

ERIC SINGLETON BIRD SANCTUARY

**840. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Environment:**

Could the minister please update the house on the progress of the construction of a wetland being established at the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary as part of the Liberal–National government’s efforts to manage nutrient flows into the Swan?

**Mr A.P. JACOB replied:**

I thank the member for Morley for the question and also for inviting me to his electorate today to visit Lightning Swamp, which is another wetland in this general area. I also met with John Williams, the president of Friends of Lightning Swamp.

I am pleased to confirm for the house that the construction of a new \$3 million nutrient-stripping wetland at Eric Singleton reserve in the City of Bayswater is now complete. The state government invested \$1.2 million into this new nutrient-stripping wetland in partnership with the City of Bayswater, which contributed \$1.8 million. I would like to thank the City of Bayswater for its contribution and its partnership in helping to fulfil the environmental vision for this area, which Eric Singleton himself held, beginning in the 1970s, and also seeing it come to fruition. What the ratepayers of the City of Bayswater get out of this project is the delivery of an entirely rejuvenated green space. What the state government and the broader state gets out of the Eric Singleton wetland is a wetland that performs a much more important role on a broader ecosystem scale.

**Ms S.F. McGurk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Fremantle!

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Nutrient-stripping wetlands are an effective and efficient tool in reducing nutrient loads of those wetlands that feed into the Swan and Canning River system, particularly —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Fremantle, I put you on notice. Members for Wanneroo and Geraldton, I call you to order for the first time. There seems to be a lot of unrest in the ranks over here. I suggest you quieten down.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** I say to the member for Bassendean, that it makes a huge difference. I will get back to that.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** How many kilos. What percentage is it?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Gosnells!

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** It is a huge percentage. The member for Gosnells is incorrect.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the second time. A quick answer through the Chair, minister.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Mr Speaker, they have no idea what they are talking about. I am happy to provide members opposite with a briefing if they would ever like to understand more about how these nutrient-stripping wetlands work. Of course it works only on Bayswater Brook; it is built on Bayswater Brook. How is it going to work on Ellen Brook if we build it on Bayswater Brook, member for Bassendean?

**Mr D.J. Kelly:** It runs past my house, member. I know what it looks like.

**The SPEAKER:** That is very interesting, member for Bassendean, but when I am standing up, I suggest you do not explain where this brook runs. I want a quick answer through the Chair.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Certainly, Mr Speaker. This wetland will strip around 40 tonnes per annum —

**Ms L.L. Baker** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Maylands, you are not helping. I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Irrespective of our fertiliser regulations, which this government brought in, this nutrient-stripping wetland will strip an enormous proportion of those nutrients flowing through Bayswater Brook. We are doing both, member for Maylands. This nutrient-stripping wetland will strip out 40 tonnes per annum of sediment and rubbish.

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** It’s not nitrogen or phosphorous, is it, minister? That’s what you’re supposed to be stripping out.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Gosnells, I call you to order for the first time. Quick answer, thank you.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** More significantly, it also strips out nitrogen and phosphorous!

**Mr C.J. Tallentire:** It's not tonnes, is it?

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Gosnells! I call you to order for the second time. Quick. You have one minute.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** In addition, 1.3 tonnes of nitrogen per annum, which is around 30 per cent of the target required for this brook, and a further 200 kilograms of phosphorous will be stripped out. On top of that, 170 000 plants will be planted as part of rejuvenating this green space. I acknowledge the Green Army volunteers who contributed. My final point—this is very important—is that this is real action on the ground and investment in the environment, but it is also the delivery of yet another commitment of this government from the 2013 election in the environment portfolio.