who are doing grassroots work on the environment, such as improving valuable bushland areas and protecting them from the incursion of weeds.

In announcing the latest round, I had the pleasure of visiting the Jarrahdale area with the member for Darling Range. I met with representatives of the Jarrahdale Community Association. They have been doing wonderful work restoring bushland around Gooralong Brook for a number of years. Now this area has great recreational benefits. People from Byford visit Jarrahdale to go for picnics at this spot.

Some of the other projects that have been awarded grants include \$30 000 to Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park for restoration of the Twertup Field Studies Centre and \$24 800 to Greening Australia WA for a community nursery and seed store in Port Hedland. There is \$30 000 allocated to the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals for a living seed bank project. The Mundaring Arts Centre has been allocated \$30 000 for its connection to fauna project and \$29 810 has been allocated to Murchison Museum for the Murchison rangelands botanical and heritage walk upgrade. These are just a few examples of the 155 projects. If members are interested, they can go on the Department of Environment and Conservation website to view all 155 of them. This is an outstanding program and a great commitment by the government, and I am very pleased that we have now completed yet another election commitment.