

MARINE PARKS — COMMENTS BY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

**144. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Environment:**

- (1) Does the minister recall saying on 12 May 2009 that the state government was committed to increasing the number of marine parks in Western Australia?
- (2) Does the minister recall her comment during the estimates hearing on 18 June 2009 that she was receiving briefings from the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority about the creation of marine parks at the Dampier Archipelago and the Capes?
- (3) Further, does the minister recall advising the house on 24 June 2009 that she was “currently receiving advice on a couple of other marine parks”?
- (4) Does the minister need to make a correction regarding the advice she provided, or is there another explanation for her 10 months of silence about the establishment of the marine parks at Dampier and the Cape to Cape region?

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:**

I thank the member for her question.

- (1)–(4) First and foremost, it was actually under the Liberal–National government that we announced last year the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park—the first for, I think, more than four years, so that shows the first commitment from this government. With respect to the other marine parks to which the member referred, yes, I have received some advice. I asked for some further advice, and that is back with the department. Before anything happens, I must also speak to the Ministers for Fisheries and for Mines and Petroleum, as the member would well know, regarding concurrence matters. The advice is back with the department at the moment, which is providing some additional advice to me on some aspects that I have raised with it.

There is a commitment by this government to marine parks. As I have said, that was noted last year with Walpole–Nornalup. In the Kimberley, we will be creating a marine park at Camden Sound. That is a very, very important area, not only from the Kimberley region point of view, but also for Western Australia. Shortly, an indicative management plan will be released for public comment. Therefore, I think it is a bit cute to suggest that we are not committed to marine parks, when in fact we will shortly be releasing an indicative management plan for the proposed Camden Sound marine park.