

LAKE CLIFTON THROMBOLITES

Statement by Member for Mandurah

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.53 pm]: I need to highlight to Parliament my grave concerns about the ongoing threat to the world-famous and internationally significant thrombolites that exist at Lake Clifton, which is south of Mandurah in the Peel region. These ancient life forms are found only in a small number of places in Australia. They have thrived at Lake Clifton for thousands of years, but are now under grave threat from a proposed quarry near the lake. I will be seeking to present a grievance to the Minister for Environment on this issue in coming weeks outlining these concerns in greater detail, but I must register my strongest protest against the quarry now. The proposal to quarry limestone from an area of land that was previously quarried some 20 years ago should be overturned by the Minister for Environment on the following grounds.

Firstly, quarrying activity on the proposed site raises a number of key environmental concerns impacting on the ancient thrombolites. That includes the potential negative effects on the Lake Clifton water quality of any water extraction in the area for use in dust suppression. Secondly, the area is home to the Carnaby's cockatoo, and the proposed road vegetation clearing will add to the threat to that bird species. Thirdly, any damage to Lake Clifton will put at risk other bird species known to be in the area. That includes the red-necked stint, the long-toed stint, the grey egret and the white-bellied sea eagle, as well as other species. Fourthly, a variety of the data used by the proponent in its clearing permit is misleading; that includes rainfall data for the area being outdated, and road projects justifying the need for the quarry being already completed.

We should not allow any project to proceed that will place at peril these internationally significant thrombolites. There are numerous other sites in the Peel and south west that could provide quarry material for construction. It is important, therefore, that this quarrying proposal near Lake Clifton is overturned by the Minister for Environment and the Barnett government.