

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT ACT 2015
SECOND READING SPEECH

Mr President,

I move that this Bill now be read a second time.

The purpose of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2015 is to amend the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (the CALM Act). The amendments to be made to the CALM Act include changes which give effect to 2013 election commitments relating to statutory authorities and for the joint vesting of the Kimberley National Park with Aboriginal people.

The Bill also provides for amendments to meet the government's election commitment to rationalise and combine the two statutory conservation reserve vesting authorities (the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) and the Conservation Commission of Western Australia (Conservation Commission)). The provisions providing for these authorities will be repealed and new provisions inserted to create a single entity, the Conservation and Parks Commission.

The Bill also provides for the implementation of marine park zoning schemes identified in approved management plans. These will allow some forms of fishing whilst imposing restrictions on others, as intended in current approved parks management plans.

Another significant change to be made to the CALM Act under this Bill is recognition for regional parks, so that the role of regional park coordination, management planning and management will be a function of the CEO.

The Bill contains provisions which give effect to previous Cabinet decisions on fire management and in relation to liability. The proposed amendments provide that fire management, including planned burning, are a function of the CEO.

The Bill extends the leases of land within a State forest, timber reserve or other land from 21 years to 99 years. This amendment provides security for small business owners seeking to invest in tourism-based infrastructure on CALM Act land.

The Bill also standardizes and simplifies the procedures for making minor excisions and amendments to marine reserves, State forests and timber reserves where these are necessary for public utility works, to correct boundaries or to amalgamate reserves with similar purposes. Any such amendments or excisions will not reduce the area of the reserve by more than one hectare or five percent of the entire area, whichever is less.

The Bill also introduces amendments to address miscellaneous minor anomalies and omissions. For example the Bill modernises the provisions relating to infringement notices and brings them in to line with other similar statutes.

Pursuant to Legislative Council Standing Order 126(1), I advise that this Bill is not a uniform legislation Bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the Government of the State is a party. Nor does this Bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the Commonwealth.

I commend the Bill to the house and table an Explanatory Memorandum.