

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr R.R. Whitby (Parliamentary Secretary)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the parliamentary secretary.

Second Reading

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.42 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2020 is to amend the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984—the CALM act. It gives me great pleasure to introduce these amendments. These amendments will give effect to our election commitment to enable joint vesting of marine reserves with traditional owners.

Leading into the March 2017 election, we stated —

At its heart, A McGowan Labor Government will protect the rights of Traditional Owners to their land and sea Country. We will recognise rights through improved consultation, recognition of indigenous leadership in land management, supporting participation in economic activities on Country, and the joint vesting of marine parks.

I am aware that traditional owners have long held aspirations to be both joint managers of, and have a formal vesting interest in, their land and sea country. Changes were made to the CALM act in 2015 to enable terrestrial reserves, such as national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks to be jointly vested with the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate. The amendments in this bill extend the joint vesting provisions to marine parks, marine management areas and marine nature reserves.

The bill will also provide statutory recognition that the conservation purpose of marine parks includes the protection and conservation of the value of marine parks to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people. This means that in special purpose areas—referred to as special purpose zones in management plans—the protection and conservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage values will be a conservation purpose in addition to the other purposes referred to in section 13(1), which are considered when determining incompatible uses. Special purpose zones in marine parks will continue to be identified through the well-established consultative marine park planning processes, which require the approval of the Minister for Environment and the concurrence of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum and the Minister for Fisheries.

Also included in the bill are amendments that clarify the regulatory framework for the management of section 8C lands. Section 8C provides for unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves to be managed by the CALM act CEO, with the CEO's management functions for the land specified in the order. Crown land remains subject to the provisions of the Land Administration Act 1997 and its regulations, so the amendments will clarify that the CALM act and its regulations will apply only to the extent specified in the section 8C order. Specifically, Part IX of the CALM act, which provides for compliance and enforcement, and the Conservation and Land Management Regulations will apply only to land subject to a section 8C order if the section 8C order specifies that they do. Similarly, a function of the CEO in section 33 of the CALM act will apply only if it is specified in the section 8C order.

Other amendments that the bill will make are administrative in nature and will update and modernise the CALM act in accordance with the government's goal of pursuing legislative reform to reduce red tape and ensure that legislation operates efficiently. These include amendments that will remove the requirement for permit and licence forms to be prescribed, and other amendments to address miscellaneous minor anomalies and omissions.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Dr D.J. Honey**.